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UN agency calls for safety zone around Ukraine nuclear plant

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Maxwell takes four to restrict NZ in first ODI

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Briefs

PTI violating sanctity of 6 September

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that those spitting in the sky were now violating the sanctity of Defence Day with their failed and anti-army agenda. Using her twitter handle in reaction to PTI leader Chaudhry Fawad Hussain's tweet, she said that Jawans were proud of their leadership. Taking a jibe at PTI Chairman Imran Khan, she said that the Army Jawans laughed at a person who has made arrangements for his own humiliation and who preferred his own interest over the interest of the country. - APP

Pak supports China efforts for Xinjiang development

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office says Pakistan supports China's efforts for socio economic development, harmony and peace and stability in Xinjiang. Responding to the queries of the media persons, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said China has succeeded in lifting over seven hundred million people out of poverty in the last thirty five years, thus improving their living standards and the enjoyment of fundamental human rights.

Liz Truss inherently anti-Russian, Lavrov says

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Incoming British Prime Minister Liz Truss has a pre-existing negative attitude towards Russia, yet under the current conditions it would be more important for London to sort out relations with its closest neighbors, including France, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a news conference following talks with Thailand's visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Don Pramudwinai, in Moscow on Tuesday.

PM Shehbaz says...

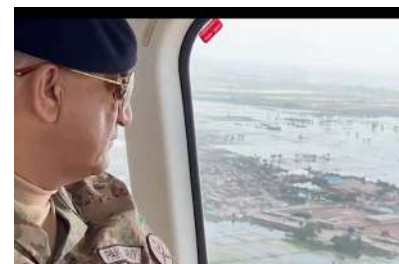
Bids to pitch people versus Army to fail COAS General Bajwa says Freedom owed to sacrifices of Martyrs

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Anyone intending to hurt the bond between the country's armed forces and its people is not a friend of Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in his message on Defence Day, Pakistan is observing today (Tuesday) Defence Day with patriotic zeal and zest and remembering the valorous martyrs of the 1965 war, as the nation continues its battle against historic floods. The nation observes the day every year on September 6 to pay homage to the shuhada and ghazis of the battle and reaffirm its commitment to defend Pakistan against all threats. The day marks the start of the Pakistan-India war in 1965 when Indian troops breached the international border in the darkness of the night with the intention to take control of the country but the nefarious designs of the enemy were thwarted by Pakistan army. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on the occasion that Defence Day symbolises the unwavering resolve of the armed forces, backed by the "great Pakistani nation to defend [the] motherland

Army Chief visits flood affected areas

STAFF REPORT



RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) spent complete defence and martyrs day visiting far flung flood affected areas of Balochistan. On arrival, COAS visited army flood relief camp

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NW clash: TTP claims responsibility

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Amidst ceasefire, the Banned Tehrik Taliban Pakistan has claimed responsibility for Monday clash with security forces in two different areas of North Waziristan, which caused lives to 10, five from each side. The Five personnel of security forces killed during the clash with alleged militants at Boya Ghulam Khan and Mirali, were included a captain. Through its latest statement issued here on Tuesday, the banned TTP while claiming responsibility for the clash, justified it by saying, "it was reaction in defense as the security forces raided the hideout and the militants (Mujahideen) made a successful repulse." Through this statement, the banned TTP has not only confirmed killing five personnel of security forces and injuring four others, also admitted loss of its two fighters. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) late Monday night confirmed the clashes between the security forces and militants at two different places of North Waziristan through a statement. The first

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Forces kill active terrorist commander

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Security Forces on Monday killed the active terrorist commander Tufail during an Intelligence Based Operation (IBO) conducted in general area Mir Ali of North Waziristan District. During the conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between the security troops and terrorists, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The Forces also recovered weapons and ammunition from the killed terrorist. The killed terrorist remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces, preparation of improvised

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Japan to provide US\$ 7 million as flood relief

WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, reaffirms his commitment to support Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: On September 6, Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, announced the Government of Japan's plan to provide emergency assistance of USD 7 million to Pakistan, in response to the devastating flooding nationwide. The epochal levels of rain and flooding have wiped away over a thousand of precious lives, destroying critical infrastructure and disrupting the primary social institutions and livelihoods. Millions of people are left without homes and their hopes and dreams are shattered. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, reaffirmed his commitment to

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40 flights deliver aid to flood victims

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Over the past week, at least 40 humanitarian flights have arrived in Pakistan carrying tonnes of urgently needed relief goods including food, tents and medical supplies to support the vulnerable

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ISLAMABAD: French blue team busy with Pakistan Army in Sindh, training the officials for the use of super water pumps. The pumps are capable of evacuating of 3000 L water in a minute . - DNA

Sri Lanka stun India in Super 4

DNA

DUBAI: Sri Lanka on Tuesday beat India by six wickets in a crucial Super four match to book a place in Asia Cup final. Sri Lanka chased down a target of 176 with brilliant start from both the openers. Kusal Mendis made 57 runs while his opening partner Nissanka made 52 runs. Earlier for India, Skipper Rohit Sharma smacked 72 off 41 balls as India made 173-8 against Sri Lanka in a crucial Super Four clash at the Asia Cup on Tuesday. Dilshan Madushanka claimed three wickets including Virat Kohli for a duck as

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US pledges to support flood victims

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The United States has pledged to support Pakistan to mitigate the sufferings of the people in wake of the floods in the country. The offer was made during a meeting of the visiting Congressional delegation of the United States with the Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. They also pledged to play their role in enhancing cooperation with Pakistan at different levels. The delegation comprising Sheila Jackson Lee, Thomas Suozzi and Alexander Green expressed grief over the devastation caused by ongoing floods in Pakistan and extended condolence to the families of the victims. They also discussed matters of mutual interests, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation in various fields. The visiting dignitaries appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional stability.

Imran defends his remarks

'Thieves cannot be allowed to pick new COAS'

PTI criticism of army is 'constructive', claims Imran Khan in Peshawar rally

BUREAU REPORT



PESHAWAR: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan has defended his 'controversial' remarks about the top military brass, saying "under any circumstances, thieves cannot be allowed to appoint the

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Youtube disrupted during Khan's speech

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: YouTube service was disrupted in parts of Pakistan on Tuesday evening ahead of PTI Chairman Imran Khan's address at a party power show in Peshawar, according to NetBlocks - an organisation that tracks internet outages. NetBlocks noted that the disruption came despite the Islamabad High Court lifting the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority's ban on Imran's speeches. "NetBlocks recommends against the use of

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UN calls for safety zone around nuclear plant

NEWS DESK

KYIV: The UN atomic watchdog agency urged Russia and Ukraine on Tuesday to establish a "nuclear safety and security protection zone" around the Zaporizhzhia power plant amid mounting fears the fighting could trigger a catastrophe in a country still scarred by the Chernobyl disaster. In a report following a visit by an inspection team last week, the International Atomic Energy Agency said "shelling on site and in its vicinity should be stopped immedi-

ately to avoid any further damages to the plant and associated facilities, for the safety of the operating staff and to maintain the physical integrity to support safe and secure operation." "This requires agreement by all relevant parties to the establishment of a nuclear safety and security protection zone" around the plant, it said. IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi, who led the inspection visit, was due to brief the U.N. Security Council later Tuesday on his findings. Shelling continued around Europe's largest

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Urgent rehabilitation of flood affectees needed - Page 08

SEPTEMBER 2022

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UNODC, government to improve liaison between IOs, prosecutors

DNA

QUETTA: UNODC in collaboration with the Government of Balochistan conducted a seminar on 'Improving the Coordination and Cooperation between Investigation Officers and Prosecutors of Balochistan'. This intervention is funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL). The seminar was held at Serena Hotel, Quetta on 5 September 2022 with the aim to assess the capacity of government institutions on policy, administrative and operational levels with reference to police prosecutors cooperation through a consultative process. Overall 90 participants including 4 women attended the seminar for this critical strategic dialogue among the

leadership and operational staff of both the institutions. The presentations generated a discussion around the capacities prevailing in government institutions, particularly in police and prosecution to improve coordination and cooperation before, during, and after the investigation in criminal cases. In his keynote speech Mr. Abdul Khaliq Shaikh, Inspector General of Police Balochistan thanked the UNODC for this initiative and said, "Without a strong coordination mechanism between police and prosecution, victims cannot be provided justice. Considering this humble beginning today, I'm hopeful for a robust criminal justice system in Balochistan." The Chief Guests included Mr. Justice Aijaz Swati of Balochistan High Court, Mr. Abdul Khaliq Shaikh,

Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Mr. Qadir Qayum, Additional Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Mr. Sajid Khan Tareen, Prosecutor General Balochistan, Registrar of Balochistan High Court and DIG Headquarters. Police investigators and prosecutors from across Balochistan attended the seminar. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of Cooperation was signed between Inspector General of Police Balochistan and Prosecutor General Balochistan to improve cooperation between the two institutions. This seminar is a result of deliberations and consultations between Police and Prosecution of Balochistan over the past two years with technical and material support being provided by UNODC.



ISLAMABAD: Turkiye ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Mehmet Paçac met with Rector NUST, Javed Mahmood Bukhari and visited TAI Pakistan office in NUST Techno park. – DNA

UNHCR hands over five well-equipped vehicles to KP Police

PESHAWAR: UNHCR provincial office in Peshawar and Commissioner Afghan Refugees (CAR) on Tuesday handed over five well-equipped vehicles to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Department to strengthen transport section of the department for effective policing in the province. "We want to thank and extend our sincere sense of gratitude to the services and sacrifices of Police Department and their effective policing, coordination and cooperation with UNHCR, CAR and other hu-

manitarian actors", said the head of UNHCR in KP, Gayrat Ahmadshoev and Commissioner Afghan Refugees Abbas Khan during the ceremony. "The UNHCR representative assured to continue supporting KP police in provision of security, escorting and coordination in relation to the affairs of refugees, humanitarian response and UN operations in the province. This generous contribution is highly valued and appreciated and will strengthen transport section of the department for effective

policing in the province," said Manzoor Rizwan Deputy Inspector General of Police, Transport and Telecommunication, Head Quarter Peshawar, KP. "The Police Department is committed to collaborate and cooperate with UNHCR and other humanitarian actors in the province to carry out their respective mandate," he added. A tribute to police and humanitarian workers was paid for working tirelessly under the most challenging circumstances. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of Qatar called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif. – APP

Pak teenage female climber set to make history

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's teenage climber Eisha Sajid Butt is set to become world's youngest mountaineer to summit an above 8000-metre peak as she is going to attempt Nepal's Manaslu peak along with a seasoned international outfit. "Eisha has reached Katmandu to embark on the expedition. By successfully ascending the peak, she will become the youngest person in the world to do so before the age of 17," Karrar Haidri, Secretary Alpine Club of Pakistan. – APP

Qatari envoy calls on Defence Minister, lauds govt efforts

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Qatar Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani on Tuesday called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif and highly praised the efforts of the new government. In a meeting held here, the ambassador expressed that Qatar had every confidence that the government would deliver and were ready to cooperate with it, a news release said. The Minister for Defence welcomed the dignitary and conveyed that Pakistan attached great value to its relations with Qatar. "Qatar is an important country for us and has a key role to play in the region. Our relations with Qatar are very smooth governed by mutual

respect and cooperation," Khawaja said. The minister said that both sides need to work closely to further extend their cooperation beyond the economic domain to defence, military exercises and training of personals and joint ventures. "Our military institutions are open for Qatari Armed Forces to avail maximum training facilities." The Minister highly appreciated the contribution of Qatar in the flood relief efforts. The visiting dignitary acknowledged the existing scope and scale of cooperation in the field of defence between the two countries and desired to undertake the joint ventures in the respective field on progressive basis. – APP

NA hosting '3rd IPU Regional Seminar'

