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EU Parliament Chief warns of mass migration

Detailed News On Page-01

Baku lauds Michel's role in peace process

Detailed News On Page-02



China creates JWG with Pak on disasters

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

COAS visits flood affected areas

DNA
RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Thursday reached flood affected areas of Rohjan, Distt Rajinpur, Punjab, said a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations. According to the military's media wing, COAS visited flood relief camp and met flood victims. During visit to Rohjan, COAS assured flood affectees that Pakistan Army will help them to overcome their problems in these difficult times. COAS directed ground troops to take this responsibility as a noble cause and spare no effort to lessen the burden of flood affected brothers and sisters.

DG ISPR hails Gilani's struggle

DNA
RAWALPINDI: Director General Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar has said Hurriyat Leader Syed Ali Geelani's lifelong struggle for right to self-determination as per aspirations of Kashmiri people and UN resolutions shall always inspire generations to come. In a tweet on Thursday, he said Pakistani nation pays tribute to the brave Kashmiri leader for his epic resistance and fight against worst Indian oppression and atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Shahid blames Imran govt of crises

STAFF REPORT
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that the current state of the country is due to shortcomings and incompetence of the Imran Khan government. Addressing a press conference on Thursday, he said that Imran Khan's thought was anti-country and meaningless. "The audio leak of former Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin is a proof that Imran Khan is saving his politics."



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting on Imported Fossil Fuel Substitution with Solar Energy. - DNA

Imran says will continue movement against status quo

Khan tells the lawyers that they have more responsibility towards ensuring the supremacy of the law

STAFF REPORT
SARGODHA: Former prime minister and PTI chief Imran Khan Thursday reiterated that he would continue with his movement against the "thieves imposed on the masses" despite the floods that have wreaked havoc on the country. Addressing lawyers at Circuit House in Sargodha, the PTI chief said: "They [the leaders of the coalition government] have been telling me to sit down due to floods; however, I will help the flood-affectees more than them [government] and will also continue my political activities." Khan told the lawyers that they have more responsibility towards ensuring the supremacy of the law. "All problems that people are facing will be resolved with a good local government system," the former premier said, stressing that he has been fighting for rule of law in the country. "Here [in Pakistan] we have different laws for the weak and powerful people," he said, adding that thieves belonging to the poor segment of the society are sent to jails while the powerful thieves are given "important positions." The PTI chief said that all divisions in the country should be converted into provinces. "The better the province is, people's problems will be solved," he said, adding that debate should be held in this regard as more provinces would reduce the problems

Court extends Imran bail till September 12

STAFF REPORT
ISLAMABAD, An Anti-Terrorism Court of Islamabad on Thursday extended the interim bail of PTI Chairman Imran Khan till September 12, in the FIR pertaining his threatening remarks about a female judge and police high ups. The court accepted the further bail of Imran Khan against surety bonds worth Rs100,000 in FIR registered by Kohsar Police Station under clauses of Anti Terrorism Act (ATA). ATC Judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hasan heard the pre-arrest bail case filed by former prime minister Imran Khan. As the hearing began, accused Imran Khan's lawyer Babar Awan submitted written application to the court and requested the judge to grant bail to his client as he couldn't appear.

Imports from India not on cards: FO

Miftah had hinted at imports from India

IRSHAD ALI
ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday clarified that Pakistan has no proposals under consideration currently to allow import of vegetables from India. "We are in touch with countries in the broader region to facilitate the earliest import of vegetables in the country," FO spokesman Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said in a weekly press briefing today. Ahmad's comments come days after Finance Minister Miftah Ismail

PM slams PTI govt policies

Exemption of FCA for up to 300 units

Says the current govt had to buy fuel at higher rates because of the Russia-Ukraine war

SHUJAAT HAMZA
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday announced the exemption of fuel charges adjustment (FCA) for households consuming up to 300 units of electricity. Addressing the party's National Assembly and Provincial Assembly members, the prime minister took a dig at the former government and said that it destroyed the economy by reducing the prices of petroleum products through subsidies. Earlier, the federal government announced that only households that consume electricity up to 200 units will be exempt from FCA. PM Shehbaz said that 75% of the consumers have been exempted from the FCA, adding that it was increased in March due to a hike in fuel prices. "The incumbent government represents all the political parties of Pakistan," said the prime minister. Talking about the previous government, the premier said that it allowed the export of sugar so it could earn dollars and also subsidised it. "By proving subsidies

PM postpones UAE visit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday announced to postpone his visit to the United Arab Emirates scheduled on September 3, with a view to focus on the ongoing rescue and relief activities in the flood-ravaged areas. "I was set to visit the UAE on Sept 3 on the invitation of HH the President. We mutually decided to postpone the visit so that I could focus on the ongoing rescue & relief activities," the prime minister wrote on Twitter. He said Pakistan would forever be indebted to "our brothers and sisters who have stood by us in this challenge." The prime minister said that the UAE had started delivering the first tranche of relief goods worth \$50 million for the flood victims in Pakistan. He said that in his telephonic conversation with the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed

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Flood relief assistance France provides hi-tech equipment

French President Emmanuel MACRON had called for extending urgent support

DNA
PARIS: At the request of French President Emmanuel MACRON, France is setting up an exceptional operation to provide emergency aid to the Pakistani population stricken by the consequences of the major floods currently affecting Pakistan. Ms. Catherine Colonna, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, underlined, during her telephone conversation on Sunday with her Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Bilawal Zardari-Bhutto, France's solidarity with Pakistan, as well as the will of the French Government to respond without delay to the request for international support expressed by the Pakistani authorities. On the basis of the needs expressed by the Pakistani authorities, the Crisis and Support Center of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, in close collaboration with the General Directorate for



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South Pakistan braces for surge of flood water

STAFF REPORT
DADU: Southern Pakistan braced for more flooding on Thursday as a surge of water flowed down the Indus River, compounding the devastation in a country a third of which is already inundated by a disaster blamed on climate change. Record monsoon rains and melting glaciers in northern mountains have triggered floods that have killed at least 1,191 people, including 399 children. The United Nations has appealed for \$160 million to help with what it has called an "unprecedented climate catastrophe". "We're on a high alert as water arriving downstream from northern flooding is expected to enter the province over the next few days," the spokesman of the Sindh provincial government, Murtaza Wahab, told Reuters. Wahab said a flow of some 600,000 cubic feet per second was expected to swell the Indus, testing its flood defences. Pakistan has received nearly 190% more rain than the 30-year average in the quarter from June to August, totalling 390.7mm (15.38 inches). Sindh, with a population of 50 million, has been hardest hit, getting 466% more rain than the 30-year average. Some parts of the province look like an inland sea with only occasional patches of trees or raised roads breaking the surface of the murky flood waters. Hundreds of families have taken refuge on roads, the only dry land in sight for many of them.

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CM KP instructs addressing of flood victims issues

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has directed the concerned authorities to undertake a comprehensive study identifying flood sensitive spots in the province and include the construction of embankments and flood protection walls in the development budget to preclude possible damages caused by floods in the future. The Chief Minister appreciated the role of Political leaders, District Administration, PDMA, Rescue and Relief workers adding that the entire government machinery undertook the responsibility of relief and rescue without hesitation in wake of the natural catastrophe which was appreciated by observers. Chairing a meeting to discuss the flood damages in the province, the Chief Minister directed the District administration to ensure that all relief items are distributed among the flood affectees adding that negligence in this regard will not be tolerated. The Chief Minister was informed that Mosquito nets and chlorination tablets are being provided to the flood affectees to avoid any epidemic. Similarly,

clean drinking water is being ensured to the displaced persons through water tankers. It was informed that the agricultural sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have suffered losses in Billions as per initial assessments which is expected to rise once the final assessment is completed. Similarly, more than 1450 Kms of roads have been damaged which is also expected to increase once the water recedes and final assessments are completed. Additional Chief Secretary, Shahab Ali Shah briefed the participants on District wise losses in different sectors including losses to Human Settlements, Public roads, Bridges, Schools, Health facilities, Irrigation infrastructure and agricultural infrastructure. He added that data is being collected from all the districts through the District Administration which can be monitored online. It was informed that more than 364,000 people were evacuated well in time due to which losses to human lives reduced significantly. Similarly, the proactive measures of provincial government, good governance, anti-encroachment drive and the construction of embankments and flood protection walls reduced the damages to a considerable extent which could have been many folds. The meeting was informed

that doctors and allied staff have been made available in all the health facilities in order to look after the medical requirements of the displaced people. The Chief Minister was informed that District Upper & Lower Dir, Swat, Upper & Lower Kohistan, Charsadda, DI Khan and Tank suffered severe losses whereas District Upper & Lower Chitral, Mahsehra and Swabi suffered Medium intensity losses. More than 600,000 people have been displaced as per initial assessments. The Chief Minister directed that the stream of aid from donors and philanthropists should be streamlined in order to ensure efficient and equitable distribution of relief items and packages. Mahmood Khan informed that all compensation packages will be provided to the flood affectees as per the new revised rates. Minister for Finance Taimoor Saleem Jhagra, Minister for Labour, Shaukat Ali Yousafzai, Minister for relief Iqbal Wazir, Minister for Higher Education Kamran Bangash, Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Information Barrister Saif, Chief Secretary Shehzad Bangash, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan, Secretary Finance and other administrative secretaries were also present on the occasion.

Govt restores electricity in majority areas of KP: Dastagir

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Power, Khurram Dastagir Khan here Thursday said that electricity had been restored in almost all flood hit areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Minister expressed these views during a press conference after presiding over a high-level meeting regarding flood damages to electricity infrastructure including grid stations, feeders, transmission lines and poles besides rehabilitation and reconstruction operations of the Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO) and Tribal Electricity Supply Company (TESCO) in the flood hit areas of KP at PESCO headquarters here. The Minister said that except some flood hit areas of Swat and Bajaur, elec-

tricity had been restored in all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for which PESCO and TESCO authorities and field staff deserved appreciation. He directed PESCO and TESCO authorities to restore electricity in remaining flood affected areas of upper Swat and Bajaur at earliest. The Minister said that Joint Secretary of Ministry of Power, Alamzaib had been deployed to oversee and monitor electricity's restoration and reconstruction works in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and would report on daily basis to the Ministry about resolution of electricity related issues in flood hit areas of the province. Out of nine closed grid stations, he said, electricity on six grid stations

had been restored. Similarly, out of 126 affected feeders, 121 feeders were restored in the province, adding basic electricity infrastructure including feeders and grid stations were functional in KP despite devastating floods in Rivers Kabul and Swat. The Federal Minister who dashed to Peshawar to oversee flood damages on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that destroyed electricity poles and transmission lines would be reconstructed on priority basis. He directed PESCO and TESCO authorities to expedite work on the affected poles and transmission lines in flood hit areas of KP. - APP

Indonesian CG urges joint efforts for promoting trade



DNA

KARACHI: Consul General of Indonesia, H.E Dr. June Kuncoro Hadinigrat, has expressed the desire that bilateral trade with Pakistan should be done to promote by mutual efforts between the two countries. The Free Trade Agreement between Pakistan and Indonesia will definitely be beneficial for both countries. Indonesian CG expressed these views while addressing the first meeting of Pakistan Indonesia Business Council (PIBC)

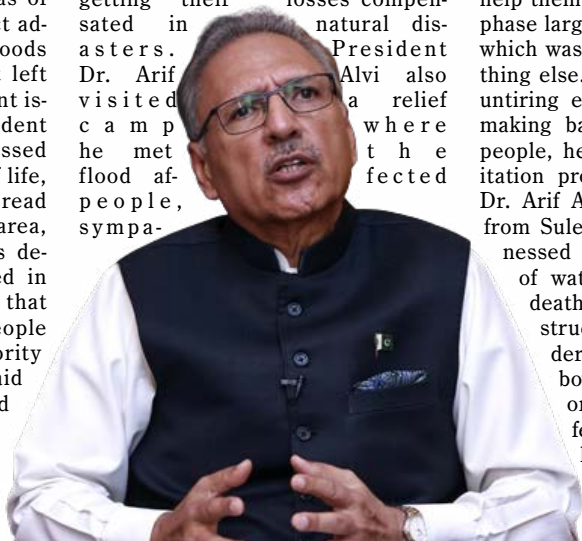
of FPCCI. Djumara Supriyadi, Consul for Economic Affairs, Irfan Iqbal, President FPCCI, Abid Nisar, Chairman Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council of FPCCI (PIBC), VP FPCCI Shabbir Mansha Churra, VP Shaukat Ali Omerson, former VP Mrs. Nazli Abid Nisar, Tariq Anees, Sultan Rehman, Sohail Nisar, Sameer Gulzar, Zohaib Khan, Mohammad Naseem, Shehbaz, Amjad Sultan and others were also attending the meeting. The Indonesian Consul General urged the Pakistani business community to increase ties with Indonesian busi-

nessmen, and organize B2B meetings. In this regard, the consulate will fully support. To promote bilateral trade with Indonesia, by exporting products that have high demand will have a positive impact on Pakistan's exports. Irfan Iqbal, President FPCCI said that the businessmen of both the countries should evaluate the products according to the demand in respective markets and prioritize trade with each other. Currently, one-way trade is more in favor of Indonesia, while Pakistan needs to increase its share in the Indonesian markets in terms of exports. Earlier, Abid Nisar, Chairman Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council (PIBC), while welcoming the Indonesian Consul General, said that FPCCI is the apex body of trade & industry which has active role in solving the problems faced by the business and industrial community. "The main objective of the Pakistan Indonesia Business Council is to promote mutual trade, offer its support in finding new trade routes and markets", Abid adding that the Pakistani business community was looking forward to the conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and Indonesia as soon as possible. PIBC chairman was of the opinion that having an FTA will give Pakistan access to the Indonesian market, and we will be able to export our non-traditional products easily, while also balance the trade between the two countries.

