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Macron brands the invasion of Ukraine return to 'imperialism'

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UN reform is a must, says Japanese PM

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Ahsan Iqbal acquitted in Sports city case

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Briefs

Rana warns provincial govts

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday said that those provinces supporting the long march of PTI supremo Imran Khan would violate the constitution and there would be consequences for it. Talking to media persons, Interior Minister criticised Imran Khan for misleading the people and dividing the nation through his rude attitude. He said Imran Khan is trying to malign state institutions. Regarding the law and order situation in the capital, he said all are equal before the law and no one will be allowed to take law into their own hand.

Islamabad being made a fortress

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhary said that the entire Islamabad is being made a fortress long before their call for protest. Talking to the media on Wednesday, he said that the government has lost its senses. "We give a message to the government that it should conduct the elections and let the people decide," he added. The PTI leader said that they had not seen such incompetent and fearful in Islamabad.

Mushaal lambasts world silence

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Peace and Culture Organization Mushaal blasted the world community for their duplicity, as on one hand, they marked International Day of Peace, while on the other, they were totally unconcerned about the unabated atrocities unleashed by India fascist forces that turned IIOJK into a hell-hole. Speaking at a protest sit-in held outside Islamabad Press Club here on Wednesday to mark International Peace Day and violation of human rights in IIOJK along with civil society, she said.

US President for helping flood victims

Addressing the UNGA, Joe Biden says world must help Pakistan which is still under flood water

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: US President Joe Biden while warning of climate crises' seriousness, stressed upon the need of helping Pakistan as it's half area is flooded. Addressing the United Nations General Assembly session, the US President Joe Biden emphasized the United States' efforts to combat climate change, while lamenting deadly flooding in Pakistan and starvation-inducing drought in the Horn of Africa.



PM apprises world leaders of flood crisis

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, during his meetings with world leaders on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United National General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, apprised them of the flood crisis in Pakistan, it emerged on Wednesday. The premier highlighted the need for collective action to deal with climate change. "I also told them that Pakistan is keen to build partnerships in the realms of trader and economy," he said in a tweet. Among the leaders the prime minister met was US Special Envoy for Climate Change John Kerry. The two leaders discussed the devastating floods in Pakistan, the \$55 million provided by the US in assistance so far, and the "urgent need to work together" to fight

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Mulawarman Tugio called on Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary Ministry of Housing and Works in his office. - DNA

Putin declares partial military mobilization

President says Russia will use 'all means at its disposal' if territorial integrity threatened

MONITORING DESK

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday announced a partial mobilization in Russia. "I consider it necessary to support the proposal of the Defense Ministry and the General Staff to declare partial mobilization in the Russian Federation," he said in a televised address to the nation. With a relevant decree already signed, mobilization activities started on Wednesday. According to the decree published on the Kremlin website, Russian citizens age between 18 and 50 fall under military mobilization, and they will be paid as much as the military personnel

China calls for negotiations, cease-fire

WEB DESK

BEIJING: China on Wednesday called for a cease-fire in Ukraine as Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial military mobilization seen as an escalation in the war that began in

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Peace talks with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan remain barren

Ambassador Mansoor says Taliban asking Pakistan to show patience on talks with TTP

ALI FURQAN / VOA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan has said that the peace talks with the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have not achieved the results and therefore, the negotiation process has to be restructured to define the end objectives. In a special interview given to Voice of America correspondent Ali Furqan in Islamabad, Mansoor Ahmad Khan has discussed several important issues including the recent negotiations with TTP and the role of Afghan Taliban. He said that before resuming the negotiation process with the TTP, it is important to see how the banned organization will recognize Pakistan's system, state and law. According to him, Pakistan's first priority is to find a solution through

dialogue and if a political solution does not come out, then there is a way for a military solution. He says peace talks and violence cannot go hand in hand. Pakistan's former ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan has said that the Afghan Taliban want Pakistan to be patient on the issue of TTP, because according to the Taliban government, they will not allow their territory to be used against any other country. He said that at this time, Pakistan expects from the Afghan Taliban to take serious action against TTP and elements using Afghan soil against Pakistan would be crushed. According to him, the issue of the outlawed group is not so simple for the Afghan Taliban because TTP has pledged allegiance to the Afghan Taliban leader, so for them it is a political as well as an ideological issue. Mansoor Ahmad Khan has been Paki-



stan's ambassador to Afghanistan when the Taliban take over Kabul after the withdrawal of the US and NATO forces last year. Later, Pakistan started the process of negotiations with the TTP leadership through the mediation of the

Afghan Taliban, while Mansoor Ahmad Khan was serving as the Pakistani ambassador to Afghanistan. In response to the question that no matter who is governing Kabul, there is distrust towards Pakistan, Mansoor Ahmad said that there is constant distrust between Pakistan and Afghanistan, from the public to the highest level. He said that the geography, history and culture of Pakistan and Afghanistan are similar and therefore Islamabad's actions are sometimes seen as interference. He said that due to this impression, Pakistan's good initiatives have also been taken in the context of intervention. He says that the rulers and people of Pakistan have to keep in mind that Afghanistan should be seen as a free and independent country. Mansoor Ahmad said that it is against

Pakistan's policy that its territory is used against Afghanistan and that Pakistan's airspace was definitely not used in the US drone strike. Mansoor Ahmad said that the Afghan minister himself had said in his statement that due to the non-functioning of the radar system, it could not be determined from which direction the drone came flying. In response to the question whether the government of Afghanistan has made any formal complaint with Islamabad regarding the use of Pakistan's territory for US drones, Mansoor Ahmad Khan said that according to his knowledge, no complaint has been made in this regard. It should be noted that Afghanistan's Defense Minister Maulvi Muhammad Yaqub Mujahid has alleged that American drones are entering Afghanistan through a neighboring country.



NEW YORK: John Kerry, Special Envoy of the USA for climate change calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

First flight from Russia with relief goods arrives

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The first relief assistance flight from Russia landed at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi on Wednesday, the Foreign Office said. The relief goods including food items, tents and water cleaning devices. The consignment was received by Russian Consul General in Karachi Fedorov Andrey, Adviser to Chief Minister on Relief and Rehabilitation Rasool Bux Chandio, representatives of the National Disaster Management Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Spokesperson Foreign Office Asim Iftikhar said, "The relief assistance from Russia is welcomed with warmth and gratitude."

Diseases' outbreak gets out of control

Meanwhile, skin infections, diarrhoea and malaria are rampant in parts of Pakistan's flood-ravaged regions, killing 324 people, authorities said on Wednesday, as the country's prime minister said it was going through one of the most "toughest times".

Hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the floods are living in the open, and as floodwaters - spread over hundreds of kilometres - may take two to six months to recede, stagnant waters have led to serious health issues. With Pakistan's already weak health system and lack of support, displaced families have complained of being forced to drink and cook with disease-ridden water. Authorities have also warned that the situation may get out of control if required aid doesn't arrive. "We know it can sicken us, but what to do, we have to drink it to stay alive," flood victim Ghulam Rasool told media as he stood near where his home was washed away in southern Pakistan. "The aid is slow to arrive," said Dr Farah Nareen, Mercy Corps' country director for Pakistan after visiting several submerged regions.

'Haqueeqi Azadi' movement this Saturday: Khan

"I will give a call and we will get our country liberated in real terms"

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday said that PTI's movement for "Haqueeqi Azaadi" (actual freedom) will begin on Saturday (September 24) as he called on supporters to get ready for his call. Since his ouster from the top office, Imran has consistently demanded that a date for "fair and free" snap elections be provided, otherwise, he would take to the streets against the incumbent government. The PTI had attempted a long march to Islamabad in May which was clamped down upon and suppressed by the police. Last week, Imran renewed his demand for snap polls as he warned that the PTI's patience was wearing thin. He had hoped that the election announcement would be made before he unveiled plans for the final march on Islamabad. "I will give a call and we will get our country liberated in real terms,"



IHC to indict Imran in contempt case today

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan will be formally charged with contempt of court today (Thursday) for his controversial remarks about Additional District and Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry during a rally in Islamabad on August 20, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) stated in a circular on Wednesday. The circular stated that the proceedings of the case will start at 2:30pm, during which a larger bench of the IHC will frame the charges against Imran Khan. "A 15-member legal team of Imran Khan, 15 law officers from the office of the attorney-general and advocate-general will be allowed to enter the courtroom," read the circular.

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Pak, Japan agree on debt deferral of US\$160 mn

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Governments of Japan and Pakistan agreed on debt deferral amounting to approx. US\$160 million, as the last phase of "the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)". Prior to this, both Governments agreed on the first debt deferral amounting to approx. US\$370 million on April 27, 2021 and the second debt deferral amounting to approx. US\$200 million on October 22, 2021, under the same initiative. The total amount of deferred debt has reached approx. US\$730 million, which will widen the fiscal space for the Government of Pakistan to restore its economy affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the flood disaster. The concessional loans, subject to debt deferral, have been utilized for infrastructure

development such as roads, tunnels, power plants and grids, irrigation, water supply, and drainage facilities in Pakistan from the early 1990s to the mid-2010s. These concessional loans have favorable conditions for Pakistan in terms of low interest rate, as well as long grace and repayment period. Under the last agreement, repayments for the debt and interest due between July 1 and December 31, 2021 will be rescheduled after June 15, 2023. In addition to the debt deferral, the Government of Japan decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid of USD 7 million to Pakistan in response to the damages caused by the flood disaster that have occurred in Pakistan since mid-June. This Emergency Grant Aid will allow implementing humanitarian assistance activities for those seriously affected by

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CM approves project for promotion of modern policing

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has principally approved the project for promotion of Modern Policing through introduction of Drone Technology adding that IT based reforms are essential in every sector to ensure efficient services delivery. The Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to work out the necessary modalities within 15 days adding that initially the project will be implemented in the Police and PDMA followed by its implementation in Mining and Agriculture sectors. Chairing a meeting regarding the introduction of Drone Technology in Police, PDMA, Mining and Agriculture sectors, Mahmood Khan clarified that the initiative will not only act as a force multiplier but will also make Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as pioneer in use of modern technology.