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly (NA) is hosting the "Third Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Regional Seminar on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Parliaments of Asia-Pacific from September 13 to 14 in the federal capital. The event is being held in the backdrop of the devastating rains, floods and landslides that have impacted more than 33 million people in different parts of the country. According to the report, over 1,100 people including 350 children have lost their lives, more than 1,600 people have been injured, over 287,000 houses have been fully and 662,000 partially destroyed, over 735,000 livestock have perished and 2 million acres of crops have been adversely impacted, besides severe damage to communications infrastructure. This regional seminar aims to highlight the vulnerabilities of developing countries. – APP

Pakistan supports non-proliferation regime: Sohail

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood on Tuesday said that Pakistan supported a strong rule-based, equitable and non-discriminatory international arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament regime premised on the principle of equal security for all states. The foreign secretary, addressing a conference on "Promoting Strategic Trade Controls through International Cooperation" held by NUST Institute for Policy Studies, said such a regime was imperative for the maintenance of international peace and stability. He said Pakistan shared the global concern regarding the threat posed to international peace and security by proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. He said that given Pakistan's thriving science and technology landscape, with extensive expertise, experience and technological capabilities in ICTs, biotechnologies and nuclear applications, it clearly qualified for participation in the existing multilateral export control regimes. "Pakistan's participation in these regimes will further the non-proliferation objectives of these regimes. Pakistan will welcome non-discriminatory criteria for membership of these control regimes,

provided these criteria are applied on the basis of fairness and impartiality," he remarked. Held with the collaboration of the Foreign Office, the conference was organized with the aim to promote interaction of national and international policy-makers, enforcement agencies, public sector organizations, private industry, and academia. He said the idea was to benefit from their perspectives on a variety of topics, including Strategic Trade Management (STM), implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on WMD-proliferation and its financing; and recent developments in the multilateral export control regimes. The foreign secretary told the gathering that Pakistan had put in place extensive legislative, regulatory and administrative frameworks for exercising effective controls over transfers of sensitive goods and technologies to prevent their diversion to non-peaceful uses. While adhering to international export control standards and best practices, he said Pakistan strongly maintained that efforts for regulating international trade in dual-use technologies should not hamper free and equitable access to such technologies for legitimate socio-economic applications. – APP

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INSPAD pays tribute to brave armed forces

ISLAMABAD: The history of the brave Pak army consists of sacrifices, courage and the protection of the ideological and geographical borders of the country - September 6 is an indelible story of the determination and independence of our country and nation and the bravery of the brave army, on which the enemy was destroyed by crushing them. And was destroyed. On the occasion of Pakistan Defense Day, think tank Institute of Peace and Development INSPAD has paid tribute to the brave armed forces in a statement and said that today is a reminder of the sacrifices, courage and determination of our brave forces who made Mother Gave immense sacrifices for the safety and security of the country and sacrificed their lives for the protection of the country. INSPAD salutes the heroes of 6th September who crushed the ambitions of the enemy - 6th September is celebrated in national history as a symbol of courage, bravery and unparalleled spirit of sacrifice by our brave armed forces. It is a despicable and sad aspect that there is a nefarious attempt to make the army and the military leadership controversial, which is unacceptable and highly condemnable. The nation cannot accept this senseless and ignorant attempt because every member of the nation An individual has immense love and trust in his army. Will not hesitate. – DNA

Zong announces social contract amid flood disaster

ISLAMABAD: In response to one of the worst humanitarian disasters to hit the country in past few years, Zong 4G has announced a new social contract, dedicated to providing relief to flood affectees and helping rebuild Pakistan. With a three-point agenda, the company has laid out its strategy to help rebuild Pakistan - #Zong-StandsByPakistan Fully realizing its role as the leader in converged communications, Zong 4G has designed a strategy to ensure that people have unhindered access to services to stay connected with their loved ones during this catastrophic event and to provide on-ground support and care both in the short-term and long-term. "As a socially responsible company, Zong 4G understands the needs of the affectees and knows it's a long journey ahead of us to build our vision of Digital Pakistan. – DNA

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Directorate of Parks
Environment Wing

TENDER NOTICE

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

S.No.	Name of Work	NIT Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date & Time of Receiving Tender	Date & Time of Opening Tender
1	Soft landscaping / Beautification of Parks located in park Enclave Phase-III, Islamabad. (Part-I Grass sight)	Rs:-5,986,788/-	Rs:-179,604/-	22.09.2022 11.30 A.M	22.09.2022 12.00 Noon
2	Soft landscaping / Beautification of Parks located in park Enclave Phase-III, Islamabad. (Part-III (Plantation etc)	Rs:-6,984,000/-	Rs:-209,520/-	22.09.2022 11.30 A.M	22.09.2022 12.00 Noon

Conditions:

- i. Detail of Tender Notice can be seen on CDA website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk
- ii. Tender application should accompany with earnest money in shape of deposit at call in favor of DDO, Park (East), CDA issued from any scheduled local bank against firm's account. Name of firm should be clearly mentioned on instrument (Deposit at call). Tender documents shall not be issued without earnest money.
- iii. In case of total bid amount is less than 10 % below the NIT amount, the bidder shall submit additional call deposit as performance security equal to the difference between NIT amount and total quoted amount less 10 % of NIT amount. The additional performance guarantee (Call Deposit) shall be submitted along with bid. Bids having rates below 10 % of NIT without additional call deposit will be rejected. The performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of project. Tender documents can be obtained from the office of Dy. Director Park Enclave, Environment Wing CDA located at Mehran Gate No.01, Fatima Jinnah Park, Directorate of Parks (East), CDA, Islamabad on cash payment of **S#01 to 02 Rs.3,000 /- (Rupees Three Thousand) Per Each Set** (Non-Refundable) during working hours on any working day before date of opening against written request which should be on letter head pad having Name, Address, Telephone (Land line) Numbers and signature of the contractor along with attested copies of NTN Certificate, valid Professional Tax Certificate, Sole proprietorship/partnership deed, Valid PEC license in relevant category, Moreover General/Special Power of attorney may be attested through respective court, The attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government, semi Government institute/That Only legitimate attorney holder may be allowed to get tender documents. No tender will be sold on the date of opening of the tender. Tenders will be sold upto 12:00 Noon on 14-09-2022.
- iv. The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidder. The eligibility criteria of the firm with the relevant experience i.e. at least three number of works in last two financial years may be observed/fulfilled before issuance of tender documents.
- v. The intending bidder will have to provide telephone no of the relevant office / formation issuing work orders for verification purpose.
- vi. No tender will be issued without showing the required documents in "ORIGINAL".
- vii. Tender bids will be received and opened on above date and time in the office of Director Parks, Environment Wing, CDA located at Mehran Gate No.01, Fatima Jinnah Park, Islamabad.
- ix. Tender rate on percentage basis should be filled in figures as well as in words.
- x. The tender documents must be accompanied with non-relationship certificate, NTN Certificate, Non-Judicial Stamp Paper worth of Rs.50/- or above and. No tender will be entertained without these documents.
- xi. CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders as per PPRA Rules. No conditional tender will be entertained.

PID (I) No. 1448/22
Director Parks,CDA

National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

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

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Monal.....	0334-5421812



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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
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CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
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RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
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Shifa International.....	4603666



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CDA.....	9221334-43
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RDA.....	5555864
TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board.....	9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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AZPROMO delegation to visit Pak: Amb. Khazar

The envoy said that Azerbaijan and Pakistan were enjoying cordial relations and strengthening economic cooperation should be the key focus of both countries to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan lauded Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for taking a business delegation to Azerbaijan through the first direct launched between Islamabad and Baku and this becoming a pioneer of this initiative as the visit was very successful in improving business linkages between the private sectors of both countries. He said that a delegation of the Export and Investment Promotion Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AZPROMO) was expected to visit Pakistan to conduct market research and explore opportunities for promoting trade relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. He said this while interacting with the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). The envoy said that Azerbaijan and Pakistan were enjoying cordial relations and strengthening economic cooperation should be the key focus of both countries to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. He said that close cooperation of Pakistan with



Azerbaijan would open up avenues for Pakistan to improve trade with Central Asian countries. He shared the proposal of setting up a joint working group that would listen to the issues and hurdles being faced by the business community in promoting bilateral trade and propose measures to address them for further increasing bilateral ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. He said that both countries have good potential to en-

hance cooperation in many sectors including banking, IT, energy, tourism, agriculture and SMEs. He assured that the Embassy of Azerbaijan would provide all possible facilitation to the business community of Pakistan in promoting trade with his country. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the existing level of bilateral trade between Pakistan

and Azerbaijan was quite low given the actual potential of both countries and stressed that strong efforts from both sides were needed to improve it. He welcomed the news of the expected visit of the AZPROMO delegation to Pakistan and stressed for regular exchange of trade delegations to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. He said that Pakistan was producing high quality marble

products and establishing a marble warehouse in Baku was important to increase exports of marble products to Azerbaijan. He said that many Pakistani products including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, surgical instruments, sports goods, cutlery, electrical appliances, textile & leather products, furniture, home-made crafts, food and fruits products, engineering & consumer goods and rice could find a good market

in Azerbaijan and emphasized that Azerbaijan should import these products from Pakistan. ICCI Executive Members Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Humayun Kabir, Faseeh Ullah Khan, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Akhtar Hussain and others also spoke at the occasion and offered useful proposals to further increase bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

FSCRD asked to ensure availability of seeds

ISLAMABAD: The government has directed the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department (FSC&RD) to ensure availability of certified seeds of all major crops to growers in order to cop with the devastation in national agriculture sector due to recent torrential rains and flash floods in the country. This was told by Federal Secretary Ministry of National Food Security and Research Zafar Hassan while addressing the inaugural session of the two-day national conference on "Efficient integrated nutrients management technologies for enhancing wheat productivity in Pakistan" here Tuesday. He said that unavailability of certified seeds was the major obstacle in productivity enhancement of all major crops including wheat. The event was organized by Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) as it was intended to host series of events that are aiming at to finding ways and means to enhance productivity of all major and minor crops, including oil seeds and vegetables to tackle with growing domestic needs. Besides, he said that proper awareness of farmers about the use of high yielding, certified seeds varieties were need of hour to convert local growers from use of conventional seeds to high yielding quality seeds enhance productivity of wheat, which was staple food grain of the country. - APP

BISP emerges most effective social safety intervention

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has once again emerged as the most effective and reliable social protection intervention during the recent floods devastation through executing the challenging task of disbursing cash relief of Rs. 25,000 per family to the flood affected families across the country. The task of disbursing Flood Relief Cash Assistance among the flood-hit people was assigned to the BISP by the Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif which is being carrying out speedily. Under the leadership of Federal Minister of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson BISP, Shazia Marri, BISP rolled out its operations in the flood affected areas within no time and presently the flood relief activities are operational in 69 districts by establishing more than 400 payment sites. - APP

Pakistan needs enhanced financing for disasters: ADB

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan urgently needs to enhance the current disaster risk finance approach as risk retention mechanisms are insufficient to cover the losses associated with even the most frequent of flood and earthquake events, Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report on Tuesday. The report titled "Narrowing the Disaster Risk Protection Gap in Central Asia" said the private insurance solutions to the natural disasters' risks have achieved only minimal market penetration. "These challenges are compounded by a challenging external financing context at the sovereign level, making it difficult to access debt quickly and cheaply after a disaster, and low levels of financial inclusion that exacerbate the vulnerability to disaster events of many in Pakistan", it added. Previous disaster events illustrate the challenges that Pakistan faces, for example, floods in 2010 and 2015 caused an estimated Pak Rs32.6 billion (\$326 million) losses to farmers in Punjab. To support the affected farmers, the Government of Pakistan provided Rs6.7 billion (\$67 million), amounting to only 18.5% of the required amount, the report added. There would appear to be a need to increase the coverage and depth of the existing risk retention instruments for high frequency events, through enhanced functioning of the national and provincial disaster management funds. - APP



RAWALPINDI: Madam Samina Fazil founder President IWCCI presenting Shield of honor to Brigadier Amir Rasheed Station Commander Nowshera along with President IWCCI Madam Naima Ansari and SVP IWCCI Madam Sadaf Asim Abbasi and Madam Zaheema. - DNA

IESCO issues power suspension schedules

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/ areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 07 TH September, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Nust Road, Peer Sohawa, Zaraj, Dhok Awan, New Rawat, Vanhar, Mayal, I-14/3, Birut Gala, Darbar Mai Toti, Khoi Ratta City, Chirohi, Dana Bhal, Chirohi Dungi, Sri, City, Kiriala, Jandrot Dabsi, Datof, Mujahan, Angori feeders and surroundings will be closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time.