President Arif Alvi underlines need to build dams

DERA GHAZI KHAN: President Dr. Arif Alvi Thursday stressed the need to improve flood warning system and highlighted the importance of building big dams to control floods and enhance water storage capacity. President Alvi expressed his views during a visit to flood hit areas of Dera Ghazi Khan where district administration briefed him on floods and the trail of destruction it left behind, according to a statement issued by media wing of the President House. The president expressed grave concerns over the loss of life, damages to standings crops spread over more than 300,000 acre area, thousands of buildings, homes destroyed and cattle heads killed in floods. The president said that compensating the affected people should be the top most priority of the government. Dr. Alvi said that attention should be paid to building delay action dams to store water from hill torrents in DG Khan. He said that building bigger dams was vital to control floods and en-

hance water storage capacity. The president said that efforts should be made to ensure compensation is paid to the affected people soonest. He said that farmers should be encouraged to opt for crop insurance which, he added, could be helpful in getting their losses compensated in natural disasters. President Dr. Arif Alvi also visited a relief camp where he met the flood affected people, sympathized with them and asked them about the level of difficulties being faced by them. He said that he was in DG Khan to meet them, to make them feel they were not alone in these testing times and that government was there to help them out. He said that the first phase largely focused on saving lives which was more important than anything else. The administration made untiring efforts in saving lives and making basic facilities available to people, he said adding that rehabilitation process should begin soon. Dr. Arif Alvi said that hill torrents from Suleman Mountain Range witnessed extraordinarily high level of water this year that caused deaths, and destruction of infrastructure and buildings. He underlined the need for making boys scouts and girls guides organizations more effective and functional to help in rescue and relief activities carried out by the government and armed forces. - APP



ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador Donald Blome called on Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal. - APP

ICCI welcomes revival of IMF program

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has welcomed the revival of the IMF bailout program for Pakistan and termed it a positive development for the economy as it would pave the way for the opening of other international financing channels to Pakistan and help revive our struggling economy. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Miftah Ismail, Federal Finance Minister has made great efforts to get the IMF program back on track and he congratulated the Finance Minister for achieving this success for Pakistan. He further said that Miftah Ismail had to take some very tough decisions for the revival of the IMF bailout program and hoped that with the improvement of our economy, the government would miss no opportunity to provide all possible relief to the inflation-stricken people.

Enormity of climate crisis is still unfolding, says Sherry Rehman

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: As we enter the 9th week of our catastrophic flood emergency in Pakistan, the scale and enormity of this climate crisis is still unfolding. As the rains finally slow down, miles and miles of deep water is still standing in what seems like a veritable ocean of undrainable flood waters in many places in the southern parts of Pakistan, while a new crisis looms in the shape of a health emergency. At the same time, after 8 weeks of torrential downpours with more rain likely in September, the River Indus is now in high flood at key barrages. As we speak 70% of Pakistan is now under water, leaving us with an unparalleled humanitarian emergency the world has yet to see. So far up to 1200 people have died and more than 3000 are injured. More than 5000 km of metallic roads ripped out, 243 bridges torn apart, over a million houses have been damaged and well over 33 million affected. 90% of Sindh and 45% of the total cropland of the country is under water. Initial estimates reveal damages of

about USD 10 billion in losses. We have already generated a UN Flash Appeal and while humanitarian relief is pouring in from our neighbors and countries around the world, it is not nearly enough to meet the needs of millions on the ground, adrift in the hardscrabble life of makeshift shelters. In addition to the UN system, given the scale and immediacy of the disaster, we do need more assistance from the international community for reconstruction and rebuilding 3/4ths of the country. In the longer term, though, the message is clear: If GHG emissions are not reduced, global warming will not change. In Pakistan as we build back we surely need to adapt better for climate resilience, but at the same time, unless other countries reduce their emissions as promised in previous COPs, climate disasters will hit frontline countries like Pakistan with increasing magnitude. The time to change that is now.



Syed Ali Shah Geelani

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Flood Update

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

Aug 01/ CHINA	Armed Forces Day
Aug 01/ SWITZERLAND	National Day
Aug 01/ LEBANON	Armed Forces Day
Aug 01/ SYRIA	Armed Forces Day
Aug 4/ BUKINO FASO	National Day
Aug 09/ SINGAPORE	National Day
Aug 15/ DPR KOREA	Independence Day
Aug 15/ INDIA	Independence Day
Aug 15/ POLAND	Armed Forces Day
Aug 17/ INDONESIA	Independence Day
Aug 24/ UKRAINE	Independence Day
Aug 25/ URUGUAY	Independence Day
Aug 30/ TURKEY	Armed Forces Day
Aug 31/ KYRGYZ	Independence Day
Aug 31/ MALAYSIA	National Day

Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

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Rawal Town.....	5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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Mushaal urges world to hold India accountable

Mushaal Mullick regretted that her husband Yasin Malik had been kept in a death cell where his life was in danger

ISLAMABAD: Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik's wife Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Thursday urged the world to hold India accountable for its illegal actions and impose on it defense and economic sanctions. "It is about time that international community holds India accountable for its unspeakable crimes against the Kashmiri people", she stressed while talking to Radio Pakistan's current affair program. Lasting peace and prosperity in South Asia cannot be established without resolving the lingering Kashmir dispute, she highlighted. She condemned that RSS-inspired Hindutva ideology being pursued by BJP-led Modi government was a major threat to "foreign investment" in India. Mushaal said that major international players should not make

investment in India because of anti-minorities and anti-Muslim policies of Narendra Modi. Mushaal Mullick said fascist Narendra Modi and the Indian Army were turning Kashmiris into a minority in the valley by issuing domiciles to Indian citizens in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. She said New Delhi government was making every effort to dampen the Kashmiris' spirit of freedom, but all negative tactics would fail. She regretted that the whole India was under the control of extremist ideology, threatening the very fabric of Indian society, where minorities were being systematically targeted. Talking about India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, Mushaal Hussein Mullick opined that New Delhi was trying to create "identity crisis" in the



held valley by giving rights of franchise to outsiders. Mushaal Mullick regretted that her husband Yasin Malik had been kept in a death cell where his life was in danger. She said that the United Nations, the Security Council, the Europe-

an Union and other international organizations remained silent spectators to the human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir. She said the courage and determination of Yasin Malik could not be shaken through negative tactics. Replying to a question, Mushaal Mullick said the relentless wave of killings by the Indian occupying forces, deliberate arrests of Kashmiris and human rights defenders and refusal to hand over the bodies of the martyrs to their heirs were extremely worrisome for people around the world. While paying rich tribute to veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Gilani on his first martyrdom anniversary, Mushaal Mullick said Kashmiris would continue their freedom struggle till its logical conclusion. She said political

struggle, unwavering and untiring services of the Syed Ali Gilani for the Kashmir cause would be remembered for a long time in the annals of Kashmir history. She said, Syed Ali Gilani, throughout his life, championed the right to self-determination of the people of Kashmir and advocated the settlement of the Kashmir dispute in line with the UN Security Council's resolutions and the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiris. Mushaal Mullick said people of IIOJK would always remember Syed Ali Gilani's commitment, dedication and contribution in the ongoing struggle for Kashmiris' right to self-determination. She said Syed Ali Gilani dedicated his whole life for the Kashmir cause, Kashmiri people and their right to self-determination. - APP

AIOU offers academic programs for int'l students

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is offering admissions in various academic programs in the second phase of the autumn semester 2022 for Overseas Pakistani as well as other international students. According to AIOU, programs offered in this phase include Associate degree (BA, B.Com), Associate degree in (Education, Human Resource Management and, Islamic Banking and Marketing), B.Ed (1.5 Years, 2.5 Years and 4 Years), Postgraduate Diplomas, BS (Urdu, Islamic Studies, Arabic, Mass Communication, Pakistan Studies, Library and Information Sciences, Gender and Women Studies, Accounting and Finance and, English), BBA and Certificate courses. Students can also take admission in matric and Intermediate courses offered in the first phase.

It is pertinent to mention here that overseas Pakistani and international students can apply in matric and intermediate programs till September 5, while the admission deadline for other programs is October 15th. Overseas Pakistani/international students can download the admission forms and prospectuses from the University website (<http://online.aiou.edu.pk>).

For more details, the international students can contact International Calibration and Exchange Office at overseas@aiou.edu.pk or phone numbers +92519057165 or +92519250175. - APP

IESCO issues power suspension notice

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 3rd September, 07:00 AM to 12:00 PM, NDC 1&2, I-10/3, PHA 2, I-11/3, Metro, Islami University, Dr. Aq Khan, I-10/2, NUST University, U Phone, NTCL, SES, Fazal Ghi, Jandrot Dabsi, Ditot, Mujahan, Angori Feeders and surroundings will be closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time.

IRSA releases 342,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 342,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 360,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has already attained its maximum conversion level of 1550 feet and was 152 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 187,800 cusecs each. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1186.80 feet, which was 136.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Bakhtawari, candidate for ICCI President gets nominations papers from Chief Election Commissioner Zahid Maqbool. - DNA

IESCO signs contract with KT-Kaifa



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The contract signing ceremony between IESCO and KT Kaifa for Design, supply, installation, commissioning of an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) project in Rawalpindi Circle, Customer information system and new billing system for Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) was held at IESCO Head Office, Islamabad. The long awaited project is part of the second power distribution enhancement investment program under ADB financing and is expected to significantly contribute towards improved information collection for

asset management, while providing tools to reduce routine operations and maintenance (O&M) costs of distribution companies by eliminating the need for manual meter reading and related field staffing and operations. The AMI project will enhance customer support, as better measurements, more accurate billing and a degree of control of consumption are expected to improve customers payment of electricity bills. The project is also expected to enhance the ability of distribution companies to reduce non-technical losses that result from consumers by passing installed metering devices.

The system is expected to provide precise information regarding power supply and consumption down to the individual consumers, enabling distribution companies to investigate causes of non-technical power losses. Improved micro and macro level information in relation to the power grid is expected to provide the DISCOs with new tools and technologies to mitigate these losses. The objective of introduction AMI is to eliminate load shedding, reduce distribution losses and enhance the overall operational and financial efficiency of IESCO which will ultimately lead to realization of smart grid.

Pakistani forest officers in high demand abroad

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The severe heat wave in Europe has ended the sleep and peace of European citizens and countries. The only solution to prevent climate change from becoming direr is to increase plantations and protect existing forests. Now the world has realized the sensitivity of climate change and is gearing up for its remedy. After the completion of the Billion Trees Tsunami Project in KP Pakistan, the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Project was launched,

which is in progress. The forest officers of all four provinces, AJK and GB are busy with their best efforts in hard working, professional manner to make the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Project for success. The skills of Forest Officers of Pakistan, AJK and GB are being recognized worldwide and most of the countries of the world are eager to benefit from their skills. Three forest officers working on TBTP, former NPD Hassan Ali Sukhira, DIGF Raja Umar and forest officer Amjad Siddiq have reached Saudi Arabia. More forest officers will also leave for different countries after some time.

