



# Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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**Ambassador invites Pakistani investors to explore UAE**

Detailed News On Page-07

**PM highlighted flood crisis at UNGA session**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Raducanu surges into Korea Open Semi-finals**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**Ishaq Dar to return next week**

DNA

LONDON: Former finance minister Ishaq Dar has decided to return to Pakistan before October 7, confirming that he will probably be in Pakistan next week-end. Speaking to a private news channel, he said that he will take oath as a Senator immediately after his return. Addressing rumours regarding him replacing Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, he said: "I will perform whatever duty is assigned to me by [PML-N supremo] Nawaz Sharif and PM Shehbaz Sharif." He revealed that Shehbaz will return to London after attending the UN General Assembly summit being held in New York. "I will adhere to whatever is decided after consultations with Shehbaz and Nawaz," he maintained. Earlier, an accountability court in the federal capital suspended the arrest warrants of the former finance minister till October 7 in a case pertaining to him being a proclaimed offender.

**Floods result of weather patterns: FM**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressed the Council on Foreign Relations Friday. He underlined that the devastating floods in Pakistan were a direct result of extreme weather patterns due to climate change that had cost Pakistan punitively both in terms of human and material losses. Pakistan, being the 8th most vulnerable country to climate change, was facing the cataclysmic consequences of climate change despite minuscule contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. He noted that preliminary estimates pointed to losses in excess of US \$ 30 billion. The Foreign Minister unequivocally emphasized that climate change was a common and ominous challenge to humanity and stressed that collective efforts at global level were required to mitigate its adverse impacts.

## Holiday Notice

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

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'PM raised voice on global warming, climate change' - Page 08



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with President Joe Biden and First Lady of the US. - DNA

## Khan urges nation to wage jihad for 'Haqiqi Azadi'

The PTI chief announces resuming "Haqiqi Azadi" Movement today

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Friday said that rural Sindh was going through the "worst form of slavery", therefore, the nation will have to rise up to the occasion and wage jihad (holy war) for future generations. Addressing a students' convention in the federal capital, the former prime minister said that about 80% of women are stripped of their rights in rural Sindh, urging the nation to fight for the future generation and the "Haqiqi Azadi" (real freedom). Once again criticising his political opponents, Khan said that the khalifas (caliphs) in older times used to present themselves before

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## Imran Khan to visit Lahore on Sept 26

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan will visit Lahore on a day-long trip on September 26 (Monday). During his visit, the prime minister would meet with Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, sources said. The PTI Chief, on his Lahore, visit, would also meet with

Continued on Page 06

## Army Chief visits flood affected areas of Badin



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Bajwa on Friday visited flood-affected areas of Badin district in Sindh and spent time with the flood victims in relief and medical camps, the military said

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## European lawmakers call for action on human rights issues

Members conclude visit to Pakistan, where they assessed country's human rights situation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: On 19-21 September, MEPs from the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) visited Pakistan, which in recent weeks experienced devastating flooding. On behalf of Parliament, the members expressed their condolences for victims and their families, and their solidarity with the people of Pakistan. During their visit, the MEPs were briefed on Pakistan's emergency response, relief activities and its vulnerability to climate disasters. They underlined that the international community must increase its efforts to reduce global carbon emissions and help the countries suffering the most from climate change. In other meetings, MEPs focused on the human rights situa-

tion, against the backdrop of the final round of EU monitoring of Pakistan's preferential trade access to the EU market under the "GSP+" scheme for 2014-2033 and its preparations for an application to the next GSP system to be determined in 2024. The EU is Pakistan's most important export market and as a major "GSP+" country, it has committed to ratifying and complying with 27 international conventions on human rights, labour rights, sustainable development and good governance. MEPs discussed a wide range of human rights topics in their meetings with the Speaker and members of Pakistan's National Assembly, as well as with the Chairman and members of the Senate. They also held meetings with the Minister of Human Rights,

Continued on Page 06

## PM calls for debt relief amid floods

Sharif says the nation is facing imminent threat of epidemics

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has made an urgent appeal to the international donors and rich countries for debt relief and special programmes for rehabilitation of flood-affected people of the country. Pakistan has debt obligations in the next two months, Shehbaz Sharif said in an interview with Bloomberg Television in New York, adding that his government had just signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund with "very tough conditionalities" that include taxes on petroleum and electricity. "We have spoken to European leaders and other leaders to help us in the Paris Club to get us moratorium," Sharif said in the interview, referring to the group of rich creditor nations. "Unless we get substantial relief how can the world expect from us to stand on our own feet? It is simply impossible." He noted a "yawning gap" between what Pakistan is asking for and what is available, warning that the nation is facing the imminent threat of epidemics and other dangers. "God forbid this happens, all hell will break," Sharif said. The prime minister said Pakistan needs additional funds to tackle the destruction wreaked by climate-induced catastrophic floods.

## German envoy impressed by 'Lahori Qimay Alla Naan'



DNA

LAHORE: German Ambassador Alfred Grannas and First Secretary Dorota Magdalena Berezicki visited the

Continued on Page 06

## UN urges creditors to suspend Pakistan's loan

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations has urged international creditors to consider suspending debt repayment for Pakistan the country can prioritize disaster response over debt repayment, the Financial Times cited a UN policy memo as saying. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is expected to share the memorandum with the Pakistan government this week. The UN, in its memo, has said that Pakistan should suspend international debt repayments and restructure loans with creditors after recent floods added to the country's financial crisis. During his visit to Pakistan earlier this month, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that Pakistan had suffered "unprecedented" flood destruction and its losses stood at \$30 billion and counting. Both the Pakistan government and

Continued on Page 06

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## Police launch search operation in PTCL Colony

RAWALPINDI: Police on special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi on Friday launched a search operation in PTCL Colony and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of R.A. Bazar Police Station, said a police spokesman.

He informed that heavy police contingents, Elite Force, Special Branch personnel and Ladies police under the supervision of senior police officers conducted search operation in the area and searched 48 houses, 22 shops besides checking of the particulars of nine tenants. Over 198 persons were also checked during the operation.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations, Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz Khan said that search operations were being conducted under National Action Plan to net the lawbreakers.—APP

## ANF recovers 124 narcotics

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in an operation conducted at Islamabad International Airport on Friday recovered 124 narcotics-filled capsules from the possession of an accused. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an operation, ANF recovered 114 charras-filled capsules, weighing 734 grams and 10 Ice-filled capsules weighing 69 grams from the possession of passenger, going to Abu Dhabi.

A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process.—APP

## 22 drug peddlers, bootleggers, weapon holders held

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers, bootleggers and illegal weapon holders on Friday arrested 22 accused besides recovering over three kg narcotics, 20 liters liquor and weapons from their possession.

A police spokesperson said that Rattaamral police held Sajjad and Tariq for having 300 grams heroin and 160 grams charras.

Bani police rounded up Dania Zafar and recovered 1240 grams charras. Similarly, Sadiqabad, Dhamaal, Rawat, Kalar Syedan, Kotli Sattian, New Town and Civil Lines police held Hamza, Niaz Khan, Fazal, Mazhar Iqbal, Yasir Ilyas, Bashir, Umar, Akram Hussain and Irfan on recovery of 1350 grams charras and 20 liters liquor.

In other raid, conducted in different areas, nine accused namely Zain Ali, Saeed, Bashir, Abid Aziz, Qasim, Zahir and others as police recovered seven 30 bore pistols, a Kalashnikov and ammunition from their possession.

The spokesperson said that separate cases have been registered against all suspects while further investigations are underway. Divisional Superintendents of Police directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations and drug peddlers, bootleggers and illegal weapon holders, he added.

## RCCI expresses concern over delay on Ring Road Project

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has expressed concerns about delays in the Rawalpindi Ring Road project. A delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce led by President Nadeem Rauf called on Chairman RDA Tariq Mehmood Murtaza, here, on Friday and shared the concerns of the business community in this regard. Chairman RDA informed the delegation about the ongoing development projects on Rawalpindi Ring Road and Lei Expressway. President Chamber Nadeem Rauf emphasized that the ring road project should not be delayed anymore, and immediate work should be started on the industrial zones around the ring road. —DNA

# Experts call for learning from past foreign policy mistakes



PESHAWAR: Former ambassador and veteran statesman Rustam Shah Mohmand has stressed that Pakistan needs to play a proactive role in the region vis-à-vis Afghanistan as it was evident that stability or instability in Afghanistan resonate with Pakistan in parallel. Instead of making further policy dichotomies, Pakistan needs to develop a robust policy concerning Afghanistan. For Pakistan, it is a time to pause, reflect, assess, and consider the dangers that loom on the horizon if Afghanistan remains unstable for a longer time. He was addressing a seminar titled Askariyat Kay Khadshaat, Mazi Ka Sabaq Aur Darkar Hikmat-e-Amli

(Fears of Re-emergence of Militancy; Lesson from the Past and Required Strategy) combined with the book launch of Dehshat Gardi Kay Khilaf Jang: Pak Amrika Ta'awun Aur Is Kay Asarat (War Against Terrorism: Pak-US Relations and its Impacts), the ninth book of the 'Armughan-e-Khurshid Series' recently published in two volumes, which compiles the writings and speeches of Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, a veteran politician, eminent scholar, economist, founder and patron-in-chief of Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) on a variety of subjects of national significance. The seminar, hosted by Qurtuba University, Peshawar and co-chaired

by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Niyazi, chairman, Qurtuba Education System, was also addressed by Professor Dr. Fakhru-islam, director, Pakistan Study Center, Peshawar University, Mahmood Jan Babar, journalist and columnist, Dr. Shahzad Iqbal Sham, senior research fellow at IPS, and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Riaz Khan, dean, Qurtuba University. While sharing his insights about the changing situation of Afghanistan amidst global and regional scenarios, Rustam Shah Mohmand said that though Afghanistan was supposed to be entering into a new era of peace and

stability after more than four decades of civil strife, foreign invasions, war and militarization, it was, unfortunately, not going to happen soon. A lack of robust Afghan diplomacy at the international and regional level, financial isolation, and illogical policy preferences like banning of girls' education have only intensified the deplorable situation in Afghanistan. While quoting several anecdotes from Prof. Khurshid's book, Dr. Fakhru-islam apprised the audience of the work and struggle of Professor Khurshid Ahmad and stated that the two-volume book is a historical source for researchers on legislative

debates and parliamentary business about foreign and security policy imperatives of Pakistan vis-à-vis the 'War on Terror'. He underscored the recommendations mentioned in one of the chapters of the book that the foreign policy of Pakistan should be owned and formulated by the foreign office under the guidance of experts and relevant policy stakeholders, which was, unfortunately, not the case so far. Khalid Rahman stressed that, whatever is the threat, one must find the underlying cause of it to mitigate and solve it. The same is the case with terrorism, which has yet no universally agreed definition.

Despite this, such a large-scale policy was formulated against terrorism resulting in dangerous implications with no apparent outcome or solution. To find solutions to such issues, it is necessary to dig down the dynamics of the phenomenon, while giving due attention to overriding factors. He further pointed out that terrorism has multifold dynamics, including operators, facilitators, and masterminds, at the core of the phenomenon. To deal with terrorism, it is necessary to identify and deal with the mastermind. Lastly, any policy to deal with it must include all stakeholders for it to be fair and successful. —APP

## Chairman Senate message on Pashtun Culture Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in his message on Pashtun culture day has said that pashtuns are celebrating the day with great enthusiasm and valor.

Celebration of such days remind us of the significance of our cultural values in national growth. This leads toward national integration and prosperity, he added. Chairman Senate said that pashtun traditions are based on respect and love for



humanity. "Happy Pashtun Culture Day to all the peace loving and cultured pashtuns of the world with best wishes of peace and love for the world of humanity," he said. "Pakistan is a multicultural country and every culture has its unique characteristics."

## Ahsan asks Opp. not to create hurdles in relief activities

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Friday asked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) not to create hurdles in the government's efforts in seeking support and aid from the world for the relief and rehabilitation activities in flood hit areas of the country. He said that Pakistan was facing the worst devastation and it needed the world assistance to revive economy and reconstruction in the wake of massive floods.

Addressing a press briefing here, the minister who also oversees the National Flood Response and Cooperation Center distressed over the irresponsible attitude of the Opposition who was making fun of the government for seeking assistance from the world. Today, Sheikh Rasheed had said that the government was begging from the world, but in fact we are seeking our right as the devastated floods occurred as a result of climate change and carbon emission which is international issue, he said adding that the Pakistan's contribution in the international carbon emission was even less than one percent. He said that Pakistan was the 7th most vulnerable country with respect to the climatic change issues and the Prime Minister was asking the developed countries which had larger share in carbon emission to respect their moral obligation and do the justice to Pakistan. Ahsan Iqbal said the Opposition should stop issuing irresponsible statements as thousands of Jawans of armed forces were working day and night in the flood relief activities whereas our senior officers and Jawans have also been martyred in such activities. "Sometimes you are using jacked, and unpatriotic for the worthy leadership... how dare you using such irresponsible words," he said while pointing to former Prime Minister Imran Khan. "I think such attitude is not good for the country and the politics as well." The minister said whenever there is tough time to any community or a family, people express sympathies by forgetting all their differences but the person who is claiming for "Haqeeqi Azadi" have become so cruel that he is creating hurdles in the way of flood response activities. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Nong Rong called on Federal Minister for Power, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan. — DNA

## Minister, Chinese Envoy discuss ties

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong called on Minister for Power Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan here on Friday and discussed issues of mutual interests.

