



# Islamabad POST

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**Türkiye will help ensure Balkans' gas needs: FM**

Detailed News On Page-06

**'PKNC to help address malnutrition'**

Detailed News On Page-02



**Nadal overcomes freak injury at US Open**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Briefs**

**British envoy calls on Army Chief**

STAFF REPORT



**RAWALPINDI:** Doctor Christian Turner, British High Commissioner to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, today. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and regional security situation including bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed. The visiting dignitary expressed his grief over the devastation caused by unprecedented floods in Pakistan and offered sincere condolence to the families of the victims. He also offered UK's support to the people of Pakistan at this hour of need. The dignitary appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional stability and also pledged to play his role enhancing cooperation with Pakistan at all levels. COAS thanked for the UK's support and reiterated that assistance from our global partners shall be vital in relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected.

**Miftah hints at early exit**

DNA



**KARACHI:** With the country's economy teetering amid record-high inflation, Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail has hinted at his early exit, saying that although the coalition government has 13 months, he may not have that much time. In his address during an event at Karachi's Institute of Business Administration (IBA), the finance minister spoke at length about politics, national growth strategy, tax collection, increasing population and other important issues hampering economic stabilisation. "The govt has 13 months but I may not have that much time," said Ismail. His statement comes in the backdrop of dissatisfaction within PMLN over the Shahbaz govt's policies. His statement comes in the backdrop of dissatisfaction within PML-N over the Shahbaz Sharif government's policies.

**Holiday Notice**

The office of Daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on the eve of Ashura on August 08 and 09 therefore there will be no newspaper on August 09 and 10. - Editor

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## Inflation at highest ever level

SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 45.50pc

IRSHAD ALI/DNA

**ISLAMABAD:** The Sensitive price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on September 1st for the combined consumption group, witnessed an increase of 1.31 percent as compared to the previous week. The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 222.85 points against 219.97 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said Friday. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 45.50 percent. The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16=100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The Sensitive Price Indicator for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732 witnessed 1.63 percent increase and went up from 225.48 points in last week to 229.15 points during the week under review. Meanwhile, the SPI for the consumption groups

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**High prices can trigger protests, warns IMF**

NEWS DESK

**WASHINGTON:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned against protests and instability in Pakistan amid rising inflation – which just hit a 47-year-high in August. Pakistan's inflation measured by the consumer price index (CPI) has hit a 47-year high, accelerating to 27.3% in August 2022, the level last seen in May 1975. The full impact of massive flooding on the prices of food items and other commodities is yet to come. "High food and fuel prices could prompt social protest and instability," the IMF said, in an executive summary of the seventh and

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## Imran hints at long march

Former Prime Minister slams the incumbent government over skyrocketing inflation



YOUSAF BHUTTA/DNA

**GUJRAT:** Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan has hinted at another long march towards Islamabad if the coalition

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**'Khan hell-bent on spreading anarchy'**

IRSHAD ALI

**ISLAMABAD,** Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday regretted Imran Khan's "politics of polarisation and anarchy" amid flash floods which had wreaked havoc in different parts of the country. "Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are under water, but Imran Khan

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**NATIONAL DAY OF VIETNAM**

**ISLAMABAD:** Ambassador of Vietnam Nguyen Tien Phong hosted a reception to celebrate the 77th Anniversary of the National Day of Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zara Mumtaz Baloch was the chief guest. All ASEAN ambassadors shared the stage with the chief guest and host to celebrate the event in a befitting manner. - DNA

**PM thanks Turkish govt, people for support**

SHUJAAT HAMZA

**ISLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday thanked the government and people of Türkiye for extending timely support to the flood-stricken people of Pakistan, manifesting the fraternal ties and brotherhood between the two countries. Headed by Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu the delegation is visiting Pakistan to express strong feelings of condolence and solidarity of the government and people of Türkiye with the flood-affected people of Pakistan. Besides the Turkish interior minister, the delegation comprised Turkish Minister for Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change Murat Kurum, Chairman of Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management (AFAD), Director General for Turkish Low-Cost Housing Agency (TOKI) and others. The prime minister welcomed the Turkish delegation and thanked them on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan for their warm gesture. He expressed his gratitude to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his phone call to offer sympathies and condolences over the human and material losses due to the floods and reaffirm Türkiye's commitment to extend all possible support and dealing with this climate-induced calamity. He said soon after President Erdogan's call, Türkiye sent humanitarian relief assistance to Pakistan in

Continued on Page 06

## PM announces Rs 100mn for GB's Bobar village

Prime Minister orders compensation of Rs 1mn each for the families

STAFF REPORT

**ISLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday announced Rs 100 million for the rehabilitation of Bobar village in Gilgit's Ghizar district badly affected by the flash floods. The prime minister, during his visit to the village, was told in a briefing that the floods had killed 17 people and damaged 249 houses in the village. Moreover, 794 animals and several orchards were also washed away during the calamity. The prime minister ordered the authorities concerned to pay compensation of Rs 1 million each for the families who had lost their dear ones in the

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**Death toll from devastating floods crosses 1,200**

NAZIR SIYAL

**KARACHI:** The water level in Dadu continued to rise on Friday as the overall death toll from the devastating floods, which have affected millions across the country, crossed 1,200. The increase in water levels in Dadu

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## Pak thrash Hong Kong to qualify for Super 4s

SPORTS DESK

**SHARJAH:** A masterclass from Pakistan on a slow-turning wicket helped them rout Hong Kong to secure a place in the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup 2022. Pakistan had set a 194-run target for Hong Kong in a must-win game for both teams to stay in the tournament. However, a bowling masterclass from Pakistan ensured that Hong Kong were dismissed for a meagre 38 runs, ensuring a win for the Men in Green by 155

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# Are militants re-grouping in Swat, other areas?

SHAMIM SHAHID

**PESHAWAR:** Since second week of August, militants mostly associated with banned Tehrik Taliban Pakistan are making announcements regarding resuming of their activities in scattered areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. First these militants emerged in three different places of Matta Swat whereas they made hostages two high ranking officers of Army and one of Police force for over 20 hours. Prior to this attempt, the militants (Unknown) opened indiscriminate firing against vehicle of MPA at Lower Dir. The MPA himself injured seriously while four others were killed in attack. In current week, first the militants (banned TTP) through a pamphlet informed people in Hangu and Aurakzai districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa about arrival and reactivating. Later they circulated a similar leaflet at Dara Adam Khan. And on the same day from 30 to 35 armed militants landed at Amazai area of Buner District where they remained till Wednesday night. Reportedly these militants reached in Buner from adjacent TorGhar district. Advisor to Chief Minister Mahmud Khan said, "our ceasefire agreement with banned TTP is intact and they are not involved in recent incidents occurred either in Swat and Lower Dir or appeared in Buner etc. He said that there are several groups and factions of militants and some of them are against of peace agreement, therefore they are

involved in such violent and terror acts. He believes that certain elements that are against ceasefire and negotiations are engaged in carrying out such subversive activities. However, security forces are on high alert throughout the province. The Pakistan Institute for Conflict Studies in a report revealed that during August at least 18 personnel of security forces and 37 civilians were killed and 55 included nine personnel injured in 31 terror acts/attacks throughout the country in August

## Top cleric killed in mosque blast in Afghanistan's Herat

**HERAT:** A leading pro-Taliban cleric is among 18 people killed in a blast outside a mosque in the Afghan city of Herat. Mujib Rahman Ansari died alongside his brother, members of his security detail and civilians gathered for prayers in a suspected suicide blast, officials say. It is not yet clear who is behind the attack, which the Taliban denounced as "sinister" and "cowardly". The killing is the latest in a string of assassinations of prominent pro-Taliban figures in the country. According to police, Ansari was arriving at Gazargah mosque to lead Friday noon prayers when a suicide bomb-

2022 last. Whereas 34 persons including both civilians and personnel were killed and 46 injured in violent acts during July 2022. It reported 8 per cent decrease in violence acts in August compare to July 2022 but the number of casualties in August remained too high. There are also reports and speculations of "militants are regrouping" in the wake of changing battling and strategic scenario in neighboring Afghanistan. On one hand, the US led allied countries

er kissed the cleric's hand and detonated an explosive device. Unverified images on social media appear to show a number of bloodied corpses lying amid a scene of devastation outside the mosque compound in the western Afghan city. Local officials say at least 23 people were wounded in the attack, but local reports suggest the total casualty figure could be significantly higher. "Unfortunately, the country's popular religious scholar Mawlawi Mujib Rahman Ansari has been martyred in a cowardly attack during the Friday prayers in Herat," a Taliban spokesman tweeted. - Agencies

are building up economic and other logistic pressure against Taliban regime and on the other, the anti-Taliban elements-mostly remained occupants of political offices 2001-2021, are also discussing ways and means for toppling of Kabul regime. No one can neglect the fact that Pakistan's religious seminaries are playing a role in Afghanistan conflict since mid of previous 70's. For the purpose, the fortune seekers have established scores of hard line religious groups and factions. All these groups, mostly in links with Pakistan and other countries secret agencies had also established roots in Afghanistan and are in links with likeminded fellows associated with the Tehrik Taliban Afghanistan, banned TTP,

## Afghan Taliban forces kill IS operative in Farah

**MADRID:** Afghan security forces have stormed a hideout of Daesh or Islamic State (IS) out in the western Farah province, killing an operative, reported the state-run Bakhtar news agency on Friday. An IS member was killed and a large amount of ammunition was seized from his hideout during an operation conducted by intelligence forces in Farah on Thursday, according to the report. No security forces members were

harmed during the operation, the media outlet said, without providing more details. In the meantime, the private television channel Tolonevs has reported that the security forces had killed a shadow governor of Daesh group for Farah province and arrested three others very recently. The Taliban-run administration said it would not allow any group to use Afghanistan's soil against any other country. - Agencies

# Imran Khan very dangerous for thugs: Farrukh

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Secretary Information Farrukh Habib blasted the imported government for plunging the country neck-deep into crises and said that PTI Chairman Imran Khan was very dangerous for thugs and looters imposed on the country through foreign



backed conspiracy. In a statement issued from PTI Central Media Department (CMD) here on Friday, Farrukh Habib stated that all the criminals in the imported government think day and night how to remove Imran Khan from the hearts and minds of the people. Lashing out at the imported Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, he said that PDM government's propaganda brigade servant knew nothing except badmouthing. Farrukh Habib said that this crimi-

nal group has ruined the lives of the people, as they destroyed the country economically, which was evident from record 45 percent upsurge in inflation, leading to the closure of factories, rendering large number of people jobless amid no sign of investment. He said that if the imported rulers did not have the courage to face the public because they would face wrath of the people who were crushed under skyrocketing inflation. Farrukh Habib reminded that Imran Khan and PTI were doing their best for the rehabilitation and relief of the flood victims but he was doing all these for photo shoots like Shohbaz Sharif and fake Maryam Safdar. He stated that flood warning was issued two and a half months ago, but the imported government was busy in cracking down on critics, political opponents and journalists.

Farrukh Habib said that due to the incompetence, inefficiency and ruthlessness of the imported government, the floods unleashed devastation across the country. He noted that the most corrupt partner of the imported government has been in power in Sindh since long and the people of the province were drowning in the floods. Farrukh Habib said that callousness of the rulers could be judged from the fact that on one hand the country was suffering from calamity like floods

and on the other the government was committing economic murder of the flood-stricken people by increasing electricity and fuel prices. He went on to say that the imported persons imposed on the country through foreign conspiracy were a real security threat to the country, adding that Imran Khan was the only unifying force in the country as he could only unite the nation. He stated the people's lives could only be saved to rid the country of these looters and plunderers, adding that the imported government should announce the elections and do some mercy on the people of the country. Farrukh Habib jibed that everyone saw the foreign funding Imran Khan being received in the telethon for the flood victims, saying that Pakistanis around the world trust on his truthfulness and honesty, as no one gave money to these thieves and robbers rather they faced humiliation everywhere in and outside the country. He stated that the official data showed that economy of Pakistan was booming during PTI government; however, the imported government reversed the hard-gained within short span of time. Farrukh Habib made it clear that Imran Khan would never accept these thieves come what may, adding that instead of utilizing their energy to harm Imran Khan, they should pay attention to the plight of the people. He stated that people rejected PDM's corrupt gang and they stood by Imran Khan in his struggle to achieve the real independence.



FAISALABAD: Korean ambassador, Suh Sangpyo along with UAF VC Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmed Khan, KOICA Country Head Je Ho Yeon, STZA Executive Director Amir Salemi, Food, Nutrition and Home Sciences Dean Dr Masood Sadiq Butt and other notables performed the groundbreaking of the building of PKNC - DNA

## PKNC to help address malnutrition issue: Envoy

NEWS DESK

FAISALABAD: Korean Ambassador to Pakistan Suh Sangpyo said on Friday that Pak Korea Nutrition Centre (PKNC), established at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), in collaboration with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), is a great step to address the issue of malnutrition with a special focus on mothers and children. He along with UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmed Khan, KOICA Country Head Je Ho Yeon, Special Technology Zone Authority Executive Director Amir Salemi, Food, Nutrition and Home Sciences Dean Dr Masood Sadiq Butt and other notables performed the groundbreaking of the building of PKNC. He said that there was deep friendship between the Republic of Korea and Pakistan, and in this connection KOICA was taking vigorous measures to further strengthen these relations. He said that the UAF was one of the most important universities of Pakistan especially in agriculture sector. He congratulated the UAF over the declaration of Agri-Tech Park by Special Technology Zone Authority that would prove a milestone step. He said that due to climate change, it is extremely sad to see the damage that Pakistan has suffered due to severe floods. He

said that in this hour of catastrophe, the government and people of Korea express solidarity with the suffering families of Pakistan. He said there was a need for concerted efforts to improve maternal and child malnutrition so that a healthy and energetic young generation can be given to the society for the future.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmed Khan said that the Pak-Korea Nutrition Center would be established with a total cost of \$9.659 million, of which 7 million dollars will be provided by KOICA and 2.659 million dollars will be provided under the Public Sector Development Program of the Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan. He said that under this center Agricultural University Peshawar, Balochistan University of Medical and Health Sciences Quetta, Faisalabad Medical University, Children Hospital Faisalabad, Sindh Agricultural University Tandojam and Karakoram International University Gilgit-Baltistan will also partner universities. He said fifty percent of our population is suffering from malnutrition among mothers and children. He said that we are grateful for the cooperation of the Korean government and KOICA authorities to solve this most important issue.

Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam Vice Chancellor Prof Dr

Fateh Mohammad said that the malnutrition had become an area of grave concerns in which collaborated efforts will bring tangible results. Prof. Dr. Masood Sadiq Butt said that the Faculty of Food Nutrition and Home Sciences is a pioneer to launch the Human Nutrition and Dietetics degree that is replicated across the country. He said that ample employment opportunities are being provided for nutrition graduates, which will help in solving nutrition problems. He said that the PKNC comprised chairs including Nutrition and Public Health; Food Fortification; Food Processing; Product Development and Value Addition; Compositional Analyses; Policy, Advocacy and Outreach.

Amir Saleemi said that six zones have been established under the Special Technology Zone Authority in the country, out of which the Agri-Tech Park was established at UAF that will play an important role in the development of the country's agriculture. Director Planning and Development Irfan Abbas, giving a briefing during his address, said that the three-story building of Pak-Korea Nutrition Center is equipped with modern facilities, energy efficiency, modern laboratories, library, and important facilities. Dr. Benish Sarwar Khan also spoke.

## Speakers term Geelani epoch-making leader of Kashmir

STAFF REPORT

MUZAFFARABAD: While addressing a seminar organized by the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to mark the first death anniversary of late Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, speakers described the late freedom fighter as a real hero of the Kashmir freedom movement for his undaunted resistance against the Indian tyranny all through his life. They said that Syed Ali Shah Geelani fought throughout his life to free the Kashmiri people from Indian subjugation and his unprecedented struggle and spirit of resistance will continue to inspire the coming generations of Kashmiris. Speaking at the seminar, Prof Dr. Mohammad Qayyum Khan, Director of Finance and the senior professor of the University said that Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who entered the politics of Kashmir in the 1950s, waged a peaceful political struggle for 37 years for the settlement of the Kashmir issue, but ultimately he realized that India, the claimant of the world's largest democracy will not grant

Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination through democratic means. Geelani who was elected three times as a member of the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly quit parliamentary politics in the late 80s and dedicated himself to organizing the freedom movement within Occupied Kashmir and at the international level to expose the real face of India, Dr. Qayyum added. Despite all the difficulties, sufferings, and plights, Syed Ali Geelani demonstrated unprecedented determination and courage and never compromised on his principled stand, Dr. Qayyum said. "He was a true Pakistani who believed in attaching the political destiny of Kashmiris with Pakistan after freedom from India and he remained committed to this ideology till the last breath of his life," he asserted. Addressing the seminar, Associate Dean Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences Dr. Bashirur Rahman Kanth said that Syed Ali Geelani was a shining star of Kashmir who infused a new spirit in the hearts of the Kashmiri youth to fight for their freedom and liberty.

## Work underway to open Bahrain-Kalam road

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Engineer Ameer Muqam Friday said that FWO, Engineering Corps and National Highways Authority were working round the clock to rehabilitate Bahrain-Kalam-Ator Road. He said this during his visit to areas of Gashkor, Alam Gunj, Khawazakheh, Asala, Fatepur and Madayan Grid Station. He said that steps were being taken to complete the rehabilitation work at the earliest. Ameer Muqam said that the federal government was providing Rs one million each to families of those killed in recent floods while Rs. 25000 each was being transferred in accounts of flood affected under Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). - APP

## Argentinian envoy invited to witness football match

PESHAWAR: International Football match on September 9 to help flood victims, says Argentinian Ambassador Former National Footballer Shahid Khan Shinwari called on Argentinian Ambassador Leopoldo Francisco Sahores on Friday in Islamabad and invited him for the forthcoming International Football match to be scheduled on September 9, 2022 here at Peshawar Sports Complex. The match is aimed to raise funds for flood victims, Shahid Khan informed the Argentinian Ambassador Leopoldo Francisco Sahores and remained there with him by discussing trade and sports ties between both Pakistan and Argentine. Argentinian Ambassador Leopoldo Francisco Sahores while appreciating his efforts to provide relief to the flood victims, said that to collect funds for the flood victims would certainly help the people in this hour of need. The football match which has been announced to be held in Peshawar Sports Complex on September 9 will promote the sport on one hand and help the flood victims on the other hand, Argentinian Ambassador Leopoldo Francisco Sahores said. Argentinian Ambassador Leopoldo Francisco Sahores also expressed solidarity with the families of flood victims and assured him full support on behalf of the people of Argentina. He said there is a great love of the people of Pakistan for the football players of Argentina. Argentinian Ambassador Leopoldo Francisco Sahores assured Shahid Khan Shinwari to come to Peshawar and see the match besides extending support and solidarity with the people of Pakistan affected by flood. Argentinian Ambassador Leopoldo Francisco Sahores said that our efforts

will be to promote mutual relations between Argentina and Pakistan, including trade, sports and other fields. Shahid Khan Shinwari said the football match will be held at Peshawar Sports Complex on September 9 at 4:30 pm to help the flood victims, in which national and international players are participating. Shahid Khan Shinwari is also convener on trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan for Central Asia, also discussed with him about the extending trade-ties. He said through the Ministry of Industry businessmen, leading importers and exporters have been invited for the forthcoming Expo Event at Automechanika Buenos Aires to be starting from October 11-14, 2022. Argentinian Ambassador Leopoldo Francisco Sahores said that Argentina is leading an international trade fair for the automotive services industries targeting trade. Shahid Khan informed the Ambassador regarding trade of Argo business, sports and goods, cotton, leather and materials. Shahid Khan informed Argentinian Ambassador Leopoldo Francisco Sahores that legends of sports have been invited for the match for a cause to help flood victims. He said Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan, Provincial Sports Minister Mohammad Atif Khan and other personalities will also watch this football match and it is hoped that it will collect funds for the flood victims besides a door-to-door campaign has also been started with the aim of helping the flood victims. On this occasion, Argentinian Ambassador Leopoldo Francisco also presented a football to Shahid Khan Shinwari and assured him the two sides would work more closely for the youth exchange program. - APP

## Annual Urs of Pir of Dhanaka on Sep 9-11

DNA



MANSEHRA: The annual Urs of Pir of Dhanaka, Baba Rehmatullah Sarkar, will be held on September 09-11, 2022 (from Friday to Sunday) at village Dhanaka, near Lissan Nawab, Mansehra. A large number of devotees, followers and visitors will gather while eminent ulema and mashaikh are scheduled to deliver lectures on the life-long contribution of Baba Rehmatullah in the service of general public. Sitting on an isolated abode for around 50 years, Baba Rehmatullah set an unprecedented example of commitment, dedication and devotion. The founding Pir of Dhanaka Sharif died on 21st February, 2008. The final dua will conclude the Urs on September 11, Sunday at 10 am.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Madam Shagufta Sabir Judge Family Court Gujrat Title: Hafeeza Bano etc. Versus Mirza Qamar Baig etc.

Notice to:  
1. Mirza Qamar Baig S/O Mirza Zafar Iqbal Resident of Chiryawala Tehsil Kharian District Gujrat.

Suit for Maintenance. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 08-09-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

## British HC announces 75 scholarships for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: To mark 75th years of UK-Pakistan relations, the British High Commission, in collaboration with the British Council, hosted a reception in Lahore to announce 75 scholarships for Pakistanis to study in the UK. The scholarships will provide future Pakistani leaders with the skills necessary to tackle global challenges, said a press release issued by the British High Commission in Islamabad on Friday. Minister for School Education, Punjab, Dr. Murad Raas, and UK Representative to Punjab, Alex Ballinger, attended as chief guests along with British alumni, Chevening, Commonwealth and GREAT scholars, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) officials and digni-



taries from across Pakistan, Alex Ballinger, in his address, acknowledged the significant contribution of Pakistan's Chevening alumni in the flood relief efforts, from fundraising essential items. While addressing the audience, he also reiterated the UK's commitment to support Pakistan, and he said, "We are with the people of Pakistan at this

terrible time. We have all witnessed the devastating impact of these floods which have displaced millions of people and left much of Pakistan submerged. I'm pleased that on the same day the UK has pledged a total of £16.5m in flood relief funding, we can also announce 75 new UK scholarships which will play a vital part in allowing Pakistan to rebuild by investing in its people." He further stated that this year in the UK, we will be awarding 63 Chevening scholarships and fellowships along with 12 GREAT scholarships. - APP

اسلام آباد کیٹرنگ سٹیٹس (آئی ٹی سکو)

**IESCO TENDER NOTICE FOR MAJOR REPAIR OF VEHICLES**

IESCO invites sealed Tenders/Bids from Manufacturing Companies / reputable workshops/ Government Contractors having adequate past experience and financial capability for providing service / maintenance facilities for 07 No. Government HTV and LTV vehicles.

Sr. No	Tender No.	Description	Last date of collection of tender documents	Date and Time of tender	
				Submission	Opening
01	TPT-02/2022	Fabrication Overhauling IESCO Community Vehicles	20-09-2022	21/09/2022 at 11-00 hrs	21/09/2021 at 11-30 hrs

**Terms & Conditions:-**

- Tender must be accompanied by Bank Guarantee equal to 2% amount of quoted price valid for 120 days (one hundred and twenty days) in the form of bank guarantee/call deposit/demand draft/pay order in the Name of Chief Executive Officer IESCO Islamabad issued by any scheduled bank of Pakistan.
- Tender documents including terms and conditions as well as make & type of vehicles / Location of vehicles for inspection can be obtained from Transport Directorate IESCO against non-refundable amount of Rs.2000/- per tender on any working day during office hours till the day before opening of the tender.
- No tender will be issued on the date of opening of tenders.
- Manufacturer / Companies /workshops/ Approved Government Contractors must be registered with FBR with active tax payer profile.
- Copy of registration with sales tax department and NTN number should be produced at the time of issuance of tender documents/bid schedule.
- The vehicles can be inspected at IESCO Head Quarter Islamabad in the office timings from 10:00AM to 03:00 PM from 05th Sep to 20th Sep, 2022.
- Note :- This tender notice is also available on official websites of PPRA www.ppra.org.pk and IESCO www.iesco.com.pk

**Addl. Director (Transport) IESCO**  
Street - 40, G-7/4, Islamabad, Ph:051 9252 899

بارشوں کے دوران بجلی کی تنصیبات سے دور رہیں

PID (I) No. 1371/22

## Prof. Khurshid Ahmed warns rulers against compromise on Kashmir

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: An embodiment of honesty, unwavering resoluteness, struggle, and vision in the story of the Kashmir freedom movement. Such was Syed Ali Shah Geelani, an epitome of Kashmiri's struggle and resistance, whose passion, ideology, and vision about Kashmir were matchless. He not only presented the cause of Kashmir with great clarity but also united all his people for that one cause i.e., the freedom of Kashmir and the right to Kashmiris' self-determination, for which he paid a high price. As put in words by Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, veteran politician, eminent scholar, economist, and patron-in-chief and founding chairman of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), who

commemorated Syed Ali Shah Geelani, founder of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, during his memorial reference, titled "Syed Ali Shah Geelani: His Struggle & Legacy", organized by IPS in collaboration with Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK). The session was addressed, among others, by veteran statesman Raja Zafar-ul-Haq, Professor Dr Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, vice chancellor, AJ&K University, Dr Asma Shakir Khwaja, executive director, Centre for International Strategic Studies, Muzaffarabad, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, general secretary, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, IPS' vice-chairman, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq, chairman, Department of Law, Mirpur University of Science & Technology (MUST), Advocate Nasir Qadri, director, LFK, and Farzana Yaqoob, general

secretary, IPS' Working Group on Kashmir. Brigadier (r) Dr. Saif Malik, IPS' senior research fellow moderated the event. Khurshid Ahmad, while paying tribute to Geelani's persistence, resolute courage, and resistance in the face of Indian atrocities and its illegal occupation of Kashmir, underscored the vision of Syed Ali Shah Geelani that the central issue, for which he dedicated and sacrificed his life, is the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and a free plebiscite, without which the Kashmir dispute cannot be solved. He further pointed out how Pakistani leadership, of past and present, has neglected their responsibility for the mission of this leader, whose only slogan was "We are Pakistani and Pakistan is ours" which still echoes in the hearts of Kashmiris and those fighting for the cause.