Railways plans to procure 25 diesel electric locomotives

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways was planning to procure as many as 25 diesel electric locomotives for various shunting points across the country which would help to replace outdated locomotives that to be soon scrapped. The project for the procurement and manufacturing of 25 shunting locomotives would be implemented in three years at an estimated cost of Rs. 14 billion, sources in the Ministry of Railways told APP. Currently, they said that only 51 locomotives were being operated for this service against the 98 shunting points at various railway stations across the country. Addi-

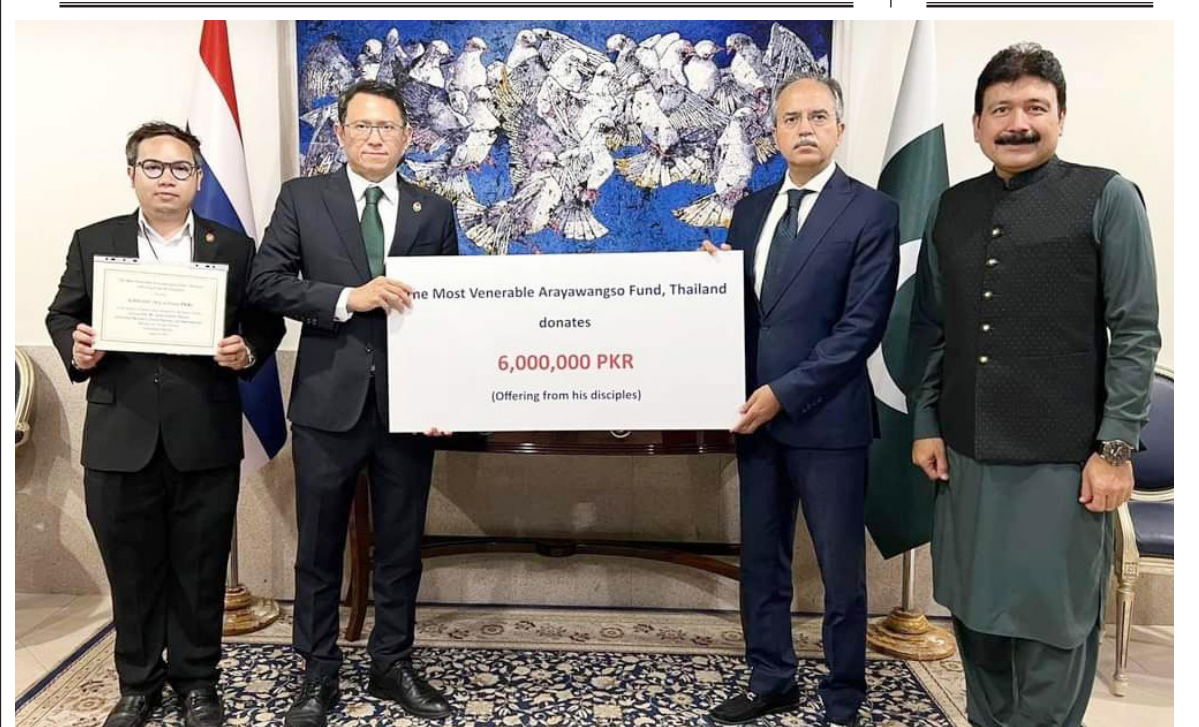
tionally, most of the old locomotives would be discarded due to high maintenance costs. They said the project was aimed at procuring and manufacturing 25 shunting diesel electric locomotives of 2000-2200 horsepower HP to replace the overage and uneconomical locomotives. The sources said the old locomotives were consumed excessive fuel and in most cases, high horsepower locomotives were under-utilized during shunting operations. They said with the addition of the new locomotives would enhance the capacity of Pakistan Railways by removing the bottlenecks during the shunting of heavy load freight trains and the placement of freight loads at departure yards in Karachi, Lahore and other places. The sources said the role of specially designed shunting locomotives was considered the backbone of train formation and train rake replacement at the platform as well as the removal of train rakes from the platform to the washing line and sick lines. - APP

Federal Ombudsman deposes officers to assist agencies

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi had deputed his officers and staff for making coordinated efforts among the concerned departments working in flood affected areas. He observed that due to the vast scale of distress and suffering of the flood affected people, his advisors and staff should assist NDMA, DISCO's and government agencies in providing urgent relief and in the process of rehabilitation work, said a press release on Thursday. He said that at this critical moment, no efforts should be spared to ensure due re-

lief for the affected people. He further said that senior officers of the regional offices of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (WMS), preferably the ones who have served in administration should undertake frequent visits to the flood affected places, especially in the far-flung areas, to assist the government agencies such as NDMA, gas companies, DISCOs, PTCL, PTA, NHA in restoration of their services. The teams from the WMS regional offices will identify the neglected areas and gaps in provision of relief goods and services to the victims of flood in the areas

falling within their domain and bring to the notice of the agencies concerned as well as WMS Head Office. The WMS team should also work in collaboration with the offices of the Provincial Mohtasibs for the purpose of relief and rehabilitation through the provincial agencies concerned. The Wafaqi Mohtasib urged that at this crucial moment, no effort should be spared towards this national duty. Regional offices have been directed to furnish regular reports, which will be monitored personally by the Wafaqi Mohtasib on daily basis. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Thailand presenting a cheque of Rs 6,000,000 to Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Asim Iftikhar Ahmed for flood victims. - DNA

Briefs

Govt trying hard to provide relief: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: A senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Thursday said despite financial constraints, the government was trying its best to provide maximum relief to people. Addressing a news conference, he said persistent efforts were underway to stabilize the economy and provide solace to people. Optimum efforts were being made to help rehabilitate flood-hit people. The floods have destabilized the country's economy in already difficult conditions. Lambasting former Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said the agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) was inked by the former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, making it binding on the successive government to implement the programme. Imran Khan repeatedly violated agreements with IMF by decreasing the prices of petroleum products on sensing his impending ouster from the government. Imran Khan was only interested in promoting his political agenda. The freezing of gas and electricity prices proved detrimental to the country's economy. He held Imran Khan responsible for current economic woes. He lauded the hard work and dedication of Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and said that the Shehbaz government took difficult decisions to put the economy back on right track. He admitted that some party members did not support some difficult decisions of the government. - APP

38 more dengue patients surface

RAWALPINDI: As many as 38 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 458. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, on Thursday said that, among the new cases, 25 patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area, five from Rawalpindi Cantonment, two from Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi and Islamabad one of each patient reported from Chaklala Cantonment, Taxila Cantonment, Potohar rural and Kahutta. He said that the district health authority had sealed 420 premises, registered 1,414 FIRs, issued challans to 1,398, notices to 6,124, and a fine of Rs 3,808,600 was imposed on violations of SOPs in various areas of the district from January 1, 2022, to till date. He added that prevailing weather was suitable for breeding dengue larvae and asked the concerned to remove stagnant water in outdoor and house hold settings to stop mosquitoes from breeding. Furthermore, the health official urged the residents to keep their water tanks clean and not to leave any place wet with stagnant water as water accumulation was a leading cause of mosquito-borne diseases, including dengue fever. - APP

DG Pak-EPA urges execution of 'laws'

ISLAMABAD: Director General Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) Farzana Altaf Shah on Thursday urged upon the need for implementation of existing "Environmental laws" in the country to control flood disaster and future climate change issues.

In an exclusive talk on PTV news channel, she said that there were existing good laws in terms of environment which need implementation on urgent basis to help government take environmental-friendly policies and decisions.

"The river valleys in the region are annually affected by intense flooding, causing erosion of flood plains, loss of agriculture sector, adding, flood and erosion are two perennial problems which have impacted the life, livelihood and economy of the country over many years", she highlighted. - APP

COMSTECH, CILSS sign MoU to enhance cooperation

The MoU was signed by the Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, and the Executive Secretary CILSS, Dr. Abdoulaye Mohamadolt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bilateral cooperation signed between OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

The purpose of the MoU is to define the framework as well as the modalities of scientific and technological cooperation between CILSS and COMSTECH in areas of mutual interest, with particular focus on food and nutritional security, natural resource and water management, population, gender, climate change, and conservation and restoration of ecosystems. Both organizations will cooperate to implement joint programs of scientific and technical nature to promote and strengthen cooperation to provide a platform for collaborative activities in the fields of mutual interest and encourage mobility and cooperation. It will include sharing experiences and best practices, development



COMSTECH
Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation



of methodologies, and mobility of experts. The cooperation between the both organizations includes combating desertification and mitigating the effects of climate change against land degradation and improvement of land productivity, preventive management of the impact of climate change and natural disasters. Both organizations will cooperate on water management, population development, capacity

building on data management, artificial intelligence and machine learning, food and nutrition security, and resilient capacity building to combat poverty. Cooperative activities between the organizations may include joint organization of events such as sessions, side events, seminars, research activities, and exchange of information, conducting prospective studies on topics of common interest, capacity

building and support for the implementation of environmental programs, and joint mobilization of resources for the implementation of projects and programs at the regional level. The MoU was signed by the Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, and the Executive Secretary CILSS, Dr. Abdoulaye Mohamadolt. COMSTECH is the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological

Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The core mandate of COMSTECH is to nurture cooperation among OIC states in science and technology and enhance their capabilities through training in emerging areas. Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), is an Intergovernmental Organization. The mandate of CILSS is to invest in the search for food and security and in the fight against the effects of climate change mainly of drought and desertification, for a new ecological balance in the Sahel. CILSS is headquartered in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan arrives at Anti-Terrorism Court. APP

PM remembers Syed Ali Gilani as "symbol" of Kashmir freedom

The prime minister said that by snatching the mortal remains of late Ali Gilani, India could not take away the Kashmiris' passion for freedom

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that late Syed Ali Gilani was a symbol of Kashmir freedom and the title of "Baba-e-Hurriyat" (father of freedom movement) by the Kashmiris was in fact the recognition of his historic struggle. The prime minister, in his message on first death anniversary of the great Kashmir leader, said that the struggle of Syed Ali Gilani was a golden chapter in the history of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference as well as the Kashmir freedom movement. "Syed Ali Gilani was not merely an individual rather a movement and a mission with the slogan of 'Kashmir to become Pakistan,'" he remarked. The prime minister said that by snatching the mortal remains of late Ali Gilani, India could not take away the Kashmiris' passion for freedom. "The people of Pakistan and Kashmir salute Syed Ali Gilani. His slogan 'We are Pakistani and Pakistan is ours' still echoes across the world," he commented. The prime minister also prayed for high ranks in paradise for Syed Ali Gilani and martyrs of Kashmir, and strength for their respective families to bear the loss with fortitude. In a related tweet, the prime minister said that the late Gilani personified the very essence of Kashmiris' struggle. "Frail in body but firm in resolve, he powered the resistance movement with belief in the idea of freedom from Indian yoke," he remarked. - APP

PSX continues with bullish trend

ISLAMABAD: The KSE 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Thursday continued with bullish trend, gaining 108.93 points, a positive change of 0.26 percent, closing at 42,460.08 points against 42,351.15 points on the last working day. A total of 248,196,388 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 181,267,464 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 8.016 billion against Rs 7.209 billion on last trading day. As many as 345 companies transacted shares in the stock market, 185 of them recorded gain and 132 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 28 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Energyico Pk with a volume of 35,626,773 shares and price per share of Rs 5.32, Maple Leaf with volume of 23,497,128 and price per share of Rs 28.89 and Fauji Cement with volume of 13,817,000 and price per share of Rs 15.46. Sapphire Tex witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 84.51 per share, closing at Rs 1,244.50 whereas the runner up was Premium Tex, the share prices of which climbed up by Rs 39.50 to Rs 699.50. - APP

Govt should construct more dams

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Federal Flood Commission (FFC) Ahmed Kamal Thursday emphasized upon the need to increase forestry and construction of dams in the country as both are the best source to resist flood water and impact of droughts. "Trees help to reduce flooding by directly intercepting rainfall and promoting higher soil infiltration rates", he said while talking to a private news channel.

He further explained trees reduce flood risk from the top to bottom, adding, lots of raindrops that land on leaves evaporate straight into the air so less water reaches the ground. He said we also need to develop rainwater harvesting systems at different sites in urban areas to not only conserve water but also manage it to reduce the risk of flooding. He said we also need to enhance our national water storage that currently stands for 30 days only. Ahmed Kamal said small dams are important as well as large dams to meet the water needs of growing population.

Replying to a question, he said as per current information from the met department, light rain is expected in most parts of the country. The inflow of water in the Tarbela dam has reached to 200,000 cusecs, whereas the Marala Headworks on Chenab River has reached to 60,000 cusecs and Kabul River at Nowshera to more than 30,000 cusecs, he added. Such huge water flow resulted in causing damage to people's homes.

The met department is closely monitoring for any new rain spell in the future. It was due to the timely forecasts of met department that we could control this devastating situation to some extent. Otherwise, damages could have been worse. - APP

Mobile import declined 67.46%

ISLAMABAD: The import of mobile phones has witnessed a decrease of 67.46 percent during the first month of current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Pakistan imported mobile phones worth of the US \$38,804 million during July 2022 as compared to the imports of US \$119,237 million during July 2021, showing a decline of 67.46 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

On a month-on-month basis, the imports of mobile phones however witnessed an increase of 20.43 percent during July 2022, as compared to the imports of US \$32,221 million during June 2022, according to the data. - APP

PAF eulogises soldiers' courage in 1965 air battle

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Directorate General Public Relations on Thursday released a short documentary on the courage and bravery of its soldiers in connection with the September 1965 war. The short-documentary shed light on the leadership role played by the then Commander-in-Chief of the PAF Air Marshal Nur Khan and the chivalrous response to inimical attacks of the Indian Air Force by the soldiers of PAF, a news release here said. The three minutes and 46 seconds long short-documentary described the air battle that took place on September 1, 1965. The prologue opined that during the war of September 1965, the PAF established its command and supremacy in the air field whereas the aggressive and unique response of PAF provided an invincible defence shield to the aerial limits of the country. It noted that this success was basically due to the prime role and leadership qualities of Air Marshal Nur Khan that he rendered during this Indo-Pak war. He had the honour of taking over the command of PAF on July 23, 1965 and it was noteworthy that despite staying away for few years from PAF, Air Marshal Nur Khan within few days completed a training mission on T33 aircraft from Sargodha also got flying approval on F-86 aircraft. However, he also got expertise in flying F-104 aircraft that used to fly at double the pace of air within a short span of time. He got 100% marks in air to ground shooting test while flying F-104 which was nearly impossible to achieve. Air Marshal Nur Khan due to his effective war strategy and knowledge divided 141 PAF aircraft into nine squadrons whereas this PAF fighter fleet was also assisted by 30 different transport trainers and helicopters. During this combat, the Indian Air Force (IAF) had approximately 775 fighter aircraft that were divided into 29 squadrons and out of these over 500 could be used as the frontline. While comparing the two rival Air Forces the comparison was of 5:1. However, on September 1, the Air Headquarters received information that IAF had planned to target Pakistan Army in Kashmir. In order to verify this news the Air Marshal, expressing his leadership qualities, decided to supervise enemy movements himself in Chamb sector. - APP

NUST Flood Relief Campaign in full swing

ISLAMABAD: National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) has joined the relief and rehabilitation efforts at the national level in wake of heavy floods that have wreaked havoc across many parts of Pakistan. NUST along with its vibrant alumni network has constituted teams of volunteers to provide relief goods to affected areas of flood-hit areas in all provinces of Pakistan. Over 500 households have so far been provided with relief items in Nowshera and Risalpur, while other teams have started reaching out to people in the affected areas of South Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. Volunteer students, faculty and staff are vigorously taking part in the campaign.