The minister welcomed the ambassador and expressed reverence for Pak-China friendship, said a press release.

He remarked that back in 2014, no other country was willing to invest in Pakistan except China. The Chinese investment in power sector was of immense importance, he added.

Both sides noted the importance of hydro power projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and agreed to expedite work on the ongoing projects.

The Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong appreciated the present government for their commitment towards CPEC and continuous engagement.

He emphasized that this continued association would bear fruit for Pak-China friendship and help improve the investment environment in Pakistan.

## NDMA alerts depts amid flood warning in River Sutlej

The NDMA advisory underlined that the provincial disaster management authorities (PDMAs), Irrigation Departments, Respective District Administrations and DDMA's, Municipal and City Administrations were advised to ensure following measures

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Friday issued an alert to the federal and provincial departments to ensure proper preparedness and disaster management measures following the Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) forecast of heavy thunderstorm and rain in the catchment areas of River Sutlej.

The FFD in its forecast has informed that there were chances of scattered wind, thunderstorm and rain of moderate intensity with isolated heavy to very heavy falls expected over the upper catchment of River Sutlej. The NDMA advisory underlined that the provincial disaster management authorities (PDMAs), Irrigation Departments, Respective District Administrations and DDMA's, Municipal and City Administrations were advised to ensure following measures.

It advised to maintain enhanced alert level and monitoring of developing situation to reduce reaction and response times. However, all civic agencies and rescue services (Rescue 1122 / Fire Brigade / Ambulance / Civil Defense) to remain alert and ensure availability of personnel and equipment in at-risk areas during the forecast period. The peo-

ple living along the banks of River Sutlej and in vicinity of nullahs to be sensitized about expected increase of water flows.

Moreover, timely evacuation of at-risk population from low-lying and flood prone areas as per Evacuation Plans and ensure availability of shelters, food and medicines in those shelter camps.

The locals, farmers and cattle herders should be forewarned to shift cattle away from low lying areas adjacent to Rivers Indus and in vicinity of rivers.

It also underscored to restrict vehicle movement in low lying and at-risk location, in the vicinity of rivers and nullahs. The provision of relief and medical supplies to affected people in timely manner should be ensured by the quarters concerned whereas they should also coordinate with concerned departments for clearance of roads in case of any blockage or obstruction, waterlogging and pre-placing of necessary emergency equipment at vulnerable and appropriate locations.

The Travelers and Tourists were forewarned about risks posed by floods in vulnerable locations and may be diverted to safe lay-by and waiting areas with sufficient supply of water, food and essential medicines in case of adverse and dangerous road conditions by Police, NH&MP and Local

Administrations.

### Sindh seeks Punjab's help

Meanwhile, the Sindh Health Department wrote a letter to the Punjab government on Friday asking for help in treating flood-hit people. According to the letter written by the Health Department of the Sindh government, they have demanded at least 380 doctors and paramedical practitioners.

The Sindh government has urged the Secretary of Health and Chief Secretary of Punjab to help the provincial government. Sindh's ten districts need doctors, nurses and paramedical staff urgently, the letter read. Sindh is under a viral disease epidemic after the majority of the province is far from recovering from devastating rainfall and floods in the country. On September 20, at least nine people were reported dead of infectious and viral diseases in the province. Ministry of Health data shows that viral infections have spread to thousands of people in flood-hit Pakistan. According to the data provided by the PDMA, six people, including four men and two women, lost their lives due to floods in Sindh in the last 24 hours. According to the PDMA, since June 21, 707 people have been reported dead due to floods in the province. A total of 278 men, 132 women, and 297 children have lost their lives, while 8422 people have suffered injuries amid the calamity. PDMA told.

## PAF continues assistance in affected areas

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Friday continued its vigorous medical support, relief and rehabilitation activities in flood affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab. The PAF, through medical camps and mobile medical teams, was providing much needed medical assistance to flood victims, a PAF news release said. The PAF Medical Lab Collection Points were also actively involved for diagnosis of water-borne diseases amongst flood affected.

Pakistan Air Force personnel have rescued the locals stranded inside flooded homes and shifted them to safer locations utilizing transport fleet, helicopters and boats. The troops distributed dry ration, cooked food, fresh drinking water, and other household items to affected populace. During the last 24 hours, PAF has distributed 18,310 cooked food packs, 650 water bottles and 1,472 ration packs amongst the needy families. Moreover, in addition to the provision of free food and shelter, 2,777 patients were also attended by the medical teams of Pakistan Air Force. The PAF Emergency Response Teams were making maximum efforts to ease out the flood affectees of Rajanpur, Mitiari, Machi, Bolani, Lashari, Norwah, Machka, Gharo, Jati, Kodario, Hajipur, Chuhar Jamali, Mirpur Khas, Saindabad, Balu, Basti Sher Muhammad, Lakhra, Matyari, Saeebadur Shahdadkot, Sohbatpur, Basti Jageer Gabool, Fazilpur and Allah Waraio Jamali, Nasserabad, Jhal Magshi, Jacobabad, Khyarvi, Sanghar, Gothi Ismail, Kumhar, Pholari, Dadu, Pagadar Shah, Mian Pota, Pashin, Qila Abdullah, Qila Saifulah, UC Sargal, Thul, Sehwan, Nawab Shah Sakrand, Esabhathi, Sukkur, Pir Patho, Uthal, Hyderabad, UC Sindhri, Talhar, Nawakilli, Gulistan Kili Saleh and Kili Habib-zai.

## Turkish Red Crescent gives a helping hand

ISLAMABAD: The Turkish Red Crescent has been active in Pakistan since floods claimed hundreds of lives, with its teams trying to reach as many affectees as possible, Turkish newspaper Daily Sabah reported. Either by trucks or by boats, teams seek to address the basic needs of the displaced, including accommodation, food and hygiene and also expanding its humanitarian assistance to health care centers," the newspaper said.

Turkish Red Crescent President Kerem Kinik said they had never left Pakistan after a deadly earthquake in 2005. "We set up a permanent humanitarian aid delegation here after the 2005 disaster. Our delegation was among the responders to this new catastrophe as well. By the time our teams from Turkiye arrived here, our colleagues, in cooperation with Pakistan Red Crescent, were healing the wounds," he added.

Kinik also said the Red Crescent first supplied food aid and later organized accommodation efforts. "With the tents we sent from Turkiye and tents we obtained here in Pakistan, we tried to protect flood victims. There is still work to do to address accommodation needs, as well as public health."

He pointed out that the biggest threat to flood victims was now infectious diseases. "Clean drinking water is a major necessity here. Swamps that the floods created may cause millions to fall ill. People are in need of hygiene materials. So, we will concentrate on supplying hygiene and health care aid in the next stage of our efforts." Anil Kocabal, head of the Turkish charity's delegation in Pakistan, said waterborne diseases were increasing in the flood-hit areas. "We are planning to set up mobile health units in three regions and they will serve about 30,000 people. We will assign mobile health care teams consisting of doctors and nurses for first response before the transfer of patients to hospitals. We plan to realize these efforts within a week, he added.—APP



## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### SEPTEMBER

- Sept 01 / Libya Revolution Day
- Sept 01 / Tanzania Defence day
- Sept 01 / Uzbekistan Independence Day
- Sept 07 / Brazil Independence Day
- Sept 09 / DPR Korea National Day
- Sept 09 / Tajikistan Independence Day
- Sept 16 / Malaysia Armed Forces Day
- Sept 16 / Mexico National Day
- Sept 16/Papua New Guinea Independence Day
- Sept 18 / Chile National Day
- Sept 21 / Malta Independence Day
- Sept 23 / Saudi Arabia National Day



### Hotels & Restaurants

- Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
- Marriott.....051- 2826121
- Monal.....0334-5421812



### Airlines

- Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

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



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- Railway Inquiry.....117
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- WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
- CAA.....9281092



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



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

### Islamabad Metropolitan

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

### Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# 'Significance of airpower in future Indo-Pak conflict'



## DNA

ISLAMABAD: 'Air Power has virtually become an instrument of choice in the hands of political as well as military commanders for achieving their politico-military objectives alone as well as in synergy with other instruments of military application.' This was the key message of the seminar on 'Significance of Airpower in Future Indo-Pak Conflict' organised by the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) in Islamabad. Eminent speakers included Air Vice Marshal Nasser ul Haq Wyne (Retd), Advisor at Air Headquarters, Pakistan Air Force; Air Vice Marshal Faaz Amir (Retd), former Vice Chancellor, Air University; and Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd), Senior Director at CASS. President CASS Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd) delivered the Concluding Remarks, while Air Vice Marshal Faheem Ullah Malik (Retd) moderated the proceedings.

Discussing the employment of airpower in the subcontinent from a strategic perspective, Air Vice Marshal Nasser ul Haq Wyne highlighted the importance of airpower and stressed the need for developing 'air mind-edges' amongst all segments of society, especially within the political and military

leadership. Going over the history of Indo-Pak air engagements, he outlined how air power had contributed to either deter war, or to meet national objectives in wartime as well during peace; and opined that the new conflict scenario could be termed as 'Air Cold Start.' He concluded that although PAF's response in all the conflicts had remained exceedingly well, yet, there was a need to adopt a wholesome approach towards any future conflict/war, which would not be possible without a politically stable Pakistan; steady economy; and professional defence forces, including an Air Force second to none.

On the subject of 'Evolving Geostrategic Environment and Induction of New Technologies: Impact on Airpower Balance in South Asia,' Air Vice Marshal Faaz Amir emphasised that change in the world order would not be a simple change of leadership, rather it would mean a deep, significant, and critical transformation of the entire world system. Such a transition to a new balance of power would mean turbulence and conflict. Sharing examples from history, he opined that reconfiguring of power balance often occurred in the least stable regions. 'Pakistan will have to take measure to not only ensure its sovereignty but also bring prosperity to its downtrodden populace,' he

said. AVM Amir cautioned that the need to watch conflict drivers in the region had never been greater.

Speaking on the employment of airpower in Indo-Pakistan context, Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd), highlighted that existing Full Spectrum Deterrence, had successfully foreclosed options of full-scale wars as well as limited conflicts between India and Pakistan. Even the Cold Start Doctrine, which India had crafted after 2001-02 stand-off, was redundant in the wake of Pakistan's conventional and nuclear deterrence regimes. He further elaborated that India had thus, resorted to hybrid war against Pakistan at sub conventional level. Within this context, at times India could opt for an aerial strike to draw political mileage domestically. In such cases Pakistan Air Force, he said, was fully geared up to respond with impunity through a quid pro quo plus approach, as shown amply in February 2019.

While delivering the Concluding Remarks, Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd), thanked the speakers for their in-depth analysis. He agreed that air power, being technology intensive, had evolved at an exponential speed vis-a-vis other instruments of military power. Air Marshal Khan highlighted that induction of force multipliers in 21st Century had helped both operators and air

planners, plan higher duration missions, enabled them with better situation awareness, enhanced combat effectiveness without adding to the fleet size. This has allowed greater economy, he shared. He further pointed out that non-kinetic means of warfare and induction of emerging technologies like AI, cyber, space, and quantum computing in South Asia, were bound to evolve the nature of air war in terms of its duration, severity, surprise, and lethality. 'Therefore, future Indo-Pak war, if any, with air power alone is likely to be fast, destructive and of short duration.' He recommended that Pakistan needed to formulate a comprehensive indigenisation strategy to develop its own technologies in avionics, weapons and more so in non-kinetic means of warfare. Mastering the developed technologies, knowledge-based trainings, research and development to get best quality human resource, is the need of the hour, he stressed. War veterans of the 1965 and 1971 war, senior serving and retired PAF military officers attended the seminar and participated in the interactive Question and Answer session. CASS' flagship publication 'Journal of Aerospace & Security Studies' was also launched at the seminar by '65 & '71 war veteran Squadron Leader Ghani Akbar, SJ.