ANF arrests two drug peddlers

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in two different operations has recovered heroin, ice and arrested two drug peddlers. According to an ANF spokesperson, the force from Islamabad International recovered 1.194 kg heroin and 442 gm and arrested the accused. - APP

اپنے خون سے بڑھاتے رہیں گے سدا تیرے گل رنگ چہرے کی تابندگی

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Briefs

Nation pays tribute to martyrs

ISLAMABAD: To pay rich tribute to the unyielding determination of five heroes of the nation, ISPR has started a series 'Jurrat ke Nishaan', portraying a tale of valor and bravery. Since the inception of Pakistan, many evil eyes have tried to thwart the peace and stability of the country but remained failed due to the protection walls created with blood, sweat and sacrifice of gallant sons of the soil.

In order to let the world know about the stories of selfless efforts and countless sacrifices made every second of every day by our brave soldiers, ISPR has initiated a short series based on the true stories of five martyrs who showed immense courage beyond compare & sacrificed their lives to root out all the evils who tried to even lay a single finger against this motherland. Started from August 06, 2022 till August 30, all five teasers were released showing the snippets of Maj Abdul Kareem (Shaheed), Havaladar Muhammad Wafa (Shaheed), Sepoy Salman (Shaheed), Risaldar Muhammad Khan (Shaheed) and Major Shujaat Hussain (Shaheed).

While the complete stories of two among five have been released till now including Maj Abdul Kareem (Shaheed) and Havaladar Muhammad Wafa (Shaheed).

According to the official Description shared by ISPR, Maj Kareem along with only 36 of his selfless under commands have marked one of the bloodiest engagements of Pakistan Army against terrorists during the vicious siege of Ladhra Fort, South Waziristan in 2008. - APP

PAF releases national song on Defence Day

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Tuesday released a special national song as tribute to the martyrs of the armed forces and law enforcement agencies on Defence Day.

The PAF Directorate General Public Relations released the national song to eulogise the sacrifices of the martyrs of the motherland, a PAF news release said.

It said the Defence Day was an everlasting story of the great sacrifices rendered by the soldiers of armed forces of Pakistan in the 1965 war while fighting for defence of the motherland. The sacrifices rendered by the armed forces and other law enforcement agencies in the defence of the country and the war against terrorism were unparalleled in history, it added.

The national song released on the occasion of Defence Day was sung by Sahir Ali Baga, a well-known and famous singer of the country. In the national song, tributes have been paid to the soldiers and martyrs of the armed forces and law enforcement agencies, who fought against those who looked at the country with an evil eye and did not let any harm come to the honour of the country. - APP

Police arrest 3 accused of murder

RAWALPINDI: Police on Tuesday arrested three accused who were allegedly involved in two cases of murder and attempt to murder. According to the Rawalpindi Police spokesperson, Kalar Syedan Police, on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi under the command of SHO, conducted a raid and managed to arrest two accused namely Umar and Mudassir Amin who were involved in an attempt to murder case.

The accused had opened fire yesterday on Najamul Hassan, Sia Bibi and Sajida Begum over a petty dispute. Kalar Syedan police registered a case against the accused and succeeded in arresting the accused while raids were also being conducted to net their accomplices. In another operation, Bani police managed to net a proclaimed offender (PO) namely Muhammad Naeem, allegedly involved in his nephew's murder.

The murder case on application of a citizen namely Liaquat was registered nearly two months ago in Bani police station and police were making efforts to net the PO. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate standing committee on defence and members of the committee offering Fateha after laying wreath at Mausoleum of Lnk Muhammad Mehfooz Shaheed, NH, Pind Malkan, Islamabad. - DNA

Mushahid, others pay respects to Lance Naik Mehfooz Shaheed

"The presence of representatives from all the provinces of Pakistan and all the political parties is a confirmation that the whole nation is united for national security above Party considerations", he underlined

DNA

ISLAMABAD: 6 September 2022: To commemorate the 57th Defence day on Tuesday, members of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence, comprising of Senators Shahzad Waseem, Waleed Iqbal, Rukhsana Zuberi and Zargha Suharwardy, headed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed visited the mausoleum and home of martyr here in Islamabad and paid great reverence and honoured the supreme sacrifice of Lance Naik Mehfooz Shaheed Nishan e Haider for the Nation.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed with other members marked the day with a visit to the mausoleum of Lance Naik Mehfooz Shaheed, Nishan-i-Haider, Pind Malkan, Islamabad.

The Committee head along with other members of the Senate Defence committee paid homage to the courage and bravery of Lance Naik Mehfooz Shaheed NH.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Committee laid a floral wreath and offered the Fateha at the mausoleum, and also met members of the martyr's family. Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman, Senate Defence committee while addressing a gathering at the mausoleum applauded the exemplary heroism of Shaheed and other brave sons of the soil who laid down their lives in Defence of the country.

"We also salute the resilience and resolve of the mothers, fathers and families of our martyrs. The eternal sacrifices of the Pak Army for the homeland can never be forgotten. Pakistan army is a National Army

and Pak Army is the guarantor of unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and stability of the Motherland", he remarked.

"The presence of representatives from all the provinces of Pakistan and all the political parties is a confirmation that the whole nation is united for national security above Party considerations", he underlined. "If we are able to sleep peacefully today and live as free citizens of a free country, it is because of the Defenders of the Nation and supreme sacrifices of our brave soldiers", he underscored. Senator Mushahid also lauded the Army role in flood relief, saving countless lives.

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Dr Shahzad Waseem and Senators Waleed Iqbal, Rukhsana Zuberi, and Zargha Suharwardy also spoke on the oc-

casation and commended the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army.

To pay rich tribute to the valiant martyr, Lance Naik Mehfooz Shaheed NH, who sacrificed his life for the motherland during the Indo-Pak War of 1971, Members of the Defence Committee later visited the family of Mehfooz shaheed. While talking to the family of shaheed, Mushahid Hussain Sayed stated that "Brave sons of the soil had thwarted the nefarious designs of enemy by sacrificing their lives for the nation. Sacrificing lives to protect the motherland was an honour of the nation and we salute his sacrifice and pay respect to his family", he added. A large crowd welcomed the Senators and shouted full-throated slogans of 'Pakistan Zindabad and Pak Army Zindabad'.

NUCES-FAST and SS-CASE-IT sign MOU



DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (NUCES-FAST) and Sir Syed CASE Institute of Technology (SS-CASE-IT) for a period of five years. This MOU reflects effort to promote academic collaboration. Its mandate is to support each other in improving the quality and delivery of their graduate (PhD and MS) Programs through students and faculty exchange.

This MOU also fortifies the joint efforts in training of their administrative and technical staff, in imparting of recorded lectures of various graduate level courses in Computing, Engineering and Management both Institutions resolve to extend cooperation in admissions and as well as in the realm of IT sector for the development and progress of Pakistan.

The Centre for Advanced Research in Engineering (C@REPvt Ltd), which is the industrial partner and arm of SS-CASE-IT shall be providing internships to students of NUCES-FAST.

Pak connected with France via submarine cable

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and East Africa Connecting Europe (PEACE) Cable International Network Co. Ltd has completed the construction of a submarine cable infrastructure providing connectivity from Karachi to Marseille, France.

The Pakistan-Egypt segment connects Karachi and Zafarana, Egypt, total length of which is 5,800 KM said a news release issued by the PTA here on Tuesday. The connectivity from Pakistan to France is now fully completed and ready for service. The achievement was disclosed in an online meeting by Chairman PTA, Maj. Gen. Amir Azeem Bajwa with the management of PEACE Cable.

The delegation comprised of Peace Management COO, Sun Xiaohua, Peace Management Director Zhang Donghai, Commercial Director Chirs Zhang, (Online) and Peace Cable, Country Manager Pakistan, Shoaib Ashfaq Qureshi, (In Person). The delegation expressed its interest for investment opportunities in Pakistan and discussed future plans. - APP

Pakistan students returning to China under new visa policy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani students are now returning to China under new visa policy introduced by the Chinese authorities, that is effective from August 24 Bilal Khan, a PhD scholar at East China Normal University, Shanghai returned to China after the introduction of the new policy. Talking to Gwadar Pro, he said that he left Islamabad last Saturday for Xi'an, where he was to spend a 7-day quarantine in a hotel before departing for Shanghai. Everything going smoothly; the situation was normal and the authorities were very cooperative. The students must comply with the quarantine procedures and cooperate with the authorities for a hassle-free experience, he said.

Bilal said that he was accompanied by one other Pakistani student on board the Pakistan Int'l Airlines (PIA) flight to Xian, while the majority of the passengers were post-doc scholars who also had Chinese work visas. Bilal first shared the news of his departure for Xian under the new policy on social media. Several students while commenting on his post shared that they were also at different stages of the process to returning to China. The students said that their respective institutions had contacted them to inform that they were making preparations for the students' early return as per the new policy guidelines of the Chinese government.

The students while expressing enthusiasm over the new visa policy also hailed Ji Rong, Counsellor at Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, for her tireless efforts to make possible the return of the international students to China. Bilal is guiding fellow Pakistani students regarding obtaining No-Objection Certificate (NOC) for return to China, the health declaration card, quarantine procedures and ticketing information. Ji Rong, while commenting on Bilal's post, expressed pleasure over his return to China and wished him good luck. She is also interacting with Pakistani students through social media and responding to their questions regarding the new student visa policy, which is drawing appreciation from aspirant students. - DNA

Whole nation stands behind Army

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator General (r) Abdul Qayyum Tuesday paid homage to the nation's heroes who have sacrificed their lives for Pakistan. On the Defence Day, he said the nation was standing united behind its Armed Forces to defeat internal and external enemies.

"On September 6, our brave armed forces had given a clear message of protecting the sovereignty of country, by defeating the enemies," he said while talking to a private news channel.

He also paid homage to the nation heroes who have sacrificed their lives for Pakistan, adding, our army men are our greatest asset as they not only offer their precious lives for fighting in battlefields but also remain prepared to face every challenging situation.

As Pakistan is moving towards a path of progress, we should remember supreme sacrifices of these great sons who laid down their lives for our prosperous tomorrow, he added. He also praised the martyrs who laid down their lives while fighting for the safety and security of motherland.

While strongly condemning the statement of former PM Imran Khan, he said that Khan gave an immature statements against state institutions which was a shameful act and warned that all attempts regarding provoking people against the government and state institutions would be dealt with iron hands under the country's laws and constitution. "No one will be allowed to drag state institutions into politics for their personal gains", he added. - APP

CTP launch grand operation on Adiala Road

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) on Tuesday launched a grand operation against encroachments and illegal parking particularly to clear commercial markets and adjoining areas on Adiala Road. According to a CTP spokesman, Incharge Traffic Adiala Sector, on the directives of Chief Traffic Officer, Naveed Irshad lunched an operation and issued 52 challan slips to traffic rules violators besides issuing warnings to several encroachers.