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### SEPTEMBER

Sept 01/ LIBYA	Revolution Day
Sept 01/ UZBEKISTAN	Independence Day
Sept 01/ TANZANIA	Defence Day
Sept 07/ BRAZIL	Independence Day
Sept 09/ DPR KOREA	National Day
Sept 09/ TAJIKISTAN	Independence Day
Sept 16/ MALAYSIA	Armed Forces Day
Sept 16/ MEXICO	National Day
Sept 16/ PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Independence Day
Sept 18/ CHILE	National Day
Sept 21/ MALTA	Independence Day
Sept 23/ SAUDI ARABIA	National Day



## Hotels & Restaurants

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



## Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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## Emergency

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



## Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-5
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CAA.....	9281092



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ISLAMABAD: Officials of the UAE Embassy handing over trucks of relief goods to the Pakistani authorities here on Friday. – DNA

# Pakistan doesn't want to be a toy in anyone's hands

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi said that being an independent country, Pakistan neither wanted to be a toy in anyone's hands nor looked for polarization. "Pakistan doesn't want to be a toy in anybody's hands. Pakistan is an independent country. Pakistan wants good relations with everybody, particularly at the time when we are going through economic turmoil (and) the world is going through economic turmoil. Türkiye is going through economic turmoil," the president said in an interview with Turkish Anadolu Agency published on Thursday. He said that Pakistan wanted good ties with everyone as the world was going through the economic turmoil. "Pakistan is not looking for any polarization and does not want to be in any camp," he said. On Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's upcoming visit to Pakistan in September, he said Islamabad would welcome him. He said Pakistan

and Türkiye had a very deep, long-lasting relationship. On Ukraine war, he said Pakistan wanted peace and the role and lauded the President Erdogan's role in this regard. "The strategic understanding of what is happening around Türkiye, as well as around Pakistan, is important. The fact that the thinking of the Muslim Ummah should be together. That will always be on the agenda. The fact that our ties are demonstrated to become closer is important for the people of Pakistan and Türkiye," he commented. Asked to comment on Pakistan's plan to purchase oil and grain from Russia, he said it was the government to decide on the matter. He said Pakistan was looking for good relationships with our long-term friends, which was the United States of America. And similarly, the country also wanted to continue and further establish its ties with China, he added. To a question, about China

Pakistan Economic Corridor, the president said it was a partnership which was very important to Pakistan's economic interest. Regarding relations with India, he said, "Pakistan has been looking for peace. But whether India is looking for peace, I'm not sure because all our overtures have been put under a question mark. I believe that India's actions in Kashmir were a serious setback to peace." We believe that Kashmir (issue) should be settled according to the United Nations resolutions. At the same time, he said Pakistan was also concerned about the onslaught on Indian Muslims by the ruling BJP party and the Muslim world is also concerned about the way Muslims were being isolated in India. To a question, the president said Pakistan wanted peace in Afghanistan because it was related to its economy as well. He said Pakistan has done its part for brotherly relations with Afghanistan and advised the interim Afghan government to make it broader, improve women education. Asked to comment on the political situation in Pakistan, he said his role was to try to reduce this political polarization. "It is a democracy – Pakistan is a democracy and Pakistan is gradually becoming a strong democracy. We are going through these trials and tribulations which are happening," he added.

To another question, he said media needed to be able to give a free expression and also expected the media to act responsibly. About the catastrophic floods in Pakistan, he agreed with the prime minister's stance that there was so much structural damage that Pakistan should be looking for international help because the climate change situation would be affecting a lot of countries. – APP

## PAF short documentary showcases soldiers' valour

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Directorate General Public Relations on Friday released a short documentary highlighting the courage and bravery of valiant PAF heroes that showcased details of the air battle fought on September 02, 1965. The two minutes and 34 seconds documentary prologue began narrating, "September 1965 bears a unique status in the history of our motherland, when PAF proved its mettle as an invincible force in war against India despite its limited resources." It said that the PAF being on high alert inflicted heavy damages on India and that's why on September 2nd the Indian Air Force (IAF) did not dare to intrude in Pakistan's airspace. The then Indian Prime Minister confirmed those damages in these words: "Yesterday on September 1 PAF destroyed four IAF aircraft." On September 2nd, four F-86 PAF aircraft flew from Sargodha at 5:30am led

by Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam famously MM Alam. The documentary unfolded the battle scenes mentioning that the aircraft during sunrise targeted the main defence point of India namely Chamb and Jourian Sectors and incurred huge damages on the Indian ground forces.

"Right after this formation, three more PAF aircraft reached the area for the same purpose. A military convoy of medium size Indian tanks was proceeding from Akhnoor towards Jourian. The formation of Squadron Leader Alam and Flight Lieutenant Younus Hussain launched a full-fledged attack on the Indian forces on ground." The PAF falcons remained for 30 minutes on the target and destroyed four Indian tanks and 20 vehicles successfully. On September 2nd amid an expected Indian ground attack from Northern Sector, No. 17 Squadron's 10 Sabre aircraft were sent from Maripur to Sargodha under the leadership of Squadron Leader Waqar Azeem. – APP

## 'Quality of items at utility stores highest and the prices lowest'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In order to improve the demand and supply and to ensure uninterrupted supply of branded items at all utility stores across the country, the prices of some branded items have been increased, but this increase is by the branded companies. Various national and multinational branded companies supplying goods to utility stores have increased the prices of various branded items. The prices of these items were kept stable for the last seven months. Utility Stores Corporation does not manufacture or produce itself but purchases from reputed and certified branded companies of the country. When raw material prices increase, production charges

increase and transportation charges increase, the product cost also increases due to which the prices have to be revised. So that demand and supply improve and availability of these products is possible. Despite this, the utility stores are committed to providing basic and branded items to the public at lower rates than the open market. The new prices of these items at utility stores are lower than the printed retail market price. Remember, subsidized ghee at Rs 300 per kg, sugar at Rs 70 per kg and 20 kg bag of flour at Rs 800 are available in abundance at all utility stores across the country. Subsidy is also being given on pulses and rice. Apart from this, hundreds of other branded items available at utility stores are also being provided at cheaper rates than the general market.

## Dr Ejaz urges flood affected people to follow SOPs

ISLAMABAD: Associate Professor, Health Services Academy (HSA), Dr Ejaz Ahmad Khan urged upon the people of flood affected areas that they should follow maximum standard precautions to avoid diseases during their stay in camps. He said there were high chances of two types of diseases namely water-borne and water washed diseases which can be spread after any such calamity. He said people were living in tents in large number where they were using and sharing many things in common and most of them are using contaminated water that also caused multiple diseases and pandemic. He said that he being team member of Ministry of Health was working promptly to deal with natural disasters and calamity adding he was also advocating people in effective manner e.g. they asked people should maintain twenty meters distance at least for using washrooms and advised them not more than twenty people should stay in a camp. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio hosted a dinner for the senior journalist and scholars at the residence. Khurshed Ahmed Nadeem, Awais Mangalwala, Farooq Adil and Editor Islamabad POST Ansar M Bhatti attended the event. – DNA

## IRSA releases 309,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 309,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 328,100 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 168,900 cusecs each. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1187.45 feet, which was 137.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 28,200 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 187,000, 416,500 and 531,900 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 75,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 26,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. – APP

## 3 bike lifters arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three bike lifters and recovered three stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, a team under the supervision of SHO, Airport Police Station managed to net three accused namely Owais, Farooq and Adnan and recovered three stolen motorcycles from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation was underway. Superintendent of Police, Potohar appreciated the police team and directed to net the accomplices and facilitators of the accused. He also directed the police officers to continue raids against law-breakers and send the violators behind the bars. – APP

## Army holds 200 helicopters sorties

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Army Aviation during the flood relief efforts flew 200 helicopters sorties in various areas of the country to evacuate stranded people and also transport rations and medicines. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said that during the past 24 hours, some 1,991 stranded individuals were evacuated and 162.6 tonnes of relief items were delivered to the flood affected people. So far, over 50,000 individuals were shifted to safer locations from calamity hit areas. However, some 147 relief camps were functional round the clock in flood affected areas of Sindh, Southern Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) for flood affectees. Over 60,000 patients were treated and provided 3-5 days' free medicine so far whereas 221 flood relief items collection points were established across the country. Moreover, more than 1,350 tonnes of food, medicines and other sustenance items were also collected. – APP

## AIOU concludes Int'l training workshop

ISLAMABAD: "There is a dire need for national unity in the present age for the development of the country, we have to become a nation. The teachers have been given the responsibility to work for humanity, along with teaching them traditional syllabus. Leadership skills must be developed in the new generation", said Chairman Higher Education Commission, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed in his address at the closing ceremony of the International Training workshop on "National Language Processing (NLP)" organized by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in collaboration with Kohsar University Murree (KUM). Dr. Mukhtar said that the teachers must come forward to beautify tomorrow because the religion of Islam has asked us to serve humanity. – DNA

## Briefs

## Prices increased by companies

ISLAMABAD: Utility Store Corporation (USC) spokesperson on Friday said an increase in the prices of some branded items was made by the companies and corporation had nothing to do with this hike. Despite the increase in the prices of the items, the USC was offering the same at subsidized rates across the country in order to provide maximum relief to the poor segments of the society, the spokesperson said. He said that various national and multinational companies supplying goods to utility stores had increased the prices of their products, which had remained stable for the last seven months.

"We do not manufacture or produce any item, rather purchase them from reputed and certified companies of the country." He said that the product cost went up as raw material, production and transportation costs went up. Thus, the companies had to revise the prices of their products. "Despite this, the utility stores is committed to providing basic and branded items to the public at lower rates as compared to the open market", he said. The new prices of these items at utility stores are lower than the printed retail market price, he added. The subsidized items, including ghee at Rs 300 per kg, sugar at Rs 70 per kg and 20 kg bag of flour at Rs 800 were available in abundance at all utility stores across the country. Subsidy was also being given on pulses and rice, he added. - APP

## 8 drug peddlers, weapon holders held

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers, bootleggers and illegal weapon holders on Friday arrested eight accused besides recovering 1040 grams narcotics, 10 liters liquor, two 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession. A police spokesperson said that Waris Khan police held a drug peddler namely Sheraz and recovered 1320 grams charas while Civil Lines police rounded up Zubair for having 20 liters liquor. Similarly, Kalar Syedan police arrested Faisal and Alam Khan for carrying two 30 bore pistols and ammunition. Pirwadhai police netted two accused identified as Kakay Khan and Irfan and recovered 210 grams charras and 10 liters liquor. Morgah and Taxila police arrested Zulfiqar with 260 grams charras and Jameel Ahmed with 250 grams charras. The spokesperson said that separate cases have been registered against all suspects while further investigations are underway. Divisional Superintendents of Police directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations and drug peddlers, bootleggers and illegal weapon holders, he added. - APP

## Rescue 1122 timely response saves pulseless baby

RAWALPINDI: The Rescue 1122 on Friday successfully saved the life of one year old baby boy in critical condition while promptly responding to an emergency call for help and ambulance service. A Rescue 1122 official told APP that a couple from Mardan brought their one year old boy - Hamza son of Nasir Shah in critical condition to the Military Hospital (MH) for treatment without knowing the fact that it had no paediatric department to treat children. The parents of the child lacked information about the concerned healthcare facility and that's why went to that hospital. However, the MH provided necessary first aid to the child and referred him to a public hospital for further treatment, he added. The ambulance service to shift their child in severe condition to a public hospital, he said. The ambulance was moved to the spot and on arrival it was found that the child had low pulse and sugar level, he added. The official mentioned that when the team reached the child was found critical and upon shifting him into ambulance alongwith hospital staff he lost his pulse and respiratory rate. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used in construction work of Islamabad Expressway during development work in the city. - APP

## Over 3 million children at risk amid floods: UNICEF

ISLAMABAD: More than three million children are in need of humanitarian assistance and at increased risk of waterborne diseases, drowning and malnutrition due to the most severe flooding in Pakistan's recent history, UNICEF warned on Friday. UNICEF is working with government and non-government partners to respond to the urgent needs of children and families in affected areas, said a news release issued here. Some 33 million people - including approximately 16 million children - have been affected by this year's heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan, which have brought devastating rains, floods and landslides. Over 1,100 people including over 350 children have lost their lives, and a further 1,600 have been injured. Over 287,000 houses have been fully, and 662,000 partially, destroyed. Some major rivers have breached their banks and dams overflowed, destroying homes, farms and critical infrastructure including roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and

public health facilities. "When disasters hit, children are always among the most vulnerable," said Abdullah Fadil, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. "These floods have already taken a devastating toll on children and families, and the situation could become even worse. UNICEF is working closely with the Government and other partners to ensure that children affected get the critical support they need as soon as possible." In affected areas, 30 per cent of water systems are estimated to have been damaged, further increasing the risk of disease outbreaks with people resorting to open defecation and drinking unsafe water. There are reports of significant damage to education infrastructure as 17,566 schools have been damaged, further jeopardizing the education of children. After two years of school closures due to pandemic in the last few years, children once again risk further disruption to their learning, in areas where one-third of girls and boys were already

out-of-school before the crisis. The rainfall - nearly three times the national 30-year average, and more than five times the 30-year average in some provinces, has led to the government declaring a national emergency, with 72 districts declared 'calamity-hit' - mostly in Balochistan and Sindh, the two worst-affected provinces, as well as in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. Cases of diarrhoea and water-borne diseases, respiratory infection, and skin diseases have already been reported. They affect populations which are very vulnerable - 40 per cent of children already suffered from stunting, caused by chronic under-nutrition, before the floods hit. The perilous humanitarian situation is expected to continue to worsen in the days and weeks ahead as heavy rains continue in regions already underwater. As part of the UN flash appeal to support the response, led by the Government of Pakistan launched this week - UNICEF is

appealing for US\$37 million, and aims to reach children and families in the coming months with support including lifesaving medical equipment, essential medicines, vaccines and safe delivery kits, safe drinking water, sanitation supplies, nutrition supplies and temporary learning centres and learning kits. According to UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), Pakistan is a known 'climate hotspot', where children are considered at 'extremely high risk' to the impacts of climate change, ranking 14th out of 163 CCRI-ranked countries and regions, placing Pakistan in the 'Extremely high risk' classification category in the Index. Children in 'Extremely high risk' countries face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks combined with high levels of underlying child vulnerability, due to inadequate essential services, such as water and sanitation, healthcare and education. - APP

## PAJCCI lauded issuance of SRO for Afghan trade

PAJCCI remains committed to raising business community issues to highest levels in both the govts and provision of technical assistance to govts for trade friendly policy uplift

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the persistent follow up by PAJCCI and recent meeting of Zubair Motiwala; Chairman PAJCCI with Naveed Qamar; Minister of Commerce, Government of Pakistan has now issued the SRO on Cross-stuffing of containers for Afghan transit trade covering both forward and reverse cargo. Cross stuffing will be allowed at Karachi & Gwadar seaports in especially designated areas and off dock terminals. The SRO also provides for the transfer of non-containerized cargo in open trucks at land border sta-

tion/crossing for reverse transit cargo. Detailed process has been provided by Ministry of Commerce for each stage covering all steps for the ease of traders and bonded carriers. The whole process will be technologically facilitated using Customs Computerized System (CCS) from the GD filing to cargo reaching the destination eliminating manual intervention and susceptibility of any violation. PAJCCI has been following up this matter since last one year with various government functionaries and ministry. With cross stuffing the cost of detention & demurrage will be reduced, the cargo movement will increase, delays will be curtailed, where required open trucks

can be used for land trade and designated space/off dock terminals will provide essential safety of the cargo. This process will greatly reduce cost of business and hardships faced by business community as well as dent the unfair charges by shipping lines imposed in the name of container security charges. Motiwala on behalf of business community thanked the Minister of Commerce, honorable Naveed Qamar and appreciated his quick response in resolving long standing issue. He hoped that Government of Pakistan will continue to support business community to generate high revenue by removing trade barriers.

