



# Islamabad POST

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**Erdogan faults West's 'provocation-based' policy towards Russia**

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**Germany has plans to avoid energy shortage**

Detailed News On Page-07



**Mbappé leads PSG to victory over Juventus**

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**Briefs**

**Maryam seeks return of passport**

DNA

LAHORE: PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday approached the Lahore High Court (LHC), seeking the return of her passport. The application, which Maryam filed through Advocate Aamir Parvez, argued that in 2019, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had forced Maryam to surrender her passport in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case, fearing that she would flee the country. Following the surrender of her passport, she was granted pre-arrest bail on Nov 4, 2019.

**Pak rejects Indian propaganda**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan categorically rejects the statement by senior BJP leader and Chief Minister of Assam propagating for Hindutva's expansionist idea of so-called "Akhand Bharat." The gratuitous assertion is nothing but a manifestation of the 'Hindutva' majoritarian agenda of the ruling BJP and its revisionist and expansionist mindset that seeks to subjugate the identity and culture of its neighboring countries as well as its own religious minorities. It is also a reflection of the BJP's jaundiced view of history and delusional thinking.

**Pakistan to overcome challenge**

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has reaffirmed the government's commitment to collectively overcome the challenge posed by floods. Chairing a meeting of National Flood Response and Coordination Center in Islamabad on Wednesday, he directed the relevant authorities to take steps on emergency basis to save the people from water borne diseases in the flood affected areas. He said the process of damage assessment surveys should be accelerated for the rehabilitation of flood victims.

## Pakistan looks 'like a sea': PM

'You wouldn't believe the scale of destruction' PM Shehbaz says as another 18 die of floods

NAZIR SIYAL

SEHWAN: Parts of Pakistan seemed "like a sea", Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday, after visiting some of the flood-hit areas that cover as much as a third of the South Asian nation, where 18 more deaths took the toll from days of rain to 1,343. As many as 33 million of a population of 220 million have been affected in a disaster blamed on climate change that has left hundreds of thousands homeless and caused losses of at least \$10 billion, officials estimate. "You wouldn't believe the scale of destruction there," PM Shehbaz told media after a visit to the southern province of Sindh. "It is water everywhere as far as you could see. It is just like a sea." The government, which has boosted cash handouts for flood victims to 70 billion Pakistani rupees (\$313.90 million), will buy 200,000 tents to house displaced families, he added. Receding waters threaten a new challenge in the form of water-borne infectious diseases, PM Shehbaz said. "We will need trillions of rupees to cope with this calamity." The United Nations has called

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## PM inspects Sagu Bridge

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here Tuesday inspected pace of work on Sagu bridge and appreciated the relevant authorities for the pace work on the project. The Prime Minister visited its different sections and reviewed pace of work there. Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Central Ameer of Jamaat Ulema Islam, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Communication Maulana Asad Mahmood and Prime Minister Adviser Engr Amir Muqam also accompanied the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister was told that work on the project was in full swing and the bridge would be opened for traffic soon. The Prime Minister highly appreciated Pakistan Army's role in completion of

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DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Division briefing Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif regarding restoration work of Sagu Bridge over National Highway 50 (Dera Ismail Khan-Kuchlak). - DNA

## Pak, Azerbaijan vow to deepen cooperation

The understanding was reached at a telephonic conversation between PM Sharif and President of Azerbaijan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan have reaffirmed strong resolve to further deepen and broaden bilateral cooperation in diverse areas including energy. The understanding was reached at a telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Heydar Aliyev on Wednesday. During the conversation, the Prime Minister expressed gratitude for the generous assistance of two million dollars extended by Azerbaijan to the flood affected people of Pakistan. He shared that Pakistan has been battling one of the most severe cycles of torrential monsoon weather which resulted in loss of lives, livelihood and extensive damage to the infrastructure.



The Prime Minister said the destruction of infrastructure has severely limited the delivery of assistance and relocation of flood affected people. Speaking about the historic bilateral ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, Shehbaz Sharif said the two countries support each other at the United Nations, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Organization.

## 'PTI leaders disown Khan's statements'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD, Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday said the leaders and close associates of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had disowned their Chairman Imran Khan's statements spewing hate against state institutions. Addressing a joint presser flanked by Federal Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail, the Minister lambasted the former premier for justifying his spiteful remarks against the senior leadership of the armed forces as his discourse on meritocracy. Khawaja said Imran Khan had earlier commented on the appointment of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and yesterday had made a new interpretation of his previous narrative. "He is doing it under a deliberate design to attack and assess reaction of the state institutions. First attack, make institutions controversial and weak and observe their reaction then after some calculation say I just intended to discuss meritocracy through critical arguments," the Minister said. He added that throughout his political career all appointments were made on merit in the tri-services of the country 'accept one or two'. "The nominations of four or five high ranking officers are sent from the leadership of the armed

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## Contempt case

## Imran avoids 'clear' apology

Expresses regret over the words; says the remarks came out unintentionally

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan on Wednesday submitted his new answer to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in contempt of court case with regard to his threatening remarks about a woman judge. In his 19-page answer, Imran Khan expressed regret over the words spoken about additional district and session judge Zeba Chaudhry and said that the remarks came out unintentionally. He didn't intend to hurt the sentiments of the judge. Imran Khan assured the court that in future he would act very carefully in such cases. He

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## 'Conspiracy being hatched'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHISHTIAN: PTI chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday claimed that a conspiracy was being hatched to topple the PTI government in Punjab, alleging that his ministers in the province were being threatened to accept bribes by

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## Nasim Shah leads Pak to Asia Cup final

President, PM greet Pak team

SPORTS DESK

SHARJAH: Pakistan on Wednesday defeated Afghanistan by just one wicket in a tense match, which saw green shirts make their way into Asia Cup final. Naseem Shah hit 2 consecutive sixes in last over to hand Pakistan the win. Afghanistan had set a 130-run target for Pakistan in their 20 overs after

being asked to bat first by Babar Azam. Pakistan had won the toss and decided to bowl first, eyeing to keep their winning streak intact against Afghanistan as the two teams face each other in the Asia Cup Super 4s match at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. Afghanistan were off to a flying start and looked set to set a big score once their