The meeting was informed that the introduction of drone technology will be carried out in Divisional Headquarters initially which is expected to help in attaining better vantage point during operations, easy & safe monitoring of crime scenes, observance of active threats, delivery of weapons, operational surveillance, traffic control and handling of Mob and Processions surveillance. Apart from its use in policing, the initiative will also help in Fire/Flood surveillance, rescue operations, Public announcements, and delivery of rescue items. According to details, the project is expected to incur Rs 500 Million, including but not limited to development of skill training & drones squad, establishment of repair and modification workshop, purchase of drones for operational use, traffic control, Mob surveillance, weaponized drones, thermal/Night vision/ infrared drones, lightweight transportation drones and drones for announcements. It was informed in the meeting that an

institutionalized approach would be adopted in promoting drone technology in the province for which proper structure has been proposed. The Chief Minister directed that preparation of legal framework for successful implementation of the project, identification of areas for implementation of the technology and preparation of PC-1 for the project be completed within the specified timelines adding that use of drone technology has become indispensable keeping in view the growing population, urbanization and access to hilly terrains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Chief Minister directed to constitute a working group headed by the Additional Chief Secretary to work out other areas and sectors for possible use of drone technology. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Shehzad Khan Bangash, Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Secretary Home & Tribal Affairs Department, Secretary Finance and other officials.

Turi agrees to increase Pakistan workforce in Azerbaijan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development of Pakistan Sajid Hussain Turi and Minister of Labor and Social Security of Azerbaijan Sahil Babayev on Wednesday agreed to increase the number of Pakistani workforce in Azerbaijan. In an online virtual meeting, both dignitaries discussed increasing bilateral relations, export of manpower and issues of mutual interest in detail. The Azerbaijani minister told Sajid Hussain Turi that his country was witnessing a speedy development and it would need skilled manpower to complete various developmental projects. Republic of Azerbaijan would like to learn from Pakistan's experience in the field of manpower export and

requested Pakistani side to extend its support in signing the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Labour Center Statute. Turi said a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries on cooperation in the fields of labor employment and social security had been signed and now the time was right to implement it. Sajid Hussain Turi said that both countries had always enjoyed brotherly relations and would be further strengthened through mutual cooperation and understandings in various fields. Minister highlighted the need to convene the 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) constituted under the MoU as soon as possible, adding Pakistan fully supports Azerbaijan in the formation of the Labour Centre of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

(OIC) and would sign and ratify its statute once concurrence of the relevant stakeholders was received. Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Azerbaijan, Sahil Babayev said that both the countries were enjoying good political relations, however, coordination on social and economic aspects needs further improvement. He expressed his grief and sympathies for the flood victims in Pakistan. Minister of Azerbaijan also extended an invitation to his Pakistani counterpart to visit Baku to deliberate further on the subject. Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi promised full support to his counterpart and said that soon he will be visiting Azerbaijan. Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Irfan Hayee and senior officials from both sides were also present in the meeting.

Govt trying to implement Urdu as official language

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Engr. Amir Muqam on Wednesday said government would try to implement Urdu as official language in offices as per the directions of the apex court. During his visit to National Language Promotion Department (NLPD), he said national language of any country was the identity of its culture. Therefore, he loved to speak Urdu language. Director General of NLPD, Dr Rauf Parekh briefed the advisor about the recently completed project of National Language Processing Laboratory and Mobile. The advisor expressed pleasure on the availability of online Urdu-English dictionary, mobile application of Urdu Lu Dictionary. While admiring the efforts of NLPD, he urged to initiate more projects for the promotion of Urdu language across the country. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Captain (Retd) Muhammad Usman Younis witnessing art exhibition. - DNA

Exhibition kicks off for donation of flood-victims

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Famous and renowned artists of the country have donated their artworks to help the people affected by the recent floods in Pakistan and participate in their rehabilitation. The exhibition of these artworks has started from Wednesday at the Art Gallery in F-9 Park and will continue till October 9. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (Retd) Muhammad Usman Younis. On this occasion famous painters, artists of the country and large number of citizens are also participated. On the last day of the exhibition, these works of art will be auctioned, after which the money received will be donated to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Account to provide all possible help to the flood victims. He further said that the Capital Development Authority is taking all

possible measures to help the flood victims. Chairman Captain (Retd) Muhammad Usman Yunus said on this occasion that this art gallery is a great platform for women and youth from where they can transfer the culture and civilization of the country of Pakistan to the coming generation, especially those living in other countries. He further said that the CDA administration will continue to organize such exhibitions in the future. He further said that any city is not made only by the construction and repair of highways, parks or street lights, but it has its own distinct culture, civilization and way of life and no society can achieve its position without cultural identity. Chairman Captain (Retd) Muhammad Usman Yunus further said that Islamabad, besides being a beautiful city, also has a distinct and unique identity in terms of civilization and culture. He added that our artist community has a more important role in highlighting art and culture.

Youth depict 'end racism build peace' through art work

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: As many as 54 paintings and posters by the youth were put on display at the Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi to commemorate the United Nations International Day for Peace on Wednesday. The exhibits are an outcome of the art competition organized by the Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) to mark another significant day of the UN. Islamabad Crescent Lion Club supported the event. The young artists used various symbols to reflect the message of the day. A dove with a branch of an olive tree remains the main element to depict the peace messages in different colours and designs. The participants of the competition also highlighted the impact of wars and bloodshed in their paintings. A couple of creative works reflected the atrocities in different parts of the world. The climate impact creating conflicts and disturbing peace remained a focus of some participants.

Senator Fawzia Arshad generations every individual plays its role in it. We shall educate our children and youth to tolerate each other's opinion and philosophy of life. Riffat Ara Baig, Head of Art and Design section at the Westminster School, was the chief jury on the occasion. While announcing the names of the winners, she said the students have reflected the much desired messages of peace. Creative pursuits are the best way of educating people. The images remain in our minds forever. The winners included Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed was the guest of honour. Speaking on the occasion, he urged the authorities, educational institutions and civil society organizations and social groups to engage all the people of any age in creative art therapies. "Engagement in art gives peace of mind and an undefined ultimate pleasure. Our politicians, hardliners and vulnerable communities need them the most. Our artists

shall come up to engage them for a tolerant society." Munir Ahmed said quoting the UN Secretary-General António Guterres: Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. But achieving true peace entails much more than laying down arms. It requires the building of societies where all members feel that they can flourish. It involves creating a world in which people are treated equally, regardless of their race. Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi Director Waqar Ahmed said youth is an important and largest component of our society. Engaging them for a harmonized multicultural society is very crucial. The Punjab Arts Council has been putting several activities to engage youth and other segments of society to create harmony and peace.



ISLAMABAD: Ghazala Habeeb, Chairperson Friends of Kashmir International calls on Qamar Zaman Kaira, Adviser to PM on Kashmir Affairs and GB. - DNA

PAC directs govt to deport unregistered Afghan refugees from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Public Accounts Committee on Wednesday directed the government to deport unregistered Afghan refugees while shifting the registered nationals in the refugee camps. The committee, which met under the chairmanship of Noor Alam Khan, also directed ministry of states and frontier regions (SAFRON) to take up the issue of Afghan refugees at United Nation's forum. Noor Alam remarked that these Afghan refugees were living in Pakistan for years and doing business but they don't pay taxes. Further, he took exceptions to the reports that Afghans were found defaming Pakistan across the world. Meanwhile, the committee restrained the Principle Accounts Officer (PAO) of interior ministry from merging Khasadar and levis force into police. The committee directed Interior Secretary and Secretary SAFRAN to trace 1.4 million Afghan Refugees within a month and then report it back to the committee. The committee expressed displeasure to know that 14 officers including Chairman NADRA were having dual nationality and working in the sensitive department like NADRA. Chairman remarked that DG (NADRA)-KP having dual nationality was appointed near Torkham Border seeking his removal while suggesting that a Colonel or a retired Brigadier to be appointed against this post. The committee directed interior secretary to move a summary and make legislation that no government employee can attain

the dual nationality. On a query, Chairman NADRA replied that 34 employees having corruption charges were terminated from service and inquiries were pending against other officers in NADRA. The committee directed Chairman NADRA to provide list of those who had been terminated from services from 2017 to 2022 and directed him to issue directions to concerned DGs, NADRA not to issue CNICs to Afghan nationals. Secretary Interior, Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs were requested to provide list of 390 Afghans who had chanted slogans against Pakistan in UAE after the cricket match of Asia Cup. In the end the committee also appreciated the quality of NADRA software being exported to other countries which was also a source of foreign exchange. The committee directed the PAO of Ministry of Interior to initiate a crackdown against those officers/officials appointed on fake degrees and were working in government departments. "FIRs would also be lodged against them and recoveries would be made from them," the chairman asserted. The committee asked the secretary interior to provide the list of fake degree holders employees enrolled in the Ministry of Interior within one month. Meanwhile, the committee directed the Chief Commissioner Islamabad to submit a comprehensive report regarding illegal housing societies in the city, including Ghauri Town within a month so that action could be initiated against them. - APP

Police continue action against drug dealers

LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Ghulam Mehmood Dogar on Wednesday reiterated his commitment to make the provincial capital a drug-free city and said that police was continuing a crackdown on drug dealers without discrimination. According to police, 603 drug dealers were arrested during the present month and 606 cases were registered in the respective police stations. Accordingly, City Division police arrested 131 drug dealers, Cantt 94, Civil Lines Division 70, Sadar Division Police 89, Iqbal Town 101 and Model Town Division police arrested 121 drug peddlers. The police recovered 324 kg hashish, 02 kg 165 grams heroin, more than 4135,000 liters of alcohol from the possession of the drug peddlers. So far this year, 6195 drug dealers had been arrested and 6317 cases had been registered against them in relevant police stations. More than 2922 kg of hashish, more than 39 kg of heroin, more than 01 kg and 500 grams of ICE. - APP

Corps Cdr visits relief camp

QUETTA: Commander Balochistan Corps Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor visited relief camps in flood affected areas of Usta Mohammad and Gandakha area of Jaffarabad district and held interaction with them in relief and medical camps on Wednesday. According to ISPR Quetta, during the visit, Commander was given a detailed briefing on relief activities. Maj Gen Shahab Aslam GOC, Chief Secretary Balochistan Mr. Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Commissioner Naseerabad Mr. Bashir Bangulzai and DG Health Balochistan Mr. Qazi Noor along with other military and civil authorities were present. - APP