## Earthwork on five star hotel in Galliyat starts

PESHAWAR: Earthwork on the first-ever five star hotel in Galliyat has been started which on completion is expected to give a boom to tourism industry of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by attracting scores of local and international tourists wanted to enjoy charismatic beauty of pine forests in the mid of Himalayan foothills. "The ground breaking of the mega project has already been performed and currently earth work is in progress to construct a 122 rooms resort offering state of the art hospitality with famous local cuisine," says Abdul Mohaimin, CEO of Dharti group that launched the project. Talking to APP, Abdul Mohaimin informed that name of the five star hotel is decided as 'Glasshaus' because it will have open glass facades to give a sensation to guests of being immersed in nature without being exposed to it. "Our team has also designed large green outdoor spaces to envisage the true essence of the alpinas," he added. The Dharti group, he continued, selected Galliyat for construction of five star hotel with an estimated investment of Rs. 6.2 billion because the famous tourist resort attracts tourists attention in both summer and snowy seasons. The location of the hotel is between Nathiagali and Muree near Barian area which is around 60 km from Islamabad. - APP

## CTP launch operation against illegal parkings

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) have launched an operation against encroachments and illegal parking particularly to clear commercial market and adjoining areas in New Town circle. According to a CTP spokesman, Incharge Traffic New Town circle, Ali Rafique on the directives of Chief Traffic Officer, Naveed Irshad launched an operation and issued 129 challan slips to violators besides issuing warning to several while 13 vehicles were also impounded in police stations.

The team also removed dozens of encroachments to ensure smooth flow of traffic. The spokesman said that strict action would be taken against the violators particularly encroachers and parking rules violators besides all out efforts to ease the traffic on city roads. He said, the CTP personnel had been directed to take indiscriminate action against those violating traffic rules and creating problems for other road users. He said, CTP were trying hard to resolve traffic problems of the city, but, smooth flow of traffic on roads was not possible without removing encroachments. - APP

## Railways retrieve 538 acres land

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has so far retrieved around 538 acres precious land worth billion of rupees from illegal occupants under its anti-encroachment operation across the country. "The encroachment operation has been launched with the assistance of railway police and district administrations," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Giving details, he said, the department retrieved 273 acres land in Punjab, 133 acres from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 106 acres from Sindh and 26 acres from Balochistan. The official said that out of the total land, 97 acres were commercial, 3,165 acres were residential and 110 acres were the agricultural land of the Pakistan Railways. He said the government was taking several steps to retrieve encroached land from the land grabbers including detailed survey was being carried out to identify the encroached land, occupied by the individuals and under illegal occupation of various government departments.

The official said the campaign was being monitored by the Divisional Superintendents, Headquarters office and Ministry of Railways. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and joint procedure orders had been issued since for strict implementation of this policy, the official added. He said that First Information Reports (FIRs) were being lodged and cases were registered and sent to Pakistan Railways Judicial Magistrates for expeditious trial. - APP

## PTA making efforts to restore services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and telecom companies are making all possible efforts to fully restore all telecom services in the flood-hit areas. "In the wake of devastating floods and torrential rains that wreaked unprecedented havoc across the country PTA and telecom operators' efforts to restore connectivity have resulted in the reduction of non-functional sites count from 3386 (6.55% of the total sites across the country) to 1076 (2.08%)", the PTA said in a news release.

"Efforts are ongoing for complete restoration of all telecom services," the authority said. Floods and rains have majorly affected and damaged telecom infrastructure in Balochistan, Southern Punjab, Upper Sindh and areas of KPK. The challenges included prolonged power breakdowns, continuous heavy rains causing the rain and flood water to enter into exchange buildings and cuts in Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) due to land sliding. PTA has been monitoring the situation round the clock and has made all possible efforts so that people can stay connected in these difficult times. - APP

## Flood-affected people need 'healing': Musadik

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Friday said some provinces had been drowned under flood waters and their people were in dire need of 'healing', but PTI chairman Imran Khan was busy doing dirty politics in the testing times. "The flood-affected people are in dire need of remedial measures as their lives and integrity is in danger... But Imran Khan disappointed us by doing politics at this critical juncture and hurling threatening statements in public meetings such as 'he will not spare' and 'he will reveal names'," he regretted while addressing a news conference here. The minister said Imran Khan should have the courage to name the people whom he would not spare and reveal the names instead of mere hurling threats. Will Imran Khan reveal the names of Finance Ministers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab who tried to sabotage the IMF deal on the instructions of Shaukat Tar-een, he questioned. Musadik Malik said that it was unfortunate that PTI leadership and the workers had run a negative campaign against Pakistan armed forces' jawans and officers martyred in the helicopter crash in Balochistan. He criticized the PTI chairman for hiring the services of lobbyist David Fenton in the US, who was known as the founder of the denuclearization programme besides getting money and land from Malik Riaz to protect his money-laundering and receiving millions of pounds from Arif Naqvi, Chief



Executive of the Abraj Capital and Investment Company, indicted by the US courts in a range of cases and could get up to 290-year jail. He underlined that two mega economic scandals were made in the history of the country. The first was of \$250 million by Malik Riaz in Bahria Town, which was as per the Cabinet signed the paper and as per Pakistani representative in the UK who signed the document in the British court; the amount was gifted to Malik Riaz which was one-fourth of the IMF bailout and were deposited in his account. "It was given in lieu of 400 kanals land which was registered in the name of Imran Khan and his wife," he added.

The second case, he said was related to Arif Masood Naqvi who was likely to be charged with 290 years imprisonment in the UK against money laundering. Imran Khan during his regime waived off Rs 250 billion investment to be made by K-Electric in Dattang Coal Project which would have benefited Karachiites. Besides, he said Imran Khan should be ashamed of ruining state institutions during the PTI government's tenure with his poor governance and failed policies that caused severe energy as well as food crisis and brought the country to the verge of bankruptcy. Musadik Malik said it was unfortunate that

Imran Khan was doing politics and wanted to create division in public and institutions for personal gains, especially when the country was struggling to manage the widespread life and property damages caused by the unprecedented floods. He was of the view that the federal and provincial governments and the departments concerned were utilizing all their resources to reduce the suffering of the people to whom the devastating floods rendered homeless. Dr Musadik said the previous government also violated the commitments made with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about the subsidies for getting financial assistance. "The PTI government, as a pre-condition, had signed a contract with the IMF that they will increase the prices and impose petroleum levies and sales tax. But, it violated sovereign commitment with the international financial institutions," he said. The minister said the PTI did all this to push the country towards default and bankruptcy for political gains. The minister said that the government of Qatar had shown willingness to invest \$ 3 billion in LNG plants, solar, infrastructure and the establishment of terminals at the country's ports. He said that the government had also expedited work on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He was of the view that the country's economic direction had been set by the coalition government. "We are determined to strengthen the economic condition of the country", he added. - APP

## UK Scholarships for Pak students

To mark 75th years of UK-Pakistan relations, the British High Commission, in collaboration with the British Council, hosted a reception in Lahore to announce 75 scholarships for Pakistanis to study in the UK. The scholarships will provide future Pakistani leaders with the skills necessary to tackle global challenges, said a press release issued by the British High Commission in Islamabad on Friday. The European countries, particularly United Kingdom has been offering life changing opportunities to Pakistani youth in education and entrepreneurship. Exchanges like these are vital in creating positive relation between the communities of two countries. Minister for School Education, Punjab, Dr. Murad Raas, and UK Representative to Punjab, Alex Ballinger, attended as chief guests along with British alumni, Chevening, Commonwealth and GREAT scholars, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) officials and dignitaries from across Pakistan. Alex Ballinger, in his address, acknowledged the significant contribution of Pakistan's Chevening alumni in the flood relief efforts, from fundraising to distributing essential items.

While addressing the audience, he also reiterated the UK's commitment to support Pakistan, and he said, "We are with the people of Pakistan at this terrible time. We have all witnessed the devastating impact of these floods which have displaced millions of people and left much of Pakistan submerged. I'm pleased that on the same day the UK has pledged a total of £16.5m in flood relief funding, we can also announce 75 new UK scholarships which will play a vital part in allowing Pakistan to rebuild by investing in its people." He further stated that this year in the UK, we will be awarding 63 Chevening scholarships and fellowships along with 12 GREAT scholarships. As with all UK scholarship programmes, the British High Commission will aim for gender parity, with at least 50% of the scholarships awarded to female candidates. The British High Commission will continue to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of UK-Pakistan relations with a series of events and activities through the rest of the year. The application window for Chevening's one-year master's scholarship is open until 01 November 2022.

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## UN and Xinjiang

China's alleged treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang – including mass extrajudicial detentions, family separations and forced labour – is by now well documented, despite the secrecy surrounding it. Yet when Michelle Bachelet visited the region earlier this year, the usually outspoken UN human rights chief adopted some of the Chinese Communist party's framing of the issue. As a long-awaited report into the region remained unpublished on her desk, human rights groups grew concerned that it might be watered down or suppressed entirely. But on Wednesday night, months after its completion and only minutes before she left office, she finally issued the document. Reading its 46 pages, it is little surprise that Beijing sought to block its release. It states clearly that "serious human rights violations" against Uyghurs may amount to crimes against humanity. China embarked on what it portrays as a counter-extremism and counter-terrorism crackdown after deadly attacks inside and outside Xinjiang. But as the report makes clear, the official conception of terrorism and extremism is so vague that an extraordinarily wide range of normal activity has been targeted, to devastating effect.

"Resisting government propaganda" and closing restaurants during Ramadan have been listed as signs of extremism. Detainees have reportedly been sent to "vocational education centres" – Beijing's term for the detention camps, when it finally acknowledged them – for speaking to relatives abroad or for having too many children; some were told that a quota had to be filled. Former detainees describe enduring torture, including beating with electric batons, forced sterilisation and sexual violence. The report describes these accounts as credible. Companies and countries can no longer claim, as they have done, that it isn't clear what is happening in the region, or that action can be left to the UN. China has said the centres have closed; while at least some have done, many of the detainees appear to have been transferred to work in factories or jailed on the flimsiest grounds. Intensive surveillance polices Uyghurs outside custody. Families remain separated. Countries – including the many Muslim-majority nations that have remained silent – should take this report as a spur to action and an opportunity to press China on these terrible abuses. It must now be tabled at the Human Rights Council, where member states should push hard for investigation. The council also notes the credible accounts of "intimidations, threats and reprisals" – including the prospect of forced return – for Uyghurs campaigning from abroad, without whom many abuses would not have come to light. They must be given the protection that other countries cannot provide to Uyghurs inside China.

## What to focus; politics or flood?

Syed Tajamul

At the time, theatrical performances like tossing ration bags out of helicopters and handing out checks and 50 rupees for pictures were completely meaningless. Everyone needs to leave their homes at this moment to support and genuinely raise relief funds, rations, clothes etc. Instead of making fun of one another, the politicians need to work together to save the country from this disastrous situation. Only the current disaster must be focused of everyone in this time

As never before recorded, Pakistan has been severely affected by the monsoon rains. According to South Asian index Twitter, 4.6 million people in Pakistan were affected by the floods, 300,000 became homeless, over a thousand people died, and 90% of the province of Sindh's crops were destroyed. The province of Baluchistan, KPK, some

politically score points in their mainstream of politics come as a great surprise when a state is already experiencing terrible problems and lacks innovative strategies to recover from them. In a video that went viral on social media, flood victims in Sindh claimed that a member of the political elite had ap-

marginalized parts of Punjab, and hilly districts in Gilgit-Baltistan have also taken a significant impact from devastating flood flows. According to assessments from media websites, about 75% of Pakistan is under water. Even if they are aware of this disaster, political luminaries continue to lead political movements in a revolting manner without any regrets. Inevitably, Pakistan is dealing with many crises in various areas, including a destabilizing economy and a volatile political environment. The political parties' attempts to

proached them and asked to exchange votes for food. Another case caused a stir on the internet when a government figure altered the flow of water from his property to a farmer's fields. It was revealed when the affected person was interviewed by a well-known media source. This is the predicament of obscenely wealthy, rapacious individuals who pose as the voice of the people and the country.