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# Putin slams cubs in pitch for new global order

CENTRELINE REPORT

## EU Commission chief lays out 5 measures to tackle energy crisis

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has admitted some sectors of the Russian economy are suffering due to sanctions and political pressure, which he referred to as the "economic, financial and technological aggression of the West," but remained bullish on building new ties with Asia. Putin made the comments in a landmark speech at the Eastern Economic Forum in the far east city of Vladivostok on Wednesday. "Other challenges of a global nature that threaten the whole world have replaced the pandemic," the Russian president said. "I am speaking of the West's sanctions fever, with its brazen, aggressive attempt to impose models of behavior on other countries, to deprive them of their sovereignty and subordinate them to their will." However, Putin added: "No matter how much someone would like to isolate Russia, it is impossible to do this." During his speech, Putin said said Russia had been "grossly swindled" by a grain shipping deal that was reached with Ukraine in July. The deal, brokered by Turkey and the UN, was intended to shield the world's most vulnerable people from a looming food crisis. The Russian president claimed only two out of 87 ships went to poor countries, and said Russia had been

BRUSSELS: Brussels outlined on Wednesday (7 September) five proposals to tackle the high energy prices gripping Europe, including a mandatory target for reducing electricity use, capping the revenues of energy firms, and recycling the money raised to help vulnerable households. The measures were announced by EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and will be discussed with EU countries on Friday at an emergency meeting. "We are confronted with astronomical electricity prices for households and companies and with enormous market volatility," von der Leyen told journalists in Brussels. "Therefore, we will put forward a set of immediate measures that will protect vulnerable consumers and businesses and help them adapt," she added. unable to resume lucrative fertilizer exports which had been promised as part of the deal. Putin said he would

The first idea is for the European Commission to propose a mandatory target for reducing electricity consumption during peak hours. Brussels will work closely with EU governments to achieve this, von der Leyen said, with the exact target yet to be decided. Von der Leyen also laid out ideas for capping the price of energy, including a cap on revenue made by companies producing energy at low costs. "Low carbon energy sources are making unexpected revenues, which do not reflect their production costs. It is now time for consumers to benefit from the low costs of low carbon energy sources, like renewables," von der Leyen said. A leaked draft proposal seen by EURACTIV suggests this cap could be 200 per megawatt hour. EU countries would use revenues made from this price cap to help vulnerable households and companies cope. Fossil fuel companies could also be expected to help as oil and now consider limiting the destinations for grain exports under the agreement. Ukrainian authorities hit back later on

gas companies have made "massive profits", according to von der Leyen. She wants a "solidarity contribution" from fossil fuel companies that would support vulnerable households and go towards investments in clean energy. The European Commission will also propose a cap on Russian revenues the country has made from selling energy to Europe. The Kremlin, however, has warned it will not supply energy to Europe if a price cap is imposed, and Germany remains to be convinced. "We remain sceptical when it comes to issues surrounding a gas price cap, but we are generally ready for talks in the European framework," a spokesperson for Germany's economy ministry was quoted as saying by Politico. Asked whether the European Commission is considering a wider price cap on fossil gas, possibly on liquefied natural gas, von der Leyen said the idea was "on the table", and the EU executive is looking into it.

Wednesday, with presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak calling Putin's proposal "unexpected" and "groundless."

"The agreements signed in Istanbul ... concern only one issue, and that is the transfer of cargo ships through the Black Sea," Podolyak told Reuters. "Russia can't dictate where Ukraine should send its grain, and Ukraine doesn't dictate the same to Russia." Russia is the world's largest natural gas exporter, and the second-largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia. Putin said Russia would renege on energy contracts if the Group of Seven (G7) countries imposed a price cap on Russian oil, threatening to cut the flow of gas to Europe. "Will there be any political decisions that contradict the contracts? Yes, we just won't fulfil them. We will not supply anything at all if it contradicts our interests," Putin said. "We will not supply gas, oil, coal, heating oil - we will not supply anything." Hours after Putin's comments, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told reporters: "We will propose a price cap on Russian gas... We must cut Russia's revenues which Putin uses to finance this atrocious war in Ukraine." Putin outlines new geopolitical order Putin used his speech to lay out a new vision for global cooperation following the February invasion of Ukraine - one in which Iran and other Middle Eastern countries could play a leading role. "Western countries are striving to maintain a former world

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# PBF demands competitive tariff rates from govt

STAFF REPORT

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) Central Punjab, Vice Chairman Waheed Khalique Raamay said almost 50 to 75 processing mills closed and almost 10 printing mills are closed in faisalabad region. Similarly fifty thousand looms mills closed due to high price of electricity. Talking to media on Wednesday, he said mostly factories received bills at Rs 55 per unit which is unbearable. Almost 300 to 350 embroidery machines were closed till date. Waheed further said Pakistan's electricity and gas tariffs for the Textile industry remain the highest in the region—rendering firms uncompetitive—despite the RCET tariffs being in play. The general industrial tariff remains at 0.15USD/KWh, twice that in Vietnam and 1.5 times higher than Bangladesh and India. Likewise,

Pakistan's textile industry faces the highest gas/LNG tariff in the region. Pakistan's textile industry is paying 9 USD/MMBtu, which is 3.5 times more than Uzbekistan, and 1.5 times Bangladesh's industrial tariff. Pakistan's textile industry must price its power inputs at a tariff lower than the regional average tariff of 0.072USD/KWh, to stay regionally competitive. The current RCET for electricity (from the national grid) is higher than the regional average. RCET is an imperative across the whole value chain, not just for the value-added/exporting elements—if upstream such as spinning firms cannot produce yarn at a competitive rate, processing firms would lose their market competitiveness even with lower energy tariffs. We must understand the entire textiles industry value chain, and not just the direct exporting parts, are equally dependent on RCET, being interdependent and more so as

the up-stream value chain has a higher energy demand. PBF official has urged the government to continue with its various subsidies to support its plans to invest up to \$7 billion for generating over 700,000 jobs and fetching \$20 billion in exports, with a target to achieve \$50 billion in exports by 2026. The textile industry has already committed to establishing 1,000 garment plants. And each plant will consist of 500 stitching machines at an investment of \$7 million and will be able to produce garments for exports of \$20 million per annum, while generating employment for 700 workers. It would therefore be prudent to restore the SRO 1125 ie, zero rating for the entire textile value chain to meet the working capital requirements. This policy measure in combination with the continuation of RCET would be essential in enabling the textile sector to continue on its journey to achieving.