WWF initiates dialogue on Climate Crisis Charter

ISLAMABAD: The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Pakistan), in association with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), convened government and relevant development stakeholders in Islamabad to develop a consensus on the Pakistan Climate Crisis Charter in the wake of new scientific evidence suggesting that climate change likely worsened the devastating floods that have led the country to face its worst humanitarian crisis in a decade. The charter would serve as a living document to facilitate action on dealing with climate induced disasters, focusing specifically on flood risk management, said a release here on Wednesday. The session involved a thorough discussion and consideration of land use planning, particularly development in flood-prone or vulnerable areas, water resource

management, the capacity of local authorities, media coverage, and forecasting and evacuating systems. Stakeholders developed consensus on shared action points to improve preparedness and the collective response to future crises. From mid-June until the end of August 2022, large parts of Pakistan experienced record-breaking monsoon rainfall. The provinces of Sindh and Balochistan witnessed their wettest August ever recorded, receiving 7 and 8 times more rains than their usual monthly totals. While much of the recent flooding can be attributed to the effects of climate change, the national disaster also highlighted governance challenges, particularly land use planning, ineffective disaster preparedness, and underlying challenges that pertain to the political economy of the country. - APP



ISLAMABAD: José A. deory, Ambassador of Spain in Pakistan holds a meeting with DG PNCA Ayoub Jamali and discussed mutual cultural exchange programmes between both countries. -DNA

National
Days and
Armed
Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

Sept 01 / Libya
Revolution DaySept 01 / Tanzania
Defence daySept 01 / Uzbekistan
Independence DaySept 07 / Brazil
Independence DaySept 09 / DPR Korea
National DaySept 09 / Tajikistan
Independence DaySept 16 / Malaysia
Armed Forces DaySept 16 / Mexico
National DaySept 16/Papua New Guinea
Independence DaySept 18 / Chile
National DaySept 21 / Malta
Independence DaySept 23 / Saudi Arabia
National DayHotels &
RestaurantsSerena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051-2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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Islamabad.....1122 & 16
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& Rescue Services.4451122
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WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
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MH.....5611111
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International.4603666

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CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3Islamabad
MetropolitanCorporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Constitutional and National
Day of Nepal celebratedAmbassador Tapas Adhikari said that the two countries enjoy excellent
bilateral relations marked by cordiality, friendship and cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Nepal in Islamabad hosted a reception to celebrate the Constitution Day and the National Day of Nepal. Welcoming the guests to the event, Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, highlighted the importance of the day in Nepal's history and its role in national unity in a country of diversity like Nepal. The Ambassador further said that the Constitution embodies the federal system of governance and democratic norms and values as well as principles of human rights and human dignity. After seven years of the promulgation of the Constitution, "the foundation the Constitution laid is getting even stronger towards fulfilling the long-cherished aspirations of Nepali people for progress and prosperity", he added.

Talking about the bilateral ties the Ambassador said, the relations between Nepal and Pakistan have always been cordial and friendly. The establishment of diplomatic relations in 1960 further strengthened the bond of friendship and cooperation. The relations are strong based on mutual trust and cooperation. Both countries are working together at various bilateral, regional and multilateral forums to promote friendship and cooperation. As founding members of South Asian



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Engr. Khurram Dastgir speaking on the occasion of the Constitutional and National Day of Nepal, at Islamabad Serena Hotel.-DNA

Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), both countries have full faith in the SAARC Charter and committed to its objectives. Nepal and Pakistan are working together on the agendas of sustainable development, climate change and environment protection.

On the occasion, Ambassador Adhikari expressed his condolences to the Government and people of Pakistan for the damage caused by the recent massive Monsoon

floods in Pakistan. He also said that Nepal and Pakistan have been working closely to support each other during the times of such crisis.

Highlighting Nepal's natural and cultural attractions, Ambassador Adhikari invited all to visit Nepal to experience the land of beauty and discovery.

He said Nepal has always been a hub of mountain and adventure tourism. Our mountains, snow fed rivers, and topography have always fascinated people across

the world. Peoples culture, tourism and hospitality have made Nepal a center of tourism in the global tourism map.

Like other industries, the tourism industry also received a setback during the COVID pandemic. Now the situation is improving. Tourists are again coming back to Nepal. On this occasion, I would like to invite our Pakistani and other friends to visit Nepal to experience the beauty of the land and to taste Nepali hospitality. Ne-

pal has the best hospitality industry in South Asia". Speaking as Chief Guest, Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister for Energy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, expressed congratulations and best wishes on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. The Chief Guest also highlighted the excellent state of bilateral relations between Nepal and Pakistan.

The event was attended by Nawabzada Shazain Bugti, Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, members of par-

liaments, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee, former ministers, high civilian and military officials of the Government of Pakistan and former ambassadors of Pakistan to Nepal; Ambassadors/High Commissioners to Pakistan as well as representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations; friends of Nepal, business and media persons; and Nepali community members and the Embassy family members.



RAWALPINDI: President RCCI Nadeem Rauf presenting a souvenir to Ambassador. Mary Nyambura Kamau High Commissioner, Kenya High Commission Islamabad. --DNA

Ethiopia keen to boost
trade ties with Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopia's Ambassador to Pakistan Jemal Bekir Abdula, has said his country is keen to further strengthen trade ties with Pakistan by establishing institutional linkages between the two states.

In a meeting with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Director



General (Islamabad) Muhammad Naseer, the envoy underlined the need to sign

accords between the trading organizations of both countries to ensure bilateral trade under a legal system. "There is also a need to identify the key areas which have potential to boost trade between the two countries," he said, adding Pakistan could import coffee, red beans, and others, while sugar, rice, and pharmaceutical equipment might be exported to Ethiopia, the Ambassador said.

"Our government is strongly looking forward to building a strong relationship with Pakistan, which is located in a very important region and has major economies in its neighborhood," he remarked. The envoy said Ethiopian airlines would soon start its operations in Pakistan, further strengthening people-to-people contacts by promoting tourism and cultural activities.

Oval to host
ICC World
Test C'ship
final 2023

ISLAMABAD: The ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final 2023 would be played at The Oval in London with the 2025 edition to take place at Lord's, this was announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday. The dates for both the 2023 and 2025 ICC World Test Championship Finals would be confirmed in due

course. England had been identified as the hosts for the next two WTC Finals during the ICC Annual General Meeting in Birmingham in July. ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said, "We are delighted to be hosting next year's ICC World Test Championship Final at The Oval which has such a rich legacy and an amazing atmosphere, which is ideal for such an important fixture on the calendar. "Following that we will then take the 2025 Final to Lord's which will provide a fitting backdrop to the ultimate Test." -- APP

Pursuing Doha accord must
for peace to Afghanistan

DNA

Islamabad: The need for Taliban's compliance with Doha Agreement - as a mitigation against denial of their international recognition - figured prominently during the 2nd Pak-Afghan Religious Scholars Conference held by Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) as part of its track 1.5/2 initiative Beyond Boundaries. The participating Afghan and Pakistan religious scholars stressed that compliance is important for all parties to the agreement, as much as it is for Taliban. Bilateral violation of the Doha agreement is the root cause of Afghanistan's tribulations. A diverse group of religious scholars, hailing from different provinces of Pakistan and Afghanistan, repre-

sented different schools of thought and sects, attended the two-day dialogue with the agenda focused on girls' education and women's rights in Afghanistan, the state of peace and security, and the inclusion of all ethnic groups in the government led by the Taliban. Dr. Huma Baqai, an international relations expert, presented on one year of Taliban rule in Afghanistan, giving a critical insight into the developments occurred since August 15, 2021, the impediments in the way of recognition, the regressive policies adopted by the Taliban, such as the girls' school ban and restricted mobility and lack of livelihood opportunities for women, and the impact of parochialism on the future of the country and its social fabric.

Conference chair, Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Pakistan's Former Ambassador to Afghanistan, stated in his keynote address that the Taliban have restored peace in the country and armed resistance has weakened since they assumed power, but the presence of certain terrorist groups on Afghan soil poses a threat to regional peace and stability, so the Taliban must concretely tackle the issue, and that they need to take further steps to ensure their government gets the due recognition. He further said that Afghan institutions with a public consensus should develop a legislative and social system that ensures the safety and welfare of all individuals and ethnicities at par with international standards. "

Islamabad
police
conduct
road safety
campaign
with students

DNA

ISLAMABAD: 21, 2022: Islamabad capital Police along with students of City School conducted a one-day road safety campaign at F-8 traffic exchange signal to acquaint citizens about road safety tips and create better awareness about traffic rules. According to the details, Islamabad capital police organized a one-day road safety campaign at the F-8 traffic exchange signal with the participation of City school students and educated road users about traffic rules on Monday.

During the campaign, more than 30 male and female students from City School along with the Islamabad capital police personnel informed the citizens about traffic laws and gave them safety tips. The students informed the citizens about road safety measures including fastening of seat belts, dangers of listening to mobile phones during drive, lane violations and dangers of riding motorcycles without a helmet.

This campaign was organized following the directions of the Inspector General of Police Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan. Islamabad capital police education team along with the students of City School participated in the campaign and provided awareness about traffic rules and road safety.

IESCO
issues power
suspension
notice

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule:

On 22nd September, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, EME Complex, Jhangi, P&T Wini, Azharabad, CWO, Zircon Heights, New Klam, Old Klam, HPTIII, Industrial, NDC-II, I-10/3, PHA-II, I-11/3, Metro, Bahria University, AQ Khan, U-Phone, Ali Market, Murt, Shams Colony, Golra, KS Maniez, Kachhari, PD Khan, Lilla Town, Ahmedabad, Sanghui, Chotala, Dhadi Express, Bisharat, CS Shah, Mureed, Pind Pran, Valley, AWT-4, Sangjani, Shahullah Dutta, Paswal, Sarah Kharboza, Hussainabad, Ahmednagar, Burhan, Kohsar Valley, Shafi Chauhan, Mix Industry, Kohistan Enclave, Kashif Gul, Model Town, Khanabad, Munirabad, Lalazar, Lalrukh, Industrial Estate, Poormiana, Rashid Minhas, Shahia, Nar Topa, Muslim Town, Dharnal, Sukhu, Kot Shera, Kot Gula, Misrial Road, Ameer Hamza, Radio Pak, Multabad, Peshawar Road, Range Road, Bhara Kahu, NIH, Golf City, T&T, Treat, Bhara Kahu-II, Athal, Muslimabad, Gulzar Shaheed, Quidabad, Ahsanabad, Pirwadhai, Bagh Sardaran, Dhok Hasu, Lohi Bhir, UC Road, Koral Feeders, From 07:00 AM to 02:00 PM, PC, TDGP, MCM, Gharial, Kohala, Barin, Sunny Bank, Upper Topa, Patriata, Kaldara, Pindi Points, PAF feeders, From 07:00 AM to 10:00PM, Zaraj, Dhok Awan.