A severe climate-related tragedy has completely destroyed the nation. Millions of people have been impacted, leaving women and children without clothing, starvation and inflation rates rising, infrastructure being destroyed, men searching for food and shelter to ensure the survival of their families, and dead bodies of children, women, young people, and elderly people floats in floodwaters. Capitalists are attempting to get a significant benefit from Pakistan's worrying situation while also increasing the cost of shelter tents and other household items. We have encountered cases like this before during COVID's 19 days, so this one is not particularly fresh to us. Politicians, meanwhile, are continuing their political vendetta to undermine one another by seeking retribution. The majority portray it as a fatal myth. Since the 2005, earthquake and the 2010 floods, two huge disasters that left everyone in painful conditions, and because Pakistan failed to improve upon its efforts to "build back better" after the 2005 flooding shock. Sadly, we were unable to recover from that experience, and now

we find ourselves in yet another dire predicament. There is no fate-based calamity, if anyone can see the existing situation with a realistic view. It is a true man-made tragedy, not based on fatalistic myths, aside from the rainfall brought on by climate change. The startling truth underlying it all is that the primary cause of this immense destruction is non-inclusive and limited development in infrastructure, livelihoods, bread earners, livestock, and resilience building. How can any citizen expect to live a normal life or retain expectations with the past hopes or be resilient in a country where the political system has heretofore failed to close the previous loopholes up to the present day?

The most potent reasons driving this disastrous situation in Pakistan are the deceitful political engineering of political parties, the absence of future planning and blatant disregard for the impoverished areas in the policy structures of policy making bodies. It also appears to be a cheap joke to blame only the climate change as doing by some political figures. Why have you failed to develop bold policies when you are aware that there has been a significant change in the climate that threatens to destroy agriculture, infrastructure, livestock, dams, communication, routes, bridges, the environment, and lives at any moment with extremely high rainfall, flooding, or windstorms? Certainly said, poor future planning and ineffective sustainable development strategies are

to blame for the entire catastrophe. For our decision-making institutions, their think institutes, and the avaricious political elites, this is a time of embarrassment for them.

In the meantime, those residing in underdeveloped areas lack access to food and shelter. According to a news source, a sizable group of flood victims surrounded a food delivery truck in a desperate attempt to feed their families. If the food isn't provided early, the country will face the greatest inflation threat in another ten years. While several humanitarian groups, including JDC, Alkhidmat Foundation, Hive Pakistan, and many more, are making every effort to provide food and shelter to the affected areas, there are still not enough supplies to support all the families that need it.

At the time, theatrical performances like tossing ration bags out of helicopters and handing out checks and 50 rupees for pictures were completely meaningless. Everyone needs to leave their homes at this moment to support and genuinely raise relief funds, rations, clothes etc. Instead of making fun of one another, the politicians need to work together to save the country from this disastrous situation. Only the current disaster must be focused of everyone in this time. The country needs to be restored and rebuilt as soon as possible, and this requires coordinated action. Otherwise, we must be prepared for another decade of inflation and famine.

## Europe's fragile unity is fast passing its tipping point

Sal Ahmed

That pushback meant Germany came out of the European Commission meeting with only a voluntary deal of reduction of gas consumption. A voluntary deal means nothing, it is only a weak promise; one can expect all EU member countries to act only in their own interest

As Europe is hit by a drought, the worst in 500 years, there's surprising wisdom coming to the dry shores, reminding Europeans that their long-held grandeur might fast evaporate into a delusion. "If you see me, then weep," reads an inscription on a 'hunger stone', which recently appeared after water levels fell in the Elbe river in Germany. Found in European rivers, 'hunger stones' are markers from another time and age indicating water levels during previous historic droughts – they warn of famine and hardship, which is likely to follow when these stones become visible. In what appears to be a Biblical prophecy coming true, Europe has been gripped by massive wildfires, the worst drought in 500 years and record-breaking summer temperatures. The food and energy crises as a direct

only carry a quarter of their capacity to ensure they are grounded on river beds. This has quadrupled shipping costs on the Rhine.

As the Russia-Ukraine conflict hits the six-month mark, there's further hardship coming the way of Europe in the form of an exacerbated energy crisis and divided loyalties between member countries. Germany has already moved onto stage three of its gas emergency plan, which means the country will not have enough gas to provide for both industry and households. The German government, obligated by law to provide gas to households, is likely to ration gas supply to the industry. Gas is currently more expensive on the international market than what is being billed to European customers, which means when the price correction

strikes in autumn, consumers will be left with a huge hole in their pocket. There's also talk of drafting laws in Germany to help landlords lower the heating in centrally-heated apartment buildings. The government is proposing to reduce the central heating temperature from 22 to 17 degrees centigrade. This has sent further shock waves among a populace which is used to the smaller luxuries of life. Germans are now investing in electric heaters and wood-burning heaters, but that's only those who can afford them. Analysts in Germany are worried about the possibility of social instability. If the coming winter is particularly intense with the reduced gas flow into homes and the rising price of electricity, there is a strong possibility of protests from both sides of the political spectrum, the right and the left. A financial analyst from Spain recently said that the Spanish remember poverty and political uncertainty. He said he remembers growing up how poor the country was, but wondered what the Germans would do when hit with a high cost of living crisis. Energy conservation is the new buzzword in Europe, forcing the EU to look inwards and call on the shared European values. After Germany, Italy and France are the EU's biggest gas users and are likely to be affected the most should Russia completely switch off the gas this winter. Currently, gas flow in the NordStream 1 pipeline is at 20 percent of its capacity. Italy has just one bilateral deal on emergency gas sharing, while France has none.

But when Germany went looking to call on those shared European values at a recent meeting of the European Energy Commission, there wasn't much sway. One Spanish diplomat, while speaking off the record, told a senior journalist, "We haven't been living beyond our means", implying that Germans had been doing just so and now expect everyone else to help them. The Greeks weren't too impressed either. Germany has previously dealt very harshly with the country following the Greek financial crisis of 2009. Greece has only this year managed to shake off monitoring of its finances by the EU following the strict conditions Germany/EU had placed on them. The proposal to cut gas consumption by 15 percent was met with fierce resistance by Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy, and other countries which depend less on Russian gas and feel that they are being forced to compensate for the mistakes of others, especially Germany. That pushback meant Germany came out of the European Commission meeting with only a voluntary deal of reduction of gas consumption. A voluntary deal means nothing, it is only a weak promise; one can expect all EU member countries to act only in their own interest. While it is not clear to what extent hot water, electricity and heating will be available in countries like Germany, Austria, Italy or Hungary, it is abundantly clear that the crisis in Europe is pressing at the seams of European unity. Most European politicians, mindful of public backlash in their own backyards, are likely to not

introduce strict gas usage regulations on their own people so that Germans can have a more comfortable winter. But Germany's waning economy is visible all across Europe. Rampant inflation in the Eurozone is further widening the cracks in the EU. Should the European Central Bank raise interest rates, it could plunge southern Europe into a new sovereign debt crisis akin to the 2010 upheaval. However, should that happen, many in southern Europe are not sure whether Germany will be able to bail them out again. Germany's industrial base is getting weaker and the population poorer; thousands of tenants have been reaching out to the renters' association, asking them to lobby the government to subsidise energy costs. In the summer, the German government introduced a populist nine Euro monthly train ticket valid for country-wide travel for three months only. That promotion stops at the end of August, and there are calls to extend it indefinitely, but the finance minister said there is no budget for that. In these conditions, if Germany has to bail out European countries, there will very likely be mass protests in the country, putting further pressure on the government and European unity. It is now a well-assumed idea that European solidarity is already past its tipping point. But could the energy crisis coupled with the climate crisis and global economic slowdown push it to breaking point? The answer is quite possibly, yes.

Courtesy: TRT World

## Briefs

## Inflation...

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from Rs.17,732-22,888; Rs.22,889-29,517; Rs.29,518-44,175 and above Rs.44,175 increased by 1.53 percent, 1.43 percent, 1.39 percent and 1.20 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 31 (60.79%) items increased, 03 (05.88%) items decreased and 17 (33.33%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded decrease in their average prices on WoW basis included vegetable ghee 1Kg (0.76%), vegetable ghee 2.5Kg (0.41%) and pulse Masoor (0.34%). The commodities, which recorded increase in their average prices included onions (42.17%), tomatoes (13.25%), pulse moong (7.94%), potatoes (6.97%), eggs (3.84%), chicken (3.25%), pulse gram (2.89%), wheat flour (1.49%), pulse mash (1.26%) and bread (1.22%), non-food items, LPG (4.45%), diesel (1.19%) and petrol (0.88%). On year-on-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease in prices included chillies powder (43.42%), sugar (18.20%) and gur (1.75%). The commodities that witnessed increase in prices on YoY basis included onions (240.15%), tomatoes (219.99%), diesel (114.08%), petrol (98.73%), pulse masoor (82.44%), cooking oil 5 litre (70.60%), mustard oil (67.50%), washing soap (64.81%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (63.70%), electricity for q1 (63.01%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (61.16%), pulse gram (58.54%), pulse mash (49.36%) and LPG (45.23%).

## High prices...

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eight reviews, released under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The IMF Executive Board earlier this week approved the seventh and eighth review of the stalled \$6 billion Pakistan programme, and two days later on Wednesday, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) received the much-needed \$1.16 billion deposit.

## Khan hints...

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government continues using negative tactics against his political party, media reported on Friday. Imran Khan, while addressing a public gathering in Gujrat today, warned the coalition government of another long march towards Islamabad if it continues negative tactics against PTI. He announced that the PTI's movement will march to Islamabad and the current rulers will find no place to hide in the federal capital. He asked PTI's youth to start preparations to resist the atrocities of the coalition government. "They [rulers] will not get any benefit by registration of FIRs [First Information Reports] against us. A terrorism case was lodged against me for demanding the legal action. PDM [Pakistan Democratic Movement] and all others [political rivals] should do what they can do but you can never defeat us." "Our movement is aiming to eliminate corruption. We have to fight for eliminating corruption of this imported government. I have always made efforts to empower the judiciary and ran movements for it. Today, PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz] is forcing the judiciary to take action against Imran Khan.

## 'Khan...

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is bent on creating anarchy and division in the country," she said in a news statement while reacting to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman's address to a public gathering in Gujrat. She said people knew reality of Imran Khan who was a "foreign agent, liar, thief and plotter". It were the people who ousted Imran Khan from the Prime Minister's Office, and the "cartels and mafias" from the Parliament, she added. She said the country was in the grip of climate change phenomenon after flash floods, but ironically, Imran Khan was thinking of himself and his politics only. Imran Khan should steer clear of his narcissism, and avoid thoughts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif if he wanted to think about the people, she remarked. Marriyum said the inflation would have been under control if Imran Khan had not signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on weak grounds and ruined the economy in four-year tenure of his government.

## G20 talks end with pledge to accelerate energy transition

NEWS DESK

JAKARTA: G20 energy talks in Bali ended Friday with the world's leading economies pledging to accelerate the transition to cleaner energy, but there was no binding agreement as officials struggle to overcome discord over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The price of energy has skyrocketed since Moscow launched its military offensive, with many Western countries scrambling to find alternative sources in an attempt to cut ties with Russia. Energy upheavals have put pressure on global efforts to address climate change. Host Indonesia put forward

a plan at the talks outlining principles to speed up a "fair" transition to greener energy and it was endorsed by the G20 nations. The non-binding "Bali Compact", which lists principles for achieving net zero emissions, was agreed by all members, Indonesian energy minister Arifin Tasrif said. Details were not released but the minister said the plan seeks to strengthen national energy planning and implementation to improve energy security, efficiency and boost investment and financing. "G20 energy ministers sent a strong signal to the market that policymakers are taking action to strengthen the investment-enabling environment," Tasrif told an online press conference Friday.

But the officials failed to reach a consensus on a joint communique due to "differences among countries" at the one-day meeting, Tasrif said without elaborating. Several nations, including Britain and France, denounced the invasion of Ukraine and said it had destabilised energy supply. The presence of Russia at the forum meant a consensus could not be reached for a communique, a source close to the meeting told AFP. The "current energy crisis shows the urgency to accelerate the energy transition", the source added. Representatives from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Germany, India, South Africa and the European Union were also present, accord-

ing to a list seen by AFP. The energy talks follow G20 environment discussions in Bali on Wednesday that also ended without a joint communique, reflecting divisions among member countries over how to tackle climate change. Britain's climate minister Alok Sharma said governments should "revisit and strengthen" their commitments to achieving net zero emissions. "There must not be any backsliding on commitments," he tweeted on Wednesday. This week's talks are a prelude to a November leaders' summit that Indonesian President Joko Widodo has said Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin will attend despite Moscow's isolation.

## Nadal overcomes freak injury at US Open

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Rafael Nadal overcame a freak injury scare when he accidentally hit himself with his own racquet to reach the US Open third round on Thursday. The Spaniard defeated Italy's Fabio Fognini 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-1 but only after suffering a bizarre self-inflicted injury when leading 3-0 in the fourth set. The four-time champion, and holder of a men's record 22 Grand Slam titles, was hurt when his racquet bounced back off the court as he stretched for a ball, hitting him squarely on the nose. The 36-year-old dropped his racquet to the Arthur Ashe Stadium floor and sprinted to the sidelines, where he lay on his back with his nose bloodied.