ISLAMABAD: Registrar Raja Umar presenting a souvenir to US Embassy official during the concluding ceremony of 3-day International conference on English Teachers Forum at Allama Iqbal Open University. —DNA

## NUST inks MoU with Cranfield University UK

ISLAMABAD: National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST), Pakistan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the prestigious Cranfield University (CU), UK. The MoU

envisions strong bilateral cooperation that would pave the way for a myriad of collaborative activities in several academic and research domains, said a press release received here on Friday. NUST Rector Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, himself a graduate of Cranfield University, led the NUST delegation to CU for signing of the agreement that would have far-reaching positive dividends for both sides. Other members of the delegation included Pro-Rector RIC Dr Rizwan Riaz and Dir Coordination Imran Malik. Chief Executive and Vice-Chancellor of CU Professor Karen Holford FREng CBE, accompanied by Pro-Vice-Chancellors Professor Simon Pollard and Professor Dame Helen Atkinson and senior executives from CU, warmly received the delegates. Rector NUST condoled with the hosts on the passing of the Queen, and thanked them for their hospitality. —APP

## Google team visits Ministry to discuss innovation centre

ISLAMABAD: Google for Education team along with Tech Valley Pakistan visited the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training to understand the current challenges of the education sector of Pakistan and discuss the execution plan for Pakistan's first Educational Innovation Centre of Excellence in Pakistan (EICE). EICE is a part of a larger digital education transformation journey that has been previously launched in 9 countries across the globe. The experience, research, output, and challenges accumulated from different countries will be duplicated in Pakistan with the help of the local country partner of Google for Education, Tech Valley Pakistan. The program will contribute to promoting skill sets for teachers and students with respect to the digital transformation of the edu-

cation sector. A detailed research will be conducted in this center with the help of an academic partner where researchers will test different practices to develop a localised content and promote technology adoption at teachers and students level. Such centers were previously launched in Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Vietnam for successful digital transformation and professional development of teachers, students and administrators involved in education. Umar Farooq, CEO of Tech Valley said, "With our vision and mission to bring the technological revolution to the educational ecosystem, we are happy to share that the Educational Innovation Center of Excellence will incorporate 21st century tools, like Chromebooks and Google for Education, with a localised content and context. —APP

## Students from flood-hit areas to get 2 semester fee deferral

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed on Friday said the students from flood-affected areas, enrolled at public and private universities, would get fee deferral for two semesters to mitigate their problems. Talking to APP, he said all public and private universities were working to facilitate people of the flood-hit areas, adding that veterinary universities had also been directed to support livestock in these devastated areas. "We are also working out a proper plan for compensating the universities in the flood-hit areas." The HEC chairman said: "Since technology and education are interlinked, we have to opt for policy to promote technology in the education sector of the country. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the idea of smart classrooms and technology did help in continuing the educational process sans any pause. "In the coming years, due to revolution in the IT sector, we will not have a formal need of buildings, and rather phones will be sufficient for acquiring and disseminating education. The future education will be online and there would be lab practices through virtual simulations. "We will adopt optimum world practices to ensure quality education through online and latest technology, and around 10 to 15 percent budget allocation is mandatory for each university for distance education system, which will be increased to 50% after some time with a proper plan and consultation of all private and public universities."

Dr Ahmed said the HEC had also launched programmes related to artificial intelligence and cyber security in many universities, including the Air University, NUST, and the UET, while other universities would also get these programmes soon. He underlined the need for promoting skills education across the country, terming it more valued than simple educational degrees. He further added that skills education was playing important role in development of the country. Underscoring the biggest problem of awarding affiliation to colleges, Dr Ahmed pointed out that universities had awarded affiliation to around 5,000 colleges so far across the country. "Such number of affiliation means compromising the quality of education," he added.

"A policy has been formulated to properly monitor the performance of affiliated colleges through inspection," he said, adding that affiliation of the poor-performing colleges would be cancelled. The HEC chairman said cooperation with international universities was increasing and a Japanese delegation was coming to Pakistan next month for cooperation in the IT sector. "Under MOUs with international universities, our students will study in world's top ranked universities," he added. He said the HEC now had a new department of global engagement, directly mandated for international collaboration to facilitate the students. "We have suggested the foreign countries to allow our institutions to open their campuses in their states," he added. —APP

## 180 CTP officials to regulate traffic

RAWALPINDI: Over 180 City Traffic Police (CTP) personnel would be deployed to ease traffic flow in Chor Chowk area on Sunday as Chehnum procession to be taken out on September 25 from Peshawar Road. According to a CTP spokesman, the Traffic Police, on the directives of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Naveed Irshad, have finalized all the arrangements to regulate traffic and facilitate the road users on September 25 in Chor Chowk area. He informed that a comprehensive traffic plan had been devised to ensure security and facilitate the mourners as well as the road users. Charing Cross to Pirwadhai Mor Road would remain closed from morning to conclusion of the Chehnum procession. Diversion points would be set up in the circle to ensure security and facilitate the motorists. Saddar to Peshawar bound traffic would move through Westridge Road, Atta ul Haq Road, Najam Shaheed Road, Westridge-III Road, APS school, Marble Factory and IJP road, while the traffic coming from Wah, Taxila towards Saddar would use Pirwadhai Road, IJP Road, Carriage Factory Road, Gunjmandi Mor, Bakri Chowk, Romi Road, Transit Camp and Akram ul Haq Road. —APP

## Car-lifter gang busted; four arrested

RAWALPINDI: In an operation against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police have busted a car-lifter gang and arrested its four members. According to the police spokesman, Kalar Syedan police rounded up four members of car-lifter gang namely Abid, Fida, Amir and Gulzar allegedly involved in car-lifting cases. Police also recovered vehicle worth Rs 1.8 million and other items from their possession. Police recovered a Toyota Hiace from their possession, he said, adding that the police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Kalar Syedan Police Station. On the directives of SP Saddar Ahmed Zaneer conducted a raid and managed to arrest the gang members. As per the preliminary police record, the criminals were also involved in other crimes, he added. —APP

## 'Not seeking relief from commercial banks'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Friday said in the wake of climate related disaster, Pakistan was seeking debt relief from bilateral Paris Club creditors only, not from commercial banks or the Eurobond creditors. "Given the climate-induced disaster in Pakistan, we are seeking debt relief from bilateral Paris Club creditors. We are neither seeking, nor do we need, any relief from commercial banks or Eurobond creditors", he said in his tweet. "We have a \$1 bn bond due in December which we will pay on time and in full", he said. — APP

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## Briefs

## Overuse of mobile phones affects children's health

ISLAMABAD: Health expert Dr Sania Hameed on Friday warned the overuse of cell phones as it has many side effects on children's health while nearly 89% of our children had been found deeply involved in using mobile phone. Talking to a private news channel, Health expert said it's high time to determine more about the negative influences of mobile phones and other wireless technologies on humans' health.

She said for texting someone or reading an article on the internet, our young generation has to stare at a small-sized screen of our cell phone which can put a lot of stress on their eyes thus causing dryness in them adding this may result in visual deterioration to maintain clear sight. She advised, therefore, that they should keep the device at least 12 to 16 inches away from the face.

Dr Sania said we cannot ignore overuse of mobile's influence on our sleeping habits too as most of us get used to set the alarm and put a cell phone somewhere not far from the head or even under their pillow. In fact, microwave radiations transmitted by a cell phone are harmful to a brain specially kid's brains having a mobile device at hand can also end up with insomnia in children, she added. —APP

## NA speaker, deputy congratulates Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Speaker and Deputy Speaker Friday extended their felicitations to the citizens and leadership of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on its 92nd national day. The NA Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf in his message congratulated the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince Deputy Prime Minister/Defense Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Chairman of the Shura Council Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh, Royal Family and the Saudi people.

"Saudi Arabia is moving ahead of time when it comes to progress, prosperity and welfare of its people under the visionary and farsighted leadership of the Kingdom", the Speaker remarked. He asserted that Pakistan always cherished its brotherly ties with the Kingdom. Both the countries always supported and stood side by side through thick and thin. The NA Speaker said humanitarian assistance extended by the Kingdom and the people to flood-ravaged Pakistanis in the wake of devastating floods was highly appreciable and reflected the love and affection of the brotherly people of the country. On the occasion, Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani while extending his felicitations to Saudi leadership and its people remarked that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are tied in deep-rooted bonds of faith, culture, and history. —APP

## Imran is misleading youth: Minister

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan on Friday said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) leader was misleading the youth and spreading anarchy in the country. Imran Khan was creating unrest by threatening to lodge a long march towards Islamabad, he said while talking to a private news channel. The people had rejected the long march call given by Imran Khan, he said. The PTI had failed in carrying its own design and negative agenda, he stated. Commenting on "illogical" demand by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf for early elections, he said the government was engaged in relief and rehabilitation operations. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio appreciates efforts of the Indonesian students and Diaspora living in Pakistan for collecting donations and relief goods for the flood victims.—DNA

## Pakistan to bear brunt of Federal rate hike

High policy rate in US will weaken other currencies, including the Pakistani rupee, and will create increased inflationary pressure, making it difficult for Islamabad to build up reserves

## DND

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is to bear the brunt of Federal Reserve (Fed) rate hike, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday. The U.S. Central Bank, the (Fed) has hiked the key rate by another 0.75 percentage points lifting the central bank's benchmark overnight interest rate to a range of 3.00%-3.25%. The Fed has hiked the interest rate for the third consecutive time, pushing the interest rate to the highest in almost 15 years to beat down inflation. However, the high policy rate in the United States will weaken other currencies, including the Pakistani rupee, and will create in-

creased inflationary pressure, making it difficult for Islamabad to build up reserves. According to Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, the rate rises were necessary to "get inflation behind" and avoid long-term damage to the economy but it will take a toll. "I wish there were a painless way to do that. There isn't," he said. Pakistan's top economists and pundits believe the Federal Reserve's move will strengthen the U.S. currency but it will have far-reaching implications for developing countries and struggling economies around the world. With the hike, developing countries will lose portfolio investment which will be diverted to the U.S. "The money will flow towards the United

States in dollar-denominated assets; it will strengthen the dollar and accordingly will weaken other currencies including the Pakistani rupee," renowned economist Dr Ashfaq Hassan Khan told Gwadar Pro. He said if Pakistan wants to go to the international market to raise money via bonds, the country will have to pay a "higher cost". Sakib Sherani, economist and former member of the Prime Minister's economic advisory council, said that whenever the U.S. Fed increases interest rates, it attracts capital from around the world to US treasuries, and this capital den is not available for emerging markets or developing countries. People are now rather than investing in emerging markets or lend-

ing to emerging markets, diverting their investments and capital to the U.S.," Mr Sherani told Gwadar Pro, and he added, "This means that countries like Pakistan are not able to receive assistance or commercial lending and are not able to float their bonds in the international market to the same extent as they could before the U.S. Federal Reserve started raising interest rates". After the U.S. Federal Reserve raised interest rates and singled further hikes ahead, Asian markets including Pakistan traded lower on Thursday as well as oil prices climbed. Shahbaz Rana, senior economist and TV host told Gwadar Pro that Pakistan needs to borrow or get rollover around \$40 billion in this

fiscal year to repay the external debt and finance its current account deficit. "The hike in interest rates will not only increase the cost of borrowing for Pakistan but will also make it challenging for the State Bank of Pakistan to build reserves," he said and added that the developing countries will lose "attractions for the investors after U.S. Fed rate hike". Ikram Hoti, Economic Correspondent 92 News, told Gwadar Pro that following Covid-19, people instead of making investments in the markets prefer to avail high profit in the form of interests from the banks. He said that with the rate hike, the value of Pakistan's external debt will increase while the size of the economy in terms of dollars will

decrease. The dollar appreciation will make it difficult for Pakistani exporters to compete in international markets while imports will become more expensive, increasing the import bills. The depreciation of the rupee will also increase the external debt-to-GDP ratio which provides a base to borrow money from foreign countries. "Fewer funds will be available for development spending if more funds are allocated for debt servicing," said Mr Hoti. Ikram Hoti said, "Hike in policy rate is not in favour of many developing countries; for example, the international finance structure has no capacity to assist countries like Pakistan and Sri Lanka regarding foreign currency deficit".

## Tractor assembling decreases 47.9 percent

ISLAMABAD: Tractor assembling in the country during first month of current financial year decreased by 47.9 percent as compared to the corresponding month of last year.