NUST and Rawalpindi Medical University have also jointly set up a Free Medical Camp in Risalpur; more such camps will be set up in other far-flung areas.

NUST has opened a dedicated Bank Account to receive flood donations. Funds can now be transferred to Account Title: NUST Flood Relief Fund, Account Number: 2292 7917 3412 01, IBAN: PK82 HABB 0022 9279 1734 1201, Bank: HBL, H-12 Branch. - APP

Yunnan contributes towards greening of Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan increasingly confronts the challenges of Climate Change, Yunnan province of China comes forward to help Pakistan get better prepared for the same. Yunnan, the province known for its balanced, green development with focus on ecological uplift, is sponsoring sizeable tree plantation drives on National Highway-5 (N-5). The project named as "Go Green Pakistan, Yunnan Chapter, Page 1" is co-donated by the province, through Yunnan People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and Yunnan's enterprises working in Pakistan. Yunnan - the province of eternal spring - is globally acclaimed for its significant progress in environmental protection through restoring forests and reducing pollution. It is expected that tree plantation along N-5 would help reduce fast increasing pollution, enhance green

coverage, check unabated carbon emissions and help the country mitigate the negative consequences of global warming. This is just the beginning; the provincial authorities

and representatives are coming up with more such projects in Pakistan in near future. Pakistan indeed is in dire need of the same and it comes as a timely, relevant assistance.



Chinese intercropping system brings high yield

"The abrupt increase in temperature decreased the soybean production. In addition, we don't yet have the high yielding soybean varieties here, for which we still need help from China," Dr. Raza said

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology completed harvest at 65 demonstration sites in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recently, and the production of maize and soybeans reached 8,490 kg and 889 kg per hectare respectively in the intercropped fields. According to China Economic Net (CEN), compared with the production of solely cropped maize and soybeans at these 65 sites which are 8,995 kg and 1,531 kg per hectare respectively, the intercropping technology definitely creates much more economic benefits.

"Up till now the best system for high yield and profitability is maize-soybean strip intercropping system. Last season, farmers had adopted our technology on more than 1500 acres of land, and the number is increasing day by day," said Muhammad Ali Raza, post-doc of Sichuan Agricultural Uni-

Chinese firm sponsors free course

CHINESE renewable energy firm, LONGi Solar, has collaborated with the Energy Training and Research Centre (ETRC), Lahore for a two-month-long free training course on photovoltaic systems. ETRC is a not-for-profit organization, an official told Gwadar Pro. "However, we charge fees for our training courses to pay for our expenses," she said. But the LONGi-sponsored course will be offered free of cost as the expenses have been supported by the Chinese company, she said. The official added that LONGi will also provide jobs to the students after their course. "As the Chinese firms are penetrating Pakistan's solar energy market, they need more and more skilled workers," she said. The application deadline for the training course on Solar Photovoltaic System for Power Generation for Development of Solar Workforce in Pakistan is September 12 while the training will start on September 20. LONGi Solar announced recently that it has signed an agreement with Pakistani firm Factor for the provision of PV modules for a 5MWs solar power plant. In August, LONGi signed MoU with Wateen Telecom to make solar energy accessible to all in Pakistan. The company has also signed an agreement with K-Solar, a subsidiary of K-Electric, for solar power plants. K-Electric is responsible for the provision of electricity to Karachi city. Meanwhile, Chinese inverters manufacturer GoodWe is also supporting ETRC to produce a skilled workforce in renewable energy. A week ago, GoodWe donated a 10kW SDT G2 inverter to the training center so that young engineers can have hands-on experience in the installation of these inverters. - DNA

versity (SAU) and the Director of the National Research Center for Intercropping, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB). Moreover, the production of soybeans in intercropped fields still has the potential to rise in the coming days.

"The abrupt increase in temperature decreased the soybean production. In addition, we don't yet have the high yielding soybean varieties here, for which we still need help from China," Dr. Raza said.

Now, China's advanced intercropping technology is being applied to various types of crops in Pakistan at the National Research Center for Intercropping jointly built by Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU) and the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) in August, 2021.

"We have started the research on developing strip intercropping systems of maize-peanut, maize-pea, sugarcane-soybean, sugarcane-mustard, wheat-mustard, wheat-soybean, wheat-chickpea, potato-maize and canola-pea," he added.

Syed Ali Geelani: A towering figure

KASHMIRIS living on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and across the globe observed the first martyrdom anniversary of Baba-e-Hurriyat Syed Ali Shah Geelani with the pledge that they will continue their freedom struggle till getting independence from the Indian rule. Geelani was born on September 29, 1929, in the village of Bandipora in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). After receiving his primary education in Sopore, he enrolled in Oriental College Lahore for higher education. Having completed his education in Lahore, he joined the Jamaat-e-Islami IIOJK in 1949. In 1961, Geelani left the government job and became the all-time leader of Jamaat-e-Islami. On August 28, 1961, he was first time arrested and put behind the bars. Geelani was elected three times as a Member of Assembly in IIOJK in 1972, 1977 and 1987 on the ticket of Jamaat-e-Islami. In 1990 when Kashmiri youth picked up arms to fight against Indian illegal rule in IIOJK, Geelani backed the armed struggle and termed it as per the United Nations resolutions to get freedom from India by armed struggle. In 1990, Geelani was arrested and released after three years. In 1994, Geelani founded the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) along with other Kashmiri leaders including Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Professor Abdul Ghani Bhat and Abdul Ghani Lone. From 1990 to 2010, he was arrested and released several times. In 2010, he was placed under house arrest at Hyderpora, Srinagar to keep him away from the public. Geelani spent 11 years in house arrest and sacrificed his life during the confinement for the greater cause of the people of IIOJK. Besides a popular leader, Geelani was also considered a fiery orator and accomplished historian and scholar in IIOJK. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that late Syed Ali Gilani was a symbol of Kashmir freedom and the title of "Baba-e-Hurriyat" (father of freedom movement) by the Kashmiris was in fact the recognition of his historic struggle. The prime minister, in his message on first death anniversary of the great Kashmir leader, said that the struggle of Syed Ali Gilani was a golden chapter in the history of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference as well as the Kashmir freedom movement. "Syed Ali Gilani was not merely an individual rather a movement and a mission with the slogan of 'Kashmir to become Pakistan,'" he remarked.

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Gorbachev's legacy

THE Kremlin has been unsure how to mark the death this week of Mikhail Gorbachev, the man who is celebrated without hesitation in the west for his role in hastening the end of the cold war. In Russia, events leading to the collapse of the Soviet Union are officially narrated as a national calamity, or not at all. The loss of superpower status is an injury that Vladimir Putin has made it his life's work to reverse. Mr Gorbachev did not intend for his democratising reforms to dissolve the USSR. In some former Soviet republics he is remembered more as a repressor of pro-independence movements than as a liberator. Events ran away from him. The Russia that was born from Soviet ruin was not a creature of his design, and the failure of its subsequent experiment in political freedom tainted his legacy. For many Russians, chaos and criminality contaminated the concept of democracy. Mr Putin capitalised on that disillusionment to restore authoritarianism with a neo-Soviet, nationalist inflection, of which his mercurial assault on Ukraine is an expression. The contrast with the present Kremlin incumbent could not be more stark. Mr Putin does not merely reject democracy for fear that an empowered populace might remove him from office. That would be a pragmatic kind of despotism, despicable but amenable to diplomatic containment. Even before Mr Gorbachev, there was scope for strategic dialogue between western leaders and their Soviet counterparts. Relations were frosty, but rational. That is a problem for western policymakers and a source of economic pain for democracies that were for too long complacent about the character of the Russian state. The decision this week by Gazprom, Russia's state energy company, to shut down its main Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Europe is a reminder that the Kremlin's military aggression against Ukraine has a second front – a war of economic attrition against everyone who stands in solidarity with Kyiv. There is also a home front – the systematic grinding away of what little civil society, political freedom and media independence was left in Russia from the efflorescence of those things in the aftermath of the Soviet collapse. Sadly, all too many Russians are in full thrall to the Putin cult, but a minority see its true nature. Some remember the reality of Soviet repression. They don't share their president's nostalgia for it. Some were too young to remember the advent of freedom in 1991, but wish it would dawn again. In them resides a hope that the idea of a democratic Russia is not buried with Mikhail Gorbachev.

Callous politics add to flood-hit Pakistan's woes

Ishtiaq Ahmad



FM Miftah Ismail had spent months negotiating the revival of an extended fund facility worth \$1.2 billion, as part of the stalled \$7 billion bailout program with the IMF. Its board meeting was due to approve the deal on Sunday

WHERE else in the world would you find a country in the midst of a natural catastrophe and its former prime minister agitating in the streets in an attempt to return to power through early elections? The moral depravity of this new class of political leadership in Pakistan is also clear from other astonishing instances of callousness and conspiracy amid the evolving tragedy. But let me first underline the scale of the disaster. Pakistan has been struck by calamities before, such as the 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods, but it has never faced anything like this. Floods triggered by unprecedented rains during the ongoing monsoon season – up to five times more than the 30-year national average – have caused havoc across the country. All four provinces have been affected, 33 million people have been impacted and more than 1,100 have died. A third of the country is under water. The damage estimated by the National Disaster Management Authority and reported by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is staggering. Entire crops, herds of livestock, roads and bridges have all been washed away by floods. The hardest-hit province of

Sindh, which contributes half of Pakistan's cereal crops, will not be able to produce any food this year. And, in the 66 districts declared to be "calamity-hit," a pandemic of waterborne diseases is on the horizon.

The humanitarian situation is expected to worsen as the eighth cycle of monsoon rains is on its way. Currently, the coalition government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Sindh and Balochistan governments and local and foreign relief agencies are managing rescue and relief operations. While a proper assessment of the damage done to life and property will take time, the task of rehabilitation and reconstruction ahead seems formidable. Naturally, in a calamity like this, the nation must come together. Unfortunately, Pakistan is paralyzed by polarized politics.

The main opposition party of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, which was ousted from power in March, is using the crisis as an opportunity to destabilize the government, create dissension in the army and even undermine the economy. It is no surprise that PTI governments in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are seemingly the least bothered about the plight of people in the flood-hit areas. Consider this: A video that went viral last month showed five brothers standing helplessly atop a stone in the flood water of the river Swat for hours, awaiting rescue by the chief minister's helicopter, before being swept away by high waves. The harrowing incident sent shock waves across the country.

Party chairman Khan has also held several political rallies to muster public support for early elections amid the galloping disaster, but without showing any affection for its victims. At one such rally last week, a prominent PTI leader even appealed to expatriate Pakistanis not to send any kind of support for the flood victims. Through demagoguery, Khan has built a cult following among the urban middle class, especially the youth. His team of social media trolls continues to propagate lies and fabrications, keeping the government and state institutions under constant pressure. He accuses the army leadership and American establishment of conspiring to overthrow his regime.

However, the odds are slowly turning against the PTI leader. His chief of staff was arrested last month for inciting mutiny in the military ranks. The Election Commission has also charged him with unlawfully collecting party funds worth millions of dollars from foreign companies and individuals. The prospect of disqualification from politics in the foreign funding case has made him desperate, even forcing his cohorts to attempt to sabotage the country's deal with the International Monetary Fund.

Finance Minister Miftah Ismail had spent months negotiating the revival of an extended fund facility worth \$1.2 billion, as part of the stalled \$7 billion bailout program with the IMF. Its board meeting was due to approve the deal on Sunday. However, in audio leaks that went viral on Monday, PTT's ex-Finance Minister Shaukat Tareen is heard asking

the finance ministers of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to write letters to the federal government ahead of this meeting, stating that the two provincial regimes will dishonor their financial commitments to the IMF due to the financial burden imposed by the floods.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government did write such a letter ahead of the IMF meeting and released it on social media. A senior PTI leader also stated publicly that Punjab would follow suit if the government did not agree to hold elections in September. Luckily, these blackmailing tactics did not succeed. On Monday, the IMF approved the bailout package for Pakistan.