## Action plan ready to implement Climate Change Policy 2022

PESHAWAR: The Forest and Environment Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has prepared a 50-page plan for implementation of Climate Change Policy 2022 in which recommendations have been included to save various sectors from the effects of climate change. According to the action plan of Forest and Environment Department KP, all the provincial departments and institutions would be tasked with a two to twenty years plan to cope with the impact of climate change, dealing with natural calamities and containing its effects on different sectors. These tasks included preparation of a risk management system to save crops from extraordinary weather conditions, floods and drought and access to the best fodder and food for animals besides taking steps for filling the knowledge vacuum regarding effects of climate change on provincial forests. Likewise, the plan also has recommendations for capacity building of the Forest Department

and other relevant institutions to curb the cutting of forest trees and enhance forest carbon production under a modern strategy. The proposed action plan included up-gradation of the principles for planning designs of the towns, minimizing the emission of green bio gases, use of state-of-the-art technology and effective methods for irrigation, promotion and generation of hydro power production in the province and awareness among people regarding imminent consequences of natural calamities in the wake of climate change. The plan also included recommendations for assessment of health hazards in the result of climate change and implementation of a uniformed health policy, regular access to the clean drinking water, access to green and affordable electricity and economical persuasion and provision of subsidies for up-gradation industrial sector and technology to minimize emission of green gases. — APP

## ECP issues notice to Imran, CM Mahmood

PESHAWAR: District Monitoring Officer (DMO) for by-election in NA-31 Peshawar-V Shahabuddin has issued notice to PTI Chairman Imran Khan on the charges of using official resources for public meeting, and participation of the public office holders including the KP chief minister in it. According to the code of conduct announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan for the ongoing by-election, the public office holders can neither participate in such kind of political activities nor can use official resources, otherwise legal proceedings under election laws would be initiated against them. — APP



HYDERABAD: A view tent basti established by district government in Hyderabad for flood affected families. — DNA

## Half million houses completely destroyed in Sindh, says Memon

HYDERABAD: Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit and Focal Person Rain Emergency Sharjeel Inam Memon said on Wednesday that 601 people have died in rains and floods in Sindh while over 0.5 million houses were completely destroyed. Addressing a press conference here at Shahbaz Hall, Sharjeel Memon said that there was an emergency situation across the country due to rains and floods and millions people have become homeless. He said that 11,558

people have been injured in the flood in Sindh while a total of 1,687,659 houses have been affected. As many as 941 talukas and 1104 union councils of the province have been affected in the most devastating rains and floods in the country's history, while 47072 cattle were perished, Sharjeel Memon said and informed that Sindh Government had so far established 2031 relief camps across the province for the flood victims. The Information Minister said that at present Kotri barrage was

currently flowing with the highest level of 640127 cusecs water, while the water level in Manchar Lake is at its highest peak of 123 RL. He said that relief activities are going on throughout the province and till now 140620 tents and 923255 mosquito nets have been distributed among the victims. Sharjeel also requested the Relief Organizations to keep in touch with the provincial disaster management authority (PDMA) do that they could be provided full security during the distribution of relief items. — APP

## Khan's ego ruined economy, says Musadik

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Wednesday said the national economy and foreign policy were ruined due to the ego of Imran Khan, who nowadays claimed himself as a "savior" of the country. "It was the ego of Imran Khan which severely damaged the economy and foreign policy of Pakistan and now it is becoming the cause of his (Imran Khan) own destruction," Musadik said while addressing a news conference. Citing a proverb "the fish is the last to see the water", he said it was only Imran Khan who was not worried about his actions, as the whole nation knew what he was doing. It was quite surprising that a person, who destroyed the country during his four-year rule, now considered himself a savior, he added. The minister recalled how Imran Khan and his government had created energy and electricity crises in the country by patronizing the cartels and mafias. Pakistan, he said, was witnessing up to 14 hours of load-shedding and facing a severe gas crisis when the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) came into power in 2013. He said the PML-N government, during its previous tenure, made extensive efforts to end the gas and electricity shortages. 11,000 megawatts of electricity was added to the national grid, while an LNG terminal with 1.2 billion cubic feet capacity was installed. — APP

## Inclusivity needed to deal with climate change

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Climate Change, Sherry Rehman on Wednesday stressed on all inclusive holistic approach and coordination among all stakeholders to cope with the repercussions of climate change and saving natural eco-system from hazardous impacts of pollution. She expressed these views while chairing a roundtable session on building a coalition to clean up the Lyari River. The session was also attended by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Subzwari, Chairman Karachi Port Trust (KPT) S.M Tariq Huda, officers from relevant departments and organizations, representatives of WWF-Pakistan, UNICEF, multinational and national companies and public policy experts. Addressing on the occasion, Sherry Rehman said that climate change was a global issue and individual efforts could not prove helpful so all the relevant government departments and public organizations, international organizations, trade and industrial communities and all other stakeholders have to play a proactive role in a well coordinated manner. The federal minister said that unprece-

dent rains and floods have affected one third area of the country and millions of people and proved once again that Pakistan was the most vulnerable to climate change. The entire country received extremely higher ratio of rains as compared with the annual average rains causing inundation of a vast area, she said and presented example of Pad Eidan town of Naushehro Feroze district of Sindh where over 700 mm rain was recorded in just one day. She further said that National and Indus Highways, two main highways connecting the South to the Northern parts of the country, were under water while finding suitable places to set up tent cities for displaced population in Sindh has become extremely difficult. Sherry opined that the monsoons were never like this as weather patterns has drastically changed. The monsoons were considered to be a pleasant season in entire South Asia but now it became a symbol of disaster and destruction, she added. In Pakistan it was the third consecutive year when mercury rose to record highs to place the country among the hottest