During the month of July, 2022, about 2,400 tractors were locally produced as against the production of 4,609 tractors of same month last year, according to the provisional quantum indices of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

The data was compiled for the month of July 2022 with base year 2015-16 on the basis of latest data supplied by the source agencies, it added. During the period under review, overall manufacturing of machinery and equipments witnessed about 48.4 percent negative growth in July, 2022 as against the production of same month of last year.—APP

## Lab set up for construction materials testing

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Housing and Works had set up a laboratory at the site of low-cost housing project of Alipur Frash for the government employees to test the quality of construction material. "The laboratory will not only help testing the material used in construction work, but also save time of the labourers working on the site, an official in the Ministry of Housing and Works told APP. He said the excavation work for over 27 blocks has been carried out and the raft cage for columns was developed for 16 blocks to be established. He said under the project a total of 2,400 flats were being constructed, out of which 400 flats were reserved for rehabilitating dwellers of Katchi Abadis (slum areas) of the federal capital. The official said that currently around 1,000 workers were deployed on the project site and the workforce would be increased from 3,000 to 5,000 in coming days to expedite work on the project. The ministry was also taking various steps to facilitate low income people of the country by restarting stalled schemes, constructing new apartments worth Rs109 billion, he added. The official said the ministry revived multiple stalled projects including Kurri Road Islamabad,

Wafaqi Colony Lahore, G-10/2 Islamabad, I-16/3 Islamabad and I-12/1 Islamabad. The stalled projects have been put on track and completed by the Pakistan Housing Authority (PHA), however, the work on I/16-3 and I/12-1 projects were in progress, he added. Regarding the initiatives taken in Balochistan, he said Kuchlak Road Quetta project was consisted of 1,350 housing units, which was inaugurated in 2019 on the land provided by Government of Balochistan. The official said the membership drive was executed and over 7,700 applications were received and automated balloting was also held successfully. The PCI has been approved from Development Working Party (DWP) and endorsed by the PHA-F's Board of Directors. Regarding initiatives taken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PHA Residencia Sorazai Project, Peshawar, he said land measuring 8500 kanal was provided by Government of KHYBR Pakhtunkhwa and in first phase, PHA-F would construct 10,000 housing units. He said Minister for Housing and Works Maulana Wasay had already directed all the affiliated and registered contractors to accelerate the pace of different ongoing housing projects to provide modern residential facilities to government employees in the shortest possible time.—APP

## Two more Saudi airlifts Of relief goods arrive

ISLAMABAD: The government of Saudi Arabia through its aid agency, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) have sent two more special planes loaded with the relief goods. Both of the special planes carrying 60 tons of relief goods including tents, food packages, blankets, dates and non-food items kits reached Karachi for the flood victims, said a statement on Friday. The relief goods were received by the KSrelief Director Pakistan and handed over to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) representative in the metropolitan city. The relief goods would be distributed among the affected people according to the needs of each region of the country in collaboration with the NDMA. It is pertinent to mention here that this series of the arrival of relief cargo planes would continue till September 27, this month.—APP

## Pakistan's earns \$199 million from IT services'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$199.100 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first month of current fiscal year 2022-23. This shows growth of 1.58 percent as compared with US \$ 195.996 million earned through provision of services during the corresponding period of last fiscal year 2021-22, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the month under review, the computer services grew by 5.77 percent as it surged from US \$150.456 million last year to US \$159.140 million during July 2022. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed a decrease of 27.40 percent, from US \$0.219 million to US \$0.159 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services however increased by 8.77 percent, from US \$53.830 million to US \$58.551 million. The export of repair and maintenance services declined by 95.68 percent from US \$0.162 million to US \$0.007 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services witnessed an increase of 31.41 percent, from \$35.039 million to \$46.044 million. In addition, the exports of other computer services dipped by 11.15 percent from US \$61.206 million to US \$54.379 million. Meanwhile, the export of information services during the month under review also decreased by 6.45 percent by going down from US \$0.310 million to US \$0.290 million. Among the information services, the exports of information related services decreased by 2.39 percent, from US \$0.209 million to US \$0.204 million whereas the exports of other information services dipped by 14.85 percent, from US \$0.101 million to US \$0.86 million. The export of telecommunication services also decreased by 12.29 percent as these went down from US \$45.230 million to US \$39.670 million, the data revealed. Among the telecommunication services, the export of call centres services increased by 23.90 percent during the month as its exports increased from US \$11.954 million to US \$14.811 million whereas the export of other telecommunication services decreased by 25.29 percent, from US \$33.276 million to US \$24.859 million during this year, the PBS data revealed.—APP

## Ayaz Amir's son murders his wife with dumbbell blows

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: A man mercilessly murdered his wife by repeatedly hitting her with a dumbbell in Chak Shahzad of Islamabad on Friday. Accused Shahnawaz, who is the son of renowned journalist Ayaz Amir, used his gym dumbbell to strike his 37-year-old wife Sara Bibi in the head with continuous blows, sources in police said. Police rushed to the crime scene after receiving information and started their investigation. The police have arrested Shahnawaz and shifted the dead body of his wife to Polyclinic Hospital for post-mortem. Reacting to the news, senior journalist Ayaz Amir said "Whatever happened with my daughter-in-law should not happen with anyone else." "I can't explain how I received this news," he said.

## Rs 279.200million allocated for completion of ongoing schemes

Rs. 20.000m has been allocated for the project of Human Rights Coordination and Monitoring Units for National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up, he said.

ISLAMABAD: The government has allocated Rs. 279.200 million for the completion of ongoing schemes by year-end. Friday, Quoting Ministry of Human Rights Division's Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 21-22, an official of the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) on Friday told that from a total of Rs.279.200 million, Rs. 36.000 million had been earmarked for Human Rights Awareness Programme, Rs.30.000 million each for Implementation of Action Plan for Human Rights, Rs

29.3000 million for Establishment of Human Rights Information System (HRIMS), Rs 26.500 were allocated for Strengthening of Regional Directorate of Human Rights, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Rs. 20.500 Million had been allocated for Up-Gradation of National Special Education Centre for Visually Handicapped Children, Islamabad, Rs 20.000 million was allocated for Pilot Project for Inclusive Education for Children with Disability in Public and Private Schools at ICT Islamabad,

Similarly, Rs. 20.000 million has been allocated for the project of Human Rights Coordination and Monitoring Units for National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up, he said. Likewise, Rs. 20.000 million had been allocated for the project of Institutional Strengthening of MoHR, Rs 7.500 million has been allocated for PC-11/ Feasibility Study for Establishment of Center for Person with Disabilities in Public and Private School at ICT Islamabad and Rs.15.800 for the Pilot

Project for Establishment of transgender Protection Centre Islamabad, he also added. From among 25 schemes, Rs. 25.000 million has been allocated for Establishment of Planning and Monitoring Unit (PMU), Ministry of Human Rights, Rs 23.600 million for Establishment of Sub-Office of Human Rights at Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Rs5.000 million has been earmarked for the project of Establishment of Project Planning and Monitoring Unit (PMU), Ministry of Human Rights.—APP

## 3,498 organizations apply for registration

ISLAMABAD: A total of 3,498 organizations have applied for registration in 'Pakistan Football Connect' program as part of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) process of elections. The PFF Normalization Committee (NC) has geared up the process of elections, which has resulted in enhancing the club registration process under 'Pakistan Football Connect.' It has been more than three weeks since PFF NC commenced the initiative. A total of 3,498 organizations have applied for registration in the 'Pakistan Football Connect' program of which 514 were under verification whereas 1,848 have given response with additional information about their respective organization. As soon as the club completes its registration process, it will be given access to the portal, said a press release. Saud Hashmi, a member of the Normalization Committee and the head of Pakistan Football Connect said, "We are really thankful to the football community for the overwhelming response to Pakistan Football Connect. Complete your applications by the end of September in order to get access to the Pakistan Football Connect in October." "The way the club organizers have shown interest in the program is matchless and commendable as with this, we will now be able to put Pakistan football into a new era. He said PFF NC was trying its best to complete the election process as soon as they can. "Every individual will have a very bright future ahead through this Connect program and will represent the country in international events as well as the world's one of the best football leagues," he said.—APP



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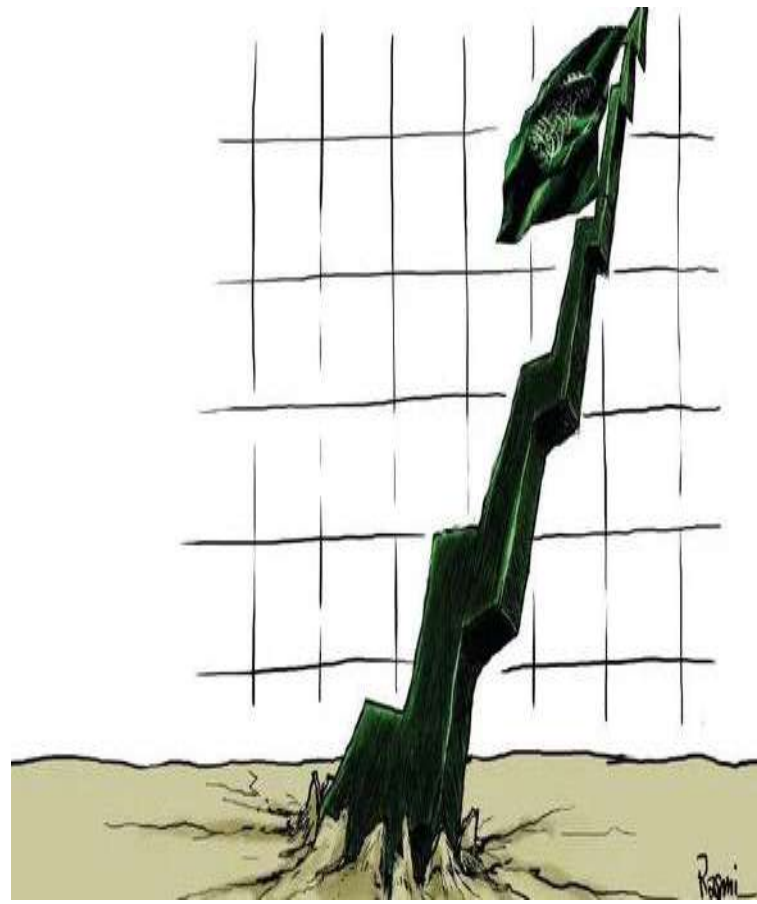
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## Iran's protests

**A** WEEK of protests has swept Iran, reaching scores of cities and more than half of its provinces. The images are both stirring and moving: a mother, defiantly unveiling beside young daughters; hijab-wearers standing with those consigning their scarves to the flames; women taking to the streets despite facing brutal beatings, teargas and armed police. The unrest erupted over the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini after her arrest by the morality police, who accused her of "inappropriate hijab". Her family have hotly contested official claims that she died from a heart attack due to underlying conditions. Those who have previously been detained – or whose daughters, aunts or friends have been held – saw not a terrible anomaly but a systemic issue.

Protests on this scale centring women's rights are extraordinary. Men too are joining the female-led movement. Those involved are more demographically diverse than in recent unrest. The primary demand is not an end to the hijab, but to its imposition. Iran has a long history of ruling on what women can wear: in the 1930s, prohibiting the hijab; after 1979's revolution, making it mandatory. The details and enforcement of the compulsory dress code have varied over the years; under President Ebrahim Raisi, a hardliner, policing has become harsher. Yet protesters' cries of "women, life, freedom" go beyond the initial complaint to other concerns about liberty and rights, and a broader sense of injustice – US sanctions have ravaged the economy and, as everywhere, when poverty hits, women have suffered most. Despite some initially conciliatory gestures and statements, authorities appear to be moving towards increased repression: a familiar pattern of attempting to contain dissent, then cracking down on it. Several people have already died and with severe internet restrictions now in place, toughened rhetoric from the Revolutionary Guard, and the president's return from the spotlight at the UN general assembly in New York, the fear is of significant escalation. The regime has repeatedly massacred its own citizens.

That knowledge darkens this moment; it does not lessen it. This outpouring of anger is remarkable, though it should not be treated as an anomaly. Women came on to the streets in 1979 to protest against the imposition of the hijab, and in subsequent decades there have been brave acts of individual and collective resistance on this and other issues affecting women. Women have often played an important role in protests. The story of repression is also a story of resilience. But only in recent years – particularly in the aftermath of the crackdown on activism following 2009's green movement – has the compulsory hijab and its enforcement become so openly criticised. In recent days even clerics and conservative politicians have questioned how the dress code is implemented. The regime does not want to be seen to cave; if it reins in the morality police, it is only likely to do so after a crackdown. And many believe that policing women's bodies is not incidental to its political project, but a central part of it, helping to define it.



## UN should serve as venue for promoting unity

**R**ATHER than coming to an end, the conflict in Ukraine seems set to escalate. Nobody can tell to what extent. The gloomy prospects for the most devastating armed conflict in Europe since World War II have become more grim with US President Joe Biden saying at the 77th annual session of the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday: "Russia has shamelessly violated the core tenets of the United Nations", without showing any sign of self-reflection on the role of the United States in the process, or any intention of ending the US' proxy war at an early date. By doing so, he is encouraging US allies to continue to ramp up their weaponization of Ukraine. As the fighting escalates and potentially broadens, the spillover effects will worsen, for vulnerable countries in particular. With the United States and its allies planning harsher sanctions against Russia, aiming to finally enervate it, there will no doubt be a more prominent major-power standoff at the United Nations, particularly its Security Council, pushing the global governance regime into a more serious stalemate. As a result, a host of daunting global challenges endangering the present-day world, from poverty and hunger to climate change, public health hazards and security threats, will fail to be addressed.