The Australian and French Open champion required a medical timeout to have the wound tended before resuming the match with a bandage across the bridge of his nose. It was the third time in the match that the trainer had been summoned onto court. "I was a little bit dizzy and it was a little bit painful," admitted Nadal, who said he had suffered a similar injury in the past caused by a golf club. He feared he had broken his nose in the incident. Nadal said that despite being a set and 4-2 down, he was happy to have recovered after coming into the tournament he suffered at Wimbledon.

That problem caused him to forfeit his semi-final at the All England Club against Nick Kyrgios. It also came in a year which has seen him suffer a fractured rib and have to play the



entire French Open with pain-killing injections in his left foot. "I had to play better. It was one of the worst starts ever for me in my career," he said. Nadal also admitted his concerns over his wife Mery Perello - due to give birth to the couple's first child in the coming weeks. Spanish media reports claimed she had been admitted to hospital as a precautionary measure. "My wife is fine, but in the end these are situations that are sometimes more difficult to manage when you are away from home," said Nadal. Nadal goes on to face France's Richard Gasquet, against whom he boasts a 17-0 career record, after coming through Thursday's late-night scrap - which saw a total of 15 breaks of serve and 97 unforced errors. Fognini defeated Nadal from two sets down at the US Open in 2015. Buoyed by that memory, the 35-year-old swept

through the first set with breaks in the third and seventh games against a sluggish and error-plagued Nadal. It was the second successive match in which Nadal had dropped the first set, after he suffered the same fate in his opener against Australian wildcard Rinky Hijikata. The first five games of the second set were all breaks, with Nadal forced to call the trainer to treat blisters on his left hand at 2-3 down. Fognini stretched to a 4-2 lead before Nadal reeled off the next four games to take the set and level the tie. In each of the first two sets, Nadal had managed to hit a meagre three winners. The Spaniard, however, then doubled his winners count to grab the third set against a suddenly dispirited Fognini, who needed a medical timeout to have his right foot bandaged. Nadal coasted to a 3-0 lead when his bizarre injury temporarily stalled his progress to the last 32.

## Serena and Venus knocked out of women's doubles

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Serena and Venus Williams' doubles return proved shortlived as they fell to a first-round defeat at the US Open. Teaming up for the first time since 2018, and probably the last time, they lost 7-6 (7-5) 6-4 to Czechs Lucie Hradecka and Linda Noskova. Together, the American greats have won 14 Grand Slam doubles titles. Serena Williams, 40, is due to retire after the tournament, while the future plans of elder sister Venus, at 42, remain unknown. Serena plays Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic in the third round of the women's singles on Friday, but Venus was knocked out in the first round. Opening the night session on Arthur Ashe Stadium on Thursday, the sisters failed to convert two set points on their opponents' serve at 5-4, with break points having earlier gone begging for both pairs. Hradecka and Noskova edged the ensuing tie-break on their first set point, with 37-year-old Hradecka wrapping up proceedings with a powerful backhand down the line. She and Noskova, 20 years her junior, went on to dominate the second set, sealing an early break. They soon held double break point for 4-0 but Noskova couldn't convert from close to the net in a slice of luck for the Williams sisters, who went on to hold and end a five-game losing streak. They went on to break back but it proved in vain as Hradecka and Noskova broke their serve again on their second match point. The Williams sisters remain the most recent women's doubles team to hold all four major doubles titles at once with wins at Wimbledon and the US Open in 2009, followed by triumphs at the Australian Open and French Open in 2010. The last of their Grand Slam doubles titles together came at Wimbledon in 2016, more than 17 years after their first at Roland Garros in 1999, while they also have three Olympic doubles golds. Venus Williams returned to action for the hard-court swing, appearing in Cincinnati, Toronto and Washington, after nearly a year off following a leg injury, and was awarded a wildcard for the US Open. She is currently ranked 1,504th in the world in the singles, while Serena is 605th. They have a combined 30 Grand Slam singles titles, 23 of which belong to Serena.

## HBL PSL 8 dates and venues confirmed

DNA

LAHORE: The Governing Council of the HBL Pakistan Super League met at the National High Performance Centre in Lahore today. All six HBL PSL franchises were represented along with PCB officials who are GC members. Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board Ramiz Raja chaired the meeting. The meeting started with the Chairman PCB congratulating the GC on a hugely successful and record-breaking HBL PSL 7 edition which was the first one ever to be staged in Pakistan uninterrupted since the start of the league in 2016. The successful organisation of the tournament was made possible despite significant external challenges and record revenue and viewership was attained through the two action-packed leagues in Karachi and Lahore. Some important discussions around the scheduling for the next edition of the HBL PSL were made. It was decided that the HBL PSL 8 will run from 9 February to 19 March 2023. At least four venues will be used for hosting the matches, including Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Multan. Further discussions for firming up the detailed schedule will take place between the franchises and the PCB in due course. The franchises were also given an update on the status of accounts for HBL PSL 7. During the GC an update was provided in respect of commercial matters related to HBL PSL 7 and HBL PSL 8. Follow-up meetings will commence next week to finalise plans for HBL PSL 8 with all in agreement to work closely in the build-up to HBL PSL 8 to achieve their common goals for the league.

National T20 Cup  
Balochistan, Southern emerge victorious

ISLAMABAD: Shan Masood's unbeaten half-century helped Balochistan a five-wicket win over Sindh while Skipper Salman Ali Agha's maiden five-fer took Southern Punjab to an 86-run victory over Central in the matches of Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, on Friday. In the first match of the day, Masood continued his impressive form as his 39-ball 53 not out handed Balochistan a five-wicket win over Sindh. This was the first win for a chasing side in the National T20 Cup. As Balochistan crossed the line with seven balls spare, they also became the first team in this year's edition of the National T20 to successfully chase

a target. Player of the match Shan walked in the middle with Balochistan needing 103 in 14.3 overs after the dismissal of second opener Asad Shafiq (17 off 14) and displayed some fabulous strokeplay, hitting four fours and two sixes. The shot of the innings came when verse-swept Zahid Mehmood for a six that sailed over point. Following the quick wickets of Haris Sohail (10 off 15) and Hussain Talat (two off three) in the 15th and 16th over, Shan got the desired support from Amad Butt, who spanked three fours and a six in his quickfire 12-ball 25 not out. Sindh, following their captain Saud Shakeel's decision to bat, made 142

for seven with Saad Khan (31 off 27) and Sarfaraz Ahmed (29 off 23) being the notable performers with the bat. Balochistan put up a disciplined bowling performance with captain Yasir Shah, left-arm orthodox Kashif Bhatti and pacer Khurram Shahzad picking up two wickets each. In the second match of the day, Southern Punjab downed Central Punjab by 86 runs. Opener Zain Abbas smashed 65 off 44 (10 fours) as Southern Punjab set 166 for Central Punjab. They were all out for mere 79 in 14.3 overs thanks to a terrific show with the ball by Salman Ali Agha. Southern Punjab made 165-8 after Salman elected to bat. Sharoon Siraj continued to add crucial runs in the middle order as in this match, he scored 35 off 24. In the last two matches, he made 57 not out against Balochistan, and 36 against Sindh. Central Punjab's openers Abdullah Shafique and Ahmed Shehzad once again could not provide a solid start as the latter was run out at the start of the third over. - APP

## PM...

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cataprophe. Moreover, he also ordered the construction of a five-kilometer metal road to facilitate the villagers. In an interaction with the affected villagers, the prime minister assured the flood-stricken people that the government would not leave them alone until all of the families were rehabilitated. The prime minister expressed condolence over the loss of lives and properties and assured the victims of the government's all-out support for their relief and rehabilitation. He said the government was making all-out efforts to ease the difficulties being faced by the people in flood-ravaged areas. During the visit, the prime minister also distributed cheques among the flood-affected people of Shisper Glacier of Hunza at a ceremony held at Gilgit airport. He handed over cheques of Rs 8 million each among nine people whose houses were completely destroyed during the floods and Rs 0.5 million each among six people whose houses were partially damaged. Advisor to PM on Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira, Special Assistant Fahad Hussain and Chairman of National Disaster Management Authority Lt General Akhtar Nawaz accompanied the prime minister.

## Death toll...

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is a consequence of a surge in the flow of water down River Indus, with monstrous floods leaving a trail of destruction in the country's northern regions. Record monsoon rains and melting glaciers in northern mountains have triggered floods that have killed at least 1,208 people, including 416 children, and injured 6,082, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The latest NDMA report said 19 casualties were reported over the past 24 hours.

## PM thanks...

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the form of tents, food items, medicines and emergency relief goods for the flood victims. So far, 11 Turkish military aircraft and two 'Goodness Trains' had been dispatched. The prime minister said Pakistan was grateful to the Turkish government, people and the business community for sending relief goods for the distressed people of Pakistan within no time. He said the relief goods were being distributed among the flood victims across all provinces and regions. Prime Minister Sharif told the delegation that the flash floods had killed over 1000 people including 300 children, besides washing away crops and livestock and rendering millions of the people homeless. He said he had never seen such a catastrophic situation in his lifetime. The prime minister recalled Türkiye's steadfast support and assistance to Pakistan during the 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods. He underlined that Türkiye and Pakistan were "two hearts, with one soul" and had always supported each other during difficult times.

## Pak thrash...

FROM PAGE 01

four wickets, Mohammad Nawaz took three, while Shah Nawaz Dahani took one wicket. Pakistan were off to a slow start after losing skipper Babar Azam in the third over and with 13 runs on the board. However, Mohammad Rizwan and Fakhar Zaman built a 116-run partnership to set the stage for Khushdil Shah's fireworks in the last three overs. Zaman contributed 53 off 41 balls before being dismissed on the first ball of the 17th over. But the partnership had built a strong foundation for Khushdil Shah to exploit the Hong Kong bowlers. Khushdil's cameo of 35 off 15 balls propelled Pakistan to 193/2. Mohammad Rizwan carried the bat till the end of the innings and remained unbeaten on 78. For Hong Kong, off-spinner Ehsan Khan was the only bowler who took wickets by dismissing Babar and Zaman in his four overs at the cost of 28 runs.

## Türkiye will help ensure Balkans' gas needs

The initiative covers an economic and political zone between Albania, North Macedonia, and Serbia, aimed at boosting trade and student exchange opportunities for some 12 million people

FOREIGN DESK

BELGRADE: Türkiye's top diplomat on Friday gave assurances that Türkiye will help ensure the Balkans' gas needs will be met this winter. "The war in Europe is a wake-up call. We see how vulnerable we are to various shocks. Winter is coming," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told the opening of the Open Balkan Initiative Summit in Belgrade, Serbia's capital. "Energy and food security became common challenges. There is no recipe other than solidarity. As Türkiye, we continue to do our best for smooth implementation of the Istanbul grain deal. We also do our best to help our Balkan neighbors in ensuring their gas needs for the winter," he added, also citing the deal reached in Istanbul this July unblocking Ukrainian grain exports. Cavusoglu also criticized European Union on the stalled EU accession bids of North

Macedonia and Albania. "We see the Open Balkan Initiative as a bridge between the Balkans and the EU. In the past, enlargement has been among the most successful policies of the EU. But the EU has become inward-looking, and narrow political interests hijacked the enlargement agenda," he said. "Nobody can offer a good explanation as to why North Macedonia and Albania have waited for so long. And we congratulate both of them on the beginning of accession negotiations." North Macedonia became an EU candidate in 2005, while Albania was granted candidate status in 2014. Albania's negotiations have been stalled since 2020 due to a dispute with Bulgaria over linguistic and historical issues. On recent developments in the region, Cavusoglu emphasized that Türkiye will continue encouraging dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo. "The (recent) agreement on ID cards shows the merit in focusing on our shared interests rather than differenc-

es. Türkiye has open communication with both parties. We will continue to encourage dialogue to reach an agreement on vehicle plates and other remaining issues," said Cavusoglu. Serbia and Kosovo on Saturday agreed on a new border policy under an EU-facilitated dialogue process. Tension was rising in the region over Kosovo's plans to make it mandatory for everyone, including Serbs living in the north, to have a Kosovo ID card and license plate. Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, with most UN member states, including the US, UK, France, Germany, and Türkiye, recognizing it as a separate autonomous country from its neighbor. Serbia continues to see Kosovo as its territory. Cavusoglu added that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will visit the region next week, adding: "The current situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be on the top of our agenda. We cannot allow another conflict at the heart of the Balkans."

Cavusoglu arrived on Thursday night for a two-day visit to Belgrade including a meeting with his Serbian counterpart. The Open Balkan Initiative Summit was hosted by Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and attended by Cavusoglu along with Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, North Macedonian Prime Minister Dimitar Kovacevski, Montenegrin Prime Minister Dritan Abazovic, and Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto. The initiative covers an economic and political zone between Albania, North Macedonia, and Serbia, aimed at boosting trade and student exchange opportunities for some 12 million people, as well as encouraging the three countries' integration into the EU. In April, Serbia opened a special section at its border gates for commercial vehicles under the Open Balkans initiative for a joint economic area in the Western Balkans. Kosovo is the only country out of the six Western Balkan countries that continues to refuse to participate in the initiative.