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Briefs

Int'l Day
of Sign
Languages to
be marked on
Friday

ISLAMABAD: International Day of Sign Languages will be marked on Friday (Sep 23) across the globe including Pakistan with the aim to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users. During this year celebration of the International Day of Sign Languages, the world will once again highlight the unity generated by our sign languages. Deaf communities, governments and civil society organisations maintain their collective efforts - hand in hand - in fostering, promoting and recognising national sign languages as part of their countries' vibrant and diverse linguistic landscapes. The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf. The resolution establishing the day acknowledges that early access to sign language and services in sign language, including quality education available in sign language, is vital to the growth and development of the deaf individual and critical to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. It recognizes the importance of preserving sign languages as part of linguistic and cultural diversity. It also emphasizes the principle of "nothing about us without us" in terms of working with deaf communities. According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are more than 70 million deaf people worldwide. More than 80% of them live in developing countries. Collectively, they use more than 300 different sign languages. Sign languages are fully fledged natural languages, structurally distinct from the spoken languages. There is also an international sign language, which is used by deaf people in international meetings and informally when travelling and socializing. —APP

CDNS collects
Rs 280 bln
through bonds

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) on Wednesday achieved the target of issuing Rs 280 billion fresh bonds in the current fiscal year 2022-23 from July 1st to September, 19, 2022.

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set a saving target of Rs1.5 trillion for the current financial year (2022-23) which will promote savings culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP here. At this time, the current market trend in the country and the ambitious target has been set to further improve the savings culture, he said. Replying to a question, he said the CDNS surpassed its annual target in previous fiscal year 2021-22 and set a historic record of Rs1,250 billion savings till June 30, 2022. For the first time in its history, CDNS crossed Rs1,000 billion fresh deposits and achieved the target of Rs1,250 billion by June 30, 2022. He said the CDNS had attained the target of issuing Rs1,250 billion fresh bonds from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. It had set an annual gross receipt target of Rs 980 billion from July 1 to June 30 of the previous fiscal year 2020-21 to promote savings in the country. —APP

Consultation of National and Provincial TIP Committees

High-level consultation aimed to provide an opportunity for all the members of National, provincial, district-level anti-trafficking committees to meet

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Under the EU-funded GLO.ACT - Global Action to Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT - Asia and the Middle East), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency, organized a high-level consultation workshop for National and Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Committees on 21 September 2022. This high-level national consultation aimed to provide an opportunity for all the members of National, provincial, and district-level anti-trafficking committees to meet and deliberate on their objectives. There were three main objectives of the consultation. First, there is a lack of understanding of trafficking by law enforcement officers. Secondly, there is a tendency to consider irregular migrants as offenders only but they are also victims. Thirdly, there was a lack of coordination among relevant actors at the federal, provincial, and district levels. The lack of coordination and understanding of the distinction between trafficking, irregular migration, and smuggling of migrants was well brought out in the consultation. This consultation gave a more holistic framework for coordinated approaches. During his opening remarks, Dr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative UNODC Country Office Pakistan, said "Curb-



ing human trafficking and migrants smuggling requires a coordinated response at all levels. Realizing this fact, the government of Pakistan notified provincial and district-level TIP Coordination committees earlier this year. We, as UNODC, are very pleased with this action by Pakistan and commend the efforts. We hope that there would be great coordination and synergy amongst all the stakeholders and that the activities will be conducted in a coordinated matter at all levels including Federal, Provincial, and District levels." He further added, "The found-

ation for curbing TIP and SOM must be the Palermo Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, to which Pakistan is a signatory. Our approach needs to balance progressive and proactive law enforcement with activities that combat the market forces driving human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan." During his speech, the Director General FIA, Mr. Mohsin Hassan Butt, said, "We are improving our identification of potential victims and offering greater support to those who are victims of this heinous crime. Trafficking is a gross violation of a person's basic rights and dignity and dispro-

tionately affects the most vulnerable, especially women and children. We are working jointly with UNODC and the European Union to enhance support to the victims of trafficking and vulnerable smuggled migrants. Our National Action Plan to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling is victim-centered and addresses the gaps related to it". He further added, "We are enhancing our ability to act early and to help other relevant stakeholders within Pakistan to deal with the issue. Police are mandated to investigate crimes of internal trafficking and other departments including labour, child protection, women's pro-

tection, and social services are mandated to provide protection and assistance services to the victims". Ms. Mio Sato, Chief of Mission, IOM Pakistan, during her opening remarks congratulated the Government of Pakistan and Federal Investigation Agency for adopting comprehensive counter-trafficking measures, that are also in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). She added that "It is critical to strengthen partnerships and collaboration amongst local and national

stakeholders in order to ensure efforts are sustainable and holistic. As implementing partner for the GLO.ACT project, IOM has been supporting the FIA on strengthening response on victim protection and assistance and remains available to extend full support to the national, provincial and district-level anti-trafficking committees". Eric Hann, Migration Liaison Officer said as part of the EU Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025, we are committed to step up cooperation with countries of origin and transit.

PAF extends
full support for
rehabilitation
process

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Medical Support, Relief and Rehabilitation Operations are being conducted round the clock in flood affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab. The PAF personnel were actively engaged in timely provision of basic necessities of food, shelter, drinking water and medical assistance to the flood victims, a PAF news release said. The PAF Medical Lab Collection points were promptly sampling and diagnosing the water-borne diseases amongst flood victims following which they were being provided free medical care. During the last 24 hours, Pakistan Air Force had distributed 18,458 cooked food packs, 1,512 water bottles and 2,070 ration packs amongst the needy families. Moreover, in addition to the provision of free food and shelter, 1,699 patients were also attended by the medical teams of Pakistan Air Force. —APP

PSF invites
researchers,
scientists to
register

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) has invited the researchers, scientists and faculty members working in any Pakistani research organization to register with the PSF's Grants Management System to submit concept of idea for funding or for reviewing project proposals. According to the PSF, the Scientist, Researcher or Faculty Member in any Pakistani Research Organization or HEC recognized university can register with the PSF's Grants Management System for submission of concept of idea to PSF for funding or if they can spare time for peer review of project proposals submitted to the PSF for funding. Those who are interested can register through <https://psf.gov.pk/default.aspx> and create their profile with the PSF Grant Management System. Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) is the apex body for promotion and funding of scientific and technological research and science popularization in the country. PSF has two subsidiary organizations i.e. Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) and Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Center (PASTIC). The Foundation functions as a link of PMNH/PASTIC agency for the establishment of comprehensive scientific. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Commerce, Muhammad Suleh Ahmed Faruqi meeting with Ambassador of Türkiye at his office. - DNA

NIC to connect
entrepreneurs with experts

ISLAMABAD: National Incubation Center (NIC), recently established at Hyderabad would promote agriculture, livestock, decorative industrial products, textiles, sugar, and cement in the city and its adjoining areas. According to an official of the IT ministry the NIC Hyderabad would tap into the entrepreneurial potential of the young people in the city by providing them with a platform to work on their business ideas. "The establishment of the National Incubation Center in Hyderabad will be a revolutionary step for the youth of this city and its surrounding rural and urban areas to transform the tra-

ditional business approach into a modern technology-oriented one", he added. In line with the vision of the government, for accelerated digitization and transformation of Pakistan into a knowledge-based economy to spur economic growth through innovation and entrepreneurship, Ignite has established National Incubation Centers (NICs) in different cities. The key objective of the NIC program, he said was to facilitate talented entrepreneurs and provide them with all necessary support for the transformation of their innovative idea into sustainable business. official said the Information

Technology Ministry has established 5 incubation centres in Islamabad, Karachi, Quetta, Lahore and Peshawar through Ignite and is expanding its network to other cities. NIC Hyderabad state-of-the-art facility was providing as; help to accelerate the growth of startup, structure to maintain business focus, access to funding, exposure to industry leaders and mentorship, space and flexibility, access to professional resources, networking and partnerships opportunities. It also fops in commercializing their product or services, launch their product & get a world-wide attraction. —APP

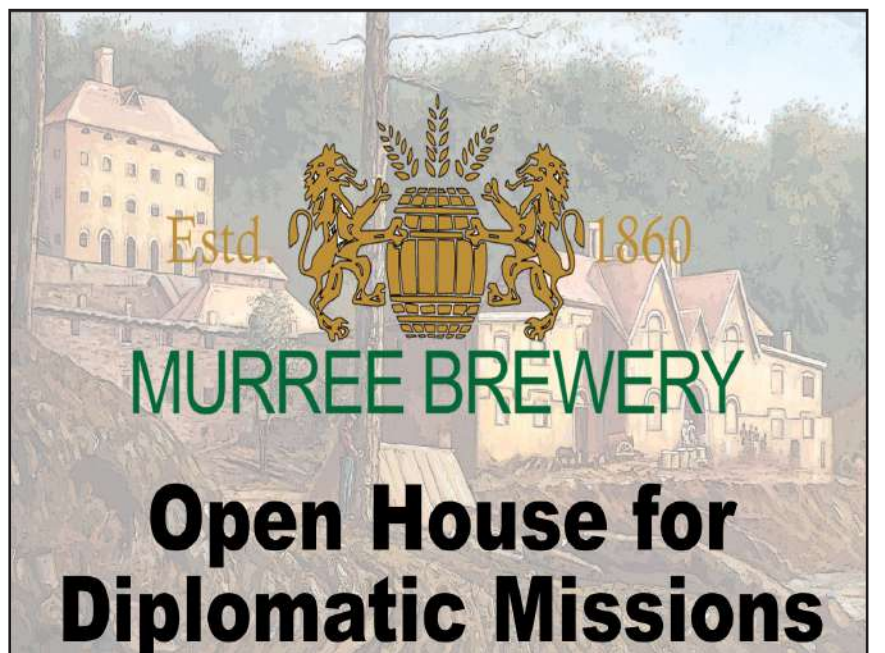
DAI provides
relief to
flood-hit
people

ISLAMABAD: Development Alternatives, Incorporated (DAI) Pakistan on Wednesday provided relief to the victims of flood-hit areas of Nowshera District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and expressed their sorrow on the devastation inflicted by the massive monsoon torrential rains. Considering the recent devastation caused by the floods in Pakistan, DAI's Pakistan team initiated a 'Flood Relief Donation Drive' among corporate and project teams for the victims of the calamity, a news release said. —APP