places in the world while wild fires phenomenon has also took place in the country, she observed adding that all these calamities were result of climate change. "We can not stop climate change but we can ensure efforts which were long overdue at our part," the minister stated saying that though there were certain issues of capacity and resources but every opportunity was important and the same must be utilized to improve the situation. Minister for climate change appreciated efforts for cleaning up Lyari River and said that rivers of Karachi were on ventilator and Lyari River has become a drain while local industries were dumping waste materials in rivers regardless of laws and rules resulting into destruction of river and marine eco-system. Detoxifying our rivers for maintaining bio-diversity was essential at the time though it might take many years to clean the rivers, she said and added that broad based partnerships were expected to play a crucial role in ensuring to develop solutions those can be scaled up by use of technology and innovation. Federal Minister for Maritime

Affairs Faisal Subzwari speaking at the occasion said that Karachi Port Trust was building a sewerage treatment plant with estimated cost of Rs. 8 billion to save the sea from pollution caused by drainage of industrial, municipal and biological waste. He said that ministry of maritime affairs was aware of serious implications of pollution on marine life and mangrove forest and it was committed with the cause of preservation of marine ecology. He vowed to double the profitability of KPT within a year time without hurting the delicate ecology of the Arabian Sea. Chairman KPT Tariq Huda said that Karachi port connects overall national economy of Pakistan to the world and water security issue is a national security issue and solution to it must neither be denied nor delayed. At the occasion a report on environment issues of Lyari River was also launched which revealed that every month 9,000 tonnes of debris enter into the river almost entirely uncleaned while Lyari harbour area was choked by accumulated debris leaving no space for flow of flood water. — APP



KARACHI: First humanitarian assistance flight from Jordan has landed at Jinnah International Airport Karachi, Pakistan. — DNA

## Scientists urged to make awareness of fertilizers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Two-day's conference was held at the National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad under the plan to increase the national production of wheat and integrated use of fertilizers. Mr. Zafar Hassan, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Food Protection and Research was the chief guest of the event. Agricultural scientists from all over the country, officers of the Department of Agriculture Extension and farmers participated in the conference. In the beginning, Dr. Muhammad Yaqoob, National Project Director (Wheat) explained the aims & objectives of the Conference. Addressing the inaugural session of the two-day national conference on "Efficient integrated nutrients management technologies for enhancing wheat productivity in Pakistan", Federal Secretary Ministry of National Food Security and Research Mr. Zafar Hassan said that wheat was the main crop of the country, which was being grown over 22 million acres to fulfill local dietary needs. He said that average output of wheat in the country was recorded at 30 mounds per-acre, which was lowest as compared the output of developed economies of the world. He added that lower productivity of wheat was another challenge as it was insufficient to tackle with



increasing demand of growing population, adding that under such circumstances, the responsibilities of local agriculture sector has further increased to maintain food safety and security. He further asked for enhancing the use of bio-fertilizer in order to reduce dependency on costly imported fertilizers, besides encouraging the production of organic agriculture products for profit maximization as well as protect the local eco-system and environmental degradation. Federal Secretary expressed the hope that the outcomes of the conference would be helpful for formulation of a comprehensive policy to enhance per-acre output of wheat, by sharing the knowledge and experiences of local as well as foreign experts. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman PARC Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali said that the council was making efforts to

extend the outcomes of its research and development to the door steps of farmers, adding that efforts were on to ensure provision of high yielding seeds varieties to growers. He also said that considering their experiences, the agricultural scientists should tell the farmers how to use fertilizers which not only reduces their expenditure on fertilizers but also increases their production as well as their productivity. Increase the fertility of the land and make it environment friendly for us. Dy. Director General of National Agricultural Research Center Dr. Shahzad Asad thanked the Federal Secretary of the Ministry of Food Protection and Research and all the participants of the ceremony and expressed hope that the Federal Secretary will always continue to patronize us and in the same way agricultural scientists will play their role for the agricultural development of the country.

## Denmark to provide 120,000 liters of clean water

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-Designate of Denmark to Pakistan Jakob Linulf said that Denmark would provide a major drinking water facility in flood-affected areas of Sindh, which could provide up to 120,000 liters of clean water a day. The Ambassador told the media on Wednesday, "we are happy to welcome the Danish Emergency Management Agency team in Islamabad. They will be operating a clean drinking water facility in Sindh. And they will be joined by another seven team members in Karachi tomorrow". He added that this team would set up the water purification system in Sindh and would operate in Pakistan for weeks. He said the Advanced Emergency Team from Denmark consisted of Erik Breum-Christensen (team leader), Johan Theil Nielsen and S ren Larsen. The Ambassador also extended Denmark's government's sincere con-

dolences to the victims of the flash floods (currently more than 1,300). Denmark's key priority is to provide flexible and unearmarked funding to our humanitarian, strategic partners to allow them to respond quickly in times of urgent need, such as in the case of the ongoing flooding in Pakistan, he added. Denmark has also supported the UN's (humanitarian) flash appeal for Pakistan with \$1.33 million to the UN Refugee Organization, UNHCR. This funding is provided in addition to our core annual funding for UNHCR's work in Pakistan and the region of \$ 6.7 million. UNHCR has already started its aid work and can expand its efforts with our support. He maintained that their focus is mainly on emergency relief - providing tents and blankets - and protecting vulnerable groups, including women and children. Denmark is also the 6th largest

donor to the UN's Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), which has already provided \$ 3.07 million almost two weeks ago (22.8 million DKK) for the relief work in Pakistan. In addition, the Danish Emergency Relief Fund, which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs funds, has allocated almost 0.5 million USD for emergency assistance, the Ambassador added. He said Denmark and Pakistan signed a Green Framework Engagement on August 31, 2022 and on August 10, 2022, our countries signed an agreement for Danish financing of sustainable infrastructure in Pakistan. These engagements will allow us to cooperate more closely regarding green transition, sustainable development, and climate change mitigation. They will also assist with rehabilitation and reconstruction. — APP