## Briefs

## Climate activists target UK parliament

LONDON: Members of climate activist group Extinction Rebellion on Friday glued themselves to the Speaker's chair in the UK House of Commons, calling for a "Citizens' Assembly" to help shape environmental policy. "Just before noon today (1100 GMT), a group of around fifty people took nonviolent action at the House of Commons," the group said in a statement. "The parliament action began with three people booked on an official tour of the building, gluing themselves in a chain around the Speaker's Chair." The group, wearing t-shirts reading "Let The People Decide", took it in turns to read a speech calling for a Citizens' Assembly to "give ordinary people a say over the major crises facing us." Parliament is currently on summer recess, with politicians due to return on Monday.

Outside parliament, another member climbed up scaffolding around the Elizabeth Tower housing "Big Ben" and raised a banner reading "Let The People Decide - Citizens' Assemblies Now". Two others chained themselves to the railings. "To create a new, fairer politics will require first thousands, then millions of us," said Alanna Byrne, of Extinction Rebellion. "It will require sustained culture-shifting civil disobedience, until we become impossible to ignore." - APP

## Finnish trial of journalists 'unacceptable'

DNA

LONDON: Prosecution of investigative journalists in Finland, an EU country, is "unacceptable," the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said on Friday. The comments from the CPJ came amid ongoing press freedom controversy in Finland as three investigative journalists have been facing a court case for "revealing state secrets" in an article published in local daily The Helsingin Sanomat in 2017. Reiterating that the CPJ is "closely monitoring this case", its Europe Director Attila Mong said: "It is unacceptable that investigative journalists in an EU country could face prison sentences for their work." Mong told Anadolu Agency the CPJ thinks that "prosecuting these journalists will have a chilling effect on national security reporting in Finland." "The Finnish journalists' reporting was in the public interest, they provided context and background to national security policies and decisions, prosecuting them sends a wrong message to other journalists working on similar topics," he added. The charges stem from a Dec. 16, 2017 article on the activities of the Finnish Intelligence Research Center, a unit that conducts military intelligence operations, according to the indictment.

## Argentina VP unharmed after attempted shooting

DNA

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner was unharmed late Thursday when a man with a loaded gun tried to shoot her but the gun did not go off, officials said. The attack underscores rising political tension in Argentina and around the region that has put politicians on edge from Colombia to Brazil. "A man pointed a firearm at her head and pulled the trigger. Cristina is still alive because, for some reason yet to be confirmed, the gun ... did not fire," President Alberto Fernandez said in a televised address. The president said the gun had been loaded with five bullets. "This is the most serious event we have gone through since Argentina returned to democracy," he said. Kirchner is on trial on corruption charges and hundreds of supporters had gathered outside her Buenos Aires home when the attack took place. Shock as a man in crowd pulls out gun.

## Biden warns 'equality and democracy under assault'

A Democratic fundraiser said donors are closely watching Biden's performance over the next few months to gauge whether to back him in a 2024 presidential run

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: U.S. President Joe Biden charged Republican allies of Donald Trump with undermining the country's democracy and urged voters on Thursday to reject extremism ahead of November's midterm elections. Biden accused lawmakers and others devoted to the Make America Great Again (MAGA) agenda led by former U.S. President Trump as willing to overturn democratic elections, ignore the Constitution and "determined to take this country backwards" to a time without rights to abortion, privacy, contraception or same-sex marriage. "Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans represent an

extremism that threatens the very foundations of our republic," Biden said. "As I stand here tonight, equality and democracy are under assault. We do ourselves no favor to pretend otherwise." The prime-time speech in Philadelphia, the birthplace of American democracy, marked a sharp turn for Biden as midterm congressional elections approach. Aides say the president is increasingly concerned about anti-democratic trends in the Republican Party, and sees a need to jump into this year's election fight and recast the stakes of his own 2024 re-election bid. After spending much of 2022 trying to combat high inflation at home and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and enduring two bouts of COVID-19 over the summer,

Biden in recent days repeatedly lashed out at Trump-aligned Republicans. His remarks on Thursday denouncing political violence and urging bipartisan compromise came after speeches in recent days where he condemned MAGA philosophy as "semi-fascism" and assailed Republican threats against the FBI after a search of Trump's Florida home as "sickening." House of Representatives Republican leader Kevin McCarthy on Thursday accused Biden of ignoring crime and inflation to criticize his fellow citizens. "Instead of trying to bring our country together to solve these challenges, President Biden has chosen to divide, demean and disparage his fellow Americans," McCarthy said in Bid-

en's hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania. "Why? Simply because they disagree with his policies." A Democratic fundraiser said donors are closely watching Biden's performance over the next few months to gauge whether to back him in a 2024 presidential run. Some have already decided that Biden, 79, should step aside to make way for fresh leadership, while others want to see if he can lead the party effectively. "If we can pull it off and retain the Senate, then there will be enough voices saying he has earned it and pave the way for re-election," said a senior Democratic official. "If we don't, the overwhelming sentiment will be 'Pass the torch.'" Biden spoke in Philadelphia from behind bullet-proof

glass and within earshot of chanting Trump-supporting protesters. He made his remarks at a venue meant to signal the historical significance of his appeal, near Independence Hall, where the U.S. Declaration of Independence and Constitution were adopted. Some historians and legal scholars have cast the stakes in starker terms than Biden's political future, saying free elections and commitment to the rule of law hang in the balance. They say losing Congress would not only make Biden a lame-duck president, but also turn over control of certifying the results of the next presidential election to Trump sympathizers, some of whom never accepted Biden's 2020 victory and who have pledged to over-

haul voting systems. Biden alluded to the concerns, saying "I will not stand by and watch elections in this country be stolen by people who simply refuse to accept that they lost." The speech echoed Biden's signature 2020 campaign pledge to restore the "soul of the nation" and, by implication, purge the values associated with Trump. In the nearly two years since Biden was elected, Republican voters have mostly backed candidates aligned with the former president; more than half say they believe Trump rightfully won the election. Confronted by threats after Trump's loss, one in five election workers polled this year said they may quit before the next presidential election.

## Lufthansa strike grounds hundreds of flights

DNA

BERLIN: A pilots' strike has forced German air carrier Lufthansa to cancel nearly 800 flights on Friday, affecting around 130,000 passengers. The strike began at 00:01 a.m. local time and is set to continue until 23:59 p.m., according to a statement by the pilots' union Vereinigung Cockpit (VC). Lufthansa has asked its passengers to check the current status of their flight online, contact a call center for a rebooking solution, and avoid traveling to the airport. "Due to the strike, only a few or no service counters are open there. It is therefore highly unlikely that you will be offered an immediate alternative there either," the company said. Nearly all Lufthansa flights from Frankfurt and Munich hubs were canceled on Friday due to the strike. There might be more flight cancellations or delays this Saturday and Sunday due to the effects of the strike, the airline warned. The pilots' union decided to strike after negotiations with the management failed to make any headway on Wednesday. "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 an internationally competitive remuneration structure in all occupational groups.

## Swedish PM pushes for expansion of police

DNA

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's prime minister announced Thursday that she wants to expand the number of police employees in the country to improve public security. Magdalena Andersson was joined by Finance Minister Mikael Damberg and Justice Minister Morgan Johansson at a press conference, where it was announced that the ruling Social Democrats party wants the police force to grow to 50,000 employees by 2032. Out of those, 34,000 will be uniformed police officers, which will be visible in the streets. "Sweden is a fantastic country, but we have big problems," said Andersson. Andersson cited gang crime and shootings as a reason for her decision but also said the police's powers should be expanded and that the punishment for serious weapons crimes should be doubled. Damberg said the violence is becoming "rawer." "It must be fought, and then more police officers are needed. This is an ambitious goal that we estimate will cost tens of billions of krona," said Damberg. Johansson added that this investment is the biggest in modern times when it comes to the police. - APP

## Chile to vote on new Constitution

DNA

BOGOTA: Chileans will hold a historic plebiscite on Sunday to decide to approve a new Constitution. About 15 million Chileans 18 and older must cast ballots to replace the Constitution that was drawn up during Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship, which has been law since 1980. The drafting of the new Constitution began in 2019 after social unrest that resulted in a first plebiscite where 80% of the population decided a new Constitutional text should be made. In 12 months, 155 popularly-elected individuals, representing a variety of voices, worked to draft the new Constitution. The result, presented in July to President Gabriel Boric, is a 178-page progressive document that embodies gender equality and Indigenous rights, expands social protections and prioritizes environmental protection. The constituent assembly said the proposal is a response to Chileans' requests for a more equal society.

## Canadian spy smuggled me into Syria: IS bride



NEWS DESK

LONDON: Shamima Begum, a schoolgirl who left the UK to join the Daesh/ISIS terrorist group, has said she was smuggled into Syria by a Canadian intelligence agent. Mohammed al-Rasheed posed as a human smuggler when he helped Begum and two other British girls travel to Syria in 2015. Begum was 15 years old at the time and was accompanied by Kadiza Sultana, 16, and 15-year-old Amira Abase. "He organized the entire trip from Turkey to Syria ... I don't think anyone would have been able to make it to Syria without the help of smugglers," Begum said in a BBC podcast detailing her journey to join the terrorist group. "He had helped a lot of people come in ... We were just doing everything he was telling us to do be-

cause he knew everything, we didn't know anything," Begum added. Rasheed played a major role in bringing foreign fighters into Syria, while also providing information to Canadian intelligence authorities on their movements, according to the BBC, which gained access to a dossier on the Canadian spy and his undercover work as a smuggler. A senior intelligence officer confirmed that Rasheed "was providing information to Canadian intelligence while smuggling people" to Daesh/ISIS, the BBC reported. In a video he took of Begum, Sultana and Abase at the Syrian border, Rasheed can be heard directing the British schoolgirls to a car that would take them to their destination. Rasheed was arrested by authorities in Turkey's southern city of Sanliurfa shortly after he smuggled Begum into Syria.

According to the BBC, the Canadian agent also obtained information on the terrorist group itself, documenting the location of homes of foreign fighters in Syria, as well as identifying IP addresses and locations of internet cafes used by fighters in Daesh/ISIS-controlled territory. After his arrest, Rasheed told law enforcement that he was gathering information on everyone he helped and "passing this information to the Canadian Embassy in Jordan," the BBC report said. He had also been in contact with an infamous UK member of the terrorist group, Raphael Hostey, and the pair coordinated on supplying fighters and weaponry. "I need you to work under me. Officially ... I want you to help us bring people in," Hostey said to Rasheed in a text conversation seen by the BBC. "You work for us bringing equipment, bring-

ing in brothers and sisters," Hostey added, to which Rasheed responded with: "I am ready, brother." The UK revoked Begum's citizenship in 2019 and she is currently held in a detention camp in north-eastern Syria. Her lawyers, who have launched legal proceedings to get her back to the UK, said it was "shocking" that a Canadian intelligence asset helped in trafficking young girls. They told the BBC that "intelligence-gathering looks to have been prioritized over the lives of children." UK authorities have yet to comment on the issue, with a government spokesman saying "it is our long-standing policy that we do not comment on operational intelligence or security matters," the BBC report said. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the government "will follow up on the claims."

## Pak urges UN Police's involvement in dialogues

NEW YORK: Pakistan has called for including UN Police in peacekeeping operations' mediation and other dialogue processes, especially where a lack of trust in the security sector was a root cause of conflict. "Peacekeeping is a shared responsibility," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the third UN Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS), which brought together ministers, police chiefs, and senior representatives of regional and professional policing organizations. - APP

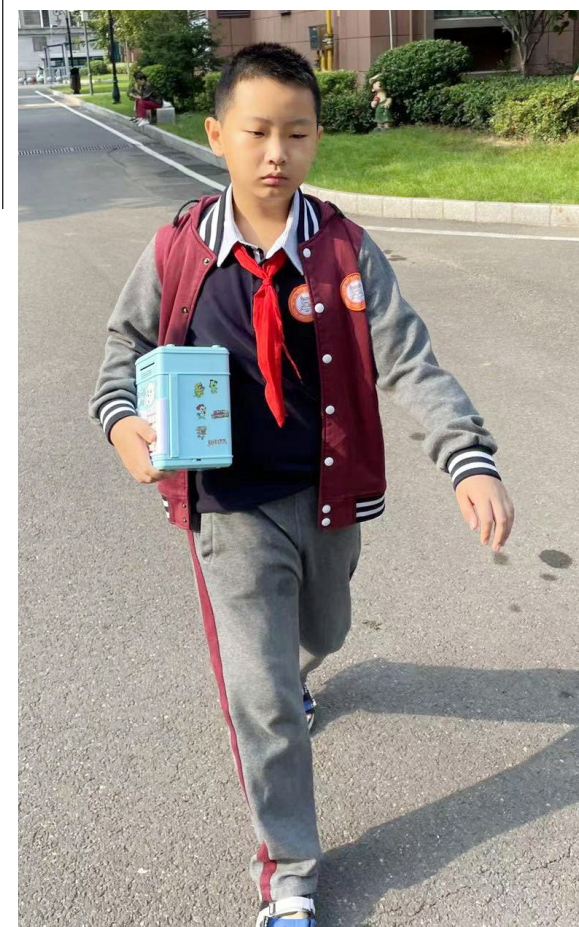
## Pak-China ties run in hearts of people

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said on Friday that Pakistan-China was not only a state-to-state relationship but it ran in the hearts of the people of the two countries. This sentiment is once again clearly evident in case of recent floods in Pakistan, in the response of which we have seen a continuous outpouring of sympathy and support from the Chinese side - leadership and people, he said while chairing a meeting here at Pakistan Embassy. Ambassador Haque said, a

very touching example of this friendship was young Mingxuan, a little friend of Pakistan, who decided to donate all his money for flood victims in Pakistan. This gracious gesture is a manifestation of the fact that the spirit of friendship nurtured by the earlier generations has been passed on to our children as well, he added. Ambassador Haque observed that this was not the first time that such gestures, have been extended, as when Covid-19 pandemic initially broke out in China, Pakistan sent all its Covid-related supplies to China without keep-

ing anything for itself. Later, when Covid-19 pandemic spread in Pakistan, China was our largest source of supply of medical equipment and later vaccines. Our two countries indeed share weal and woe, he added. Noting this generous gesture by the Chinese child, Pakistan's Ambassador to China expressed gratitude in his tweet: Young Mingxuan donated all his new year's money to help children affected by floods in Pakistan, a classic example of (Giving all that one has). Indeed a touching and heart warming gesture. Thank you our little friend.