Economy to slow to 3.5%
in 2023, says ADB

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy is forecast to slow to 3.5 percent in fiscal year 2023 amid devastating floods, policy tightening, and critical efforts to tackle sizeable fiscal and external imbalances, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report released Wednesday. The slowdown has been predicted even as growth in FY2022 is expected to have reached 6.0%. According to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022 Update, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Pakistan in FY2022 was propelled by higher private consumption and an expansion in agriculture, services, and industry — particularly large-scale

manufacturing. But in FY2023, as well as climate headwinds and Pakistan's critical policy efforts, ADB's lower growth projection also reflects double-digit inflation. The latest report is an update to ADB's annual flagship economic publication. "The recent devastating floods in Pakistan add profound risk to the country's economic outlook," said ADB Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye. "We hope that flood related reconstruction and economic reforms will catalyze significant international financial support, stimulate growth, and preserve social and development spending to protect the vulnerable. —APP



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For further information please contact the following.

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Mobile: 0300 8553342



ISLAMABAD: At the Handicraft Association of Pakistan (HAP) Islamabad chapter ceremony, renowned businessman Zafar Bakhtawari is presenting flowers to former chairman HAP Khurshid Barlas. Coordinator Ayesha Farooqui, Former Chairman Fahad Barlas, Mohsin Malik and others are also present. —DNA

Pakistan's floods

MY biggest fear is that we're sitting with the makings of a human catastrophe," a doctor in Sindh province, in the south of Pakistan, warned. The remark was disconcerting, almost bizarre, in the context of floods that have ravaged a third of the country, killed more than 1,500 of its citizens and destroyed 1.8m homes over two months. What was that if not a catastrophe? Yet while the waters are finally beginning to recede, and while international attention has moved on, the medic was correct to warn that the devastation is still unfolding.

"There is some debate about whether the disaster is the initial 'big bang' or the years that follow," the recovery expert Prof Lucy Easthope writes in her recent book *When the Dust Settles*. "Life after disaster is perpetual, chronic, with a pain that ebbs and flows like tides," with initial events followed by a "new, long, chronic loss". Extreme events rip lives apart. The terrifying force of nature unleashed makes headlines and fills broadcasts with compelling, appalling images: torrents of water, vast lakes where fields once stood. But it is the aftermath which determines the true physical, economic, social and psychological cost.

This weekend, the World Health Organization warned of a "second disaster" as waterborne diseases and other illnesses spread by the disruption soar. The displaced, now living in makeshift camps, face rising levels of dengue fever, malaria and diarrhoea. Beyond that immediate threat lie the challenges of housing and feeding people. In all, 33 million people in Pakistan – equivalent to half the population of the UK – have been affected. Experts say it will take months for the waters to fully drain from Sindh, the hardest-hit province. Agricultural land has been devastated, and huge quantities of livestock lost. Roads and railway lines have been washed away.

Visiting Sindh earlier this month, the UN secretary general, António Guterres, said he had never seen such "climate carnage" – and also warned that we can expect many more such disasters. A study by an international team of climate scientists has found that the intense rainfall was made worse by global heating. This year alone, the country had already experienced a gruelling heatwave, wildfires and drought. Climate catastrophes will be disproportionately experienced by developing countries, which have made a minimal contribution to global heating. As Mr Guterres pointed out, that makes massive financial support for Pakistan a matter of justice, not generosity. So far, other governments have pledged only a tiny proportion of the estimated \$30bn needed for recovery in a country already in dire economic straits. They must do better in funding reconstruction – as they must in tackling their carbon emissions, and funding vulnerable countries to prepare for future disasters.

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EU loses most from Ukraine conflict

THE European Union as a whole will prove to be the biggest loser no matter how the conflict between Russia and Ukraine plays out. The consequences for European countries are not just economic and well-being shocks but the geopolitical implications as well. That the share of EU enterprises losing money has risen from the normal average of 8 percent to 15 percent in the months after the start of the conflict and the share of enterprises that risk defaulting on their debt has surged from 10 percent to 17 percent in the same period, according to European Investment Bank, speaks volumes about how many European economies have been impacted by the conflict.

Although not all European countries heavily depend on Russia for oil and gas, Russia is such an important supplier to the international oil and gas markets that the disruption in trade, primarily due to the sanctions against this major supplier, has translated into higher prices, which has led to higher cost of production in a wide range of fields. This is particularly so in European countries.

Those EU countries, Germany and France included, which heavily depend on Russia for oil and gas, are bearing the brunt of the economic sanctions that Washington has orchestrated against Russia. As a result, inflation has become a scourge that is having a serious impact on the quality of life of the people in EU countries. The prices of many core products such as wheat, fertilizers and gas are constantly on the rise, and they are expected to rise by 6 percent this year, according to estimates by experts. The rising prices will stifle demand, which will in turn affect economic growth and push up food and energy prices. It is a vicious cycle for the overall economic situation in EU countries.

No wonder protests have been held in some EU countries against military support to Ukraine, with the protesters demanding that their governments focus on people's daily needs. Indeed, the most vulnerable groups in EU countries have been hit the hardest by the worst inflation in decades.

If the EU had achieved anything in asserting its own presence as an independent political bloc on the stage of international politics prior to the start of the conflict, the worst conflict on the continent since the end of World War II has undone all its endeavors to become a political force that can maintain its distance from the United States. In launching its proxy war against Russia, the US has been able to reassert its leadership over the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The EU, fearful of standing on its own two feet, has followed the US lead. Throwing its weight behind Ukraine under the leadership of the US is a choice the EU has made. But there has been a price to pay. While the US has been doing very nicely out of the conflict, thank you very much, the EU economy and the living standards of its people are taking a battering, and its future of becoming an independent political pole in the global geopolitical arena is looking ever more unattainable.

The address of Prime Minister to the UNGA

Sayed Sajid Shah Bokhari

The Prime Minister will include the most chronic and everlasting issue of Kashmir dispute and will demand of the world to solve it according to the resolutions of UNO and according to the wishes of Kashmiris people through plebiscites as promised in 1948. The PM will request the powerful countries for support and negotiation of the issue in favor of innocent Kashmiris and all those who had been captured, exploited by dominant races through conspiracy and subjugation. The PM will assure the world of the contribution and services Pakistan rendered in promoting peace and tranquility in the region and uprooting terrorism even at the cost of their blood.

EVERY year the member state of United Nation Organization delivered speeches in the last week of September. Mostly these speeches could be delivered by the presidents and prime Ministers of the states. The 15 Minutes speeches could be delivered on international issues. Generally in this debate the issues like war, peace, foreign affairs, public health, education, Poverty and economy could be discussed. However all these speeches could be delivered in international perspective. There are 193 members state of the UNO since its inception (24th October, 1945). Latter on two other countries like Eastern Taimur and Northern Sudan were added but is in transitional stage. In the current 77th session of UNGA the prime Minister of Pakistan has an opportunity, and honor to represent his nation in the wider perspective of international standards with outstanding approach and vision. Pakistan being member of the world community has always respected the decisions from UNO and proved that it wants peace, tranquility and prosperity in the world scenario of war and terrorism. Since 2001, Pakistan has faced many challenges in the war of terror and stood firmly to save humanity and shatter the bonds of discrimination on the basis of creed, cast, colour, religion and culture. The Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shehbaz Sharif will deliver his speech on 23rd Septmebr, 2022 positively. The current speech of Prime Minister of Pakistan will no doubt pave a way in the international community for its long and outstanding problems (Politically, socially, economically) even. Especially, the recent humanitarian crisis of floods which has undaunted 1/3rd portion of Pakistan needs proper attention of the international community and also

physical, technical and financial support to overcome the problem. The damages occurred to Pakistan are numerous however, the human losses of more than 1500, the destruction of infrastructure, washing of fertile land, cereals has created panic in the society and increased the level of poverty. Just imagine more than 4 million people have lost their houses, property, businesses etc. It could be his extraordinary approach towards the problem and the way the Prime Minister will present the things to international forum. It will be the passion, vision of Mian Shehbaz Sharif to win the hearts of social activists, IFS, philanthropist and world leaders to draw their attention and made progress for grant in aid and donations from the members state openly to sustain life. Although the speech the Prime Minister will delivered at this junction has raised expectations of the people of Pakistan. So it could be innovative speech rather than traditional one. Moreover it should be a part of his exposure, experience and diplomatic relation with outstanding performance to create favorable environment for achieving the goals and targets. The best speeches once the prominent leaders had delivered in General Assembly turn to be historic innature. The best speeches from the leaders of third world countries like the speech of Cuban leader for four hours and forty eight minutes in UNGA still repentant in the circle. The speeches of Libyan president Moamar Qaddafi, Palestine leader Yasir Arafat and Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto shall never be forgotten. In the current situation Pakistan is facing multidimensional problems including the high intensity of floods destruction due to climatic changes. Pakistan being member of the climate organization believes strongly on reduction of carbon emission and following

the international standards and procedures in coming decade. The preparation to attend the COP-27 conference on climate change Pakistan will definitely contribute a lot to save the humanity from any other catastrophe. Although Pakistan has only 1% carbon emission yet it is standing on no 8th as the most vulnerable countries to climatic change. The Prime Minister in his speech will definitely touches the philanthropist worldwide to combat with the recent floods and contribution to assess the people in trouble with maximum technical and financial support. The prime Minister will include the most chronic and everlasting issue of Kashmir dispute and will demand of the world to solve it according to the resolutions of UNO and according to the wishes of Kashmiris people through plebiscites as promised in 1948. The Prime Minister will request the powerful countries for support and negotiation of the issue in favor of innocent Kashmiris and all those who had been captured, exploited by dominant races through conspiracy and subjugation. The Prime Minister will assure the world of the contribution and services Pakistan rendered in promoting peace and tranquility in the region and uprooting terrorism even at the cost of their blood. The sacrifices of our defending forces in the line of control against terrorism and the way they were brutally martyred for the sake of humanity and peace shall be prioritized in the speech. It is a good opportunity that PM will discuss the everlasting issues with group of 77 and China. At the same time the councils of foreign Ministers Pakistan will serve as the voice for all the Muslims of the world for development, prosperity, human rights and sustainable development goals according to the UN charter.