The situation has worsened to such a degree that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned in his opening remarks at the high-level meeting of the 77th General Assembly that "Our world is in peril - and paralyzed" with countries "gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction". The UN chief enumerated a number of present and future variables threatening humanity's future. But compared with the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the corresponding geopolitical tensions, climate concerns and the "forest of red flags" he cited regarding new and emerging technologies and the lack of progress on the UN development goals for 2030 will only be put on the back burner. Those heads of state who showed up at the UN Headquarters voiced various grim concerns when it was their turn at the podium, presenting an unsettling collage of the world mired in troubles. There was a shared sense of urgency for trouble-shooting. But countries remain divided over how. Considering countries and their leaders still largely take the UN to be the ultimate venue for discussing, if not solving, the world's problems, they should take advantage of the painful awareness of the global governance overseer's present paralysis and work together to make it work. If they allow the UN, especially its Security Council, to stay divided and member countries to continue to engage in debilitating geopolitical games, the post-war international governance structure will be rendered irrelevant, subjecting countries to the law of the jungle again. There has been plenty of talk about UN reforms. But the more pressing need now is to first resurrect it from the de facto state of dysfunction. For the UN to work, as Secretary-General Guterres appealed, countries must "work as one, as a coalition of the world, as united nations". They can start by making concerted efforts to create the conditions and space for the Ukraine crisis to be resolved through dialogue and negotiation.

# Peace is not the absence of war

Mukesh Kapila

The irony is that although we know a lot about waging war, we are not smart at making peace. It is easy to award Nobel Peace Prizes, but many winners are embarrassed when their efforts do not withstand the test of time. Prominent examples are former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Ethiopian President Abiy Ahmed. That is why, all peace is provisional and once a society has tasted violence, it is perpetually prone to it, especially when Hollywood, Bollywood, and Netflix myth-makers get into shaping the remembrance of history. We should not be surprised, therefore, that endless armed conflicts have accumulated over the decades: some 170 of different types are now raging across the world

**T**ODAY is the International Day of Peace, as declared by the United Nations. It recalls the noble words of its 1945 Charter to save us "from the scourge of war". Thus, the labours of generations of politicians, diplomats and security forces got framed by the dogma that war is always bad, and peace is an unquestionable good that must prevail. War, per se, is not illegal. It is permitted in the UN Charter to counter crimes of aggression. The concept of a "just war" also exists under international humanitarian law. War may also be necessary, indeed moral. Historically, genocides and crimes against humanity have been ended through the use of force.

At the same time, our peacemaking track record is unimpressive. Over the past half-century, it is hard to think of many armed conflicts that have truly, fully ceased. Instead, most grumble along, boiling up or simmering down periodically. Think of the historical conflicts in Palestine or Kashmir, or the many struggles on Myanmar's periphery, or the insurgencies in the Maghreb and in the Sahel. Many national authorities are preoccupied with persistent internal divisions, such as Pakistan which is facing unrest in tribal areas and South Sudan which has seen ethnic violence. Internationally, the UN has spent billions of dollars and deployed tens of thousands of peacekeepers in scores of countries. Dozens of UN envoys along with those of regional bodies such as the European Union, African Union, and ASEAN criss-cross warzones. Think-tanks and NGOs are busy, peacebuilding projects abound, and peace conferences fronted by eminent personalities fill the calendar. Some efforts are sanctified by portentous UN Security Council resolutions on the increasingly rare occasions of consensus among the great powers. Sticks and carrots are

dangled through sanctions and aid inducements. But this well-practised modus operandi of the peace business produces meagre returns. It may put a temporary lid on violence as protagonists under pressure sign any piece of paper that allows a breather and chance to regroup. Then the conflict flares up again until the next ceasefire or "peace" deal. And so, the cycle goes on.

Worse still, there is concern that premature peace meddling prolongs conflict as happened in Bosnia and Herzegovina and on the Korean Peninsula. That is because conflicts end only when they are ready to do so. Ideally, that would be when underlying causes or differences have been resolved, including accountability and justice for wrongs inflicted. But, in reality, that hardly ever happens and so wars end only when one side has won decisively. Think World War II or the Vietnam War. But modern war-making is multidimensional and much more resilient, especially when external sponsors pitch in on different sides. The durability of any subsequent peace depends on two key factors. First is the viciousness of the way in which the earlier war was waged. The reality is that nowadays, appalling atrocities are the norm, and raped, tortured, starved, dispossessed survivors are in no mood to reconcile with their assailants. The second factor then kicks in – the magnanimity or wisdom of victors. This is almost always in short supply.

The irony is that although we know a lot about waging war, we are not smart at making peace. It is easy to award Nobel Peace Prizes, but many winners are embarrassed when their efforts do not withstand the test of time. Prominent examples are former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Ethiopian President Abiy Ahmed. That is why, all peace is provisional

and once a society has tasted violence, it is perpetually prone to it, especially when Hollywood, Bollywood, and Netflix myth-makers get into shaping the remembrance of history.

We should not be surprised, therefore, that endless armed conflicts have accumulated over the decades: some 170 of different types are now raging across the world. The numbers who died directly in combat increased approximately three-fold to 120,000 last year compared to mortality in the early 2000s. Such statistics give a partial view of the human cost of war, as they underestimate the indirect consequences that fall largely on civilians. These have increased greatly over past decades as wars last longer and become more vicious. The United Nations estimates that currently a quarter of the global population – two billion people – live in conflict areas.

The war-and-peace theory holds that it is not supposed to be this way. As more of us get educated, healthier, and better off, we are supposed to become more peace-loving because that serves our self-interest in achieving stable prosperity. Besides, with more of our essential needs satisfied, and more of our higher needs for voice and esteem realised through representative democracy, we should have less reason to fear or fight others. Even if we do, we have a plethora of norms and entitlements, laws and institutions to constrain us. Thus, our disputes – within communities and nations, or between them – should be settled tranquilly, informed by the rationality of facts and balanced give-and-take.

Indeed, global indicators on poverty alleviation, human development, and institutional capacity suggest that despite periodic crises, including currently around energy and food, we have made historically unprecedented progress in most economic,

social, and political dimensions. But that has not brought world peace. Does that mean the theory is wrong? Not necessarily, because history also suggests that more education and development bring greater enlightenment about what is wrong with our world as well as the aspiration and capability to do something about it. Most of our social and political advancements have come through fighting for them. For example, each of the human rights that we take for granted nowadays were achieved through struggle. This happened first in one pioneering setting, and then, as particular rights such as to food and water, or to vote or not to be tortured, got codified, they became universal. But without the sturdy defence of hard-won rights, they easily flip into wrongs, thereby triggering renewed conflict. And some rights are yet to be fully realised everywhere, such as the right for women and girls to learn in Afghanistan or for them to have reproductive choice in parts of the United States. Those who enjoy such rights in peace and comfort have no moral standing to stop others from acquiring them. While peaceful means to do so are preferable, conflict often breaks out when authoritarian regimes thwart progress. Looking ahead, yet more conflicts loom with new geopolitical tensions, and novel insecurities from climate change, pandemics, resource competition, and dysfunctional globalisation. These spawn violence because inequalities within and between societies grow and people around the world continue battling vested interests to gain new human rights.

Every conflict has a logic that must be understood before countering it fairly and justly so that the consequent peace is sustainable. Otherwise, to get peace, we may be obliged to first give conflict a chance.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

# Has the 'post-American' Middle East arrived?

Bilgehan Ozturk



Riyadh and Abu Dhabi's alignment with Moscow despite Biden's strong 'advice' is not only about an accidental and sectoral convergence over energy interests, but also about a bigger change in the nature of their relations with Washington. In fact, this change did not only affect Saudi Arabia and the UAE but also all other traditional US allies in the Middle East such as Israel, Egypt and even NATO ally Türkiye

**O**NCE traditional allies of the US in the Middle East are now turning their backs on Washington and cozying up to Moscow and Beijing in a significant shift of loyalties. When two of the loyalist US allies in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), gave Washington the cold shoulder, you know that the oft-touted 'post-American' Middle East has arrived for real. In fact, it was much more than just a snub; it was rather an act of outright defiance when Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed, declined to pick up President Biden's phone call as part of the latter's efforts to substitute Russian oil in the market by getting non-Russian producers to increase oil output within the context of the war in Ukraine. Although both Gulf princes had their own justifications and even 'legitimate' sources of resentment against the Biden administration, the treatment was still striking given the history and nature of the relations between Washington and its Gulf allies. As both Riyadh and Abu Dhabi have been almost fully dependent on US security provisions for their survival and existence for decades, it is not easy to find precedents of the former standing up to the latter in this way in the history of their bilateral relations save for a few exceptional incidents. More importantly, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi's shrugging off of Biden was not limited to a 'one-off' protest; their act of defiance is also based on a concrete policy. Not long after Biden's high-profile visit to Riyadh, which was mainly about 'reassuring' Washington's traditional allies that 'the US did not and would not abandon' the region and, of course, getting them to increase oil output, OPEC+ announced a production cut, exactly contrary to what Biden requested. Although one could argue that it was OPEC+'s decision rather than Riyadh and Abu Dhabi's respective

national policy or decision, Riyadh is known to have dominated the organisation, especially regarding the decisions over oil production volumes for decades. Furthermore, OPEC+ is a non-official formation, which is basically an expanded OPEC with the addition of other oil-producing countries led by Russia. Just as OPEC has been dominated by Riyadh for decades, it is safe to say that OPEC+ has been dominated by Riyadh, and Moscow in a very similar fashion since its formation. As OPEC+'s decision to cut oil production would not be possible without the joint blessing of Riyadh, Moscow and Abu Dhabi as the leading members, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi's act of defiance against Biden gain another meaning. At a time when Biden desperately searches for any substitute for Russian oil and gas, to the extent of tapping even Iran and Venezuela, long-term 'loyal' US allies Riyadh and Abu Dhabi not only do not cater to Washington's request but also act together and in unison with Moscow, to the chagrin of Biden. Riyadh and Abu Dhabi's alignment with Moscow despite Biden's strong 'advice' is not only about an accidental and sectoral convergence over energy interests, but also about a bigger change in the nature of their relations with Washington. In fact, this change did not only affect Saudi Arabia and the UAE but also all other traditional US allies in the Middle East such as Israel, Egypt and even NATO ally Türkiye. The change did not happen overnight; rather it has long been in the making since Washington's strategic choice of 'pivoting to Asia', which gradually but steadily degraded the Middle East into a region of lesser priority and interest for Washington. The gradual degradation of the Middle East as a region of priority for Washington inevitably led to its negligence towards the national and vital interests of its traditional allies in the Middle East. This neg-

ligence has also been exacerbated by Washington's certain policy choices over the past decade, which amounted to 'hostile acts' in the eyes of its traditional allies. After a painful period of struggling to adjust to the change in Washington's approach to their respective relations with the former, regional actors seem to have finally recognised the nature of their relations with Washington for what it is: it is no longer a stable and strategic, but a rather unstable and transactional relationship. The natural result of this recognition by regional actors has been diversification and balancing their relations with Washington through cultivating new ones with both Moscow and Beijing over the past decade. All regional actors worked out a way of ensuring their national interests through deals with Moscow and Beijing to varying degrees in the absence of Washington, and 'doing business' with either Russia or China actually proved to be – maybe not easier – but much more predictable and stable than dealing with Washington. Washington ceased to be a reliable partner or ally for its traditional allies in the Middle East due to a decade-long practice of alienating, neglecting and at times even undermining the national interests of its regional allies. It is no coincidence that all major traditional US allies in the Middle East – Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Türkiye and even Israel – embraced an ambivalent position towards Russia and resisted bandwagoning Washington in the war in Ukraine because of their substantial relations with Moscow. None of these regional actors are in the mood of damaging or severing their relations with Moscow for the sake of an unattractive and unpredictable Washington. This is why we are witnessing undeterred acts of standing up to Washington by regional actors, which were incomprehensible as recently as a decade ago.

– Courtesy: TRT World



## Briefs

## PM calls for debt relief amid floods

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He said it is impossible to revive our economy with this unprecedented destruction without substantial debt relief. "We have spoken to European leaders and other leaders to help us in the Paris Club to get us moratorium," Sharif said, referring to the group of rich creditor nations. "Unless we get substantial relief how can the world expect from us to stand on our own feet? It is simply impossible," he added. Shehbaz Sharif further said he has talked to Paris Club and IMF in this regard. He said while the country is already facing an economic crunch, the unprecedented floods displaced millions of people, destroyed standing crops on millions of hectares besides destruction of thousands of houses. The Prime Minister said we now have to rehabilitate these millions of people, provide them safe housing, medical facilities, build climate-resilient infrastructure and restore agricultural lands destroyed by floods. He said Pakistan will also have to import tons of wheat this year to meet its food requirements as millions of acres of agricultural land has been inundated by floods. The Prime Minister said it is very unfortunate that Pakistan's contribution in carbon emission is only 0.8 percent but it is among the ten most vulnerable countries to be affected from climate change.