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. The CTP were trying hard to resolve traffic problems of the city, but, smooth flow of traffic on roads was not possible without removing encroachments, he added. - APP

Seven drug peddlers held

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police during an action against suspected drug peddlers and bootleggers on Tuesday arrested seven accused besides recovering over 6 kg narcotics and 10 litres liquor from their possession.

The police spokesperson said that Patriata police held Khizer Hayat for having 2500 grams charas while Murree police seized Amir with 1200 grams hashish. Likewise, the Airport police arrested a female drug peddler identified as Ayesha and recovered 1500 grams hashish.

Naseerabad, Taxila, Gujjar Khan and Civil Lines police nabbed Suleman with 220 grams hashish, Amin with 440 grams hashish, Azhar Mehmood for having 210 grams hashish and Haroon for carrying 10 liters liquor.

The spokesperson said that separate cases had been registered against all suspects while further investigations were underway.

The Divisional Superintendent of Police directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against drug peddlers and bootleggers, he added. - APP

Iran offers completion of gas pipeline project

The three governments had agreed to equip the train route with facilities, which would promote mutual trade and goods trade operation, he added

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Ali Hosseini on Tuesday offered his government's support to complete Iran-Pakistan (IP) Gas Pipeline project and hinted to extend cooperation in other fields of mutual interest. Ambassador Hosseini, in an interview with APP, said Iran was willing to further strengthen mutual trade cooperation; completion of energy projects, especially the IP gas pipeline; progress in the establishment of border markets; finalization of a free trade agreement, and collaboration on major ports and security areas.

He said there were no sanctions on the export of gas from Iran and Pakistan could take full benefit of it to fulfill its energy needs. The IP gas pipeline was a key project in that regard and both the countries realized its importance.

The gas pipeline project was being deliberated by the technical committee, he said, adding its completion would also open new avenues for mutual cooperation between the two countries. The ambassador said Iran was already exporting 100 megawatts of electricity to Pakistan for meeting the

power needs (of its bordering areas) and it would be increased in future.

He said work was also going on another project to provide electricity to Pakistan. Both the countries had taken initial steps in that regard. Ambassador Hosseini identified opportunities for investors of both countries in various trade sectors, particularly the industrial zones. Highlighting the role of both countries in regional economic and trade integration, he said and North-South and East-West corridors would not only connect Pakistan to Iran, but also help the former's trade and economic integration with Central Asia, Europe, Middle East and Russia. He said the two countries were making joint efforts to achieve the target of enhancing their mutual trade to \$5 billion.

He said both Pakistan and Iran were geographically very important countries and their mutual cooperation was of utmost importance to make it useful for their geo-economic interests. The ambassador said the two countries could find ways for mutual economic partnership and trade. There was possibility of opening a banking channel in

the near future, he added. He said barter trade between the two countries could be promoted as "we have the example of mutual trade in rice and meat". As regard the movement on the Pakistan-Iran border, he said new crossing points had been opened. The two countries were committed to provide more facilities at the crossing points to not only facilitate the movement of common people but also transit trade.

He said it was decided in principle to set up six border markets in order to promote mutual trade relations. The Pishin border market had been completed and its inauguration was on the cards, while work on Gabd, Rimdan and Kohak markets would start soon, he added.

About the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the ambassador said several rounds of negotiations had taken place between the two countries. Mutual trade lists had been exchanged, with consensus developed on trade items, he added.

He recalled that the two countries had signed the Preferential Trade Agreement in March 2004, which, he said, required to be

reviewed and made more effective.

He stressed the need of tariff rationalization and other reforms for enhancing the volume of mutual trade to \$5 billion. It would also help promote regional trade, he added.

As regards the two countries' role in the promotion of regional trade, the ambassador said Both transit routes and transport were too important in that regard. The Pakistan-Iran-Turkiye train link had been restored, which would not only promote economic and trade relations among the three countries but also increase regional economic and trade integration.

The three governments had agreed to equip the train route with facilities, which would promote mutual trade and goods trade operation, he added.

He said the Taftan-Quetta train section needed to be repaired, and both Iran and Pakistan had a consensus to do that. He said the train link among Pakistan, Iran and Turkiye could play a very important role in regional trade integration as it could connect Central Asia, Middle East and Europe economically and commercially. - APP

Dengue threat

At least 97 people in Sindh and 85 in Punjab are confirmed to be affected by the dengue virus in the last 24 hours (Tuesday). Cases of dengue have increased in the two provinces with Sindh being more impacted where 92 patients were reported to have been sick with the virus in various districts across Karachi. According to Sindh's health department, most number of cases in Karachi were reported from the district west where 27 people were confirmed to be infected by the virus, 26 cases were reported from district east, 17 from district south, nine cases from district west, seven from Kemari, four from Malir, and two were confirmed from district Korangi.

The health department further shared that in the first five days of September, 347 people, including women and children were confirmed to have been infected by the virus, while the total number of patients reported this year has reached 2,922. Health experts have warned that the dengue virus could take the shape of an epidemic if measures such as spraying insecticides were not taken. Amid monsoon season, the cases of the mosquito-borne disease have surged in the federal capital. According to the statistics shared the DHO Islamabad, 22 dengue cases have been reported in the federal capital, out of which 17 were reported in rural and 5 in urban areas. The DHO Islamabad said so far 163 cases have been reported in rural and 51 cases in the urban areas, while one patient died of it. Historic monsoon rains and melting glaciers in northern mountains brought cataclysmic floods, which have killed at least 1,314 and affected over 35 million people, according to data shared by the National Flood Response Coordination Centre (NFRCC). A third of the country is submerged and the extreme weather, widely attributed to climate change, is still expected to continue for the next few days.

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Liz Truss's victory

Britain will get its third female prime minister on Tuesday after Liz Truss is invited to form a government by the Queen. Ms Truss arrives in No 10 at an inauspicious time. Rising gas prices and risks to the electricity supply this winter could lead to blackouts. The UK faces a wave of industrial action of the kind not seen for 50 years, and the threat of stagflation looms. Yet Ms Truss won the top job by not addressing, or even acknowledging, such malaise. Britain's next prime minister dismissed the idea of Britain heading for trouble as "declinist talk". Ms Truss won't last long in office if she continues her holiday from reality. Her predecessor, Boris Johnson, thought the public was willing to be conned – provided that there was enough fun to be had. Eventually the lies caught up with him. Ms Truss lacks his star quality, his sheer brazenness and his record of electoral success. She also leads a party with a record in government of running down Britain's public services, and the failure of its principal political project – Brexit – to deliver a promised dramatic turnaround in the fortunes of the nation. The capacity to describe Britain's problems has often appeared to be beyond Ms Truss. Her diagnosis was that Britain needed economic growth, which would be magically restored to the country with tax cuts, providing workers "grafted". Cutting taxes – whether VAT, income or corporate – will not conjure up growth. It is not laziness but persistent low investment by UK businesses that accounts for virtually all of this country's productivity gap with France. Rather than foster new technologies and use them to curb greenhouse gases, Ms Truss recklessly wants to approve the new extraction of North Sea oil and end a moratorium on fracking. Ms Truss is right to question Treasury orthodoxy but wrong to think this means regressive tax cuts are preferable to government spending in an inflationary crisis. She had no electoral strategy for the public because she was targeting 170,000 party members. However, her policies and her instincts will now collide with the reality of economic stagnation and mounting pressures on hospitals and schools. Ms Truss wants to unleash the country's potential but that won't happen by getting rid of holiday pay or letting the City engage in greater risk-taking. A trade war with the EU would be painful. In a time of crisis, Britain cannot afford a governing party that pursues political goals whatever the economic cost.

History of family planning and role of ICFP 2022

Mansoor Qaisar



Pakistan's population growth has continued since the 1940s due to reduced mortality and persistent high birth rates. The country's population grew from nearly 33 Million in 1947 to about 220 Million, an increase of almost six times since independence. Continued rapid growth in population has ranked Pakistan sixth in the world and the third most significant contributor to world population growth

Family planning is "the ability of individuals and couples to anticipate and attain their desired number of children and the spacing and timing of their births. It is achieved through contraceptive methods and the treatment of involuntary infertility." Family planning may involve consideration of the number of children a woman wishes to have, including the choice to have no children and the age at which she wishes to have

and infertility management. As defined by the United Nations and the World Health Organization, family planning encompasses services leading up to conception. Abortion is not typically recommended as a primary method of family planning, and access to contraception reduces the need for abortion. The International Conference on Family Planning has convened the global development community around a shared vision

of universal access to family planning since 2009. A network of advocates, researchers, scientists, community and government leaders, health practitioners, economists, conveners, civil society members, and young people will be part of the 2022 International Family Planning Conference in Pattaya. Every other year since 2009, the International Conference on Family Planning has brought together the family planning and SRHR communities to share best practices, celebrate successes, and chart a course toward universal access to Family Planning. ICFP 2022 will take place from 14 to 17 November 2022, with pre-conference side events and site visits beginning on 12 November 2022. For the first time, the world's largest convening of family planning and SRHR experts will be hosted in person in Pattaya City, Thailand, as well as virtually around the world, making the 2022 ICFP our most extensive, the most inclusive, and accessible conference to date. Since the first ICFP in Kampala, Uganda, in 2009, the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) has served as a strategic inflection point for the global reproductive health community, providing a global stage for countries, organizations, and individuals to make significant commitments and celebrate achievements as the world's largest scientific conference on family planning and reproductive health.

ICFP has become more than a conference – it has grown into a platform for researchers, advocates, governments, and communities; a movement towards achieving access to family planning for all; and a growing community guided by the spirit of partnership, inclusivity, innovation, and scientific rigor. As the larger family planning community looks "beyond 2020" to realign our goals and reposition for the future of family planning, ICFP 2022 will be a strategic benchmark as the community prepares to recommit to a goal of universal access by 2030. Pakistan's population growth has continued since the 1940s due to reduced mortality and persis-

tent high birth rates. The country's population grew from nearly 33 Million in 1947 to about 220 Million, an increase of almost six times since independence. Continued rapid growth in population has ranked Pakistan sixth in the world and the third most significant contributor to world population growth. However, with a very young age structure, and a large number of people about to enter their reproductive years, the population has the potential to proliferate shortly, even though fertility is expected to fall substantially. The Population Welfare Programme is a social development activity aimed at reducing the population growth rate, which is necessary for developing countries like Pakistan. In recognition of the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, governments reaffirmed the importance of the Programme of Action and its further implementation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The emphasis on universal access to a full range of safe and reliable family planning methods, which help couples and individuals to realize their right to decide freely and responsibly on the number, spacing, and timing of births, remains as critical today as it did in 1994. The growing use of contraceptive methods in recent decades has resulted in improvements in health-related outcomes such as reduced unintended pregnancies, high-risk pregnancies, maternal mortality, and infant mortality but also in improvements in schooling and economic outcomes, especially for girls and women. Beyond the impacts of contraceptive use at the individual level, there are benefits at the population level. From a macroeconomic perspective, fertility reductions enhance economic growth due to reduced youth dependency and an increased number of women participating in paid labor. However, rapid population growth challenges achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where countries must provide healthcare services, education, and

employment opportunities for growing children and young people. Moreover, trends in fertility primarily drive long-term global population trends. It is, therefore, essential to understanding the relationship between contraceptive use and fertility, especially in high-fertility contexts, because of the implications for triggering or speeding up the demographic transition and harnessing a demographic dividend.

Despite the dramatic progress, enormous challenges remain: some 214 million women in developing countries lack safe and effective family planning methods. Most of these women live in the 69 poorest countries. Fulfilling their unmet demand would save lives by averting 67 million unintended pregnancies and reducing the estimated 303,000 annual maternal deaths by one-third. Better reproductive health care, including voluntary family planning, can bolster economies and contribute to sustainable development by empowering women to complete their education, join the paid labor force, be more productive in their jobs, earn higher incomes and increase savings and investments. In addition, for each additional dollar spent on contraceptive services above the current level, the cost of pregnancy-related care is reduced by \$2.30. Investments in family planning help lead to prosperity for all. Family planning, therefore, is critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1, to end poverty. It is also vital to achieving other Goals, such as ending hunger and promoting good health and gender equality.