Creating building blocks for cooperative security in ME

James M. Dorsey

The administration has encouraged security cooperation between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, the two Arab states that two years ago established diplomatic relations with Israel, and Saudi Arabia, which has changed its long-standing hostile attitudes towards the Jewish state but refuses to formalise relations in the absence of a resolution of the Palestinian problem. The year's move of Israel from the US military's European to its Central Command (CENTCOM) that covers the Middle East facilitates coordination between regional militaries. In a first, Israel this year participated in a US-led naval exercise...

FADING hopes for a revival of the 2015 international agreement that curbed Iran's nuclear program potentially puts one more nail in the coffin of a regional security architecture that would include rather than target the Islamic republic. The potential demise of the nuclear agreement, coupled with America redefining its commitment to Middle Eastern security as it concentrates on rivalry with Russia and China, spotlights the need for a regional security forum that would facilitate confidence-building measures, including common approaches to transnational threats such as climate change, food security, maritime security, migration, and public health. Mitigating in favour of a firmer grounding of the reduction of regional tension is the fact that it is driven not only by economic factors such as the economic transition in the Gulf and the economic crisis in Turkey, Iran, and Egypt but also by big-power geopolitics. China and Russia have spelled out that they would entertain the possibility of greater engagement in regional security if Middle Eastern players take greater responsibility for managing regional conflicts, reducing tensions, and their own defense. Rhetoric aside, that is not different from what the United States, the provider of the Middle East's security umbrella, is looking for in its attempts to rejigger its commitment to security in the Gulf. In addition to the emerging, albeit tentative, unspoken, macro-level big power consensus on a more inclusive, multilateral approach, efforts by the major regional powers – Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Turkey, Israel, and Iran, except for as it regards relations with the Jewish state and the Islamic republics – to reduce tensions and put relations on a more even keel, contribute to an environment potentially conducive to discussion of a more broad-based security architecture. The need to focus on conflict prevention and improved communication between regional rivals alongside more robust defense cooperation is evident irrespective of whether the Iran nuclear accord is brought back from the dead, given that the covert war between Israel and Iran will continue no matter what hap-

pens. Israeli officials this month warned that an Israel airstrike against Syria's Aleppo airport was a warning to President Bashar al-Assad that his country's air transport infrastructure would be at risk if he continues to allow "planes whose purpose is to encourage terrorism to land," a reference to flights operated on behalf of the Iranian military and Revolutionary Guards. Even so, the Biden administration remains focused on broadening responsibility for a regional security architecture that targets Iran rather than an inclusive structure that would give all parties a stake, seek to address root problems, and stymie an evolving arms race. The administration has encouraged security cooperation between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, the two Arab states that two years ago established diplomatic relations with Israel, and Saudi Arabia, which has changed its long-standing hostile attitudes towards the Jewish state but refuses to formalise relations in the absence of a resolution of the Palestinian problem. The year's move of Israel from the US military's European to its Central Command (CENTCOM) that covers the Middle East facilitates coordination between regional militaries. In a first, Israel this year participated in a US-led naval exercise alongside Saudi Arabia, Oman, Comoros, Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen, and Pakistan, countries with which it has no diplomatic relations, as well as the UAE and Bahrain. In March, top military officers from Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, and Egypt met in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh to discuss the contours of potential military cooperation. Similarly, the US, the UAE, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia are attempting to create a regional air defense alliance. In June, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz claimed the partnership had already thwarted Iranian attacks. Similarly, the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Israel are working on a fleet of naval drones to monitor Gulf waters and ward off Iranian threats. Furthermore, CENTCOM plans to open a testing facility in Saudi Arabia to develop and assess integrated air and missile defense capabilities.

Scholar Dalia Dassa Kaye argues that focusing on confidence-building aspects of cooperative security involving a dialogue that aims to find common ground to prevent or mitigate conflict rather than collective security that seeks to counter a specific threat is one way of breaking the Middle East's vicious circle. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) patchwork of security structures, alliances between external powers and individual association members, and inclusive regional forums demonstrate that the two security approaches are not mutually exclusive. The ASEAN model also suggests that, at least initially, a less centralized and institutionalized approach may be the best way to kickstart moves towards regional cooperative security in the Middle East. Negotiating an agreement on principles guiding regional conduct on the back of exchanges between scholars, experts, and analysts, as well as informal, unofficial encounters of officials, could be a first step. To be sure, Iran's refusal to recognize Israel and its perceived goal of destroying the Jewish state likely constitutes the foremost obstacle to initiating an inclusive, cooperative security process. The carrot for Iran will have to be credible assurances that the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Israel will not pursue regime change in Tehran and recognize that Iran's security concerns are as legitimate as those of others in the region. However, even that could prove to be a tall order, particularly if the negotiations to revive the nuclear accord fail. Nevertheless, that may be the only realistic way of putting Iran's support for militants in various Arab countries, including Lebanon's Hezbollah Shiite militia, various pro-Iranian paramilitary groups in Iraq, and Houthi rebels in Yemen, as well as the Islamic republic's ballistic missiles program – the two major concerns of Israel and the Gulf states – on an agenda to which Iran is a participating party. Ms. Kaye argues that "despite these serious obstacles, it is important to present a vision and pathway for an inclusive, cooperative process when a political opening emerges, or when a crisis erupts of such severe magnitude that even bitter adversaries may consider options that were previously unthinkable."

Briefs

EU eases sanctions on Russian coal

BRUSSELS: The European Commission updated its directive on the imposition of economic sanctions against Russia on Wednesday. The European Union (EU) stated that sanctions on Russian coal would not prevent coal shipments from Russia to third countries.

The previous EC directive did not allow European companies to take part in the shipment of products such as coal from Russia to countries outside the EU. The EU confirmed that the new directive would permit European companies to transport coal from Russia to other countries, while services such as financing and insurance can be offered. The new directive also stipulated that EU sanctions would not affect the food and energy security of other countries.

Consequently, the transfer of goods from the previous sanctions list such as fertilizer, animal feed, wood, cement, and coal is now allowed to third countries. The EU adopted the fifth package of sanctions in April, prohibiting the purchase, import, or delivery of coal from Russia. The sanctions package came into effect in August after the transition period ended.—APP

Istanbul mayor who upstaged Erdogan faces political ban

ISTANBUL: Istanbul's popular mayor tried to fight off a ban from politics on Wednesday in a trial stemming from his stunning election victory over a close ally of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in 2019.

Ekrem Imamoglu's fate is being watched closely for signs of judicial independence nine months before a general election in which Erdogan will struggle to extend his two-decade rule. The 52-year-old mayor is the most internationally recognised of the opposition leaders who might run against Erdogan.

He also has the most intense personal rivalry with the powerful Turkish leader. AFP reporters saw police seal off the roads leading to the Istanbul trial courthouse with metal fences as a security precaution aimed at keeping away protesters in the highly anticipated trial. The mayor was planning to appear in court to hear the verdict either later Wednesday or before the end of the week.—APP

Australia condemns Russia's military mobilization

CANBERRA: Australia on Wednesday joined its Western allies in condemning Russian President Vladimir Putin's partial military mobilization and referendums in four Ukrainian regions, calling for a withdrawal of its forces from Ukraine.

"Australia condemns President Putin's threats to use 'all means' at his disposal. Claims of defending Russia's territorial integrity are untrue," Foreign Minister Penny Wong said on Twitter. "Russia should immediately withdraw from Ukraine and cease its illegal, immoral aggression against Ukraine."

Regarding the planned referendums in Ukraine's self-declared republics of Luhansk and Donetsk, and Russian-controlled parts of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson later this week, the foreign minister said: "Russia continues to plan sham referenda in occupied areas of Ukraine. These are illegitimate and invalid."

"They won't form a lawful basis for any purported acquisition of Ukraine's territory by Russia and won't be recognised by the international community." The call up of 300,000 reservists comes after successful Ukrainian counterattacks over the past days.—APP

Pakistan embassy Belgium holds briefing about floods

Dr. Asad Majeed Khan briefed the participants about the unprecedented devastation caused by the climate-induced disaster in Pakistan which has badly affected over 33 million people.

DNA

BRUSSELS: The Embassy of Pakistan Brussels arranged a briefing for the Belgian and International humanitarian relief organizations and INGOs at the chancery today. The purpose of the briefing was to appraise the International humanitarian relief Organizations about the situation resulting from floods across the country and to coordinate the provision of relief assistance from Belgium for the flood-affected population. The briefing was attended by the representatives from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, EU External Action Service, Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU-CORD, MSF, Norwegian Refugee Council, Red Cross Flanders, Handicap International, ADRA, ACT Alliance, VOICE as well as the media persons. The Ambassador of Pakistan to



Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Dr. Asad Majeed Khan briefed the participants about the unprecedented devastation caused by the climate-induced disaster in Pakistan

which has badly affected over 33 million people. The Ambassador indicated that more than 1569 people including 555 children had lost their lives and 12,860 people got injured including

4000 children, due to the floods. Further elaborating on the situation, Ambassador Khan explained that losses caused by the recent floods are much more than the 2010 floods. He highlighted that as

per the initial assessments almost 12716 km of roads, 374 bridges and over 2 million houses have been destroyed and 998,407 livestock have been lost due to the heavy rains in 116 affected districts,

including 84 districts officially notified as 'calamity hit' across Pakistan. He added that the calamity will have a long-term adverse impact on food security, health, as well as the economy in Pakistan. The Ambassador underscored that under the direct supervision of the Federal Government a massive relief operation is underway across the country. Ambassador Khan mentioned that given the scale of the challenge, the Government is reaching out to friendly countries, donors, and international financial institutions for their support and cooperation.