## German envoy impressed...

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Walled City of Lahore and tasted delicious "Qimay Alla Naan". According to reports, German Ambassador Grannas and First Secretary Dorota visited Delhi Gate and the historic Wazir Khan Mosque. German Ambassador and First Secretary are on a special visit to Lahore city and staying here to observe the rich culture and historical places of livehood city of Lahore. During their visit to Delhi Gate, they enjoyed the taste of a special oily bread roasted with small pieces of beef. They visited historical buildings and walked into the old streets of the walled city. They appreciated Lahoris by seeing various traditional handmade items here. On this occasion, the Ambassador of Germany said that Lahoris are hospitable as well as generous. He also advised the foreigners to come to Lahore and enjoy the cultural colours of the city. Deputy Director Culture Aisha Khan, and Director Conservation Najam Saqib briefed the German Ambassador and First Secretary about the history of Lahore.

## Army Chief visits flood affected...

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relief activities in Malkani Sharif area of Badin. Later, Gen Qamar was flown for aerial reconnaissance of flood-affected areas of Badin and its surroundings. The ISPR said that the army chief also interacted with the business community in Karachi. During the interaction, the COAS said that the business community has always helped the people of Pakistan during various natural calamities including their support in recent floods. The business community members acknowledged the role and sacrifice made by the Pakistan Army in providing a safe environment for the country's economic prosperity and assured the COAS maximum support for the flood-affected people, the statement added. Devastating floods engulfed large swathes of the country this month, affecting 33 million people, causing damage estimated at \$30 billion, and killing more than 1,500. The army chief had visited Badin, referred to as the "most-affected" area, earlier this month too. Talking to the media, the army chief had said that he visited almost all areas that have been affected by floods across Pakistan including Othal, Naseerabad, Rajanpur, Swat, Larkana, Shahdadkot, and Khairpur. - DNA

## Iran grapples with most serious challenge in years

Iranian women were forced to wear hijab (headscarf) soon after the revolution and have lost many of their rights, including right to travel, right to work and right to child custody over the age of seven

TEHRAN: The eruption of nationwide protests in Iran following the death in police custody of a 22-year-old Kurdish woman detained for allegedly failing to adhere to hijab (headscarf) rules is the most serious challenge Iran's leadership has faced in years. While authorities say Mahsa Amini died from underlying health reasons, her family and countless other Iranians believe she died as a result of having been beaten. Protesters say that if they don't act now, they could fall victim to the same fate. It has come at a time when Iranians are feeling particularly fed up. Systematic corruption among Iran's political elite, growing poverty with inflation at more than 50%, deadlock in nuclear talks and lack of social and political freedom have left Iran's young and vibrant population feeling hopeless. According to Iran's Social Security Organization Research Institute at least 25 million Iranians were living below the poverty line by June 2021. That number is even higher now. These



are not the first protests in the history of the Islamic republic of Iran. But many observers believe there is something different about them. More than anything, this is a woman's protest. Civil liberties groups continually spotlight the

suppression of women in Iran, an entire part of society who have been the biggest losers of the Islamic revolution of 1979. Iranian women were forced to wear hijab (headscarf) soon after the revolution and have lost many of their rights, including right to travel, right to work and right to child custody over the age of seven. There was little objection to these changes from men at the time. "The fact that many men are joining the protests shows that the society has shifted to more progressive demands," says Mehrdad Darvishpour, an Iranian sociologist based in Sweden. The main slogan of protesters is "Woman, Life, Freedom", a call for equality and a stance against religious fundamentalism. Also, these protests are far more inclusive than the previous ones. The so-called Green Movement of 2009 saw the middle class protest against alleged election fraud. Although it was large in size, it centred on major cities. Other major protests in 2017 and 2019 were confined to poorer areas. But the current protests are now being reported in both middle class and working class areas. They seem to have moved from local or ethnic issues, to more inclusive ones. - Agencies

## Muguruza 'not scared' after latest exit in Tokyo

Muguruza has not managed to string together more than two wins at a tournament and fell out of the world top 10 earlier this month

TOKYO: Struggling former world number one Garbine Muguruza said she was "not scared" of her deepening slump after losing in the quarter-finals of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Friday. The number three seed lost 6-4, 6-2 to Russia's Liudmila Samsonova to continue a dismal run of results this year for the two-time Grand Slam champion. Muguruza has not managed to string together more than two wins at a tournament and fell out of the

world top 10 earlier this month. But she said she had "already recovered" from her latest defeat and was looking forward to her next tournament. "I don't think I have to be too sad about it - I played good, she played better, and that's pretty much it," said the Spaniard, now ranked number 12 in the world. "I don't want to overthink, I want to keep going. I've had worse losses where I didn't think that I played good but this one I felt like I was

there." Muguruza, who won the French Open in 2016 and Wimbledon a year later, started the year ranked number three but has since lost in the first round of six tournaments. She said she "definitely felt at the beginning that this year was going to be a tough one", but was "not scared of a tough year whatsoever". "I'm not saying it's easy but I also have the experience of not having to be too sad about it," she said. "Because I've been through

many ups and downs, I have a tough wall where this is not going to bother me." Muguruza was the latest big name to fall at the Pan Pacific Open. Top seed Paula Badosa, US Open semi-finalist Caroline Garcia and Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina all made early exits, while Naomi Osaka withdrew in the second round with abdominal pain. Samsonova will play Zhang Shuai in Saturday's semi-final after the Chinese veteran beat Croatia's Petra Martic 7-5, 6-2. - APP

## Spain women's players call for coach to be sacked

MADRID: Spain's football federation says 15 players have said they will resign from the women's national team unless head coach Jorge Vilda is sacked. The RFEF said the players claim his tenure is affecting their emotional state and health. However, the RFEF said it "is not going to allow the players to question the continuity of the national coach". "These types of manoeuvres are far from exemplary and outside the values of football and sport," they said. "Making those decisions does not fall within their powers." It warned refusing to play for the national team was "a very serious infraction and can carry sanctions of between two and five years of disqualification" and went on to say it would not call up the 15. "The Federation will only have committed footballers even if they have to play with youth," it added. "This fact has gone from being a sporting issue to a dignity issue. The selection is non-negotiable. It is an unprecedented situation in the history of football, both male and female, in Spain and worldwide. "The national team needs players committed to the project, defending our colours and proud to wear the Spain shirt." It ended by saying the players - who have not been named - would only be called up again in the future "if they accept their mistake and ask for forgiveness". Vilda, 41, has been the national team coach since 2015 and led his side to the quarter-finals of Euro 22, where the pre-tournament favourites lost in extra time to eventual winners England. - DNA

## European lawmakers call for...

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the Minister of Law and Justice and the Chairwoman of the National Commission on Human Rights. The delegation met with civil society organisations, women human rights activists and media. In these discussions, they talked about the criminal justice system, torture and the death penalty, economic and social rights, prevention of domestic violence, and the freedoms of religion and belief and the freedom of expression both online and offline. MEPs said it was important for Pakistan to undertake timely reforms and legislative changes on human rights issues, and translating them into concrete improvements. They called for determined and structured action, including the swift adoption of laws against torture and enforced disappearances, steps to substantially reduce the number of crimes carrying the death penalty and to apply the new procedures for mercy petitions. Laws protecting journalists, eliminating obstacles to the work of civil society organisations and media, and the rights to collective bargaining and unionisation should be implemented. The delegation raised the need to prevent the misuse of blasphemy laws, by applying safeguards against false accusations. The members and Pakistani senators committed to sending a joint letter to Pakistan's Supreme Court judges, requesting the court system, particularly at lower levels, speed up its processing of blasphemy cases. MEPs also called for decisive actions to prevent domestic violence, child labour and child marriage.

## Khan urges nation to wage jihad...

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the court but people like Nawaz Sharif and Zardari take money abroad. "How will the country develop when it is ruled by these thieves?" he questioned. The ex-premier said that the "thieves" have taken over Pakistan and their crimes are being gradually forgiven. "Pakistan is going through a decisive phase as Shehbaz Sharif always visits different countries to humiliate Pakistan," he added. The PTI chief has announced resuming his "Haqiqi Azadi" Movement from Saturday (September 24) and appealed to the public to take to the streets as soon as he calls on them. Imran Khan expressed his optimism that the Haqiqi Azadi Movement was destined to succeed as the nation as awaken to liberate the country from the thieves and corrupt rulers, who were getting clean chit in cases. Speaking at the first women's convention in the history of the country organized by PTI, Imran Khan said that the fight for Haqiqi Azadi was for the future of next generation and a nation cannot progress without the rule of law.

## Imran Khan to visit...

FROM PAGE 01  
the cabinet members and party leaders. He has also issued important tasks to party leaders, say sources. It is worth mentioning here that this would be his second visit to the provincial capital within a week. The former premier visited Lahore on September 23. His trip to the provincial capital comes at a time when speculations about the PML-N filing a vote of no confidence against the PTI government are circulating. However, on Wednesday, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan announced to start anti-government movement on September 24.

## UN urges creditors...

FROM PAGE 01  
Antonio Guterres have climate change for the 'monsoon on steroids' that triggered monster floods in the country. In an interview with Bloomberg aired on Friday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also made an urgent appeal for debt relief from rich nations as catastrophic floods exacerbated by climate change displaced millions in the country. PM Shehbaz said that Pakistan has debt obligations in the next two months.

## Ruthless Raducanu surges into Korea Open semi-finals

SEOUL: Emma Raducanu surged into the Seoul semi-finals on Friday as she won three matches in a row at a tournament for the first time since her US Open triumph. The 19-year-old Briton blew away third seed Magda Linette 6-2, 6-2 at the Korea Open and faces fellow former major champion Jelena Ostapenko in the last four. Raducanu stunned the tennis world when she emerged from qualifying to win the US Open last year, but she has struggled to build on that and her Grand Slam defence ended in the first round last month. Raducanu, who reached a career-high 10th in the world in July but is now 77th, showed flashes of her Flushing Meadows brilliance of 2021 in demolishing Poland's Linette in 77 minutes. Sixth-seeded Raducanu got off to a fast start, quickly winning the first four games and taking the first set 6-2. She continued to dominate in the second set and her race to the finish line was only temporarily held up when her opponent required a lengthy medical timeout. The resurgent Raducanu is yet to drop a set in Seoul. - APP

## Japan to lift restrictions on foreign tourists

TOKYO: Japan will open its doors back up to foreign tourists, after more than two years of closed borders due to the Covid pandemic. Tourists will be able to visit the country without a visa, and will no longer need to go through a travel agency, from 11 October. A cap on daily arrivals will also be lifted. Japan's announcement comes at around the same time Taiwan and Hong Kong also relaxed entry rules for visitors. Taiwan will drop quarantine requirements for international arrivals by mid-October, while Hong Kong on Friday said it would move from hotel quarantine to stay-at-home requirements from 26 September. For Japan, the anticipated influx of travellers will be a welcome boost to government and local businesses, and comes as the Japanese yen has slid to its slowest point against the US dollar in six months. "Japan will relax border control measures to be on par with the US," said Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. The country has allowed visitors since June, but they had to be part of tours. Mr Kishida also announced a domestic travel incentive scheme that will give discounts on travel, theme park prices, sporting events and concerts. - DNA



KARACHI: President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi along with Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Ramiz Raja, watching the third t20I cricket match between Pakistan and England. - APP

PESHAWAR: The coach of Directorate General Sports Football Academy Jamshed Khan on Friday announced a 20-member team for the forthcoming National Football Tournament to be organized in Shabqadar Tehsil, District Charsadda, under the aegis of District Administration Charsadda and District Sports Officer Charsadda here. Talking to APP, Jamshed Khan, coach of the Qayyum Sports Football Academy said that the young footballers part of the academy were highly talented and such talent would be further boosted

## Football Academy team announced for National Soccer

up through provision of competitive exposures. He said participation in various tournaments meant ensuring proper exposures to the young footballers. Jamshed said that currently they were training in two different sessions with one in physical training while the other in game training. He said former National team skipper, head coach Arshad Khan was also

Khan for providing all-out facilitation to the players in the academy. He said a request had been made to take the team to Shabqadar Tehsil for the forthcoming football teams and hopefully the players would show good results in the tournament like they had in the past. He said five to six players had been selected in the Pakistan Army football team, while four to five players enrolled with Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and many had shown tremendous performances in the recently held trials on sports seats in leading colleges. - APP

## Chinese FM attends UNSC meeting on Ukraine

Welcoming countries to actively respond to China's initiative on international food security cooperation, Wang said unilateral sanctions should not be imposed arbitrarily, and that developing countries should not be forced to pay the bill

BEIJING: Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended on Thursday the United Nations (UN) Security Council foreign ministers meeting on Ukraine at the UN headquarters in New York. Noting that China's stance on the Ukraine issue is consistent and clear, Wang said the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be safeguarded, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter upheld, the legitimate security concerns of all parties taken seriously and all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of the crisis supported. On the current situation, Wang said, China has put forth a four-point proposal. First, it is a must to keep to the direction of promoting dialogues and negotiations. It is imperative that the parties concerned resume dialogues as soon as

possible, integrate legitimate concerns into negotiations and put feasible options on the table so as to bring about outcomes for peace, Wang said. Second, joint efforts must be made to ease tensions. All parties concerned should exercise restraint and refrain from words and deeds that aggravate confrontation, Wang said, adding that the international community should play a constructive role in helping cool the situation. There is no room for trial and error as

far as the safety of nuclear facilities is concerned, and any risk of accidents must be avoided, Wang said. Third, the humanitarian situation must be alleviated. Wang said the international humanitarian law should be observed to minimize civilian casualties. International investigations should be objective and fair, based on facts and avoid politicization, said Wang, adding that UN humanitarian agencies should be supported in continuing to provide assistance to the affected people.