The Author is a freelance journalist & a Family Planning Award Winner from the Gates Institute of Population and Reproductive Health, Washington, and associated with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) as a Media & Communication Expert; and he tweets @MansoorQaisar

Truss threatens European consensus on Jerusalem

Chris Doyle

Truss's erstwhile rival, Rishi Sunak, lost no time in lowering himself to her depths. At a Conservative Friends of Israel hustings, Sunak claimed that Jerusalem is "undisputedly the historic capital (of Israel) and clearly there is a very strong case for it to be recognized." He added that he was "very open to looking at that," viewing it as a "historic and practical step"

Buried in the myriad policy pledges of the Conservative leadership campaign was a diplomatic time bomb. It was so buried that most media outlets did not cover it at all. One grand list of winner Liz Truss's commitments in all spheres did not even mention it. In a letter to the Conservative Friends of Israel, which is predominantly an anti-Palestinian lobbying group in the governing party, incoming Prime Minister Truss outlined her position on Jerusalem, stressing the "importance and sensi-

tivity of the location of the British Embassy. I've had many conversations with my good friend Prime Minister (Yair) Lapid on this topic. Acknowledging that, I will review a move to ensure we are operating on the strongest footing with Israel." In other words, she has committed herself to reviewing whether to move the British Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, thereby unilaterally recognizing Israel's claim to the contested city. Note the wording here. She is not doing this as part of any policy review to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – one of the seminal conflicts of the last century and more. No, she does not bother to mention this in her letter. She is just doing it to improve the UK's relations with Israel.

Truss goes further. She boasts of advocating for Israel on the world stage. Many might think her job as foreign secretary should have been to advocate for Britain and its interests. No surprise that she gives zero consideration to Israel's consistent, decades-long violations of UN Security Council

resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention, its use of torture or the international human rights consensus that it is guilty of the crime of apartheid. The other remarkable and alarming element of the letter is that Truss made no mention of the Palestinians at all. They do not exist. One might think of this as an unfortunate oversight but, since she became foreign secretary last year, the word has barely left her lips. Truss does not even mention any approach to support any form of peace process or talks between the two peoples. She does not care and is leery of alienating the anti-Palestinian constituency in her party. The Palestinians, for much of the Conservative Party, have become a non-people, their fate a non-issue. The gap with the Republican Party in the US has narrowed almost to the point of irrelevance.

Multiple sources in the Foreign Office informed me that, during discussions earlier in the year about a potential Truss visit to Israel, she dismissed the idea of going to Ramallah and having meetings with the Palestinian Authority. She questioned why this was at all necessary. Truss's erstwhile rival, Rishi Sunak, lost no time in lowering himself to her depths. At a Conservative Friends of Israel hustings, Sunak claimed that Jerusalem is "undisputedly the historic capital (of Israel) and clearly there is a very strong case for it to be recognized." He added that he was "very open to looking at that," viewing it as a "historic and practical step." Like Truss, he made no commitment to hold Israel to account, but had no qualms in stating that Palestinians must be. Does this matter? For those who want to see a fair and peaceful resolution to this conflict, it certainly does. Jerusalem is at the core of the conflict. It matters to two peoples

and the adherents of the three monotheistic faiths. In total, it is believed to have changed hands through war and violence 37 times. Rushing in blindly and shredding the international consensus on the future status of the city is a recipe for disaster. When US President Donald Trump did exactly this in 2017, it was only the steadfast position of key European states, including the UK, that was able to hold the consensus together. Under the Oslo Accords, the status of the entirety of Jerusalem, not just the Israeli-occupied eastern part, was to be determined through negotiations. Recognizing one party's sovereignty over any part of the city would undermine any future talks and peace process. It also flies in the face of the reality on the ground. Despite the Israeli propaganda that it is an undivided city, it is one of the most divided and contested in the world. The Israeli and Palestinian areas are immediately distinguishable one from another, not least because the former has properly funded municipalities whereas Palestinian areas do not, despite the residents also paying taxes. The consensus on Jerusalem is also at the heart of the consensus on the two-state solution. The central feature of this would include two states with a shared capital or two separate capitals in the city. This would acknowledge Palestinian equity in the city. For the increasing number of people who believe only a single-state option is viable as a solution, they too should be worried. This is not a step toward this vision but a way of reinforcing a one-state reality, in which Israel controls all the territory and maintains tight "sovereign control" over the entire territory from the river to the sea, permitting Palestinian residents (not citizens) municipal powers on allotted ur-

ban areas, all under Israeli control. Eventually, all the settlements and more will be formally annexed, just as Benjamin Netanyahu threatened to do two years ago. As for Jerusalem, Israeli policies will accelerate the Palestinian displacement from the city. The settlement projects, combined with home demolitions and disposessions, are designed to push Palestinian residents of Jerusalem further away from the Old City and the religious sites, with their communities replaced by a biblical theme park and a cable car. Palestinians are already fairly invisible to all but the most curious visitors to the city. But they will become the unseen squatters in overcrowded, peripheral neighborhoods well away from Israelis and, of course, tourists. All of this is happening right now. The only thing that has slowed but never reversed this process is the international consensus, with Europe as the anchor. Britain may no longer be a member of the EU, but it is still a major player in sculpting European positions due to its historic ties, knowledge and influence. Such a joint Anglo-American position would be hard to ignore. Should the new British prime minister choose the path of the pyromaniac and abandon all efforts to resolve this conflict, no doubt other countries would follow suit. Once again, conflict resolution, international law and the rules-based order are likely to be jettisoned for narrow short-term political and economic gain. Even if a British decision is not immediate, the direction of travel is being set. The anti-Palestinian constituency in the Conservative Party will relentlessly push the government to go all the way down this path. Voices of reason have to win the argument and ensure a course correction before it is too late.

Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Bids to...

FROM PAGE 01

against all odds". "We owe our freedom & peace to unprecedented sacrifices of martyrs 2 keep the flag high," the military's media wing quoted Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa as saying. On Tuesday, the celebrations started off with special prayers in mosques after fajr. The nation prayed for the progress and prosperity of the country and the independence of illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. A change of guards ceremony took place at the Mazar-e-Quaid in Karachi and the guards of Pakistan Air Force's Asghar Khan Academy assumed charge at the mausoleum. Similar ceremonies and events were organised at the tomb of Allama Iqbal, schools and other educational institutes. As Pakistan grapples with the historic floods and other challenges, we need to summon the spirit of 1965, PM Shehbaz said.

Sri Lanka...

FROM PAGE 01

late strikes by the Sri Lankan bowlers restricted India's total in the final overs. Rohit put on 97 runs with Suryakumar Yadav (34) after India, who lost their Super Four opener against Pakistan, lost two early wickets in a match they need to win to stay in the hunt for a final spot. Sri Lanka won a crucial toss and put India in to bat. Kohli fell for a fourth ball duck after Madushanka, a left-arm quick who returned figures of 3-24, bowled the star batsman with a length delivery. Kohli, who struck form after an extended batting slump with two successive half-centuries in the tournament, walked back to stunned silence from a sparse crowd dominated by Indian fans. Rohit hit back with boundaries and smashed fast bowler Asitha Fernando for a six and four in successive balls to improve the scoring in the first six overs of the powerplay. The captain kept up the attack with Suryakumar for the company and raised his fifty in 32 balls with a boundary.

Army Chief...

FROM PAGE 01

at Usta Muhammad, Jafferabad district where he was briefed about ongoing rescue and relief operations. COAS met with the troops and appreciated their efforts for the flood affectees. COAS visited flood relief and medical camps and spent time with the locals to have on ground information about plans to mitigate their problems. COAS also visited Sui. COAS met Local elders and inquired about their well being and issues. Local elders thanked COAS for reaching out to them in the most difficult time in their life. Later, COAS visited Military College Sui where he was briefed about different training and educational facilities. He interacted with the faculty and students and appreciated the educational and training standard of institution. Faculty and Students thanked Pak Army for providing opportunity for them to compete at National level. It is pertinent to mention that Military College Sui was established in 2011 and its cadets have shown extraordinary results.

NW clash...

FROM PAGE 01

clash occurred at Boya of Tehsil Ghulam Khan whereas the second at Mirali. Captain Abdul Wali Wazir along with four other personnel killed when the security forces raided a din of alleged terrorists at Boya. The raid led to killing of four militants and recovery of a huge quantity of modern and sophisticated weapons and explosive material as well. The ISPR added that raid in Mirali led to killing of a notorious militant commander Tufail who was wanted to law enforcing agencies in a number of terror acts. It added that after clashes the security forces also went on search operation in the area. On the other hand overall situation in Miranshah and other parts of North Waziristan remained calm but tense. Almost trade, business and other routine activities remained in progress whereas security forces tightened security on all important roads.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet. – DNA

Book on Faiz Ahmed Faiz's letters launched in Brussels

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan underscored that the work and poetry by Faiz significantly influenced the literary outlook of Urdu and Punjabi literature



NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: Launching ceremony of the book titled "Conversations with my father - Forty Years on a Daughter Responds" by Moneeza Hashmi, the daughter of renowned Pakistani poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz, was held in Brussels, Belgium on Monday evening. The ceremony was organized by the Embassy of Pakistan Brussels in collaboration with the European Literary Circle as part of activities to mark the 75th Diamond Jubilee of Pakistan's independence.

The book is based on the letters received by the author Moneeza Hashmi from her father Faiz Ahmed Faiz over the years and



her response to them after 4 decades, a press release issued by the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels said. The event started with an introduction of Faiz Ahmad Faiz. The speakers highlighted different aspects of the legendary poet's life during the ceremony. The book reviews were presented by Dr. Ali Sherazi, Socio Religious Expert and Gio Goris, Expert on South Asia and former editor of MO Magazine.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan underscored that the work and poetry by

Faiz significantly influenced the literary outlook of Urdu and Punjabi literature. He emphasised that Faiz Ahmed Faiz was one of the greatest poets of the Urdu language with a unique literary focus on fundamental freedoms, democracy, labour rights, as well as political and social equality. Offering insights into the publication, the Ambassador highlighted that the biographical work by the author Moneeza Hashmi not only beautifully illustrates the relations between a daughter and her father but also provide the reader with a unique glimpse in to the life of Faiz Ahmed Faiz.



In her remarks the author Mrs Hashmi lamented that during the life time of her father, she never had an opportunity to spend time with him. She said that now in her senior years, she has so much to share about her life and achievements with her father which she is doing through this book. During the ceremony the book was jointly launched by Ambassador Khan along with the author Moneeza Hashmi and Imran Saqib representing the European Literary Circle. The event was attended by a large number of Belgians as well as Pakistani diaspora including diplomatic corps, academia, students, business, social services and media.

Top seed Swiatek fights back to reach quarter-final

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Top seed Iga Swiatek avoided a US Open upset by recovering to beat unseeded Jule Niemeier and reach her first quarter-final in New York. Swiatek trailed by a set and a break but fought back to win 2-6 6-4 6-1 against the German. The 21-year-old from Poland has been the standout WTA player this season and is bidding for a seventh title in 2022.