**National Days and Armed Forces Days****AUGUST**

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

**Hotels & Restaurants**

Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
Marriott.....	051-2862161
Monal.....	0334-5421812

**Airlines**

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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**Emergency**

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122
& Rescue Services.....	4451122
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Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
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**Hospitals**

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RGH.....	9290301-7
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PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
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**Islamabad Metropolitan**

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

**Water Tank**

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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# Ethiopia keen to promote trade ties with Pakistan

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that Pakistan has made a Look Africa Policy to explore huge untapped region of Africa for trade and exports and close co-op between Pakistan and Ethiopia would helpful in getting better access to African market

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jemal Beker, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan said that his country is keen to promote trade ties with Pakistan as increasing bilateral trade would be very beneficial to the people and economies of both countries. He said this while exchanging views with Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) during his visit to Ethiopian Embassy.

The Envoy said that Ethiopia is importing many products from China & India and added that Pakistan has a good opportunity to focus on the Ethiopian market to explore new opportunities of improving its exports. He said that Ethiopia is considering resuming direct flights with Pakistan that would improve people to people contacts and trade relations between the two countries. He said that Ethiopia is importing 80% of pharmaceutical products and Pakistani pharma sector investors should set up JVs in Ethiopia to meet the needs of its market and export surplus to African countries.

He highlighted marble, pharmaceuticals, textiles and construction as potential areas of bilateral cooperation between Ethiopia and Pakistan. He said that ICCI should consider



taking a business delegation to Ethiopia to promote connectivity with Ethiopian counterparts and explore business collaborations. He proposed that ICCI should sign a MoU with Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce to promote business linkages between the private sectors of both countries and assured that his Embassy would facilitate Pakistani entrepreneurs in exploring the Ethiopian market for business and investment.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan has made a Look Africa Policy to explore huge untapped region of Africa for trade and exports and close cooperation between Pakistan and Ethiopia would helpful in getting better access to African market.

He said that many Pakistani products including marble & granite, pharmaceuticals, cement, leather, rice and sports goods can find a good market in Ethiopia and stressed that Ethiopia should focus on Pakistan for imports. He said that Pakistan and Ethiopia should consider negotiating a preferential or free trade agreement to promote trade relations up to their actual potential. He said that both countries should encourage regular exchange of trade delegations to explore all potential areas of mutual cooperation. He said that ICCI has already taken its delegations to Azerbaijan and UAE and would also consider taking a delegation to Ethiopia. He further said that ICCI would like to work closely with the Ethiopian Embassy to promote business relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia.

He mentioned that Pakistan's armed forces had rendered unmatched sacrifices for the security of the country. He said that it was unfortunate that PTI leadership had run a negative campaign against Pakistan armed forces adding that it attempts all these tactics to push the country towards default and bankruptcy for only political gains, he added. - APP

## Pakistan to celebrate Int'l Literacy Day today

ISLAMABAD: International Literacy Day will be celebrated worldwide including Pakistan on September 08, 2022 under the theme "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces". On International Literacy Day, UNESCO will raise awareness and concern for literacy problems that exist within our own local communities as well as globally. The Day will be an opportunity to rethink the fundamental importance of literacy learning spaces to build resilience and ensure quality, equitable, and inclusive education for all.

At the global level, a two-day hybrid international event will be organized on 8 and 9 September 2022, in Côte d'Ivoire. The International Literacy Day global celebration lies at the heart of regional, country and local levels. As such, this year's

outstanding programmes and literacy practices will be announced through the 2022 UNESCO International Literacy Prizes award ceremony. Audrey Azoulay Director-General of UNESCO in her message on International Literacy Day 2022 state that school closures and disruptions caused by the pandemic have likely driven learning losses and drop-outs. Through the celebration of International Literacy Day, UNESCO calls on all actors in the field of education and beyond to re-think the role of literacy.

Since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards

a more literate and sustainable society. Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist with 771 million illiterate people around the world, most of whom women, who still lack basic reading and writing skills and are faced with increased vulnerability. Rapidly changing global context took a new meaning over the past years, hampering the progress of global literacy efforts. In the aftermath of the pandemic, nearly 24 million learners might never return to formal education, out of which, 11 million are projected to be girls and young women. To ensure no one is left behind, we need to enrich and transform the existing learning spaces through an integrated approach and enable literacy learning in the perspective of lifelong learning. - APP

## Bookie held for betting on cricket matches

RAWALPINDI: Police held a bookie red-handed while making betting on cricket matches in the precincts of New Town Police Station. According to a police spokesman, on the special instructions of CPO Rawalpindi, district police were carrying out a successful drive against social crimes specifically gambling. In this regard, police officials had been assigned the task to keep check against gambling on National Cricket Cup matches in the city, he added. SHO New Town Police Station along with his team acting on a tip-off raided and arrested a gambler red-handed and also seized two mobile phones, he said and informed the gambler was identified as Huzafa. New Town police registered a case against the gambler under Prevention of Gambling Act and shifted the detainee gambler to police station for further investigation. - APP

## Pak committed to reduce air pollution, says Sherry

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday said despite contributing less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan was committed to improving air pollution and reducing emissions. In her message on International Clean Air Day, the Minister said Pakistan at present stood at the forefront of the global environmental emergency where air quality and air pollution was one of the major environmental issues. Minister Rehman said, "Our cities and villages face air pollution. Pakistan is currently going through the ravages of climate catastrophe." She said the country was living through a devastating year of environmental disasters. Ministry of Climate Change in Pakistan was engaged in fighting air pollution on priority basis through its Clean Air Programme. The objective of the program, she said was to coordinate activities and initiatives of major polluting sectors including industries, waste management companies and others. The Ministry of Climate Change was working with various sectors to reduce dark carbon emissions, Sherry Rehman said, adding, "The Climate decade of our reckoning is now and not in 2050. This is a new normal and a dystopic one. So whatever goes down in one country affects the other." "Climate change has no borders, the effects of climate change on one country will affect other countries as well," Sherry Rehman said. She suggested that all countries should make a coordinated and collective global effort to clean up their air. "Climate Change has no boundaries and we share the air that we breathe. Pakistan looks forward to working with all countries to invest in a clean and healthy future", Sherry Rehman concluded. - APP