Fourth, full efforts must be made to contain spillover effects. Wang called for joint efforts to ensure the stable operation of the global energy market and support for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in resolving the issue of food shipments from Russia and Ukraine. Welcoming countries to actively respond to China's initiative on international food security cooperation, Wang said unilateral sanctions should not be imposed arbitrarily, and that developing countries should not be forced to pay the bill. Wang stressed that the Security Council should uphold the basic principle of objectivity and justice, follow the right direction of stopping fighting and promoting talks, give priority to using mediating tools and push forward the process of political settlement. - APP





## Briefs

## UK consumer confidence falls to new low

LONDON: Consumer confidence in the United Kingdom (UK) slumped to a new low for nearly five decades in September amid persistently high inflation, a survey showed Friday.

The consumer confidence index for the UK, run by the market research company GfK, decreased five points this month to minus 49, the worst since records began in 1974.

Especially worrying are the two key future-facing indicators on personal finances in the coming year, down nine points to minus 40, and the economy in the next 12 months, down eight points to minus 68, said Joe Staton, client strategy director at the GfK. "These numbers are where many forecasters look for signs of economic optimism among consumers and the results deliver very bad news in that respect," Staton noted.

UK consumer price index (CPI) rose by 9.9 percent in the 12 months to August, as food and non-alcoholic beverage prices rose by 13.1 percent. "Consumers are bucking under the pressure of the UK's growing cost-of-living crisis driven by rapidly rising food prices, domestic fuel bills and mortgage payments," Staton said.

## Booker Prize winner Hilary Mantel dies aged 70

LONDON: Hilary Mantel, the first British novelist to win the Booker Prize twice and who sold millions of books around the world, has died aged 70, her publishers announced on Friday.

"We are heartbroken death of our beloved author, Dame Hilary Mantel, and our thoughts are with her friends and family, especially her husband, Gerald," 4th Estate Books said.

"This is a devastating loss and we can only be grateful she left us with such a magnificent body of work," it added, providing no other details. Mantel won the Booker Prize for "Wolf Hall" (2009) and "Bring Up the Bodies" (2012) and had been tipped to win again in 2020 with "The Mirror & The Light," the third in the trilogy. The Wolf Hall Trilogy has so far been translated into 41 languages with worldwide sales of more than five million. The television adaptation of the first two books, starring Mark Rylance, Damian Lewis, Claire Foy and Jonathan Pryce, was nominated at both the Emmy and Golden Globe Awards.

"We've lost a genius," tweeted author J K Rowling on Friday, leading tributes.—APP

## Germany's manufacturing activity at 27-month low

ANKARA: Germany's manufacturing activity plunged to a 27-month low as its purchasing managers' index (PMI) came in at 48.3 in September, according to preliminary data from US-based financial services company S&P Global on Friday.

Down from 49.1 in August, Germany's manufacturing PMI was below the 50 no-change threshold level for the third straight month in September. Manufacturing production contracted for the fourth month in a row but at the slowest pace since June amid some reports of improved raw material supply.

The decline in Germany business activity also deepened in September with composite PMI slipped to its lowest level since May 2020 at 45.9, down from 46.9 in August, the flash estimate showed. "The deepening decline in business activity in September was led by the service sector, which has seen demand weaken rapidly as customers pull back on spending due to tightening budgets and heightened uncertainty about the outlook," said Phil Smith, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.—APP

## Envoy invites Pakistani investors to explore UAE for investment

Mian Akram Farid, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Mian Shaukat Masud, Mohsin Khalid, some women entrepreneurs and others asked many questions about investment in UAE and got detailed answers from visiting guests



## DNA

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Pakistan said that United Arab Emirates (UAE) was emerging as a hub of trade and investment activities and was striving to attract USD 150 billion of inward investment by 2030, therefore, it was the right time for Pakistani investors to focus on UAE for business and investment activities. He said that this year, UAE and Pakistan were celebrating 50 years of their unique brotherly

relations, which should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations. He said that the UAE was connected to over 250 cities around the world and investing in UAE would enable Pakistan investors to promote exports to many parts of the world. He said this while addressing as Chief Guest at Explore UAE event organized at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with UAE Embassy, Ahmed Mohammad Aljneibi, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of UAE gave a detailed

presentation to the business community on Invest Emirates. He said that UAE was an ideal destination for investment as it has a low-tax environment and offered new opportunities for investment across both mainland and free zones. He highlighted transportation, storage & construction, agriculture, industrial manufacturing, renewable energy, hospitality, information & communication, professional, scientific & technical activities, administrative & support services, educational activities, healthcare and arts & entertainment

as potential areas of investment in UAE. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that UAE has emerged as one of the major trading partners of Pakistan and we would like to further strengthen trade ties with it. He said that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and UAE in 2021-22 had crossed the USD 10 billion mark, which could be further enhanced with strong efforts from both sides. He said that Pakistani exports to UAE included garments, food items, meat, cereals, agricultural products, fruits

& vegetables and there was great potential for exports of many other Pakistani products to UAE including financial and software-related products, mangoes, oranges, kinos & rice etc. He stressed that the UAE should take advantage of these products by importing them from Pakistan. He said that many UAE companies were already doing successful business in Pakistan and more should come to capitalize on the investment opportunities available in various sectors of Pakistan's economy. He also thanked the UAE government for providing generous support to

Pakistan for the flood affectees. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI thanked the visiting guests of UAE for highlighting investment potential in UAE and hoped that ICCI members would try to take benefit of these opportunities. Mian Akram Farid, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Mian Shaukat Masud, Mohsin Khalid, some women entrepreneurs and others asked many questions about investment in UAE and got detailed answers from the visiting guests.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets with Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida.—DNA

## Sino-Pak scientists working to turn Gwadar's sandy land green

BEIJING: Scientists from China and Pakistan are developing various kinds of plants adapt to the local conditions to make the sandy land of Gwadar, the "shining pearl" of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), green. "So far, nearly 100,000 seedlings of bananas, dates, orchids and figs have been cultivated there under the Belt and Road Engineering Research Center for Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest, which was jointly launched by Central South University of Forestry and Technology, China Overseas Ports Holding Company Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd and Yulin Holdings in 2018. At present increasingly more Sino-Pak cooperation is happening under the research center in Gwadar. Pakistani universities, including the University of Karachi (KU), the Indus University and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad have participated in the research. According to Assistant Professor Dr Muhammad Yousaf Adnan of KU's Department of Botany, researchers from China and Pakistan are working together to turn the barren lands and drought areas, especially Gwadar and other coastal areas into green lands. "In this way, we can combat the effects of global warming and climate change. Now a very magnificent and well-developed laboratory has been developed in Gwadar, and tissue culture laboratory experiments have been conducted there. We are cultivating such varieties there which fulfill the drought environment," he said. "Most of the local people in the coastal areas have no proper source of income. When I went to Gwadar last year in an exchange event, I saw with my own eyes that local people were buying seedlings and plants that were prepared in the tissue culture lab, and they were planting them in their area. The local people were taking big benefit from it," Dr Muhammad Yousaf told CEN. "I am 100% hopeful that the cooperation will give many benefits to the economy of Pakistan and China, particularly the Pakistani economy. If we are successful in this purpose, Gwadar will be a model of how we can green an area under the environmental stress," he said with confidence.—APP

## Pakistani products displayed

BEIJING: Three Pakistani companies have established their booths and displayed unique Pakistani products including carpets, jewelry, garments, article of woods and ceramics at the 4th Grand Canal Culture and Tourism Expo opened in Suzhou city, Jiangsu province. The Expo which is a major annual international exhibition in East China dedicated to promotion of cultural products, is being held from September 22 to September 25, 2022 at Suzhou International Expo Centre. On the invitation of the organizers, the Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai Hussain Haider attended the inauguration of the 4th Grand Canal Culture and Tourism Expo.—APP

## Made-in-China Mercedes-Benz trucks roll off production line

BEIJING: Domestically-produced heavy-duty trucks of German automaker Mercedes-Benz Trucks rolled off the production line on Friday in the Chinese capital Beijing, as foreign players ramp things up in the world's largest commercial vehicle market. The made-in-China Mercedes-Benz trucks are produced in a factory owned by Beijing Foton Daimler Automotive Co., Ltd., a joint venture between global commercial vehicle giant Daimler Truck and Chinese manufacturer Foton Motor.

The company has teamed up with 150 Chinese suppliers to provide over 1,500 components for the trucks. The automobile plant is ca-

pable of producing 60,000 trucks each year. It is the right time to go to market as China's logistics and transportation industry is developing in the direction of higher efficiency, higher standardization, lower carbon and intelligence-focused, said Holger Scherr, the joint venture's president and CEO, adding that customers have an increasing demand for high-end logistics equipment to enable their business improvement.

China produced 238,000 units of commercial vehicles and sold 258,000 units in August, marking the first year-on-year growth in both production and sales since April 2021, according to the China.—APP

## UK axes EU-inherited cap on banker bonuses

LONDON: Britain on Friday axed a cap on bankers' bonuses aimed at boosting London's finance sector after Brexit, raising anger amid a cost-of-living crisis. Finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng removed an EU-inherited policy that limits bankers' bonuses at twice the basic salary. But the move, along with the scrapping of the top income tax bracket, triggered stinging criticism from opposition parties and unions. New British Prime Minister Liz Truss, whose finance chief also outlined a costly freeze on energy bills to help households and business, said removing the bonus cap would stimulate economic growth and jobs. Kwarteng followed up by stating that Britain needed "global banks to... invest jobs here and pay taxes here in London - not in Paris, not in Frankfurt and not in New York". "All the bonus cap did was to push up the basic salaries of bankers or drive activity outside Europe," the chancellor of the exchequer told parliament in a mini budget on Friday. "It never capped total remuneration... so as a consequence of this we are going to get rid of it." A strong UK economy "has always depended on a strong financial services sector", Kwarteng insisted. Britain's cap had been in place since 2014, a legacy of membership of the European Union that Britain exited last year. Brussels introduced the cap across the bloc following the global financial crisis, when banks received enormous state bailouts. In another boost to high-earners on Friday, Kwarteng removed the 45-percent top rate of income tax levied on earnings above £150,000 (\$169,000).—APP

## Brazil's business sector still supports Bolsonaro

SAO PAULO: Brazil's business sector, which views the economic policies of leftist presidential hopeful Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva with suspicion, will again vote for incumbent Jair Bolsonaro, but this time with more reservation, experts say.

Elected in 2018 on a promise to reduce state intervention, Bolsonaro stayed true to his word with a series of policies favoring business, introducing privatizations and drafting fiscal reform. Small- and medium-sized business owners greatly appreciated Bolsonaro's refusal to pause the economy during the coronavirus pandemic, which killed 685,000 Brazilians, according to Daniela Campello, a political science expert at the Getulio Vargas Foundation. The post-pandemic economic rebound also worked in the president's favor.

After GDP fell during the pandemic, Latin America's largest economy grew by 4.6 percent in 2021 and is expected to keep growing by 2.65 percent this year. Business leaders fear Lula will impose "greater state interventionism in the economy and a commitment to redistribution in favor of workers, his electorate," said Campello.

Lula has, for example, promised to roll back a 2017 labor reform that was heavily criticized by labor rights groups. Meanwhile the agribusiness sector, which accounts for almost 28 percent of Brazil's GDP, is one of Bolsonaro's most fervent supporters. Oscar Cervi, a major grain producer, is one of the largest contributors to Bolsonaro's campaign with one million reais (around \$200,000).—APP

## Grips undocumented foreign workers in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG: Zimbabwean domestic migrant worker Precious clocked in late for work, launched into her duties for a white South African family as if nothing happened, yet hours earlier she had been arrested for being in the country without papers. South Africa - the continent's most industrialised country - is buckling under a wave of illegal migration triggered by economic woes in its neighbours. Many come from Malawi, Lesotho, but the majority are from Zimbabwe.

Lately police have scaled up crime-busting stop-and-search operations, including weeding out undocumented migrants. One such early morning blitz was launched this week in Springs, a district at the eastern end of the largest city of Johannesburg. Several dozen police officers mounted a check point on a narrow road, stopped cars and buses, meticulously searching boots and ordering occupants out, demanding identification documents. Grabbed by the waist or arm, one-by-one they were led to the side of the road to a queue stretching out in front of immigration officers.—APP

## Strong winds, heavy rains hit Bermuda

HAMILTON, BERMUDA: Gusts of 100 miles an hour and driving rain buffeted Bermuda early Friday, leaving thousands without power and fearing coastal damage as Hurricane Fiona, a powerful Category 3 storm, slid past the Atlantic island.