The reigning French Open champion will play American Jessica Pegula, who beat Czech 21st seed Petra Kvitova. Later on Monday, Czech 22nd seed Karolina Pliskova overcame three-time finalist Victoria Azarenka in three sets to reach the last eight. Pliskova, a finalist in 2016, reached the quarter-finals at the US Open for the second successive year with a 7-5 6-7 (5-7) 6-2 win over the Belarusian. She will meet Belarusian sixth seed Aryna Sabalenka, who came from a set down to beat American 19th seed Danielle Collins 3-6 6-3 6-2. Swiatek took over as the world number one following Ashleigh Barty's shock retirement in



March, fully justifying the position by going on a 37-match winning streak. The dominance led to six titles in a row, winning in Doha, Indian Wells, Miami, Stuttgart and Rome before adding the second triumph of her career at Roland Garros. Unsurprisingly, she has been unable to sustain that sky-high level since but had not dropped a set in New York until 23-year-old Niemeier took the

lead. Swiatek made a lot of errors in the first set and start of the second, enabling Wimbledon quarter-finalist Niemeier to threaten a major upset and continue her breakthrough season with a notable win. But the German began making mistakes at crucial times - particularly with double faults - and Swiatek slowly improved to better last year's run to the fourth round at Flushing Meadows.

Spectacular Maxwell takes four to restrict NZ in first ODI

CAIRNS: Glenn Maxwell starred with four wickets and a spectacular catch as Australia restricted New Zealand to 232-9 in the series-opening one-day international on Tuesday in Cairns. After captain Aaron Finch won the toss and chose to bowl, Maxwell's part-time off-spin stole the show as Australia look to rebound from a stunning defeat to underdogs Zimbabwe on Saturday which soured a 2-1 ODI series victory. Seeking their first ODI win against the home side in Australia since 2009, New Zealand's batters failed to convert starts in a sedate opening to the three-match Chappell-Hadlee series. New Zealand opener Martin Gupthill survived a scare in the first over when he successfully reviewed a caught-behind decision off quick Mitchell Starc. But the veteran's luck ran out shortly after when he was brilliantly caught one-handed in the gully by a diving Maxwell off Starc's bowling. Opener Devon Conway (46) and skipper Kane Williamson (45) steadied New Zealand with a composed 81-run partnership. Conway started slowly against Australia's accurate bowling before breaking the shackles with a six in towering all-rounder Cameron Green's first over. The blossoming stand was broken in the 23rd over when Conway was trapped lbw to leg-spinner Adam Zampa, falling narrowly short of his third ODI half-century. Star batter Williamson lacked rhythm and holed out in frustration off Maxwell in the 30th over. The tourists tried to put the foot down in the last 10 overs only to continually miscue against Maxwell, who finished with a four-wicket haul for the third time in his 125-game ODI career. – Agencies

Forces...

FROM PAGE 01

Explosive Devices and killing of innocent citizens. Terrorist Commander Tufail was mastermind behind major terrorist activities in Mir Ali and surroundings of North Waziristan District.

'Thieves...

FROM PAGE 01

next army chief". "New army chief should be appointed on merit. Thieves - Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari - cannot be allowed to pick the new army chief," Imran said while addressing a public gathering in Peshawar on Tuesday. Imran said a "cabal of crooks" is running propaganda against him to pit his party against the army. "Every well-wisher of any institution will speak about merit because institutions can only progress when they are strengthened," Imran, while referring to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme and three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, asked the charged crowd, "Should a 'thieve absconder and convict' be allowed to appoint Pakistan's army chief?" At the beginning of his address, Imran claimed that the government was trying to create misunderstandings between the Pakistan Army and the country's "largest party".

Youtube...

FROM PAGE 01

network disruptions and social media restrictions to limit political speech, given their disproportionate impact to fundamental rights including freedom of expression and freedom assembly," the organisation said. Prior to NetBlocks' confirmation, a number of social media users had reported disruption in the website's service. The PTI and party leaders blamed the government for the development, adding that the ban would not be able to stop the party or Imran.

UN calls...

FROM PAGE 01

nuclear plant on Tuesday, a day after it was again knocked off Ukraine's electrical grid and put in the precarious position of relying on its own power to run its safety systems. Normally the plant relies on power from the outside to run the critical cooling systems that keep its reactors and its spent fuel from overheating. A loss of those cooling systems could lead to a meltdown or other release of radiation.

40 flights...

FROM PAGE 01

flood-affected families, officials said. UAE, Turkey, and China are leading humanitarian efforts with 31 flights. Pakistan has received 16 flights of relief goods from the United Arab Emirates, 11 from Turkey, four from China, three from Qatar, two from UNHCR and one each from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, France and UNICEF. The aid flights are helping strengthen the ongoing response to the devastating floods in the country. More than 6.4 million people are in dire need of humanitarian aid in Pakistan after the catastrophic floods affected more than 33 million and killed at least 1,314 people including 458 children since mid-June. In the past week, UAE has sent 16 flights to deliver much-needed food, medical supplies and tents to the flood-affected communities.

Japan to...

FROM PAGE 01

support Pakistan; "I would like to assure that the Government of Japan stands ready to support the people of Pakistan. Given the rapidly rising scale of needs, we consider it critical to extend our best support and stand available to the affected. As part of the "2022 Floods Response Plan", we will extend our assistance, ensuring collective and coordinated actions to respond to the national emergency". In close partnership with the UN agencies, support will be provided for emergency needs, including health, food and nutrition, water and sanitation, and shelters. The Government of Japan has already provided tents and plastic sheets as emergency relief goods through JICA, and these items are now being distributed to the people in need.

Obsessed with CL glory, PSG kick off another bid

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: PSG kick off their Champions League campaign against titans Juventus on Tuesday after a dazzling start to the Ligue 1 season, with the Lionel Messi, Neymar, Kylian Mbappé attacking trio finally realising their full potential. Will the Parisians finally shake off their reputations as also-rans in club football's top tournament? PSG are the perennial favourites for the Ligue 1 title - but the least their fans expect is for them to win the French league, the weakest of Europe's major top flights. The Champions League is the theatre of PSG's most passionate hopes for glory, and over recent years the tournament's knockout rounds have provided stages for the tragic denouement of those hopes. The Parisians only managed to reach the final once since sugar daddies Qatari Sports Investments took over in 2011, pumping in cash and pumping up hopes - a 1-0 defeat to Bayern Munich in 2020, in one of the most lacklustre Champions League finals in living memory. The remarkable defeat to Barcelona in the 2017-18 second round still haunts PSG. In the first leg at the Parc des Princes, PSG showcased all the prowess that money can buy, with a 4-0 victory. It looked like PSG had joined the ranks of the giants. But in the second leg - or La Remontada

("The Comeback"), as Barcelona fans christened it - the French side collapsed in the face of a Catalan masterclass in attacking football. It was a 6-1 beating that seemed to expose the Parisians as amateurish parvenus with no place at football's top table. The phenomenon repeated itself the following season when PSG beat Manchester United 2-0 at Old Trafford in the 2018-19 quarter-finals. Instead of consolidating their lead, they collapsed in the second: Man U - even as a sad shadow of the team from the Sir Alex Ferguson glory days - thumped them 3-1. Then 2021-22 saw PSG's knockout round collapse happen yet again - history repeating itself not as farce, but as an increasingly banal tragedy. Or, in the words of The Guardian football writer Barney Ronay, an "oddly life-affirming humiliation" demonstrating that football cannot be bought. For all the money fire-hosed at PSG - for all the talk that this season it would finally bear fruit - they crumbled in the face of a historic club with decades-long pedigree, as Real Madrid's Karim Benzema scored a second leg hat trick to tear down PSG's lead and send them crashing out of the tournament. But this time there are some crucial differences favouring PSG. Messi had a disappointing first season at the Parc des Princes after he was effectively forced to jump ship from his beloved Barcelona. But now the Argentinian genius is back to his

usual form - cutting through defences with ingenious passes from impossible angles, finishing with shots no goalkeeper could possibly stop. Meanwhile PSG managed to keep Kylian Mbappé from going to Real Madrid - and the French wunderkind remains a lethal threat to opposition defences, despite questions about his motivation and concerns about his working relationship with Neymar. Yet thus far in Ligue 1, those worries have proven unmerited for Neymar as well as Mbappé, with the Brazilian superstar notching up nine goals just a month into the season. Overall, an unvanquished PSG have scored 24 goals in six games so far this season. It helps that PSG's new manager Christophe Galtier - best-known for guiding Lille to their surprise Ligue 1 title in 2021 - looks much more confident in handling big personalities than previous boss Mauricio Pochettino, as demonstrating by his willingness to substitute the three superstars when need be. PSG have also cleared out some ageing talent, with the likes of Angel di Maria, Idrissa Gueye and Ander Herrera departing. Young Portuguese star Vitinha has already proven PSG's outstanding signing from the summer transfer window - gelling impeccably in central midfield with PSG's hard-as-nails linchpin Marco Verratti. However, despite that world-class attacking trio, PSG's defence looks creaking. Sergio Ramos and

Marquinhos are top defenders - but they are ageing, and for many observers they now lack the pace to match the best attackers from the titans of the Champions League. The problem is that PSG can no longer rely on Qatari money to just buy new players, since UEFA has repeatedly fined them for contravening Financial Fair Play rules. Hence the club failed to bring in a much-needed new centre-half - with their targeting of Inter Milan's Milan Skriniar falling through. That leaves a risky lacuna in the Parisians' lineup - with very little in the way of cover if one of their ageing defenders gets injured. Galtier is confident that he will navigate this weakness, telling French sports newspaper L'Equipe "you have to adapt". Nevertheless, the PSG manager is under no illusions that he will be judged by their performances against top teams in the Champions League. "We have had a good start to the season, we're scoring goals and playing well. But the Champions League is another level," he told L'Equipe. And beyond that, it's all about PSG taking on the big beasts of the Champions League and winning. No one expects anything less than easy victories for the team of Messi, Mbappé and Neymar against Group H's Benfica and Maccabi Haifa. But Juventus is another matter. A lot hangs on tonight's match for PSG.

Briefs

China logs hottest August since records began

BEIJING: China has logged its hottest August since records began, state media reported Tuesday, following an unusually intense summer heat wave that parched rivers, scorched crops and triggered isolated blackouts. Southern China last month sweltered under what experts said may have been one of the worst heat waves in global history, with parts of Sichuan province and the megacity of Chongqing clocking a string of days well over 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit). The average temperature nationwide was 22.4C in August, exceeding the norm by 1.2C, state broadcaster CCTV reported, citing the country's weather service. Some 267 weather stations across the country matched or broke temperature records last month, the report said. It was also China's third-driest August on record, with average rainfall 23.1 percent lower than average. "The average number of high-temperature days was abnormally high, and regional high-temperature processes are continuing to impact our country," CCTV reported the weather service as saying. Scientists say extreme weather like heat waves, droughts and flash floods is becoming more frequent and intense due to human-induced climate change. — APP

Germany puts nuclear reactors on standby

BERLIN: Germany said it would keep two nuclear plants on standby beyond the end of the year in a policy U-turn as Europe scrambles to make up for a sharp drop in Russian gas supplies. Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces claimed gains in a counter-offensive against the Russian army in southern Ukraine, saying they had recaptured several areas and destroyed targets including a pontoon bridge. Read FRANCE 24's blog to see how the day's events unfolded. All times are Paris time (GMT+2). Russia will respond to price caps on Russian oil by shipping more supply to Asia, its energy minister Nikolai Shulginov told reporters at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok on Tuesday. "Any actions to impose a price cap will lead to deficit on (initiating countries') own markets and will increase price volatility," he said. Finance ministers of the United States, Germany, Italy, Japan, Great Britain, France and Canada gave a green light last week to the idea of capping the price of Russian crude to reduce Moscow's revenue in response to its invasion of Ukraine. Read full story