## IK to face legal action, says Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Adviser on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira warned that that legal action will be taken against former premier Imran Khan for "using unethical language" and "leveling allegations" against state institutions. The nation is well aware about the person who is spreading chaos in the country, he said while talking to a private news channel. He alleged that the PTI chairman was attempting to destabilize the country by inciting "chaos and anarchy", adding, we will not allow Khan to succeed in his nefarious designs. "Imran Khan was pushing the country towards extreme polarization, he said, adding, the state, constitution and the respected institutions were being challenged by Imran Khan which would not be tolerated anymore. Repeating to a question, he said that legal action would be taken against Imran, adding, every soldier and officer of the Pakistan armed forces were patriotic. He mentioned that Pakistan's armed forces had rendered unmatched sacrifices for the security of the country. He said that it was unfortunate that PTI leadership had run a negative campaign against Pakistan armed forces adding that it attempts all these tactics to push the country towards default and bankruptcy for only political gains, he added. - APP

## Five bids to smuggle wheat, flour foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police have foiled five bids to smuggle wheat and flour besides seizing 2550 bags. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Naseerabad and Taxila police confiscated five vehicles loaded with 2550 bags. He informed that police arrested five drivers namely Adil, Zaman, Ashraf, Zulfiqar and Manzoor for violating the ban on wheat and flour smuggling. He informed that the authorities concerned had been directed to strictly monitor district exit points to control wheat smuggling. - APP

## Electricity units allowed to DISCOs, WAPDA, NTDC, GENCOs employees

ISLAMABAD: Employees of all power distribution companies (DISCOs), National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC), WAPDA and generation companies (GENCO) are allowed electricity units according to their pay scales and each employee consumes its allocated quota within a financial year. Officials sources told that the electricity units were not free rather was a taxable to the employees and was a part of their salaries pay package. Each employee paid his/her bill when the allowed quota of units was exhausted and no further units were allowed till the end of financial year, they said. They said the said facility was also provided to the retired officers/officials as per entitlement. The cost of electricity to employees was borne by their respective organizations-DISCOs/GENCOs/NTDC/ WAPDA etc to the CPPA. They said once the entitled quota consumed, the employees paid their bills like other consumers. Sharing the entitled allowed units details, the sources said grade 1-4 employees were allowed 100 units per month, grade 4-10 employees 150 units and grade 11-15 employees 200 units. Similarly, 300 units were allowed to grade 16 per month, 450 units to grade-17, 600 units to grade-18, 880 units to grade-19, 1100 units to grade-20 and 1300 to grade-21-22 officers. - APP



LAHORE: Ambassador of Canada, Wendy Gilgimour met PMLN Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif at her residence in Jati Umrah. - DNA

## UNHCR hands over relief items to Sindh govt

The UNHCR Representative and Director General of PDMA Syed Salman Shah signed a memorandum to handover the items for immediate distribution to the flood victims

The UNHCR Representative and Director General of PDMA Syed Salman Shah signed a memorandum to handover the items for immediate distribution to the flood victims

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has handed over thousands of tents and other emergency relief items to the Sindh government which will benefit hundreds of thousands of flood-affected people in the province. The first three of nine scheduled flights arrived in Pakistan on Monday -

with the other six scheduled this week, said a statement issued here. The UNHCR trucks carrying relief items were also on the road from Uzbekistan, with more convoys scheduled. Emergency relief items are being transported from Peshawar and had already reached Sukkur Humanitarian Response Facilities, the statement added. "A total of 18,800 tents, 310,000 blankets, 76,000 buckets, 56,500 jerrycans, 67,500 plastic tarpaulins,

112,000 sleeping mats, 150,000 mosquito nets, 140,000 solar lamps, 24,700 kitchen sets, 32,000 sanitary napkins, 4,500 soap and 3,500 dignity kits are being given to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority Sindh, the UNHCR said. UNHCR's Assistant Representative for Protection Leyla Nugmanova called on Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. The CM's team briefed the UNHCR officials about the current situation in various flood-affected districts and

the damages caused by floods. The UNHCR Representative and Director General of PDMA Syed Salman Shah signed a memorandum to handover the items for immediate distribution to the flood victims. The Sindh CM welcomed the UNHCR's contribution, terming it timely and important. "The world is yet to understand the scale of this disaster and devastation by floods," he said. Leyla Nugmanova said, "UNHCR is lending all possible support to Pakistan in this hour of need. "Based on our forty years of partnership and Pakistan's extraordinary generosity for refugees, we cannot let the country and its people handle this colossal tragedy alone. "The world has to understand what the people in Pakistan are going through and has to step in to help fast," she added. The UNHCR has been part of the monsoon response since July when the agency started to provide relief items and assistance for refugees and host communities. In addition, the UN Refugee Agency directly provided tents to the flood affected refugees and host communities through its partners. - APP

## RDA inflows reach \$5 billion mark in 24 months

ISLAMABAD: Inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) rose to US \$4.981 billion by the end of August 2022 as compared to US \$4.794 billion till end of July, according to a latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan. The data showed that the inflows of remittances during the month of August were recorded at \$187 million as compared to \$188 million in July and \$250 million in June, 2022. Roshan Digital Account (RDA) was launched by State Bank of Pakistan in collaboration with commercial banks operating in the country. These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment and investment activities in Pakistan. As per data, expatriate Pakistanis from 175 countries had deposited the funds to 456,732 accounts opened through RDA. - APP

## IRSA releases 273,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 273,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 288,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has already attained its maximum conversation level of 1550 feet and was 152 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 163,700 cusecs and 162,900 cusecs respectively. - APP