## China refutes OHCHR report on Xinjiang

"It is a patchwork of disinformation that serves as a political tool for the US and some Western forces to strategically use Xinjiang to contain China," said Wang

DNA

BEIJING: China refuted the release of human rights assessment of Xinjiang by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The assessment is orchestrated and produced by the US and some Western forces and is completely illegal, null and void, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a daily news briefing, according to China Economic Net (CEN). The spokesperson was asked, what counter measures the Chinese government will take regarding OHCHR's so-called human rights assessment of Xinjiang. "It is a patchwork of disinformation that serves as a political tool

for the US and some Western forces to strategically use Xinjiang to contain China," said Wang. The OHCHR's assessment is predicated on the political scheme of some anti-China forces outside China. This seriously violates the mandate of OHCHR and the principles of universality, objectivity, non-selectivity and non-politicization, Wang said, adding that it once again shows that the OHCHR has been reduced to an enforcer and accomplice of the US and some Western forces in forcing the developing countries to fall into line with them. He stressed that the fact that this assessment, despite its illegality and zero credibility, did not go so far as to play up false allegations such as "genocide," "forced la-

bor," "religious oppression" and "forced sterilization" shows that the lies of the century concocted by the US and some Western forces have already collapsed. "Of all people, the people in Xinjiang, whatever their ethnic backgrounds, are in the best position to tell the world what the human rights conditions are like in Xinjiang," said Wang. In recent years, Xinjiang has enjoyed sustained economic growth, social harmony and stability, better living standards, cultures thriving like never before, and freedom of religious beliefs and religious harmony, Wang said. "In Xinjiang, people from ethnic minorities, religious figures, workers, and those who graduated from the vocational and education

training centers, among others, have voluntarily written to the High Commissioner for Human Rights about their own experience to present the real Xinjiang," said the spokesperson. International friends who have been to Xinjiang said what they saw with their own eyes in Xinjiang is completely different from what has been reported by Western media or portrayed by anti-China forces, said Wang. More than 60 countries who care about truth and justice have sent a co-signed letter to the High Commissioner to express their opposition to the release of this untrue assessment, Wang said, adding that nearly 1,000 non-governmental organizations from across the world and people from various

walks of life in Xinjiang have written to the High Commissioner to express their opposition. Wang said nearly 100 countries, including Muslim countries, have spoken up at the Human Rights Council, the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly and on other public occasions to support China's legitimate position on issues including Xinjiang and oppose interference in China's internal affairs in the name of so-called Xinjiang-related issues in recent years. "They are the mainstream of the international community," he added. "The US and some Western forces seek to destabilize Xinjiang and use it to contain China. This unjust, pernicious political agenda will not have people's support and will only end in failure," he said.

**Briefs**

**Taliban arrest woman who accused official of rape**

DNA

KABUL: The Taliban has arrested an Afghan woman who accused a senior official of rape. The woman, who was identified only by her first name Elaha, released a video earlier this week in which she alleged being forced into marriage, beaten and repeatedly raped by former Taliban Interior Ministry spokesman Saeed Khosti. She said she was speaking from an apartment in Kabul where the Taliban had confined her after she tried to escape the country, and pleaded for rescue. "These may be my last words. He will kill me, but it is better to die once than to die every time," she said. On Wednesday, a day after the video surfaced, the Taliban said Elaha had been arrested for defamation on orders of the chief justice Abdul Hakeem Haqqani, and would "soon be sentenced according to Sharia law".

**Devastating floods claimed 470 lives in Sindh: CM**

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister has said the flood has so far claimed 470 lives across the province that received 800% more rainfall than the average. The situation is more critical than the floods of 2010-11, the Sindh CM said while addressing a press conference. A total of 8,314 people sustained injuries, and thousands of families were displaced due to the devastating flood, he said, adding that infrastructure has been ruined as Sindh received 1,100mm record rain this year and the calamity-hit people are in dire need of help. He renewed the provincial government's resolve to provide all-out support to the disaster-hit people, saying that the provincial government has been doing all it could to reach out to the affected.

**N Korea says UN human rights expert is 'US puppet'**

SEOUL: Pyongyang on Friday accused the newly appointed UN special rapporteur on North Korean human rights of being a "puppet of the US" and making "unpardonable reckless remarks". The accusations came as the new rapporteur, Elizabeth Salmon, visited Seoul on her first trip since being appointed to the role last month. Salmon, a Peruvian professor of international law, arrived earlier this week and has held meetings with South Korean officials and civic group members, including female defectors from the North, to discuss the situation in the isolated, nuclear-armed country. - DNA

**Pak values Japanese efforts in development area: Marri**

Pointing towards the flood situation in Pakistan, Shazia said that there are thousands of pregnant women in the flood affected areas who need the world's attention



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mitsuhiro Wada calls on Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri at Benazir Income Support Program Headquarters, Islamabad. Federal Minister, Shazia Marri said

that Pakistan and Japan have cordial and cooperative relations for the last several decades. We hope this relationship will continue to remain solid notwithstanding the regional and international developments and our respective relations with other countries, she added. Pakistan attaches great importance to its relationship with Japan. We greatly value the important contributions made by Japan in supporting Pakistan's development efforts over the years, Shazia Marri said. Federal Minister said that Japanese investment in Pakistan brings good will for the people of Pakistan and its strengthens our relationship. Pakistan is trying to stabilize the economy to attract FDI. In spite of social and economic difficulties, people of Pakistan are kind to us, said the Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan. Pointing towards the flood situation in Pakistan, Shazia Marri said that there are thousands of pregnant women in the flood affected areas who need the world's attention. We are still in rescue stage but when the water will recede then we need a lot of resources for rehabilitation. We have never seen such a huge devastation, she added. Traditional and social media of Pakistan tried its best to get world's attention at this critical juncture, said the Japanese Ambassador. Year 2022 is being marked as "70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations" between the two countries. The volume of our bilateral trade is much below our potential. I have noted that Japanese investments in Pakistan have declined in recent years. Hope you would make an effort to enhance Japanese FDI to Pakistan. We need to further enhance our trade and economic ties with a view to achieving a win-win situation, she said. Federal Minister appreciated the positive contribution of Japanese companies in the economic development of Pakistan. Pakistan urges Japanese companies to continue to demonstrate their commitment to their investments in Pakistan. Pakistan is open for business and investment to all our friends and partners, and would welcome the Japanese Investment in all sectors. Shazia Marri appreciated Japanese Government's decision to lower the infectious disease risk information level "Level 2 (Avoid non-essential travel)" to "Level 1 (Exercise caution)" for countries including Pakistan. Federal Minister said that Pakistan is committed to enhance its bilateral engagement and dialogue with Japan. We hope to take this relationship to a new and higher level of cooperation, with particular focus on economic & business ties, and human resource development initiatives. - DNA

**Drug dealers to get death or life sentence**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday assented to the Control of Narcotic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which allows a death sentence or life imprisonment for illicit trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic drugs. This includes drugs of varying quantities including heroin, morphine, cocaine, and methamphetamine (ICE). The Act provides a maximum punishment if the offence involves any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance inside or near a school, college, university, educational premises, or any other educational institution. After President Alvi's approval, the bill has become the Control of Narcotic Substances (Amendment) Act, 2022 in terms of Article 75 of the Constitution. The Control of Narcotic Substances (Amendment) Act, 2022, allows imprisonment which may extend to life imprisonment, however, not less than 20 years with a fine not less than Rs1 million for offences involving heroin and morphine weighing 4kg or more.

**Pakistani political group urges US to boost aid**

NEW YORK: A prominent political group of Pakistani-American activists has called on the US Congress and Biden administration to pass a \$13 billion aid package to provide desperately needed humanitarian assistance to Pakistan, which is battling the worst-ever floods. Through its National Disaster Management Authority, the Pakistani Government - which has declared a national emergency - is leading the response in coordinating assessments and directing humanitarian relief to affected people. More than 1,000 people have been killed and at least 33 million displaced from what the United Nations has characterized as a "monsoon on steroids." Approximately one-third of Pakistan is under water, as heavy rainfall since June has deluged the country. The Atlantic Council, a Washington-based American think-tank, estimates flooding so far has caused \$5.2bn in damages to Pakistan and will require \$7.9bn in reconstruction costs. As flood waters move south, the situation is expected to deteriorate even further. The Atlantic Council valued Pakistan's final damages from flooding in 2022 at around \$17 billion, bringing the two-year total to a minimum of \$30 billion. As climate change progresses, flooding crises in Pakistan are expected to grow. The country contributes less than 1% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions yet continues to bear the brunt of climate related disasters year after year, it was pointed out. "Pakistan faces one of its darkest hours today with a third of the country underwater. What is most tragic is that this year's floods, just like last year's, are a harbinger of worse climate related disasters to come," Dr. Ijaz Ahmad, Chairman of the American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC) said in a statement. - APP

**Pakistan rejects Indian propaganda**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan categorically rejects the contents of Indian newspapers' story regarding banned outfit relief activities. It only betrays India's bias and prejudice towards Pakistan, and is part of India's regular and continuing attempts to mislead the international audience. It is not the first time that the Indian media have shown their proclivity to carry baseless and motivated stories to further a political agenda. It is also unfortunate that while the international community is single-mindedly focused on helping Pakistan in the wake of an unprecedented natural calamity, some elements in the Indian media are attempting to cast doubts on the relief efforts. Pakistan has put in place strong and robust regulatory and oversight mechanisms to monitor flood relief activity by non-profit and non-governmental organizations. All relevant agencies are vigilant in ensuring that no illicit activity is carried out under the garb of relief efforts. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Newly appointed Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Jakob Linulf donating essential items for flood victims to Edhi Foundation. - DNA

**NEWS DESK**

CHENGDU: Millions were stuck at home in China's Chengdu on Friday after a handful of Covid-19 cases brought the megacity to a standstill. Supermarket shelves were stripped bare this week as locals in the city - a powerhouse economic hub in China's southwest that is home to 21 million people - feared a repeat of the months-long lockdown in the eastern megalopolis of Shanghai earlier this year. Long lines of residents queued for mandatory testing, while videos verified by AFP showed supermarket shelves cleared of produce. One local, who asked to remain anonymous, told AFP he believed "everyone was crazily stocking up for goods" because of the experience of Shanghai, which was hit by food shortages during its lockdown. The 25-year-old said he had been in the eastern city during its

**Millions locked down in China's Chengdu over Covid outbreak**

shutdown and had since been "habitually stocking up" before Chengdu's latest measures were announced. Under the rules, in force until Sunday, each household will be allowed to send one person out to buy groceries and essential goods per day, provided they have tested negative for Covid-19 in the previous 24 hours, an official notice said. It added that all residents would be tested for the virus, urging them not to leave the city unless "absolutely necessary". The mood appeared calmer on social media on Friday, with some residents saying they were able to order food to be delivered to their apartment gates and to go out to buy groceries. Others said they had resorted to sleeping at their offices in order not to miss work. Authorities had initially sought to quash talk of a looming lockdown, with police saying they had detained a man for "creating panic" after he warned that the city could shut down.

**AI urges India to end repression of human rights in IIOJK**

ISLAMABAD: London-based rights watchdog, Amnesty International, urged the Indian government to end repression of human rights in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, the Amnesty International on Friday released a new briefing titled 'We are being punished by the law'. Three years since of abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu Kashmir. The briefing documents "how civil society at large and journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders in particular have faced relentless interrogations, arbitrary travel bans, revolving door detentions and repressive media policies while blocking access to appeals or justice in courts and human rights bodies." Amnesty International in the briefing said the Indian government has drastically intensified the repression of rights in IIOJK in the three years since the change in status of the region. "For three years now, civil society and media in Jammu and Kashmir have been subjected to a vicious crackdown by the Indian government, which is determined to stifle dissent using draconian laws, policies and unlawful practices in their arsenal," said Aakar Patel, chair of the board of Amnesty International India. "By harassing and intimid-

ating critical voices, authorities are targeting all credible, independent sources of information in and about Jammu and Kashmir. There is a silence achieved on all dissent through heavy handed repression which has spread fear and uncertainty in the region," he said. Assault on freedom of expression and movement Amnesty International, in the report, has recorded at least 60 instances of crackdown on journalists and human rights defenders since August 2019. A Kashmiri journalist who has been harassed by the authorities, was quoted by Amnesty International as saying, "They (security forces) tell you in so many ways - subtle as well as brazen - that the cost of pursuing journalism in Jammu & Kashmir is huge." The Amnesty International said that the Indian government had total control on information coming out of the region after passing restrictive media policies such as the 2020 Revised Media Policy and 2021 Film Policy. And that, after an initial six-month internet shutdown, the Indian authorities still often suspend internet services in various parts of Kashmir often without any prior notice. In addition, the sudden forced closure of the Kashmir Press Club in 2022 by the Indian government was a big blow to the already disintegrating media pool.

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