Civilians killed in S. Sudan clashes: UN

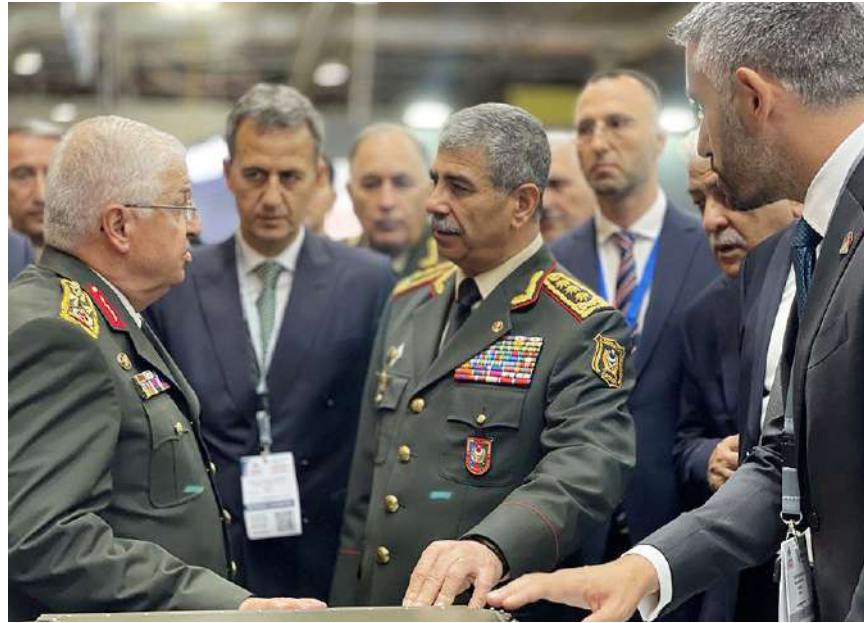
KHARTOUM: Scores of civilians were killed in political clashes in South Sudan between February and May this year, a UN report said Tuesday, with women and children subjected to brutal assaults, including gang rape. The clashes between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and his rival, Vice President Riek Machar, in oil-rich Unity State affected at least 28 villages across three counties, with 173 people killed and 37 women and children kidnapped. "Many of the abductees were subjected to sexual violence, including girls as young as eight-years-old and a nine-year-old girl who was gang-raped to death," the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said. Both sides committed severe abuses, the report said, adding that pro-government forces and militias loyal to Kiir appeared to be "the main perpetrators of the human rights violations". The violence caused 44,000 people to flee their homes across 26 villages, with a total of 131 cases of rape and gang-rape documented.

Azerbaijani chief mulls co-op with foreign military leaders

The relevance of mutual visits and other matters were discussed during the meeting to promote military cooperation between the two countries

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijani Defense Minister Col-Gen Zakir Hasanov discussed multifaceted cooperation with foreign military leaders, as well as defense company heads on the sideline of the 4th Azerbaijan International Defense Exhibition ADEX-2022 at the Baku Expo Center on September 6, Azernews reports, citing the ministry. Hasanov and Turkish Armed Forces Chief of the General Staff Yasir Guler discussed multifaceted cooperation on the sidelines of the 4th Azerbaijan International Defense Exhibition ADEX-2022. At the meeting, the parties addressed cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye in the domains of regional security, military, military-technical, military education, and military medicine, as well as the organizing of mutual visits and other matters of mutual importance. The two men stressed the need for using technological advances in joint military drills. In the same vein, Zakir Hasanov met with his Bosnian, Herzegovinian counterpart Sifet Podžić, who arrived in Azerbaijan to attend the 4th Azerbaijan International Defense Exhibition ADEX 2022. The relevance of mutual visits and other matters were discussed during the meeting to promote military cooperation between the two countries. Hasanov had also a meeting with Rwandan Defense Minister Maj-Gen Albert Murasira on the fringe of the event. At the meeting,



comprehensive perspectives on matters of mutual interest were exchanged. Similarly, the Azerbaijani defense chief met with Dmitry Pantus, chairman of the Belarusian Defense Industry Committee. At the meeting, the parties discussed the development prospects of military and military-technical cooperation between Azerbaijan and Belarus, the possibilities of applying modern military technologies, exchange of experience,

and other issues of mutual interest. Moreover, during the meeting between Azerbaijani defense chief and Kazakh Deputy Defense Minister Lt-Gen Ruslan Shpekbayev at the Baku Expo Center, the importance of further expansion of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan in the fields of military, military-technical and military education, as well as the intensification of mutual visits at the level of expert groups, and other issues of interest were discussed. On the sidelines of the defense fair, Zakir Hasanov met with Yoav Har-Even, the head of the Israeli Rafael company. Detailed exchange of views on the importance of strengthening military cooperation between Azerbaijan and Israel and the contributions of the two countries to regional security were discussed. At the same time, the necessity of such meetings and mutual visits in strengthening the Azerbaijani-Israeli military relations was especially emphasized. Iran's Deputy Defense Minister Rear Admiral Amir Rastegari also is in Azerbaijan to attend the fair, Azernews reports. Admiral Amir Rastegari is slated to meet with defense industry leaders from nations participating in the ADEX-2022 International Defense Exhibition in Baku during his three-day visit. Unlike in previous years, the exhibition is being attended by a larger number of participants, including officials, this time. The country's defense industry is presenting many innovations of local products, including systems for aviation, civil and military vessels, armored vehicles, electronic systems, and many other devices and equipment. A total of 208 companies are represented at the ADEX-2022 exhibition, including leading defense companies from Bulgaria, China, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and others. For the first time, Jordanian companies are taking part in the exhibition. This year, eight countries are participating in the exhibition with national stands.

Putin attends Vostok-2022 military drill

DNA

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin attended on Tuesday the Vostok-2022 military drill in Russia's Far East, according to a Kremlin statement. Putin, together with Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov, observed the course of training activities at the Sergeevsky training ground, the statement said. The active phase of the Vostok-2022 military drill was scheduled for Sept. 1-7 on seven training grounds in the eastern part of Russia. More than 50,000 military personnel and over 5,000 units of weapons and military equipment, including 140 aircraft, 60 warships, boats, and support vessels, are engaged in the performance of combat training tasks.



PESHAWAR: Vice Chancellor of Peshawar University presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov during his recent visit to the University. — DNA

Indonesia's environmental diplomacy at the G20 summit

ANTARA

JAKARTA: Indonesia's environmental diplomacy became apparent when Environment and Forestry (LHK) Minister Siti Nurbaya stood in front of a lamp that formed the words "G20 Indonesia 2022" welcoming representatives of G20 member countries and international organizations. At the G20 Joint Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting (JECMM) in Nusa Dua, Bali, at the end of August 2022, Indonesia's free and active politics was manifested when the Indonesian minister of environment and forestry welcomed the ministers of the environment and climate, both from developed and developing countries.

The meeting resulted in a 50-paragraph chair summary covering environmental issues and climate change, an agreement that took quite a long time to be agreed upon by all parties. Earlier, three director general-level meetings were held: the Environment Deputies Meeting and Climate Sustainability Working Group (EDM-CSWG) in Yogyakarta in March 2022 and in Jakarta, June 2022, while the third and final EDM-CSWG meeting was held in Bali in August 2022, the day before the G20 environment and climate ministers met at JECMM. At the three meetings, several priority issues discussed were supporting sustainable recovery, increasing land- and sea-based actions to support environmental protection and climate change

control, as well as increasing resource mobilization. "The discussion journey is quite difficult, considering the various views and implications for the interests of each member country," Minister Nurbaya stated. The meeting finalized several agreements on environmental issues, including reducing the impact of land degradation and drought; increasing protection, conservation, and restoration of sustainable land and forest ecosystems; enhancing cooperation between various parties, and efforts to reduce pollution and environmental damage. The topic related to water has also become one of the important issues for which an agreement was reached, specifically integrated sustainable water

management. There is also an agreement on climate issues, such as strengthening climate action, the role of budgeting for recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to improve climate mitigation and adaptation, and commitments to prevent losses and damage from climate change. Following the Glasgow Dialogue, the forum agreed to increase research, local, and regional initiatives to address climate issue; involve vulnerable groups; and strengthen engagement in maritime and climate change dialogue at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The forum also discussed the issue of environmental funding to deal with climate change.

27 dead as Al-Qaeda launches attack on Yemen separatists

ADEN: Twenty-one separatist fighters and six members of Al-Qaeda's Yemen branch were killed Tuesday, government and security sources said, as an attack by the militants punctured months of relative peace in the war-torn country. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) attacked positions held by the Security Belt group in Abyan governorate in Yemen's south, the sources said. About three hours of fighting "left 21 dead among the (Security Belt), including an officer, and six among the Al-Qaeda combatants," a government official said on condition of anonymity. Two security sources confirmed the death toll. Yemen has been gripped by conflict since Iran-backed Houthi rebels took control of the capital Sanaa in 2014. AQAP and militants loyal to the Daesh group have thrived in the chaos. Tuesday's fighting comes as the Houthis and forces supporting the ousted government observe a shaky cease-fire in the years-long civil war. Riven by divisions, the groups opposing the Houthis, who originate from the north, include southern separatists who support the re-establishment of South Yemen. The country was divided into North and South Yemen until reunification in 1990. Underlining Yemen's parlous security, on Saturday AQAP released a video showing a United Nations worker who was abducted more than six months ago, the SITE Intelligence Group reported. Five UN staff members were kidnapped in Abyan in February while returning to the port city of Aden after a field mission, UN spokesperson Eri Kaneko said at the time. — DNA

Ankara pledges to support Ukraine

DNA

ANKARA: Türkiye pledged to continue its support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and the rights of Crimean Tatars. Türkiye's Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoglu on Twitter said he met with Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev and Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Emine Dzhaparova. "We will continue to support the territorial integrity of Ukraine and the rights of Crimean Tatars," Çavuşoglu added. Russian forces entered the Crimean Peninsula in February 2014, with Russian President Vladimir Putin formally dividing the region into two separate federal subjects of the Russian Federation the following month. Crimea's ethnic Tatars have faced persecution since Russia's 2014 takeover of the peninsula, a situation Türkiye has decried. Türkiye and the United States, as well as the U.N. General Assembly, view the annexation as illegal. Dzhemilev and the president of the Crimean Tatar National Assembly, Refat Chubarov, were banned from entering the peninsula after the annexation. The Crimean Tatar National Assembly was branded an "extremist organization" and its activities were banned. Some 2,500 Crimean Tatars who had direct ties to the assembly and anyone who had relations with it became members of the "extremist organization."