This latest expose of the PTI leadership's callousness, especially the extent to which it is prepared to go in a bid to regain power, touches the boundaries of treachery. But Khan's populist politics continues to be a hedge against his accountability by state institutions. He may not return to power, but he will remain a nuisance in politics for some time to come.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has to survive and grow, no matter how acute its internal political challenges are. Its current rulers, which represent a cross section of political forces, can at least draw satisfaction from the fact that the world, and particularly Islamabad's time-tested allies, have not left their country alone in its darkest hour. Saudi Arabia last week announced that it would invest \$1 billion in Pakistan, besides extending its loan facility worth \$3 billion. China, Turkey, the UAE and Qatar were also quick to extend the necessary humanitarian support.

Despite meager economic resources, the federal government has earmarked \$173 million for rescue and relief operations. But the road to rehabilitation and reconstruction will be long. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal has measured the tentative cost as above \$10 billion. On Tuesday, the UN launched the 2022 Pakistan Floods Response Plan simultaneously in Islamabad and Geneva. The response from the developed world, including the US, UK and EU, has been encouraging. Under the 2015 Paris climate deal, wealthier nations are supposed to provide \$100 billion every year to help poorer states mitigate temperature rises and adapt to the changing climate. Pakistan qualifies for a major chunk of this support as it is the eighth most-vulnerable country in the world to climate change, even though its contribution to global greenhouse gas emission is a mere 0.8 percent. The country saw 173 extreme weather events and suffered an estimated loss of \$3.8 billion between 2000 and 2019, largely due to the increased speed of melting of more than 7,000 glaciers in the Himalayas.

The South Asian state has an innate ability to weather the storm. But what it is facing today is the equivalent of a tsunami – a fact the world cannot turn a blind eye to. Therefore, donor fatigue cannot be an excuse in this case.

– Courtesy: Arab News

US, China and the Taiwan theatre: Will there be a winner?

Amin Bagheri

Chinese decision-makers still listen to the teachings of Sun Tzu, the historical Chinese strategist, who said that even the winner of a war is a loser simply because war destroys wealth and resources and means the failure of dialogue

WASHINGTON'S ambiguous policy on Taiwan has often caused heartburn for Beijing. But in the great game in the Asia Pacific region, none would dare to go for a direct confrontation. China's angry response to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's recent visit to Taiwan was on expected lines. And Washington's repeated attempts to pacify Beijing, saying that there has been no change in the US's stated "one-China policy", also followed the usual diplomatic sweet talk that follows every instance of friction between the two political and economic powerhouses.

In 1949, when the communists led by Mao Zedong assumed power in mainland China—the People's Republic of China—the nationalists led by Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan and formed a government-in-exile, the Republic of China, in the breakaway region. China did not take it lightly. For years now, China has scoffed at any attempt by any country to officially engage with Taiwan, which Beijing claims is part of the communist nation. These developments coincided with the beginning of the Cold War between the former Soviet Union and the US. Ever since, the US has used Taiwan to exert pressure on the eastern or the communist world. Washington has also used Taiwan to leverage its China policy. Although the US officially maintains a one-China policy, Washington's actions over the years have been contradictory and, at times, even provocative from China's point of view. This means that when the Republican Party is in power, it often rattles the sabre of Taiwan's independence to exert pressure on China. This position is often adjusted during the rule of the Democrats. Regarding the US's dual policy towards Taiwan, it is worth noting that even the Democratic Party does not approve China's attempts to annex Taiwan, like Hong Kong.

In 1979, the US House of Representatives passed a law obliging the US government to defend Taiwan against China and provide defence and military facilities to Taiwan. Analysts believe that the US policy towards China and Taiwan is a

kind of strategic and somewhat meaningful ambiguity. A group of US defence experts and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, who simulated a hypothetical Chinese attack, believe that though Taiwan will be able to repel the assault, Beijing's military will sink a huge part of the American and Japanese naval fleets. But there could be more to Pelosi's recent visit than just the usual American great game of one-upmanship. With the Democrats predicted to lose control of the Senate in the US congressional elections in the coming fall, the Biden government is trying to showcase its foreign policy 'achievements' to its domestic audience. After all, China is seen as the US's biggest enemy by the American public and the US government just wanted to create social capital for itself in light of what Washington considers to be China's humiliation. Pelosi's trip was meant to remind Beijing that the US has not abandoned Taiwan and the Asia-Pacific region and that Washington is closely watching China's actions. The US, in the framework of its policy towards China, especially since the Trump era, had put most of its efforts into the trade war and curbing China in the economic field. Although this approach caused problems for China, it did not have much effect on slowing down the Asian economic giant. Therefore, since the Biden era, the transfer of confrontation from the geo-economic field to the geo-political field has been on the agenda. And that's the reason for the creation of geo-political challenges for China, especially in Taiwan. Although China has come out of the cocoon of conservatism during the Xi Jinping era and is using its power as a tool, it has still maintained a cautious approach to entering into conflicts. Testing China's tolerance point on the Taiwan issue is a dangerous game that may one day involve the US in unforeseen and costly consequences. On the flip side, any attempt to occupy Taiwan by China will likely be met with military, political and economic actions of the West, which will affect the Chinese economy.

– Courtesy: TRT World

Palestinian prisoners demand to be treated with dignity

Daoud Kuttab



The Palestinian Prisoners' Club, which is the leading supporter of inmates in Israeli jails, put out the demands of the prisoners. They include: Stopping the harassment of prisoners, especially older inmates; returning all the food elements that were withdrawn from the canteen; returning electrical equipment to kitchens...

THE images of Khalil Awawdeh released last week were jarring. After 178 days of abstaining from food, the body of this protesting Palestinian prisoner was nothing more than bones and skin. On seeing those photos, no one with any humanity in them could fail to empathize with a prisoner protesting a system that detains people without charge or trial. Rescinding the use of administrative detention as a punishment is just one of the demands of the nearly 5,000 Palestinian prisoners of Israel. They have started preliminary actions, which are due to escalate on Sept. 1 to a nationwide open hunger strike. In perspective, the demands of the prisoners are not that hard to accomplish. They comply with international humanitarian law and many of them are demands that the Israeli prison authorities have previously granted but then rescinded. Some were used on all prisoners last year because of the jailbreak by six Palestinians from Gilboa Prison. All escapees were caught and reimprisoned.

The Palestinian Prisoners' Club, which is the leading supporter of inmates in Israeli jails, put out the demands of the prisoners. They include: Stopping the harassment of prisoners, especially older inmates; returning all the food elements that were withdrawn from the canteen; returning electrical equipment to kitchens and rooms; canceling the punitive punishments placed on all after the Gilboa escape; allowing regular family visits, especially for Gaza prisoners; ending the use of administrative detention as a punishment; ending solitary confinement; ending the constant storming of prisoners' cells; providing proper health treatment and transferring prisoners who need medical treatment to hospitals; and ending the practice of rearresting prisoners who have been released.

Hunger striking is not new. In fact, it is one of the most powerful nonviolent tools that prisoners have long used to gain simple basic rights and, most importantly, to demand dignity and to be treated in a humane way. This means family visits, the availability of basic food items, ending the constant use of solitary confinement, and ending detention without trial or charge as a means of punishment. Administrative detention was introduced to the legal system in Palestine during the British mandate and was part

of the 1945 emergency regulations. It was supposed to be used temporarily and was aimed at detaining individuals for a short time in order to prevent violence. Israel has not only adopted this draconian and undemocratic practice, but has also used it as a punishment rather than as a deterrent, prompting the prisoners' protests. What danger can a frail Palestinian like Awawdeh pose to the security of one of the region's most powerful countries? Can anyone with a sane mind believe that simply shifting the status of a hospital-laden prisoner from detainee to free man will endanger the national security of the state of Israel?

Palestinian prisoners are known to be disciplined and committed. When they say they will declare an open hunger strike, they mean it. They will abstain from taking food for days, weeks and months until they reach an agreement with prison authorities. It is noteworthy that their demands include a request for freedom only for those who have not been charged or tried – this is hardly a dangerous demand for a country that claims day and night to be the only democracy in the region and, even more ridiculously, to operate the most moral army in the world. A democratic country does not hold individuals without charge or trial. Palestinians have asked their lawyers to no longer represent them during the Israeli attempts to secure a military court review of the claims of secret documents, which supposedly lay behind the decisions to detain individuals, usually for six months, which can be and are renewed numerous times.

Awawdeh follows the example of others before him, who have made huge sacrifices with their own bodies to make sure that the world understands the injustices they have suffered. Israel may not have any direct reason to charge or try Awawdeh or the 700 other administrative detainees, but make no mistake they are guilty of something honorable: Of standing up to the occupier and oppressor; something powerful countries and leaders seem to be afraid of doing. They are also guilty of insisting on demanding an end to a foreign military occupation that rules their country and oppresses their people. If that is a crime, then we are all guilty of the crime of wanting to live in dignity and freedom.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Exemption of FCA for up to 300 units

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worth billions of rupee, the previous [PTI-led] government has embezzled hard-earned money of the Pakistanis," he added. He continued to berate the Imran Khan-led government and said that it exported wheat first and then imported it at higher prices, adding that the former government did not buy liquefied natural gas (LNG) when it was being sold at cheaper rates during the COVID-19 pandemic. The prime minister said that the current government had to buy fuel at higher rates because of the Russia-Ukraine war, however, "we provided the consumers with electricity at lower rates."

PM postpones UAE visit

FROM PAGE 01

bin Zayed Al Nahyan last night, the latter assured that the UAE would continue to help flood affected people of Pakistan. - APP

Imports from India not on cards: FO

FROM PAGE 01

said that the government could "consider importing vegetables and other edible items from India" to facilitate people after recent floods destroyed crops across the country. The finance minister said the prices of vegetables had risen considerably due to shortages and that he had discussed the issue with the commerce and finance secretaries. He added that they would take a plan to the prime minister in a day or two. "We will open duty-free import, make it easier and I also want to say that we will consider importing through the land border with India because these prices [of vegetables] are not sustainable," he had said. The FO spokesperson also said that Pakistan had issued a "strong demarche" to India while expressing solidarity with the people of held Kashmir on the first death anniversary of Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Gillani. Ahmad said that Pakistan was with Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LOC) in paying tribute to Geelani on the first anniversary of his martyrdom.

Court extends Imran bail...

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At this, the court replied that there was no such example, adding that it was compulsory for any accused to appear in person to get bail. The judge remarked that the petitioner had to appear before the court in person capacity to get bail. Babar Awan Advocate said that his client was in Islamabad and police had written a letter to him in Banigala stating that there was a threat to his life. He also produced the said letter before the court. He, however, said Imran Khan would appear at 12:00 pm in compliance of the court orders. The judge asked the public prosecutor that whether the 7-ATA had ever been registered without a crime. The court sought the case record and also asked the prosecutor to read out the statements of other two officers who were given threats. The court remarked that Imran Khan have to appear before it today so that arguments could be delivered. As the hearing resumed at 12:00 pm, PTI's Chairman Imran Khan appeared before the court. Babar Awan argued that his client had appeared in compliance of this court's order. He questioned that whether Imran Khan had threatened to kill anyone or set fire somewhere. The court said that it was granting bail to Imran Khan in even new sections included in the FIR. The judge noted that the police was adding new section in FIR after every ten days. After listening arguments, the court extended Imran Khan's interim bail till September 12.

Indonesia has brilliant future in clean energy

JAKARTA: The Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry opined that Indonesia had a brilliant future, as it had almost all types of energy sources needed in the energy transition process. "Indonesia's future is very bright. We must believe that we have a very good future. When compared to neighboring countries, we are still better off, and we have almost everything needed in the energy transition process," the director general of new and renewable energy and energy conservation at the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, Dadan Kusdiana, remarked at the Energy Transition Youth Forum accessed here on Thursday. He noted that Indonesia had potential of

some 3,700 gigawatts of renewable energy of varying types, which were spread evenly all across Aceh to Papua. According to Kusdiana, Indonesia had solar and geothermal energy potentials in addition to water, wind, hydrogen, or bioenergy. "Aceh has geothermal energy. Now, we are constructing a large-scale hydropower plant there. North Kalimantan (has) 10 thousand megawatts of hydropower, and soon (we) will process towards a green industrial park. (In) the easternmost part, Papua, there is about 23 gigawatts of potential for hydropower," he elaborated. He further said that East Nusa Tenggara, where it rarely rains, had better sunlight quality than other regions in Indo-

nesia, capped at 30 percent. As a maritime country, Indonesia has vast marine energy potential, Kusdiana added. These resources require innovation from the youths, given marine energy would be the energy of the future. "We have complete minerals (types), except (for) lithium. Actually, we have it, but the amount is too small. Water from geothermal, if processed, will result in lithium. We have other (minerals, such as) nickel, manganese, cobalt, iron, and copper. These are the main materials to make batteries," he added. "This depends on where we want to take Indonesia. In my opinion, we must learn and innovate (in developing the po-

tential of clean energy)," he added. Director of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Indonesia Jeff Cohen said that his administration was aware of the strategic involvement of young people all over the world, especially in Indonesia, to encourage long-term sustainable growth. He remarked that the USAID supports various youth-driven programs in creating initiatives, as the younger generation is far more capable of being creative in showing their preference for energy transitions as an effort to address the negative impacts of climate change and take action regarding renewable energy solutions. - ANTARA

2022 US Open

Serena Williams stuns with upset win over world number two

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Playing more like a world number one than a player ranked outside the top 600, Serena Williams turned back the clock on Wednesday to stun world number two Anett Kontaveit 7-6(4) 2-6 6-2 and move into the third round of the U.S. Open, putting her retirement plans on pause. De- feat has

ways been hard to swallow for Williams and the 40-year-old American's relentless will to win was on full display during an absorbing two-hour 27 minute contest of unexpected high quality, breathless intensity and drama. Williams had signalled her intention to retire earlier this month, saying she was "evolving away from tennis", but never confirmed the U.S. Open as her final event. Any farewell has now been put on hold with Williams due back on centre court on Thursday for a doubles match with older sister Venus, followed by a third round clash on Friday with Australian Ajla Tomljanovic who was a 1-6 6-2 7-5 winner over Russia's Evgeniya Rodina.