He appealed to the international community to join hands with the Government to save lives and provide much-needed supplies. Speaking on the occasion, the participants assured the Ambassador of their support and agreed to further mobilize their respective organizations/communities to raise resources for the flood-affected people.



OTTAWA: Pakistan HC to Canada Zaheer Janjua presents his credentials as Pakistan's representative to SG ICAO, Juan Carlos Salazar, in Montreal. - DNA

Amb. Janjua presents credentials to ICAO's SG

OTTAWA: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada Ambassador Zaheer Aslam Janjua has said Pakistan has an expanding aviation sector and the announcement of two new airlines in the country last year reflects the strength of the sector as well as the role of air travel in boosting the tourism potential of the country. He made this statement while presenting his credentials as Pakistan's Representative to the Secretary General International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, in Montreal city of Canada. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Janjua expressed the hope for an increased ICAO support

to Pakistan with a view to further strengthening its civil aviation sector at the national level and enhancing its presence at the international level.

He congratulated the Secretary General on ICAO's 75th anniversary by remarking that ICAO's 75th anniversary had coincided with the 75th anniversary of Pakistan's Independence Day as well the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-Canada diplomatic relations. Mr. Janjua noted that being cognizant of its significance, ICAO was among the first international organizations the nascent state of Pakistan joined soon after achieving its freedom. He said Pakistan remained a member of the ICAO Council for 24 years and contributed effectively to various other committees of the Organization.

He said Pakistan was undertaking further measures to deepen its relationship with the ICAO. —DNA

UK govt announces caps on energy bills

LONDON: The UK government on Wednesday outlined its plans to introduce a cap on energy bills for businesses, charities and public organizations for six months starting in October. The new plan amid soaring energy bills was unveiled by Business Secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg to support "growth, preventing unnecessary insolvencies and protecting jobs," a statement said. Through a new Government Energy Bill Relief Scheme, "the government will provide a discount on wholesale gas and electricity prices for all non-domestic customers whose current gas and electricity prices have been significantly inflated in light of global energy prices," it added. The government has set a Supported Wholesale Price, which is expected to be £211 (\$239) per MWh for electricity and £75 per MWh for gas. The proposed prices include the "removal of green levies paid by non-domestic customers who receive support under the scheme."

"We know that businesses are very concerned about the level of their energy bills, that's why we are putting in place a scheme for business that will be equivalent to the scheme for households, to make sure that businesses are able to get through the winter, we're going to review it after six months," Prime Minister Liz Truss said. "We'll make sure that the most vulnerable businesses, like pubs, like shops, continue to be supported, after that," she added. We have stepped in to stop businesses collapsing, protect jobs, and limit inflation," Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng said. The business secretary said the UK has "seen an unprecedented rise in energy prices following Putin's illegal war in Ukraine, which has affected consumers up and down the country and businesses of all sizes." "The help we are already putting in place will save families money off their bills, and the Government's plans for businesses, charities and public sector organisations will give them the equivalent level of support," he added.—APP

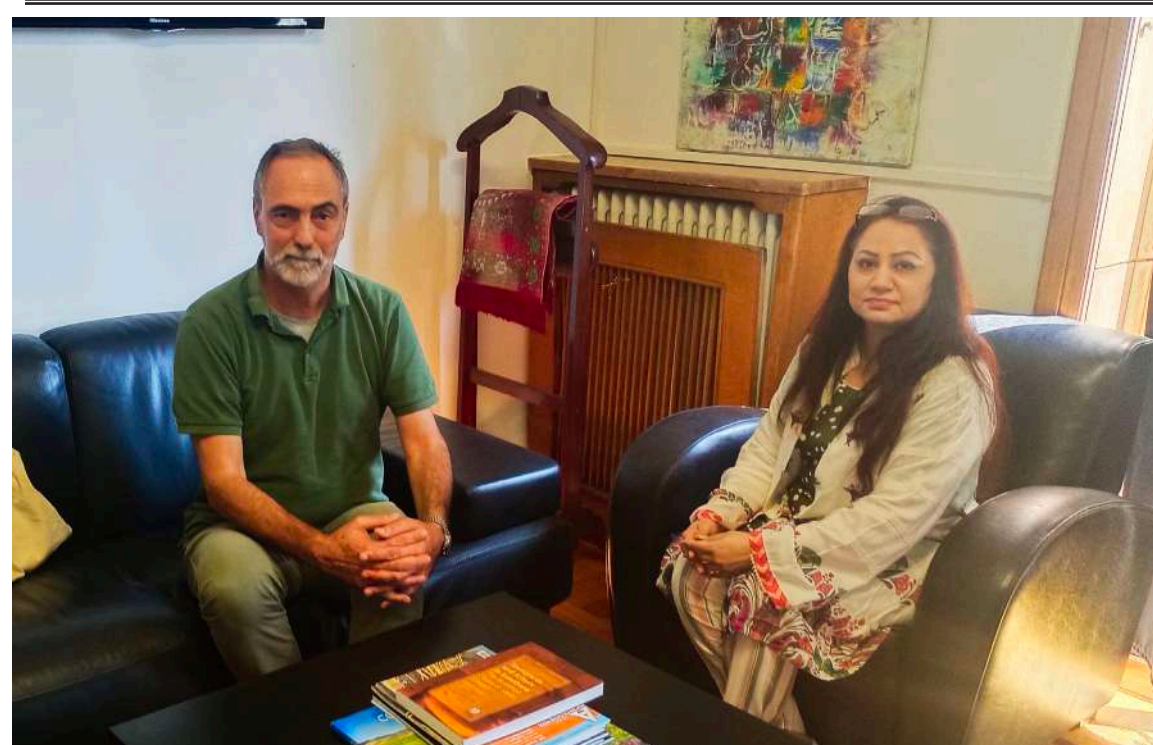
Letta: Intellectual ex-PM battling Italy's far-right

ROME: Bookish and fervently pro-European, former premier Enrico Letta returned from self-imposed exile to take the fight to Italy's far-right as leader of the centre-left Democratic Party. Since snap elections were called for September 25, the 56-year-old has emerged as the main rival to Giorgia Meloni, whose post-fascist Brothers of Italy party looks set to lead her right-wing coalition to power. Letta has long been a fixture in Italian politics, becoming the republic's youngest ever minister in 1998, at 32, before rising to become premier in 2013 – only to be forced out within a year by a party rival. He moved to Paris, heading up the School of International Affairs at Sciences Po for six years from September 2015, returning last year to take the helm of his Democratic Party. Letta, a restrained, bespectacled expert in international law, has warned the prospect of a far-right victory threatens democracy and Italy's place in the post-war order, from the European Union to NATO. Opinion polls suggest the Democratic Party, allied with the ecologi-

cal far-left, has almost no chance of catching up with Meloni and her allies, Matteo Salvini's anti-immigrant League and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia. But Letta, who is campaigning on a platform of social justice, the environment, civil rights and help for young people, is pinning his hopes on the substantial minority of voters who have yet to decide. Born in Pisa on August 20, 1966, Letta spent a large part of his childhood in the western French city of Strasbourg. He was an active member of the Christian Democratic party – heading its European youth wing – in the final years before it collapsed in a storm of corruption scandals. Letta joined Massimo D'Alema's leftist government in 1998 as minister for European affairs, later serving in other governments as minister for Europe and for trade and industry. He was deputy head of the Democratic Party when, after inconclusive results in 2013 general elections, he was called by Italy's president to become premier. Letta presented a "post-ideological" fresh face to lead a grand coalition. His uncle was Gi-

anni Letta, a close advisor of former premier Berlusconi, who was part of the new government. This connection did not prevent Letta from being one of Berlusconi's strongest critics. Within months of taking office, however, the even more youthful Matteo Renzi, then mayor of Florence, took over the Democratic Party leadership, challenged Letta and eventually replaced him as premier. Asked about this painful episode a decade later – by which time Renzi had left the Democratic Party and started his own movement – Letta expressed no resentment.

"The political world is cruel, as any kind of complex relationship is cruel, but the political world also knows how to be generous," he said. Letta has written numerous books about the challenges facing Italy and Europe, although he is also a big fan of comics. He has rejected the "personality politics" of his rivals, refusing to put his name on the party logo and arguing that its policy platform must speak for itself. But he has also admitted having to learn to become "less shy and more decisive". —APP



MILAN: Pakistan Consul General in Milan Aqsa Nawaz Met Prof. Luca Olivieri from Archeology Dept. University of Venice, Sitara-e-Imtiaz for his amazing work & publications.

Finland closely following situation in Russia: Defense chief

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Finland is closely monitoring the situation in neighboring Russia after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a partial military mobilization, the Finnish defense minister said on Wednesday. "I can say that the military situation is stable and calm. Our defense forces are well prepared and the situation is closely monitored," Antti Kaikkonen said at a press conference. He said that the partial mobilization announced by Putin "did not come as a surprise." Earlier, Putin announced a partial mobilization of reservists in Russia, calling up 300,000 reservists to join

the army. He also vowed to use "all means at its disposal" if Russia's territorial integrity is in danger, which was widely interpreted as a nuclear warning to the West. Kaikkonen said: "The military situation in the vicinity of Finland is calm. There is no immediate threat in the area. The Finns can rely on the armed forces and the authorities." He said that Finland will continue to provide weapons to Ukraine. However, he said many countries have already given a lot and that there is a question of how much help can Finland offer without harming its own defense capacity. Kaikkonen warned that Ukraine will need assistance for a very long time.

Japan: Man sets himself on fire near PM's office

TOKYO: A man set himself on fire near the Japanese prime minister's office on Wednesday after expressing opposition to a state funeral for assassinated ex-premier Shinzo Abe, local media said. Police declined to confirm the incident, but the government said an individual with burns had been found near government property.

"We are aware that a man with burns was found by a police officer at 7:00 am (2200GMT) this morning at an intersection below the cabinet office," top government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno said.

"But details are currently being examined by police," he added, declining to answer further questions on the incident.

TV Asahi said the man set himself alight after telling police he was opposed to the planned ceremony for Abe, which is scheduled for next week.

The television station said a police officer who tried to extinguish the fire was injured in the process.