India approves its first nasal Covid-19 vaccine

NEW DELHI: India approved a locally developed, needle-free and nasally administered Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use on Tuesday, in a boost to the country's homegrown pharmaceutical industry. The new inoculation was developed by Bharat Biotech, the makers of another intravenous vaccine that was greenlit by the World Health Organization last November. India's drug regulator gave the new product emergency authorisation on Tuesday, which will allow it to be used as a primary dose by any unvaccinated or partially vaccinated adult, but not as a booster. "This step will further strengthen our collective fight against the pandemic," health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Twitter. Bharat Biotech conducted third-phase trials in 14 sites around India and found that its safety was "highly comparable" to other vaccines, the company said in a statement. Development data would be submitted to peer-reviewed journals and released publicly, the statement added. "Despite the lack of demand for COVID-19 vaccines, we continued product development in intra nasal vaccines to ensure that we are well prepared with platform technologies for future infectious diseases," Bharat Biotech chair Krishna Ella said. It remains unclear when the product will be available for public use, with the company saying it would be rolled out in "due course". — APP

Lufthansa avoids strike

FRANKFURT: Pilots of German airline Lufthansa have called off a planned strike later this week following a last-minute deal in wage negotiations with the carrier, their union Cockpit said Tuesday. The pilots of both passenger and cargo aircraft were due to begin their industrial action from Wednesday, but "an agreement has been reached," said a spokesman from Cockpit, adding that the walkout "would therefore be cancelled". Just hours ago, the pilots said they would walk out from Wednesday 00h01 to Thursday 23h59, while the industrial action for those operating cargo flights would last a day longer to Friday 23h59. Faced with the threat of new chaos, Lufthansa's management immediately said it would put forward a "better offer" to the union at urgent talks during the day. The airline was forced to cancel almost all its flights on Friday due to a one-day strike by the pilots, affecting 130,000 passengers. No details were provided as yet about the wage deal, and Lufthansa has declined comment. — APP

Türkiye, Bosnia agree on passport-free travel

The president said the relations between Türkiye and Bosnia and Herzegovina are "exceptional," voicing support for the country's territorial integrity and stability

DNA

SARAJEVO: Ankara and Sarajevo decided to allow their citizens to travel to each other's countries without passports, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday. "We have now made the decision to (enable) travel between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey with identity cards," Erdogan told a news conference in Sarajevo with the three-members of the Presidential Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Erdogan said Türkiye and Bosnia and Herzegovina are currently working on passport-free travel, adding that it will become effective soon. The president said the relations between Türkiye and Bosnia and Herzegovina are "exceptional," voicing support for the country's territorial integrity and

stability. Erdogan reiterated that Türkiye is ready to do its best to overcome the current difficulties in Bosnia and Herzegovina. "Being here on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations has given our visit a historic character," he said. For his part, the Bosniak member

and the current chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sefik Džaferović said Türkiye and Bosnia Herzegovina enjoy friendly relations, and their historical and cultural ties are strong, adding that they want to enhance ties with Ankara. Džaferović said Bosnia and Herze-

govina wants to expand bilateral trade volume with Türkiye to \$1 billion. He also appreciated Türkiye's role in mediation between Russia and Ukraine for allowing grain exports. Erdogan reiterated the warning to Greece, saying: "All of a sudden, we can come overnight." "They have islands,

there are bases on these islands ... and if these illegitimate threats against us continue, there is an end to our patience," he said. Turkish jets engaged in NATO missions over the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean seas on Aug. 23 were harassed by a Russian-made S-300 air defense system stationed on the Greek island of Crete. According to Turkish National Defense Ministry sources, Greece violated Türkiye's airspace and territorial waters over 1,100 times in the first eight months of this year alone. Türkiye, a NATO member for over 70 years, has complained of repeated provocative actions and rhetoric by Greece in the region in recent months, including arming islands near Turkish shores that are demilitarized under a treaty, saying that such moves frustrate its good faith efforts for peace.



Briefs

IHC grants time to PTI for submission of documents

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday granted more time to the petitioner for submission of more documents in a plea seeking early completion of scrutiny of PML-N and PPP's funds by the ECP. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case filed by Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) Leader Farakh Habib. Petitioner's Lawyer Anwar Mansoor Advocate adopted the stance that this court had expected from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that it would treat the cases of all parties in same manners. The chief justice remarked that the ECP was a constitutional institution, however, at this the lawyer pleaded that according to the top court it was an administrative body. Justice Minallah remarked that the court had already directed the ECP to deal the all parties equally, adding that the court respects all constitutional institutions. The chief justice questioned that how it could regulate the commission, if the petitioner had any complaint he should first approach the ECP. He asked that how the court pass a judgment before the decision of ECP. The lawyer said that they had also given application to ECP for dealing all parties in a same way. The court inquired about the application and ECP's decision on it. The lawyer prayed the court to grant more time submission of further documents. - APP

Liz Truss appointed as Britain's PM, Johnson bows out

DNA
LONDON: Queen Elizabeth appointed Liz Truss as British prime minister on Tuesday, tasked with steering the country through a looming recession and energy crisis that threatens the futures of millions of households and businesses. Truss, the fourth Conservative prime minister in six years, flew to the royal family's Scottish home to be asked by the 96-year-old monarch to form a government. She replaces Boris Johnson, who was forced to quit after three tumultuous years in power. "The Queen received in Audience The Right Honourable Elizabeth Truss MP today and requested her to form a new Administration," Buckingham Palace said in a statement. "Ms Truss accepted Her Majesty's offer and kissed hands upon her appointment as Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury." Truss will confront one of the most daunting lists of problems of any post-war leader in Britain as inflation hits double digits, the cost of energy soars and the Bank of England warns of a lengthy recession by the end of this year. Her plan to boost the economy through tax cuts while also potentially providing around 100 billion pounds (\$116 billion) to cap energy costs has already rattled financial markets, prompting investors to dump the pound and government bonds in recent weeks.

Urgent rehabilitation of flood affectees needed

Sherry Rehman apprises French Ambassador of current floods situation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman met with the French Ambassador to Pakistan H.E Nicolas Galey, briefing him of the challenges the country is facing in the current relief efforts and the assistance required for the rehabilitation of the flood affectees. H.E Mr. Nicolas Galey expressed solidarity with the people of Pakistan on the devastation wreaked by the floods and assured full support from the French government. Thanking the French Ambassador for their support, Federal Minister Sherry Rehman said, "We appreciate France's support in these tough times and would require assistance in the rehabilitation and relief process. The devastation on ground is much more than we have ever encountered even in the 2010 floods. We have not seen a humanitarian disaster of such epic proportions. More than 5,700 km of metalled roads and 246 bridges have been severely damaged in the 81 calamity-hit regions, cutting communication lines making relief and rescue herculean challenge."



Apprising H.E of the assistance needed in the flood-hit regions, Minister Rehman said, "We need to rebuild adaptive and resilient infrastructure. Moreover, we are now bracing for a health emergency due to the water-borne diseases such as cholera and dengue. Health assistance is imperative due to fragility and vulnerability on ground as people are surviv-

ing under open skies, waiting for government assistance. We need to provide tents and medicines on priority basis. Women health crisis is looming in the heart of affected areas with at least 650,000 pregnant women, of whom 73,000 are expected to deliver next month.

The flood-affected areas are in dire need of maternal health service." H.E Mr Nicolas Galey expressed condolences and deepest regret on the loss of lives due to the devastating floods and assured full support from the French government in these trying times.

Floodwater enters Sehwan Airport

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The floodwater has wreaked havoc after the Manchar Lake in Sindh was breached again as it has entered the nearby Sehwan airport and completely inundated several villages, leaving the people stranded and completely cut off from their surrounding areas. There is water everywhere in Vahar, the ancestral union council of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, following the breach which was made at the site of RD 52. According to the eyewitnesses, there was four to five feet of water at the airport. Similarly, Dadu-Hyderabad section of the Indus Highway is also under floodwater. The administration, on the other hand, has yet to come to the rescue of flood victims. The situation has not improved much in south Punjab where, too, flood affectees are awaiting government's help, and only philanthropists and charity organisations were assisting those displaced by floods.

CM KP approves compensation plan

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has approved the provision of cash compensation for rehabilitation of houses that were destroyed in the recent floods adding that repatriation of flood affectees is the first priority of the provincial government. Chairing the first meeting of the committee to oversee the management and utilization of Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund held here on Tuesday, Mahmood Khan directed the concerned authorities for opening of donation accounts in all the major banks in order to facilitate donors and philanthropists in addition to involving international donors so that maximum amount can be collected. The Chief Minister maintained that all the

deserving should get their right and necessary steps should be taken in order to prevent misuse of the funds. He stated that the provincial government is working sincerely to rehabilitate maximum number of peoples in the shortest possible time adding that the compensation amount has been increased considerably to make sure that the flood affectees are able to return to their normal lives. The provincial government stands with its people in this hour of need and all available resources will be brought to their rescue, he added. The Chief Minister maintained that the provincial government is well aware of the problems being faced by the flood affectees and the provincial government's helicopter has also been dedicated for relief and rehabilitation operations since day one.

Two more relief flights from UAE arrive

ISLAMABAD: In continuation of humanitarian air bridge established between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, two more relief flights from the UAE arrived at Nur Khan Airbase, Rawalpindi. In total, 18 flights from the UAE have landed in Pakistan carrying food, medical supplies and tents etc, said a news release on Tuesday. "Pakistan is thankful to the government and the people of UAE for showing support and solidarity in these times of grave crisis," the news release added. Meanwhile, The floodwater has wreaked havoc after the Manchar Lake in Sindh was breached again as it has entered the nearby Sehwan airport and completely inundated several villages, leaving the people stranded and completely cut off from their surrounding areas. There is water everywhere in Vahar, the ancestral union council of Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah, following the breach which was made at the site of RD 52. - APP

Sri Lanka must reverse 'drift towards militarisation': UN

GENEVA: Sri Lanka must immediately reverse its "drift towards militarisation", the United Nations said Tuesday in a human rights report on a country facing political unrest and its worst economic crisis. "The new government should immediately reverse the drift towards militarisation, end the reliance on draconian security laws and crackdowns on peaceful protest," the UN Human Rights Office said in its latest report. It added that the government should also "show renewed commitment to security sector reform and ending impunity". The South Asian island nation has suffered acute food and fuel shortages, lengthy blackouts and spiralling inflation this year after running out of foreign currency to import essentials. Its government defaulted on its \$51-billion foreign debt in April and is in ongoing negotiations for an International Monetary Fund bailout. Sri Lanka's central bank is forecasting a record eight-percent GDP contraction for the year. Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, whose term ended last month, said in the report that those responsible for bankrupting the island should be prosecuted. It was the first time the UN rights office raised the economic crisis, in a report repeating its calls for those who perpetrated atrocities during the island's long civil war to be brought to justice. - APP

Russia, China agree to use national currencies

DNA

MOSCOW: Russian energy giant Gazprom announced a deal on Tuesday with state-owned China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) to use both yuan and ruble in natural gas payments. In a meeting via video-conference between Gazprom President Aleksey Miller and CNPC President Dai Houliang, the parties signed a long-term gas purchase and sale agreement in the national currencies of the countries - rubles and yuan. "The new payment mechanism is a mutually beneficial, timely, reliable and practical solution. I believe it will speed up business transactions, set an excellent example for other companies and give additional impetus to the development of our economies," Miller said. The two companies agreed to supply gas from Russia to China through a route in the "Far East", where Gazprom has

started to design and build a gas pipeline. In addition, the parties discussed linking the Russian and gas transmission systems through the Power of Siberia-2 gas pipeline in Russia and the Soyuz Vostok gas pipeline in Mongolia. Due to restrictions imposed by Western nations on the Russian banking system, Russia is trying to shift away from using dollars and euros as payment in international agreements. Russian President Vladimir Putin described Western countries imposing sanctions on his country as "unfriendly countries" and said they must pay for gas supplies in rubles. Gazprom aims to increase its supplies to Asian markets, particularly China, as natural gas exports to Europe have dropped sharply due to sanctions. Last year, Gazprom transported 10.4 billion cubic meters of natural gas to China via the Power of Siberia pipeline, which has an annual gas capacity of 38 billion cubic meters.

IHC dismisses contempt plea against Fawad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday dismissed a contempt petition against PTI's leader Fawad Chaudhry regarding his statements against the judiciary. Justice Babar Sattar of IHC heard the case filed by petitioner Saleemullah Khan Advocate. He produced the transcript of Fawad Chaudhry's speeches and adopted the stance that the PTI leader had given malicious statement about Additional & Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry. The lawyer said that the PTI leader

had stated that the contempt of court proceeding was not possible against Imran Khan owing to his (supposed) popularity. In addition, Fawad Chaudhry had given statements about the entire judiciary including the chief justice. The petitioner prayed to the court to initiate a contempt of court proceeding against PTI's former minister. To a query of the bench, the lawyer said that action should be taken against Fawad Chaudhry on criminal contempt. The court remarked that on the basis of political statements or criticism on judgments, contempt of court proceeding couldn't be initiated. The matter was already pending before the larger bench of this court, the judge said. The court declared the petition as non-maintainable and dismissed the same. - APP

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ISLAMABAD: Outgoing DHM of French embassy Yves Manville, incoming French Deputy Head of Mission Gillaume DABOUTS and CEO and founder of Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal, and Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar M Bhatti at farewell dinner at Monal. - DNA