At 6:00 am local time (0900 GMT), Fiona's center was located about 155 miles (250 kilometers) northwest of the British territory, according to the US National Hurricane Center (NHC), which downgraded the storm to Category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson scale in its latest advisory. Overnight, several areas reported power outages, with more than 7,000 people affected, according to the main electric utility. On Thursday, with hurricane warnings in effect and the NHC forecasting sustained winds at the center of the storm of more than 125 miles per hour - with even higher gusts - Bermuda residents said they were taking no chances. "This storm is going to be worse than the last one," Richard Hartley, a store owner in the capital Hamilton told AFP as he and his wife covered the shop's metal-lined windows with metal sheets.—APP

## UN experts say war crimes committed in Ukraine

## Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: United Nations investigators have concluded that war crimes have been committed in the Ukraine conflict, listing Russian bombardment of civilian areas, executions, torture and sexual violence. A team of three independent experts visited 27 towns and settlements, as well as graves and detention and torture centres in four regions - Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Sumy. Their findings are based on interviews with more than 150 victims and witnesses. "Based on the evidence

gathered by the commission, it has concluded that war crimes have been committed in Ukraine," Erik Mose, the head of the investigation team, told the UN Human Rights Council on Friday.

The categorical nature of the statement was unusual. UN investigators typically couch their findings on international crimes in conditional language, referring to the final confirmation of war crimes and similar violations to courts of law. The council was set up by the Commission of Inquiry (COI) - the highest possible level of investigation - in May to investigate crimes

following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February. Speaking a day before the seven-month anniversary of the war, Mose pointed to "the Russian Federation's use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas", which he said was "a source of immense harm and suffering for civilians". Mose highlighted that a number of attacks the team had investigated "had been carried out without distinguishing between civilians and combatants", including attacks with cluster munitions in populated areas. The team, which plans to broaden the probe beyond the four re-

gions, had been especially "struck by the large number of executions in the areas" that they visited, Mose said, and the frequent "visible signs of executions on bodies, such as hands tied behind backs, gunshot wounds to the head, and slit throats". Mose said the commission was currently investigating such deaths in 16 towns and settlements, and had received credible allegations regarding many more cases which it would seek to document. The investigators had also received "consistent accounts of ill-treatment and torture, which were carried out during unlawful confine-

ment". Some of the victims had told the investigators they were transferred to Russia and held for weeks in prisons. Others had "disappeared" following such transfers. "Interlocutors described beatings, electric shocks, and forced nudity, as well as other types of violations in such detention facilities," Mose said. The commission chief said the investigators had also "processed two incidents of ill-treatment against Russian Federation soldiers by Ukrainian forces", adding that "while few in numbers, such cases continue to be the subject of our atten-

tion". The team had also documented cases of sexual and gender-based violence, Mose said, in some cases establishing that Russian soldiers were the perpetrators. "There are examples of cases where relatives were forced to witness the crimes," he said. "In the cases we have investigated, the age of victims of sexual and gendered-based violence ranged from four to 82 years." The commission had documented a wide range of crimes against children, he said, including children who were "raped, tortured, and unlawfully confined".



Briefs

Seven killed in blast near Kabul mosque

KABUL: A car packed with explosives blew up outside a mosque attended by Taliban members in the Afghan capital, killing at least seven people minutes after Friday prayers had ended, the interior ministry said. The explosion occurred in front of Wazir Akbar Khan mosque, not far from the fortified former Green Zone that housed several embassies before the Taliban seized power in August last year. The mosque is now often attended by senior Taliban commanders and fighters. Interior ministry spokesman Abdul Nafy Takor told AFP that at least seven people had been killed and 41 others were wounded, including children. "The explosion occurred when worshippers were heading home," Takor said, adding the explosives were placed in a car. Unverified images posted on social media showed a mangled car engulfed in fire on a road outside the mosque. No group has so far claimed the attack. In a tweet, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) called Friday's bombing a "bitter reminder of ongoing insecurity and terrorist activity in Afghanistan". In 2020, a bomb ripped through the same mosque, killing its imam. - APP

77 migrants killed as boat sinks off Syrian coast

DAMASCUS: At least 77 migrants drowned when a boat they boarded in Lebanon sank off Syria's coast, Syria's health minister said Friday, in one of the deadliest such shipwrecks in the eastern Mediterranean. Lebanon, which since 2019 has been mired in a financial crisis branded by the World Bank as one of the worst in modern times, has become a launchpad for illegal migration, with its own citizens joining Syrian and Palestinian refugees clamouring to leave their homeland. Around 150 people, mostly Lebanese and Syrians, were on board the small boat that went down Thursday off the Syrian city of Tartus. "Seventy-seven people have died," Syria's Health Minister Hassan al-Ghabash told state television from Al-Basel hospital in Tartus, where he said 20 survivors were being treated, including eight in critical condition. Of those rescued, five were Lebanese, Lebanon's caretaker transport minister Ali Hamie told AFP. Tartus is the southernmost of Syria's main ports, and lies some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli, where the migrants had boarded.

Two more Saudi airlifts of relief goods arrive

ISLAMABAD: The government of Saudi Arabia through its aid agency, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) have sent two more special planes loaded with the relief goods. Both of the special planes carrying 60 tons of relief goods including tents, food packages, blankets, dates and non-food items kits reached Karachi for the flood victims, said a statement on Friday. The relief goods were received by the KSrelief Director Pakistan and handed over to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) representative in the metropolitan city. The relief goods would be distributed among the affected people according to the needs of each region of the country in collaboration with the NDMA. It is pertinent to mention here that this series of the arrival of relief cargo planes would continue till September 27, this month.

'PM raised voice on global warming, climate change'

Prime Minister had issued instructions regarding the distribution of tents in Sindh and Balochistan, she said adding tents were being distributed keeping in view the needs of the victims

UNITED NATIONS: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had raised his voice at international level regarding global warming and climate change, which was a common problem of the entire world. Talking to the media persons on the occasion her visit to the photo exhibition organized by the Ministry of Information at the United Nations Secretariat lobby, she said currently Pakistan was facing health disaster due to floods and there was a dire need for medicines. She said winter was approaching and flood victims were in dire need of blankets, warm clothes and sheets etc. Those who wanted to help flood victims, they could help through NDMA and civil society, she said. Many women in the flood-affected areas were expecting babies and there was a dire

need for baby milk, baby food and other related items, she added. The Prime Minister had issued instructions regarding the distribution of tents in Sindh and Balochistan, she said adding tents were being distributed keeping in view the needs of the victims. The minister said that NDMA had been sharing its data with the general public on a daily basis and they were informed about what was required at which place. She said all out efforts were being made to provide relief to flood victims.



Marriyum said that the Prime Minister yesterday had presided over a review meeting regarding the flood victims, in which it was found that there was a shortage of paracetamol and paracetamol tablets. The consumption of paracetamol and paracetamol had increased due to flood-related diseases and dengue, the minister said. She said that demand for these drugs was high, their production was less than increased demand whereas the cost of production was also high. The Prime

Minister had clearly instructed that the prices of these medicines would not be increased, she maintained. The PM had directed the Ministry of Finance to subsidize these medicines, she added. The minister said process of screening NGOs which were closed had been started by the Ministry of Interior so that they could start work in flood affected areas. At present, NGOs and civil society were doing very good work in the flood-affected areas, which had been appreciated not only by the Prime Minister, but at the public level as well, she added. The minister said there was a role of civil society all over the world, when this role was included in the efforts of the government, any disaster could be faced. The current focus of the government was on rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas, she added. - APP

Sh Rasheed slams rulers for enjoying 7-star hotels

RAWALPINDI: Former Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad said in a tweet that building a good relationship with France and sending a delegation to Israel is a question mark now. Ex-interior minister Sheikh Rasheed condemned the ruling PDM for sending a delegation to Israel and building relations with France. He said after these actions of the coalition government of PDM, a countdown of the rulers has been started so now they should decide whether to enter into a blind alley or to hold early elections. Sheikh Rasheed also said that 20 million people were gone below the poverty line due to the rise in petrol prices. Sh Rasheed in his tweets on Friday claimed that the poor are not getting flour here in the country but the rulers are enjoying their visit to America in seven-star hotels.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mehmood Khan calls on Chairman PTI Imran Khan. - DNA

Uganda: Ebola deaths climb to 4

"The Ministry of Health Rapid Response Teams remain on ground to list and follow up contacts to the confirmed cases," it said, urging increased vigilance

KAMPALA: A total of four people have died from the highly contagious Ebola virus in Uganda, where the authorities declared an outbreak earlier this week, health officials said on Friday. "Three new deaths were recorded," the health ministry said in a statement, raising the toll from one to four after the country's first fatality from the virus since 2019 was reported on Tuesday. The total number of confirmed cases now stood at 11 after four more infections were confirmed in the last 24 hours, the officials said. It was not immediately clear if the 11 cases included the four fatalities. "The Ministry of Health Rapid Response Teams remain on ground to list and follow up contacts to the confirmed cases," it said, urging increased vigilance. Authorities declared an outbreak in the central district of Mubende on Tuesday, announcing the death of a 24-year-old man. Uganda, which shares a porous border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), has experienced several Ebola outbreaks, most recently in 2019 when at least five people died. The DRC last month recorded a new case in its violence-wracked east, less than six weeks after an epidemic in the country's northwest was declared over. Ebola is an often fatal viral haemorrhagic fever. The death rate is typically high, ranging up to 90 percent in some outbreaks, according to the World Health Organization. - APP

'Referendums' begin in occupied Ukraine

MOSCOW: So-called "referendums" are under way in areas of Ukraine occupied by Russian troops, with residents told to vote on proposals for the four Ukrainian regions to declare independence and then join Russia. The polls, hastily organised after being announced this week, are due to run until Tuesday. They have been widely condemned in the west as illegitimate, and appear to be a thin attempt to provide cover for illegal annexation of the regions by Moscow. Russian news agencies said voting in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces began on Friday morning. Russia does not fully control any of the four regions, where military hostilities are ongoing, and much of the population has fled

since the war started in February. Parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions have been controlled by Russian proxies since 2014. President Vladimir Putin has indicated the Kremlin will use the referendums to recognise the territory as Russian, and even threatened this week that Russia would defend the new acquisitions using all available options, including nuclear weapons. "Encroachment on to Russian territory is a crime which allows you to use all the forces of self-defence," Dmitry Medvedev, formerly Russian president and now deputy chair of the security council, said in a post on Telegram on Thursday. "This is why these referendums are so feared in Kyiv and the west." - DNA

OIC expresses full support to Kashmiris' just struggle

NEW YORK: Member states of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has renewed unwavering solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and expressed full support for their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the OIC, and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari chaired the Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Foreign Ministers at the

United Nations Headquarters here on the sidelines of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly. OIC member states commended Pakistan for its active and forceful advocacy of all matters of interest to the Islamic Ummah and its prominent role within the OIC. The meeting also expressed full solidarity and sympathy with the government and people of Pakistan affected by the recent climate-induced devastating floods. In his address, the Foreign Minister emphasized that Pakistan, as a founding member of the OIC, attached utmost importance to the Organization as the sole and most prominent voice of the Muslim Ummah. He reviewed the wide range of issues confronting the Muslim Ummah, including rising Islamophobia, the situation in Palestine, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, Afghanistan, COVID-19 pandemic, the food, fuel and finance crises and the existential threat posed by climate change. - DNA

Iran says deal possible if US fulfills pledges

TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said if the United States fulfills its commitments, lifts the sanctions on Iran and refrains from breaking its promise, it will be possible to reach an agreement on the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal, official news agency IRNA reported on Friday. Raisi made the remarks during a press conference held late Thursday in New York on the sidelines of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly. Responding to a question on the possibility of reaching a deal in the Vienna talks, Raisi said if the United States seeks to return to the nuclear agreement, it must first return to its commitments, fulfill them and lift the sanctions. He stressed that the Americans must honor what they have committed to within the framework of the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). On the future of the nuclear negotiations, he said the ball is now in the U.S. court, and

it is Washington that has to decide to act correctly and based on its commitments. Iran signed the JCPOA with world powers in July 2015, agreeing to curb its nuclear program in return for removing sanctions on the country. However, former U.S. President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the agreement and reimposed unilateral sanctions on Tehran, prompting the latter to drop some of its commitments under the pact. The talks on the JCPOA's revival began in April 2021 in Vienna but were suspended in March this year because of political differences between Tehran and Washington. The latest round of the nuclear talks was held in the Austrian capital in early August after a five-month hiatus. On Aug. 8, the European Union put forward its final text of the draft decision on reviving the JCPOA. Iran and the United States later indirectly exchanged views on the EU proposal in a process that has so far failed to produce any favorable outcome. - APP

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