World No. 1 Medvedev storms into 3rd round

World number one Daniil Medvedev maintained his strong start to his U.S. Open title defence on Wednesday, dispatching France's Arthur Rinderknech 6-2 7-5 6-3 in the Arthur Ashe Stadium to reach the third

round. After an inconsistent run-up to Flushing Meadows, Medvedev gained momentum after his win over Stefan Kozlov in the first round and picked off against Rinderknech. "I'm very happy with my level in the third round," Medvedev told reporters. "At the end of the match it was getting better and better. "At the same time, a win is the most important. Try to get out as early as possible even if it is pretty late. Looking forward to the next round." Medvedev frustrated Rinderknech with his flawless shot placement and pounced on the Frenchman's serve to keep him pinned back on the baseline, while also saving all three break points he faced as he controlled the contest from the start.

Andreescu advances to 3rd round

The 22-year-old from Mississauga, changed her own self 2019 when she scooped all the marbles from Medvedev, on Day 3 at the U.S. Open - actually, was by

then Day 4, in a match that didn't even start until 11:30 p.m. Wednesday - with a masterful two-set dispatch of Beatriz Haddad Maia, finalist at the National Bank Open in Toronto earlier this month.

Andy Murray reaches last 32

Andy Murray overcame a confident start by young American wildcard Emilio Nava to reach the US Open third round for the first time since 2016. Murray missed chances before losing a long first set but fought back to win 5-7 6-3 6-1 6-0 in New York.

The 35-year-old, who plays Italian 13th seed Matteo Berrettini next, is joined in the last 32 by Jack Draper after the Briton stunned

Felix Auger-Aliassime. Draper, 20, beat the Canadian sixth seed 6-4 6-4 6-4 in impressive fashion. But compatriot Harriet Dart was unable to seal her place in the next round after losing 6-4 6-0 to Hungary's Dalma Galfi. Cameron Norrie and Dan Evans could also move into the men's third round on Thursday, but there are no British women remaining in the singles after Emma Raducanu lost at the first hurdle of her title defence on Tuesday. A deep run at a major tournament has long been one of former world number one Murray's biggest targets, with the Scot's body eventually starting to hold up for longer periods than recent seasons. Since having the hip surgery that he feared could end his career in 2019, Murray had only reached the third round at a Grand Slam event once when he lost to Canada's Denis Shapovalov at Wimbledon in 2021. Eventually he reached the same stage again at Flushing Meadows, where he won his first

No. 3 Sakkari exits in 2nd round

World number three Maria Sakkari was knocked out of the US Open in the second round by China's Wang Xiyu. Greece's Sakkari, who reached the semi-finals in New York last week, the first time she had not won her first set since 2016. It is the third time Sakkari has lost to a player ranked outside the world top 50 at a Grand Slam. Wang, meanwhile, reaches the third round of a major for the first time. There were fewer second-round matches for world number five Ons Jabeur, however, as she battled to a straight-sets win over American Elizabeth Mandlik. Tunisian Jabeur, who has never progressed past the third round at Flushing Meadows, won 7-5 6-2 though saw Mandlik twice go up a break and had to save a set point in the first set. Home hope Coco Gauff, seeded 12th, also reached the third round as the 18-year-old beat Romania's Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-2 7-6 (7-4). Gauff will face compatriot Madison Keys next, with American Shelby Rogers playing Wimbledon finalist Jabeur in the third round after beating Slovakia's Viktoria Kuzmova 7-5 6-1. Canada's Bianca Andreescu, who won the US Open in 2019, put in an impressive performance to earn a 6-2 6-4 victory over Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia and will next play Caroline Garcia, of France.

France provides hi-tech equipment

FROM PAGE 01

Civil Security and Crisis Management of the Ministry of Interior, coordinates this operation. As of Friday, a special flight chartered by the Airbus Foundation will transport to Pakistan 83 very high-capacity motor pumps, 200 family tents as well as survival, hygiene and protection equipment. The plane will also transport Civil Security experts, in particular doctors and nurses who will be deployed on site, in conjunction with the Pakistani authorities. Given the scale of the destruction of infrastructure, the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs will also ship in the next few days by sea a nearly 50 meter long Bailey-type emergency bridge, which will be able to be rapidly deployed in disaster areas. These operations are carried out within the framework of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism. In addition, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs will provide financial support to several French NGOs and the Pakistani Red Crescent, which provide aid to populations affected by the floods.

'Rehabilitation to star after damage assessment'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Qamar Zaman Kaira Wednesday said full fledged rehabilitation efforts would be initiated after a complete damage assessment which was underway. In a joint news conference, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira and Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said the unprecedented torrential rains had swept away all the mud houses in Sindh and Balochistan where damage assessment was not possible due to inundation and no access to affected districts. Kaira said there was unmatched downpour season in Sindh as 1,700 millimeters (mm) rainfall was recorded in Badin and almost 1300-1500mm in its majority areas whereas the weather pattern was similar in other affected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). He said that monsoon rains in GB's backward areas increased water flows in rivers across the country which resulted in high flood in Sindh province due to its geographical terrain. The water from all regions including the neighbouring Balochistan entered into Sindh that wreaked havoc, he said, adding, "accessing people is difficult in the prevailing situation."

E. Guinea detains ex-minister over criticising president

AGENCIES

LIBREVILLE: Equatorial Guinea has detained a former justice minister after he criticised the president, his brother and the opposition said on Thursday, adding that they had no news of him in three weeks. President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, 80, has ruled Equatorial Guinea with an iron fist for more than 43 years, making him the longest-serving non-monarchic leader in the world. Former justice minister Ruben Maye Nsue Mangué, 59, was arrested on the night of August 7 in the eastern town of Mongomo, after being summoned there to a meeting with the ruling party, one of his brothers, Ruben Monsuy, told AFP. After the meeting, "Ruben was arrested and taken to an unknown location after refusing to apologise to the head of state," he said. "We have no idea of his whereabouts." The ministries of information and justice did not immediately reply to a request for comment from AFP. Five days after the arrest of the ex-minister, who is also a clergyman, the justice ministry issued an order forbidding him from preaching and accusing him of "provoking public disorder".

Neymar, Mbappe score as PSG win

WEB DESK

PARIS: Goals from Neymar and Kylian Mbappe helped Paris Saint-Germain stay top of the Ligue 1 table with a 3-0 victory at Toulouse on Wednesday. Christophe Galtier's reigning champions were never seriously threatened by their newly-promoted opponents and remain above Lens and Marseille on goal difference. The fearsome front three of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Mbappe have now scored 18 times between them already this term. "MMN? We can only be satisfied with their performances," said PSG coach Galtier. Toulouse frustrated PSG early in the game, with goalkeeper Maxime Dupe making two smart stops from Mbappe and tipping a Messi shot wide. But the away side did take the lead in the 37th minute, as Neymar raced onto Messi's through ball and slotted into the bottom corner. The Brazilian's ninth goal of the season was initially ruled out for offside, but that decision was overturned after a lengthy VAR review. PSG did not take

long to score again after half-time, as Messi broke clear into the area before laying the ball off for Mbappe to slot home through the legs of Dupe. The capital side eased off later in the second half, with Neymar and Messi both substituted. Summer signing Hugo Ekikite almost grabbed his first goal for the club, but was denied by Dupe, who finished the match with 10 saves. But he was beaten again in the 90th minute when Juan Bernat powered a left-footed strike high into the top corner. Lens, who also have 13 points from five games, continued their fine start with a 5-2 home thrashing of Lorient to move into second place above Marseille on goals scored. Florian Sotoca scored his first goals since an opening weekend hat-trick against Brest with a double, while Wesley Said, Salis Abdul Samed and Lois Openda also found the net. Marseille remained level on points with the top two as Senegalese midfielder Pape Gueye netted the only goal in a 1-0 win over Clermont. They could have stayed in second spot, but Alex-

is Sanchez missed a late penalty. Nice finally claimed their first victory of the campaign as Nicolas Pepe scored a match-winning penalty on his second appearance since joining on loan from Arsenal. Earlier Wednesday, Monaco slumped to a surprise 4-2 home defeat against Troyes. Philippe Clement's Monaco have only mustered five points from five matches so far this term after last weekend's impressive draw at PSG proved to be a false dawn. Guillermo Maripan put Monaco ahead early on before Troyes hit back through Florian Tardieu's 22nd-minute penalty. Maripan was sent off for a second yellow card shortly before half-time to leave Monaco playing with only 10 men for the third time in four league outings. Teenage forward Wilson Odoberot gave the visitors the advantage in first-half stoppage time - the 17-year-old scoring his first Ligue 1 goal after joining the club from PSG last month. Mama Balde extended Troyes' lead less than three minutes after the break with his third goal of the campaign.

Man City sign defender from Dortmund

LONDON: Manchester City have signed Switzerland defender Manuel Akanji on a five-year deal. The 27-year-old joins from Borussia Dortmund, where he has made 158 appearances since January 2018. Akanji has 41 caps for Switzerland and played a key role in their qualification for the World Cup. "I am delighted to be here and can't wait to get started. City have been one of the best teams in Europe over the last few seasons," he said. "They are brilliant to watch, play an exciting brand of football and compete for trophies year in, year out, so coming here feels like the perfect next step in my career. "Pep Guardiola is an exceptional manager and this is an exceptional squad of players, so this is an exciting opportunity for me. "I am really looking forward to testing myself in the Premier League and I will do everything I can to help this club be successful." Akanji, who began his career with FC Basel, links up with former Dortmund team-mate Erling Haaland following his move to City earlier this summer. He is the fifth signing Guardiola has made during this transfer window as City look to win a third successive Premier League title and a first Champions League trophy. - Agencies

Significance of HR and training in War

ETFA KHURSHID MIRZA

Winning a battle requires a multitude of elements. One of the most crucial elements is human resource development. The ultimate goal of training is to succeed in fights and engagements with the least possible loss of life as well as the least expenditure of national resources. Going back in history, in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1965, it was the training that made Pakistan Air Force victorious. If we compare the two, the Indian Air Force (IAF) was three times in size than Pakistan Air Force (PAF). However, PAF pilots, despite being smaller in size, made their name in history. This is because of the highest training standards and human resource development. The Pathankot Air Base attack on September 6 was one of the most successful attacks in the history of air battles because the PAF, despite lacking sophisticated equipment, destroyed 13 enemy aircraft. Jagan Mohan and Samir Chopra in their book "The India-Pakistan Air War of

1965" stated that the Indian Government officially acknowledged that the Indian Air Force had lost around 70 aircraft in the 1965 air battle. Thanks to the PAF leadership's vision, the pilots' mastery of flying, and the highest standards of training. Training, team spirit, and discipline go hand in hand. The father of the nation, during his visit to Royal Air Force Academy in 1948, also emphasized the same. His words "I know also that you are short of aircraft and equipment,....., but aircraft and personnel in any numbers are of little use unless there is a team spirit within the Air Force and a strict sense of discipline prevails. I charge you to remember that only with discipline and self-reliance can the Royal Pakistan Air Force be worthy of Pakistan" are like a guiding principle for Falcons of the PAF. Warfare is constantly evolving and changing. Therefore, military training must also adapt. Both in comprehending how warfare is changing and in modifying training to meet those challenges, it must constantly be forward-looking, inventive, and aggressive. According to Sun Tzu "Water shapes

its course according to the nature of the ground over which it flows; the soldier works out his victory in relation to the foe whom he is facing". Keeping in view the Indian military advancements, particularly in the air force such as purchasing advanced aircraft and other equipment, Pakistan needs to adapt itself as well. Recognizing the need, PAF is updating and modernizing its capabilities to prepare for the challenges of the future. One such example is the purchase of J-10C aircraft and the most recent PL-15 missile technology from China. Concerning the military advancements and developments in emerging technologies, the utilization of developing disruptive technologies is a key component of the modernization of warfare that technology may bring about. In addition to technological innovation, employment tactics are also important. These technologies and how they are applied in upcoming conflicts matter the most because of the changing security environment in the context of India and Pakistan. In this regard, the nation with a stronger employ-

ment plan will survive the competition, both offensively and defensively. The best training, frequent military exercises, and wargames during peacetime all contribute to an excellent employment strategy. In order to prepare its aviators for survival in a crisis, the PAF makes sure they receive the greatest training possible during peacetime. PAF pilots have made a name for themselves in aviation history, and even today, they are working hard to uphold the standards set by their predecessors. Every officer, airman, and cadet in the Air Force put in the unceasing effort and never-ending desire to establish PAF during its formative years and has continued to do so. Everyone witnessed the proof in February 2019 during Balakot strikes episode. The nation is justifiably proud of its Air Force as an invincible shield of the country's airspace since Quaid's aim of establishing the PAF as second to none swiftly came true. EtfaKhurshid Mirza is a Researcher at the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, Pakistan.