## Briefs

## Nation indebted to PAF's warriors: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tribute to the pilots of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) for rendering immense sacrifices in the 1965 war and defending the country's aerial frontiers. "The defenders of the country's aerial frontiers always proved that any malice shown by the enemy would be thwarted effectively," he said in a tweet on PAF Day. Nation on September 7 observed the 57th Air Force Day across the country to pay homage to the martyrs of the PAF for sacrificing their lives in defence of the homeland. PM Sharif said Pakistanis were grateful to Squadron Leader Sarfraz Rafiqi, Flight Lieutenant Younas Hassan, Flying Officer Muhammad Afzal, Squadron Leader Muniruddin, and all martyrs of the PAF. "With their great sacrifices, these heroes crushed the nefarious designs of the four times bigger enemy," he said. - APP

## Meezan bank launches online payment gateway

ISLAMABAD: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank has launched Point of Sale (POS) payment and online payment gateway services to enhance its digital retail offering and fast-track the country's digital ecosystem. The Bank will act as a link between merchants, issuers and payment networks by offering them state-of-the-art POS machines and making cashless transactions available over the counters, enabling retailers to benefit from the adoption of digital payments, said a news release issued here on Wednesday.

The POS machines support acceptance of local and international cards, card and mobile tap payments and integration with the retailer system. With the launch of POS and e-Commerce Acquiring services, Meezan Bank will now be able to digitize payments for a large number of unserved retail customers who prefer Islamic banking. A ceremony was held at Meezan Bank's Head Office to acknowledge the contribution of the key individuals in this project. This ceremony was attended by Ariful Islam - Deputy CEO, Meezan Bank and other senior team members. - APP

## PAF observes Sept 7 as Martyrs' Day

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force on Wednesday observed September 7th as Martyrs' Day at all PAF Bases throughout the country. The day started with special Du'a and Quran Khawani for the Shuhada (martyrs) of 1965 and 1971 Wars and those who laid down their lives in action since the creation of Pakistan, a PAF news release said.

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Buser Sidhu was the Chief Guest during a Martyrs' Day Ceremony held at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. Addressing on the occasion, the Air Chief said that PAF has proud history of sacrifice, valour and professionalism. Brave sons of the soil have always responded to nation's call and marked glories with their blood during 1948, 1965 & 1971 Wars, Ops Sentinel and Operation Swift Retort. Pakistan Air Force has evolved due to great legacy of our forefathers and we are striving hard for the advancement in space, electronic warfare, cyber, niche technologies and indigenous defence capability to ensure our sovereignty and territorial integrity". Air Chief appreciated the efforts of PAF personnel for relief and rescue operations during the recent floods. He further expressed solidarity with Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their indigenous and just struggle for self-determination. To pay homage to the martyrs, the Air Chief laid floral wreath at the Martyrs' Monument and offered "Pateha". Principal Staff Officers, Officers, Airmen and PAF Civilians attended the ceremony. - APP

## Painting exhibition held to mark Defence Day

Colonel (r) Syed Muhammad Safi said that the people fought the war of 1965 alongside the Pakistan Army. "We will not hesitate to make any sacrifice to defend our beloved motherland, to maintain its independence and sovereignty," he added



RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council(PAC) Wednesday organized a painting exhibition to mark Defence Day and pay tribute to martyred sons of soil. Colonel (r) Syed Muhammad Safi and Naheed Manzoor were the chief guests of the exhibition. Paintings of martyrs, ghazis, tanks, armoured vehicles and warplanes of the Pakistan Air Force were placed in the exhibition. Speaking on the occasion, Colonel (r) Syed Muhammad Safi said that the people fought the war of 1965 alongside the Pakistan Army. "We will not hesitate to make any sacrifice to defend our beloved motherland, to maintain its independence and sovereignty," he added. Naheed Manzoor said that the Defence Day and martyrs' sacrifices reminded the armed forces and nation's unparalleled courage and bravery. The armed forces and the nation crushed the enemy's evil intentions, and the day of September 6 had become a symbol of unwavering determination, patriotic spirit, and great sacrifice in our history. "I salute the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country's defence." Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that September 6 was a memorable day in our national history; this day retells us of the unprecedented unity and determination of the Pakistani nation. He added that the entire nation defeated the enemy's aggression on the side of Pakistan forces. - APP

## Ismaili Imam donates \$10 million to Pakistan flood relief efforts

Prince Rahim said I am deeply concerned about impact of the current floods in Pakistan, which have been intensified by effects of climate change

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ismaili Imam has announced it will be donating US\$10 million to support relief efforts following the severe flooding in Pakistan. \$5m will be donated directly to the Government of Pakistan while a further \$5m will be provided to the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) agencies in the country, which are engaged in the relief efforts.

The donation comes following a discussion on Sunday between the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shahbaz Sharif, and Prince Rahim Aga Khan, Chair of AKDN's Environment and Climate Committee and eldest son of His Highness the Aga Khan, the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims. Prince Rahim said "I am deeply concerned about the impact of the current floods in Pakistan, which have been intensified by the effects of climate change. These floods, and the many other weather events we are experiencing around the world, require us all—governments, businesses, communities, and individuals—to redouble our efforts to combat the climate crisis which threatens to engulf us. The institutions of the Ismaili Imam have been mobilised to support the government in its relief and rehabilitation efforts." During the discussion, the Prime Minister expressed appreciation on behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan for the unwavering support of the Ismaili Imam and the AKDN institutions. He also expressed his deepest respects for the work that the AKDN

institutions have been delivering in Pakistan since its independence. The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat and FOCUS are AKDN's lead response agencies for relief efforts. To date over 8,000 people have been successfully evacuated from affected areas while more than 4,000 families have been provided with food packages since the start of the flooding. Healthcare camps have been set up in several parts of the country by the Aga Khan University and Aga Khan Health Service where over 2,000 flood affected people have been given assistance. HBL Bank and Jubilee Life Insurance, both part of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development portfolio, have been active supporters in the relief efforts providing food rations and waterproof tents to over 12,000 families. Additionally, social safety payments by the Government of Pakistan are being disbursed to over 1 million people through HBL's Connect platform. AKDN Helicopter operations have also been assisting in rescue missions and supporting the delivery of food items and medicines to remote areas in Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan.