Kyodo news agency and other outlets said police were called to the scene after reports a man was "engulfed in flames".

The agency said a note was found near the man, expressing his opposition to the funeral.

An AFP reporter at the site several hours later saw a scorched patch of grass and bush, with police and media nearby.

Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister, was shot dead on July 8 while campaigning, and a publicly funded state funeral honouring him will be held on September 27.

Abe was Japan's best-known politician, and remained a prominent public figure after resigning for health reasons in 2020.

He was campaigning for ruling-party candidates in upper-house elections in the Nara region, when he was shot by a man who allegedly believed the former leader had ties to the Unification Church. The assassination prompted shock and international condemnation, but a decision by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to authorise a state funeral has proved contentious.—APP

'Not give in to Putin's blackmail'

LONDON: The Latvian foreign minister on Wednesday urged for more support to Ukraine as Russian President Vladimir Putin announced partial military mobilization being seen as an escalation in its "special military operation."

"Putin announced 'partial' mobilisation and annexation of parts of Ukraine. We must not give in to his blackmail and support Ukraine as much as we can," Edgars Rinkevics said on Twitter.

"Russia is as dangerous to Europe and the world's peace today as Nazi Germany was in the last century," he added. In a televised address to the nation, Putin said: "I consider it necessary to support the proposal of the Defense Ministry and the General Staff to declare partial mobilization in the Russian Federation." Sergei Shoigu, Russia's defense minister, said the mobilization is being carried out to control "already liberated territories" and some 300,000 reservists will be called up.—APP

Kazakhstan to hold snap polls on Nov. 20

NUR SULTAN: President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on Wednesday called an early presidential election in Kazakhstan on Nov. 20.

In a presidential decree published by his office, Tokayev said the election will launch "an electoral cycle that will lead to a radical reset of the entire political system."

The announcement comes days after Tokayev approved a constitutional amendment to increase the presidential term to seven years from five, while barring any future president from serving a second term. Another change made last week was reverting the capital's name to Astana. It was switched to Nur-Sultan in 2019 as a tribute to outgoing President Nursultan Nazarbayev.—APP

Briefs

Russia at war with 'collective West': Minister

DNA
KYIV: Russia is at war not so much with the Ukrainian army as it is with the "collective West," the nation's defense minister said on Wednesday after a partial military mobilization was announced in Russia. The mobilization is being carried out to control "already liberated territories," Sergei Shoigu said in a live interview with Russia 24 channel. Some 300,000 reservists - about 1% of the mobilization resource - will be called up for the action, he said. Mobilization will include those who have served in the army, primarily those who have combat experience and a military specialty. It will not affect students and conscripts, Shoigu assured. On Wednesday, President Vladimir Putin announced a partial military mobilization in Russia, as the war with Ukraine has now gone on for seven months. Shoigu said a "Western Command" is based in Ukraine's capital Kyiv and directs the military operation in Ukraine. He claimed that over 1,000 foreign mercenaries are fighting for Ukraine. Shoigu alleged that the entire NATO satellite constellation are working against Russia in Ukraine. More than 70 military and 200 civilian satellites of the West are working to reconnoiter the location of Russian military groups, he said.

Children in Syria at risk from cholera outbreak

DNA
DAMASCUS: Water shortages driven by climate change and conflict are putting thousands of children in north and east Syria at risk of cholera, with at least 24 people having died from the water-borne disease, NGO Save the Children has warned. At least 24 people have died from the disease, and several thousand suspected cases have been reported across the country as of September 19, according to data taken by the charity from the Syria's Ministry of Health and the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria's health committee. "We are looking at a major outbreak if we do not act now, an outbreak which is already exacerbating the protection needs of children across Syria, adding to their suffering," Beat Rohr, Save the Children's interim country director, said in a statement on Tuesday. The current outbreak of the disease which causes diarrhea, vomiting, thirst, and in the worst cases death, is thought to be caused by communities drinking infected water and food irrigated by the country's Euphrates River, which is experiencing historic low levels of flow mainly due to Syria's worst drought in decades, the charity said.

Greece sends relief aid for flood victims

Pakistan has welcomed relief assistance from Greece and expressed its gratitude to the government and people of Greece

DNA
KARACHI: First relief assistance flight from Greece landed at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi. The consignment was received by Honorary Consul of Greece in Pakistan, Mr Ayaz Mohammad Lakhani, along with the representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NDMA. The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Pakistan has welcomed relief assistance from Greece and expressed its gratitude to the government and people of Greece for this goodwill gesture.



Erdogan voices support for flood victims, Kashmiris

NEWS DESK
UNITED NATIONS: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in his address to the 77th session of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday urged the world community to help the flood-hit people of Pakistan and also voiced hope for "permanent peace and prosperity" in Jammu and Kashmir. Erdogan also expressed his sincere condolences to the people of Pakistan because of the disastrous floods, saying his country had launched humanitarian aid campaigns which were still sustained. "And we would like to call out to the international community to help the people of Pakistan as they're going through this most unfortunate and painful time," he added. Erdogan also voiced hope for "permanent peace and prosperity" in Jammu and Kashmir. "India and Pakistan, after having established their sovereignty and independence 75 years ago, still haven't established peace and solidarity between one another."

Ethiopia cancels contract with Chinese firm

DNA
ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia has canceled its contract with a Chinese company exploring for oil and gas in the country since 2013, the government announced on Wednesday. Takele Uma, Ethiopia's minister of mines and petroleum, said the deal with Chinese firm Poly-GCL was called off because of its "financial and organizational inability" to develop gas in the Ogaden Basin, a resource-rich area in eastern Ethiopia, according to state-affiliated news agency Walta. The report said Poly-GCL was issued a letter of ultimatum in March that listed several

conditions for the company to fulfill. "In accordance with the successive notices the Ministry has issued in the past and in full compliance with the PPSAs and the laws of the land, the termination has now been fully effected," Takele said on Twitter. "As long as the financing that would enable to develop the oil and gas fields the Ministry is open for mutual and expeditious settlement," he added. Takele had previously hinted that Poly-GCL's contract would be terminated, saying that Ethiopia was actively searching for international companies that could develop the Ogaden's confirmed reserves of 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Military mobilization 'an act of despair'

Russian President announced a partial military mobilization earlier on Wednesday, calling up 300,000 reservists to join army

BERLIN: The partial mobilization of Russian military for the Ukraine war is "an act of despair," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Wednesday. "Russia cannot win this criminal war," he told reporters in New York, where world leaders have gathered for the UN General Assembly. Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial military mobilization earlier on Wednesday, calling up 300,000 reservists to join the army.

He also asserted that Russia will use "all means at its disposal" if its territorial integrity is threatened, which was widely interpreted as a nuclear warning to the West. Scholz said Putin made a serious mistake by attacking Ukraine, and his latest decision would make things even worse. "Right from the beginning, he completely underestimated the resistance of the Ukrainians, but also the unity and determination of the friends of Ukraine," he said. Scholz claimed that Putin failed to conquer Ukraine by military force, and is now trying to annex parts of the country by staging "sham referendums." "These sham referendums will never be accepted, not only by the Ukrainian people, but also by the international community," he stressed. "In the world we live in, the law must triumph over violence, and violence cannot be stronger than the law." - DNA

'Imran's days in power are over'

SUKKUR: The former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's days of enjoying political power in Pakistan are now over, the greatest evidence of which is how he has resorted to issue-based politicking. This was stated by Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Chairman Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday while addressing the media in Sukkur. "Imran Khan never was, is, nor ever will be a political leader," Rehman said, adding that no political leader worth their salt is ready to consider Imran as a politician. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Yezhan Kistafin. - DNA

US sees no breakthrough on nuclear deal at UN

NEW YORK: Iran and the West remained at loggerheads on Tuesday over UN probes of uranium traces at three Iranian sites as the United States said it did not expect a breakthrough on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal at this week's UN General Assembly. Tehran has pushed Washington to commit to closing investigations by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) into uranium traces found at three undeclared sites before it will fully implement a proposed deal to revive the nuclear pact. The United States and its partners, however, reject that stance, arguing the investigations can only conclude when Iran has given satisfactory answers to the Vienna-based UN agency.

Resolution of the investigations is critical to the IAEA, which seeks to ensure parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty are not secretly diverting nuclear material which they could use to make a weapon. French President Emmanuel Macron and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi each laid out familiar positions on the uranium traces issue after their talks during the annual gathering of global leaders in New York. "The ball is now in Iran's court which has to say whether it accepts the conditions that have been set formally by the Americans and Europeans," Macron told reporters after meeting Raisi, saying the West would not pressure the IAEA to close the probes. - DNA

FM calls for global cooperation to overcome climate challenges

The agreement reached at Glasgow can be the baseline on which to build a more ambitious plan for climate action

DNA
NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called for global cooperation, conciliation and solidarity to overcome the challenges of economy, energy and climate catastrophe. Addressing the high-level meeting of Young Foreign Ministers in New York on the sidelines of the UNGA's 77th session, the Pakistani Foreign Minister said that challenges of the future require building new, innovative and effective approaches to rebuild a world order that can prevent global catastrophe, preserve peace and security, and promote equitable and inclusive development of all nations and peoples in harmony with nature. The foreign minister outlined a six-point Agenda to envision a future international order which will guarantee security, peace and harmony for all. He said that the dangers of climate change have started mounting so rapidly that they are overwhelming

the ability of both nature and humanity to adapt. "Our country has been hit by one of the worst natural disasters in its history. More than 33 million people have been directly affected and we have lost more than 1,300 precious lives. "Effective climate action would require enhancement in the means of implementation, particularly climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building. The agreement reached at Glasgow can be the baseline on which to build a more ambitious plan for climate action," he added. He also stressed need to develop a mechanism to leverage the available public money in order to access private sector investments into adaptation and mitigation projects. "We need to ensure that everyone benefits from technological advancements, and that economic growth is reflected in income and living standards of all citizens." Bilawal Bhutto Zardari envelopes a clarion call to the youth of the world to prepare themselves for the future challenges posing mounting threats to the climate, economy and peace around the globe. "Being the Foreign Minister of a nation having 64% population under the age of 30, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has timely opened a channel for the youth of the world communicate with each other, discuss the prevailing and the future issues and sort out," said Surendar Valasai Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister for Human Rights.



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