Briefs

UK employees face high levels of racism

DNA

LONDON: UK employees from ethnic minority backgrounds face high levels of racial discrimination in the workplace, forcing many to quit, a new survey has found. The survey, conducted by the Trades Union Congress (TUC), found that over 120,000 Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) workers across the UK left their jobs due to racism in their respective workplaces. "This report lifts the lid on racism in UK workplaces. It shines a light on the enormous scale of structural and institutional discrimination BME workers face," TUC Secretary General Francis O'Grady said. "This report must be a wake-up call. Ministers need to change the law so that employers are responsible for protecting their workers and preventing racism at work," O'Grady added. According to the TUC, one in four (27%) BME workers experienced racist jokes at work in the last five years. The same number of people were made to feel uncomfortable at work due to people using stereotypes or commenting on their appearance. One in five (21%) workers said they had racist remarks directed at them or made in their presence and were bullied or harassed at work due to their appearances.

2,000 Chinese troops join Russian drills

DNA

MOSCOW: Over 2,000 Chinese troops joined its strongest partner Russia in this year's Vostok drills that kicked off in the Far Eastern Military District of Siberia and in water areas and coastal zones of the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk, China's state-run media reported on Thursday. China sent army, navy and air force units under the Northern Theater Command, with more than 2,000 troops, to participate in the military drills Vostok 2022 (East 2022) that began on Wednesday in Russia, the Global Times daily reported. According to China's Ambassador to Russia Zhang Hanhui, military cooperation between Beijing and Moscow is not aimed at any other country. "But will also not fall prey to external factors," the newspaper quoted Zhang as saying. Despite Russia's war in Ukraine, major military drills have begun. He said the two countries have previously organized joint military exercises, and joint patrols, and ties are deepening as a result of reciprocal cross-deployment of troops on a series of military drills. "Among others, with the aim of deepening defense and security exchanges, combating regional terrorism, and safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity," he added.

Swedish poll puts spotlight on racism

DNA

LONDON: When a masked man with a sword killed a teaching assistant and a pupil at a school in Sweden several years ago in a racially motivated attack, the whole world was shocked that this could happen in a country known for its welcoming attitude towards immigrants. This year's election, however, is painting a different picture, as all political parties in their campaigning are fashioning a "racist, anti-immigrant" narrative in a country where, according to recent polls, the right-wing populist Sweden Democrats are set to become the second largest party in the Swedish parliament, or Riksdag. Since the 1990s, racism and discrimination have become institutionalized in the country and are being reinforced in this year's election as "almost all parties in Sweden, in one way or another, have racist propaganda about migrants and marginalized people being the problem for Sweden," said Masoud Kamali, an author and one of the world's leading sociologists who is professor of sociology and social work at Mid Sweden University.

UN report slams China for crimes in Xinjiang

China has vigorously denied any abuses in Xinjiang and issued a 131-page response to the UN report, which Beijing's mission in Geneva described as a "farce" planned by the US, Western nations and anti-China forces based on false information and the assumption of guilt

AGENCIES

GENEVA: China's "arbitrary and discriminatory detention" of Uyghurs and other Muslims in its Xinjiang region may constitute crimes against humanity, the outgoing UN human rights chief said in a long-awaited report on Wednesday (31 August). UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, who has faced criticism from some diplomats and rights groups for being too soft on China, released the report just minutes before her four-year term ended. She visited China in May. The UN Human Rights Office said in its 48-page report that "serious human rights violations have been committed" in Xinjiang "in the context of the government's application of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism strategies". "The extent of

arbitrary and discriminatory detention of members of Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim groups ... may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity," the UN office said. She recommended the Chinese government take prompt steps to release all those detained in training centres, prisons or detention facilities. "There are credible indications of violations of reproductive rights through the coercive enforcement of family planning policies since 2017," the office said. It added that a lack of government data "makes it difficult to draw conclusions on the full extent of current enforcement of these policies and associated violations of reproductive rights." Rights groups accuse Beijing of abuses against Uyghurs, a mainly Muslim ethnic minority that numbers around 10

million in the western region of Xinjiang, including the mass use of forced labour in internment camps. The United States has accused China of genocide. China has vigorously denied any abuses in Xinjiang and issued a 131-page response to the UN report, which Beijing's mission in Geneva described as a "farce" planned by the United States, Western nations and anti-China forces based on false information and the assumption of guilt. Speaking ahead of the report's release, China's ambassador to the United Nations in New York, Zhang Jun, said Beijing had repeatedly voiced opposition to it. He said the UN human rights chief should not interfere in China's internal affairs. "We all know, so well, that the so-called Xinjiang issue is a completely fabricated lie out of political motivations

and its purpose definitely is to undermine China's stability and to obstruct China's development," Zhang told reporters on Wednesday. "We do not think it will produce any good to anyone; it simply undermines the co-operation between the United Nations and a member state," he said. Bachelet said her report took "considerable work and review" and wanted to deal with input from the Chinese government last week in the spirit of constructive dialogue. "Dialogue and engagement are about trying to build trust - incrementally - even when it seems unlikely. My own experience in Chile showed me the value of this approach," she said. "To be perfectly honest, the politicisation of these serious human rights issues by some States did not help," she added. "They made the

task more difficult, they made the engagement more difficult, and they made the trust-building and the ability to really have an impact on the ground more difficult," Dilxat Raxit of the World Uyghur Congress, an international organisation of exiled Uyghur groups, said the report confirmed "solid evidence of atrocities" against Uyghurs but wished it had gone further. "I regret that the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights did not characterise these extreme atrocities in China as genocide," he told Reuters in an email. Reuters reported last month that China had asked Bachelet to bury the report, according to a Chinese letter confirmed by diplomats. Bachelet confirmed last week having received the letter which she said was signed by about 40 other states, adding her

office would not respond to such pressure. Bachelet, 70, plans to return to Chile to retire. No successor has been appointed yet. "Frankly, to issue the report as she's walking out the door minimises the report," Kenneth Roth at Human Rights Watch told Reuters before it was released. "By issuing and running, she is giving up, she's not doing anything with it, (she is) just kind of dropping it into the bin and leaving the office." Still, Human Rights Watch described the report as groundbreaking. "Victims and their families whom the Chinese government has long vilified have at long last seen their persecution recognised and can now look to the UN and its member states for action to hold those responsible accountable," said John Fisher, its global advocacy deputy director.

Wife of Malaysia's ex-leader, convicted of corruption

KUALA LUMPUR: Rosmah Mansor, the wife of Malaysia's ex-premier Najib Razak, was found guilty of graft Thursday, just over a week after her husband began serving a 12-year jail term. "The accused is found guilty of all three charges," High Court Judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan said as Rosmah sat quietly in the dock. The judge added that her defence was "bare denial and unsubstantiated". The Kuala Lumpur court began mitigation on Thursday afternoon, ahead of sentencing. Even after that, Rosmah will not go straight to jail, pending what could be a lengthy appeals process. Prosecutors said Rosmah had sought a 187.5 million-ringgit (\$41.8 million) bribe and received 6.5 million ringgit for helping a company secure a solar power project for rural schools in the Malaysian part of Borneo during her husband's rule. She still faces 17 other charges involving tax evasion and money laundering. The 70-year-old has long been reviled by Malaysians for her reportedly vast collection of designer handbags, clothing and jewellery, acquired on jet-set overseas shopping trips. Born the only child of two teachers in the country's south, Rosmah rose to become one of Malaysia's most influential people. She made headlines a decade ago for setting up a new unit under the prime minister's office known as "FLOM", an acronym for First Lady of Malaysia. - APP

Lufthansa pilots to strike today

BERLIN: German air carrier Lufthansa's pilots will go on a 24-hour strike on today (Friday) over an ongoing pay dispute with the company. The pilots' union Vereinigung Cockpit (VC) said Thursday that the latest talks with the management have failed to make any headway. "Lufthansa must present a significantly improved offer," negotiator Marcel Groels said in a statement, adding that the positions of the management and the union were "too far apart" at the moment. He said the collective bargaining commission is demanding compensation for the loss of real wages and internationally competitive remuneration structure in all occupational groups. Friday's strike will begin at 00:01 a.m. local time and end at 23:59 p.m. according to the union, and will affect both passenger and cargo flights. In a separate statement, Lufthansa said it cancelled almost all flights to and from Frankfurt and Munich for Friday as pilots go on a strike. The airline is canceling 800 flights which will affect 130,000 passengers, it said, adding that Lufthansa is working to return its flight operations to a normal status as quickly as possible. - APP

Pak pavilion tops JD Asia's e-com platform

BEIJING: China's giant e-commerce platform JD.com (JD) has more than 60 countries' national pavilions including Pakistan and leverages a network of about 1400 warehouses covering more than 25 million square meters plus 80 bonded warehouses and overseas warehouses, making it Asia's top online business platform. Zhao Ping, Vice President of the Academy of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade said that JD was helping the international supply chain connect the largest domestic supply chain and JD's employees were becoming more technology-driven and management-driven. "We see there is a perfect match, and we forecast the coexistence of humans and robots in the society in the future," she added. She further said that the development of China's supply chain and the integration of digital technology would help developing countries benefit from these supply chain systems, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. Liu Hui, Director of Consumption and Industry Development Research Institute of JD.com said that JD had a pathway for logistics parks in over 200 countries and regions worldwide. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of the Netherlands Henny de Vries met Chief of Protocol Ali Haider Altaf at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to present copies of her credentials. They also discussed positive future collaboration. - DNA

India 'actively' promoting terrorism in Pak

NEW YORK: Pakistan Wednesday told a UN Security Council Arria-Formula meeting that India was "actively" sponsoring terrorism against it, but warned that Islamabad would continue to counter those terrorist threats effectively. Speaking in a debate on 'Threats to International Peace and Security caused by Transnational Activities of Terrorist Groups', Pakistani delegate Muhammad Jawad Ajmal said that the "country concerned" - without naming India - had also politicized all international forums at the multilateral level to carry out a "venomous and malicious campaign" against its adversaries. The Council's Arria-Formula meeting was convened by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kenya. The format is named after a former Venezuelan Ambassador to the UN, Diego Arria. It is a consultation process which affords members of the Security Council the opportunity to hear persons in an informal setting. Pakistan, he said, was one of the biggest victims of terrorism, having sacrificed more than 80,000 lives and sustained enormous damage to fight and defeat the scourge. "Let there be no doubt that we will continue to effectively counter these attempts as we have done in the past," Ajmal, a first secretary at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, told the meeting. He said the "same country" had no regard for human life, suffering and fundamental freedoms. - APP

Baku appreciates Michel's role in peace process

BAKU: Azerbaijan highly appreciates the role of President of the European Council Charles Michel in the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Presidential Aide Hikmat Hajiyev said on Twitter. "We highly value the role of President Charles Michel and his team to facilitate bilateral peace treaty talks and inter-state normalization between Armenia and Azerbaijan. President Ilham Aliyev on multiple occasions reiterated the position of Azerbaijan in this regard," Hajiyev wrote. The fourth Brussels meeting between President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan took place on August 31 and was under the auspices of EU Council President Charles Michel. The third Brussels meeting took place between the leaders



at the initiative of President of the European Council Charles Michel on May 22. The sides focused on the situation in the South Caucasus and the development of EU relations with both countries as well as the broader region. Meanwhile, the second meeting between the Azerbaijani and

Armenian border delimitation commissions led by Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev and his Armenian counterpart Mher Grigoryan took place in Moscow on August 30, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said. The first such meeting between Azerbaijan and Armenia occurred on May 24, 2022. The parties confirmed their willingness to cooperate on delimitation and other matters within the commission's framework. The conference also discussed arranging the joint operations of the commission's organizational and procedural difficulties. On May 23, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev signed decrees on the creation of border delimitation and security commissions. - DNA

EU Parliament chief warns of mass migration

"My long-term concern is that logistical challenges we have in transporting cereals, food, supplies, fertilisers, among others, to African countries will continue to be a big challenge," said EU Parliament chief

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: The food crisis in Africa could lead to "mass movements" of migrants coming to the EU, European Parliament chief Roberta Metsola told in an interview ahead of her two-day trip to Portugal, adding that political instability across the bloc is also growing due to "populist rhetoric". "My long-term concern is that the logistical challenges we have in transporting cereals, food, supplies, fertilisers, among others, to African countries will continue to be a big challenge," said the EU Parliament chief. This "means it will not only

be an energy crisis, but also a hunger crisis, a food crisis" in Africa, she said, arguing that the EU needs to "be prepared for there to be mass movements of people" to the EU area. "We also need to understand and explain to our people and our population that we are entering a period of extreme adversity, but it is not just us, it is at a global level," stressed Metsola, recalling the "many crises" like the energy and rising price crises the EU faces. The EU has taken in thousands of Ukrainians through temporary protection, some of whom have already returned to their country. However, "we are not being fast enough in addressing



what is really around the corner, and a very harsh winter will hit everyone in terms of growing crises", notes Metsola, arguing that it is necessary to "avoid populist rhetoric that immediately starts to bring political instability". At a time when several EU countries, like Italy, are preparing to head to the polls, the leader of the European assembly wants to "analyse the elections (that will take place) in the coming weeks and months and what that will produce". "There will definitely be political parties on the fringes that will take advantage and use [issues like migration] to, let's say, capitalise on growing frustration," so we need to "make

sure that we avoid that instability, which might be inevitable," Metsola added. "We saw in France, for example, people who felt marginalised, who were not being taken into account, and that is a job for Parliament, and that is my goal for the next two years," she said. Metsola also called for a "constructive pro-European centre" to be set up in the coming months. "The interest of malign actors in the world, not only Russia but others, is to disrupt and therefore, we have to have political stability and the capacity to respond to challenges," she said, noting that this includes "legislating effectively and not getting bogged down".

Briefs

Three-time MPA joins PTI bandwagon

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former provincial minister Chaudhry Ejaz Shafi called on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan here on Thursday and formally announced joining the PTI along with his colleagues. PTI Chairman welcomed Chaudhry Ejaz Shafi and his associates to join PTI. Ejaz Shafi expressed complete confidence in the leadership of Imran Khan and the manifesto of PTI, adding that he fully supported PTI Chairman's struggle for real freedom independence. He vowed that they would work tirelessly to make PTI formidable political force in Rahim Yar Khan. Ejaz Shafi stated that the fair and transparent elections was the only way forward to get the country out of the prevailing untold crises being faced by the country.

Russian Lukoil chief dies in 'fall from window'

DNA

MOSCOW: The chairman of Russia's Lukoil oil giant, Ravil Maganov, has died after falling from a hospital window in Moscow, reports say. The company confirmed his death but said only that Maganov, 67, had "passed away following a severe illness". Russian media said he was being treated at Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital and died of his injuries. Maganov is the latest of a number of high-profile business executives to die in mysterious circumstances. Investigating authorities said they were working at the scene to establish how he died. Tass news agency quoted sources saying he had fallen out of a sixth-floor window early on Thursday morning, adding later that he had taken his own life.

ECP directs Punjab govt to ensure LG polls

DNA

ISLAMABAD, SEP 01 (DNA) - The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday directed the Punjab government to ensure the holding of local body elections immediately. A meeting of the ECP was held under the chairmanship of Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, during which the Punjab Chief Secretary and other officials participated. In the meeting, it was discussed that by not conducting local body elections on time, the constitution and orders of the Supreme Court are being violated. Sources privy to the matter said that the ECP has asked the Punjab government for the rules and maps of the local bodies' law.

Kazakh leader says plans to call snap presidential vote

Kazakhstan in June voted in favour of changes to the constitution that Tokayev described as a shift from "super-presidential" rule. Prior to January's crisis, Tokayev was widely seen as ruling in the shadow of Nazarbayev and his super-rich relatives

NURSULTAN: Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev Thursday said that he planned to call a snap presidential election this autumn and would reduce the presidency to one seven-year term. In an address to the Central Asian country's parliament, Tokayev also proposed holding snap parliamentary elections in the first half of 2023, after his country underwent a political crisis earlier this year that left more than 200 people dead. "I propose that we hold early presidential elections in the autumn of 2022," Tokayev said, saying measures were needed to "strengthen our statehood" and "maintain

the momentum of reforms". A presidential vote had been due in Kazakhstan in 2024 and parliamentary elections in 2025. Tokayev said he would move the parliamentary vote forward after constitutional changes earlier this year set "completely new standards for a political system with fair and open rules of the game". The term of the presidency would meanwhile be limited to one term of seven years, he said, from the current two five-year terms. "For me, the interests of the state are above all. Therefore, I am ready to go to early presidential elections, even despite the reduction of my term in

office," Tokayev said. January's unrest roiled energy-rich Kazakhstan, one of the most stable of the Central Asian countries that gained independence with the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. Kazakhstan in June voted in favour of changes to the constitution that Tokayev described as a shift from "super-presidential" rule. Prior to January's crisis, Tokayev was widely seen as ruling in the shadow of Nazarbayev and his super-rich relatives. Even after stepping down as president, Nazarbayev retained the constitutional title of "Elbasy", or "Leader of the Nation" - a role that afforded him influence over policymak-

ing regardless of his formal position. The new constitution does not acknowledge this status, while another amendment prevents relatives of the president from holding government positions. Both former and current presidents are allies of neighbouring Russia, and the arrival of troops from a Moscow-led security bloc bolstered Tokayev's control over the situation in January. However there have been tensions between Russia and Kazakhstan since the launch of Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine, with the Central Asian country seeking to balance ties with the West and ally Moscow. - APP

Clashes in Iraq's Basra among rivals cause casualties

DNA

BASRA: The skirmishes were the latest violence to hit the country in a political crisis that pits followers of the powerful cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr against mostly Iran-aligned parties and paramilitary groups BAGHDAD: Four people were killed in clashes among rival Shiite Muslim militants in the southern Iraqi city of Basra that took place overnight and on Thursday morning, local security officials said. It was the latest violence to hit the country in a political crisis that pits followers of the powerful Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr against mostly Iran-aligned parties and paramilitary groups. The security officials said the clashes took place in the center of Basra, Iraq's main oil-producing hub. Two of those killed were members of Sadr's Peace Brigades militia, they said. Violence re-erupted in Iraq this week as armed supporters of Sadr fought with security forces and Iran-aligned gunmen in Baghdad in the fiercest street battles the capital has seen for years. An intractable political deadlock between the two rival Shiite camps has left Iraq without a government since an October election. It has also deepened dysfunction and instability as Iraqis struggle to move on from decades of war, sanctions, civil strife and endemic corruption.

Swiss launch energy conservation campaign

DNA

BERN: The Swiss government launched a voluntary campaign to urge consumers and businesses to conserve energy as shortages of gas and power loom this winter that could lead to rationing in a worst-case scenario. More than 40 partners from the public and private sector are backing the drive with the motto "Energy is scarce. Let's not waste it", the government said. "The aim is for as many people as possible to participate voluntarily - and to help prevent Switzerland from getting into a shortage situation in the first place," it said. The campaign is scheduled to last until April and features tips on how to cut demand, for instance by turning down thermostats, using less hot water, and turning off appliances and lighting when not in use.



ISLAMABAD: Humanitarian assistance from Uzbekistan for flood victims being unloaded. - DNA

Humanitarian Aid from Uzbekistan arrives in Pak

ISLAMABAD: First humanitarian assistance flight from Uzbekistan arrived in Islamabad last night. It was received at Islamabad International Airport by Minister of Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch along with officers from Ministry of Foreign Affairs & National Disaster Management Authority. The relief assistance from Uzbekistan is welcomed with warmth and gratitude. Almost 40 tons of cargo will be delivered to Pakistan by military air transport. The cargo includes vegetable oil, flour, rice, canned meat, confectionery and pasta, as well as warm blankets and other goods. The unprecedented monsoon rains and floods in Pakistan over the past few weeks have affected more than 30 million people. The provinces of Balochistan and Sindh in the west and south of the country were hit hardest. Hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless. According to media reports, Pakistan appealed to the international community for assistance. More than 1,000 people died as a result of heavy rains and the massive floods they caused. - DNA

40 trucks of Iranian onions, tomatoes reach Taftan

According to government officials, onions and tomatoes will arrive in the country on a daily basis for now. Currently, the cost of onions and tomatoes is around Rs300 per kilo

ISLAMABAD: At least 40 trucks of onions and tomatoes reached Balochistan's Taftan from Iran on Thursday. The country witnessed a significant increase in the price of the aforementioned vegetables due to the recent monsoon rains and floods that destroyed crop yields through the entire country. While the means of communication were also badly affected, there were severe difficulties in the delivery of vegetables and other essential items. Due to the increased prices of onions and tomatoes, the government has decided to abolish duty on these vegetables for 90 days. According to government officials, onions and tomatoes will arrive in the country on a daily basis for now. Currently, the cost of onions and tomatoes is around Rs300 per kilo. Earlier, the government had withdrawn sales tax on the import of onions and tomatoes to help reduce prices of these two vegetables after floods destroyed crops on thousands of acres. The Federal Board of Revenue on Thursday issued a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) to withdraw sales tax on the import of onions (PCT heading 0703.1000) and tomatoes (PCT heading 0702.0000). PCT stands for Pakistan Customs Tariff codes. The exemption has been granted until December 31, 2022. Onions and tomatoes are vital ingredients for most of the dishes in Pakistani cuisine. Their prices soared after the floods and tomatoes now cost as much as Rs500 per kilogram in major urban centers - around sixfold higher than the prices before the floods. All Pakistan Fruit & Vegetable Exporters, Importers & Merchants Association (PFVA) had recently urged the government to remove taxes and duties on the two vegetables. - DNA

Bilawal appreciates aid from China as 'timely and useful'

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has appreciated the aid from China amid the destructive flashfloods in the country as "timely and useful". The Foreign Minister accompanied diplomats on a flight over the flooded regions, which Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman earlier described as "one third (33 percent) of the country." According to Gwadar Pro, FM Bilawal acknowledged that the international response had been encouraging. "Among the deliveries, four Chinese planes have deliv-

ered a total of 3,000 tents and other relief goods," he mentioned. The FM remarked that China had acted fast and sent useful aid on time. He also thanked other countries for their contribution. Global aid has already started arriving in Pakistan as the scale of flood devastation unfolds, with planes carrying tents, food and medicines arriving from China, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, stated the Pakistan Foreign Office on Wednesday. International aid agencies have asked for the easing of curbs on imports of food from India, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said. Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman told

a news conference it will take a long time to bring the situation under control. "There is a severe issue of clean drinking water in the flooded areas. Diseases are spreading," she warned. Army helicopters have been busy plucking stranded families from rooftops and patches of dry land and dropping food in inaccessible areas, mainly in northern and southwestern Pakistan. Colossal volumes of water are pouring into the Indus River, spilling out along its length and leaving vast tracks of land submerged. Pakistan received nearly 190% more rain than the 30-year average in the quarter

through August this year, totalling 390.7 mm (15.38 inches). Sindh province in the south, with a population of 50 million, was the hardest hit, getting 466% more rain than the 30-year average. Resulting flash floods have swept away homes, businesses, infrastructure and crops. The government says 33 million people, or 15% of the 220 million-strong South Asian nation, have been affected. The floods have washed away standing and stored crops that officials say will likely lead to a food shortage, with prices of edible items shooting up in a country already suffering from 24.9% inflation.

China creates JWG with Pak on disaster relief

DNA

BEIJING: China will continue to offer assistance to Pakistan and the China's International Department Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) has established a Joint Working Group (JWG) with Pakistani side on implementing follow up cooperation with regard to emergency disaster relief, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin said on Thursday. "Going forward, we will continue to offer assistance and China's International Department Cooperation Agency has established a joint working group with the Pakistani side on implementing follow up cooperation with regard to emergency disaster relief," he said during his regular briefing while updating on China's assistance to Pakistan in the flood rescue and rehabilitation efforts. He informed that the Chinese localities were also working actively to offer sympathy and support to Pakistan. A friend in need is a friend indeed. "We believe that Pakistani people will overcome the floods and our brotherly friendship will be further elevated," he added. The spokesperson said that since, Pakistan was hit by the floods, China had been following and closely look-

ing at the situation on the ground and acted promptly to offer assistance. "The foreign ministry spokesperson already released information on August 29," he added. On same day, President Xi Jinping sent a message to President Dr. Arif Alvi extending sympathy for the severe floods, and said that as all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad friends, China-Pakistan had long stood together with mutual assistance. "China will continue to offer much needed assistance to Pakistan and support its disaster relief efforts," he added. Premier Li Keqiang also sent a message of sympathy to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Wang Wenbin informed that the Chinese government had been actively working to implement the pledged assistance while the pledged emergency cash assistance had been delivered. "The first batch of tents has been delivered by China Air Force Y-20 to Pakistan on August the 30th and the 31st and the rest will arrive soon," he added. He pointed out in particular that the first batch of tents came from Sichuan in China and the pilot who transported the relief goods to Pakistan was also from Sichuan and was in Wenchen when the earthquake struck. The pilot talked about the Pakistani brothers and the assistance to China back in 2008.



Monal Foundation
Current Progress: 22 to 29 Aug 2022
Total Donation Received: Rs. 23 Million
Tents 650 (Donated)
Rashan Bags 25 Kg 2450 (Donated)
We are presently working in Khairpur, Kashmore, Fazilpur, Sukkur, Swat, D.I Khan and Tank.

For Contributions
Account Title: Monal Foundation
Account Number: 0010032981570018
Branch Code: 0702
IBAN: PK 55 ABPA
0010032981570018
Bank: Allied Bank Limited
Blue Area Islamabad

For information contact us at 051-111-777-778, 0310 8150122.