## Pakistan stands with China amid quake disaster: President

President Alvi said he was deeply saddened and grieved to hear about the devastating earthquake that hit Sichuan province in southwestern China, resulting in loss of precious lives and destruction of property

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday, expressing grief over the loss of lives in China following the earthquake in its Sichuan area, said Pakistan will stand with China in difficult times. "I assure you that the people of Pakistan and the government of Pakistan stand with the Chinese people and the government of China with the same spirit as the Chinese people are standing with the victims of unfolding super floods," he said in a message of condolence for the Chinese people. President Alvi said he was deeply saddened and grieved to hear about the devastating earthquake that hit Sichuan province in southwestern China, resulting in the loss of precious lives and destruction of property. "On behalf of the people of Pakistan, and myself, I wish to convey my deepest condolences to the Chinese leadership and my heartfelt sympathies to the people of Sichuan, over the loss of 66 precious lives in the recent earthquake, which has also caused damage to communication infrastructure and other properties," he said. The president extended his sincere condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and offered his prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured. He hoped that the missing people would soon be reunited with their families and that the people of the earthquake-hit areas would rebuild their homes and resume normal life as soon as possible. He expressed confidence that the Chinese leadership and people of China were fully capable to win the battle against this natural calamity with their proven abilities and resilience. - APP

## Railways incur Rs90m losses per day due to floods

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways had been suffering losses of around Rs90 million per day due to unexpected monsoon rains and flash floods across the country. "The relentless monsoon rains and floods have not only destroyed the many railway tracks, but also damaged the bridges which disconnected Sindh and Balochistan with other parts of the country," sources in the Ministry of Railways told APP. They said during the last month, Quetta was disconnected from the rest of the country after bridge collapse at Mach Station, which had resulted in the cancellation of seven important trains between Karachi and Quetta. Pakistan Railways had also announced the suspension of the operations of five express major trains on the Main Line-I (ML-I) a few days ago until the rehabilitation of railway tracks, they said. They said the main line of Pakistan Railways was under the flood-water between Tando Masti Khan-Gambat and Mehrabpur-Lakro sections. Similarly, the track was sub merged at various spots in Balochistan. The sources said that furthermore, Pakistan Railways had already asked the passengers who want their tickets refunded can contact the respective reservation offices. They said that the flood water would drain in the next 7 to 10 days, which would allow for the rehabilitation and eventual resumption of operations while the freight van operations have been resumed on a few tracks at a slow pace of 10-20 kilometers per hour. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Jemal Beker Abdula, the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan called on to Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation in his office. - DNA

## World Literacy Day (8th September)

SAYED SAJID SHAH BOKHARI

IN 1965, in a Ministerial conference on Education it was decided to eradicate illiteracy and pull the world from the quagmire of ignorance. The decision was tough and challenging because more than half of the world had no access to education. The world body of UNESCO after realization understood the dilemma and went further to announce on 26th October, 1966 that 8th September will be marked as World Literacy Day. Since then every year with a new thematic area the literacy day is celebrated all over the world with Great Spirit and zeal. However to achieve targets the developed and underdeveloped countries adopted their own policies to cope with the challenges. The developed countries took strong decision to convert the illiterate societies, communities in to literate one and made education as core body of their social, political and economic pathway. It was also realized that everyone possess potential but it should be reached to climax and that's only possible through joint efforts. So the richest countries should help the poorest one, the strongest should help the weakest nation and that will be the only way to eradicate illiteracy from the world. The UNESCO started technical and financial support from the very beginning how-

ever, the countries which had no policy, plans and frames for promoting literacy rate or ignore ruined themselves. Every year new thematic area and slogan is adopted. For the year 2022, slogan Transforming literacy learning spaces has been adopted. More than 56 years ago the universal declaration of human rights asserted that everyone should have right to education. This was in fact the realization by the nation to understand the global challenges due to illiteracy and taking steps to develop a frame work for the future generation to make them strong, sustainable and prosperous. The realities identified in the conference describe that more than 100 Million Children, including 60 Million Girls have no access to primary education. More than 960 Million Adults, two thirds of who are women are illiterate and functional literacy is a significant problem in all countries, industrialized and developing. However the problem of illiteracy in developing countries is great menace. It was realized then that only literate people with just reading and writing will have no importance in personal life until they may get the modern concepts and innovation in education. It is not astonishing that in today's world of science more than one third of the world's adults have no access to the printed knowledge, new skills and technologies to improve the quality of their lives and

help them shape, and adopt to social and cultural change. The major threat found in the circle of education was 100 Million children and countless adults who usually failed to compete basic education programme especially the women folk. As a matter of fact millions more satisfy the attendance requirements but do not acquire essential knowledge and skills. It was realized by the world that illiteracy not only causes dependence, it deprives people of the development of their fullest potential of participation in decision making different levels and ultimately rises to breed oppression and exploitation. Democratic institution and values can hardly flourish in a society where half of its population is illiterate and most of the people cannot access to information and reading newspaper even. Learning how to read and write opens the doors to so many possibilities, it increases knowledge, give information increases job opportunities, reduce violence and understand the life cycle. It was a time when the ability to read, write, speak and listen were considered effective parts of communication. Now like previous definition means reading simple paragraph would not be enough. Now is a period where 21st century skills could be used as a matter of indivisible and national development indicators. The competency to understand, collabo-

rate, critical thinking, problem solving and digital literacy with technological information could be essential parts of human development and it needs efforts on the part of each stakeholders in society. The advanced countries in the world have got the real essence of education because they have had a mechanism for enhancing the skills of human. Just imagine The Finland, Norway, Japan, Germany, Sweden, US, UK, Switzerland, Lithuania, Russia had got the literacy ratio between 98 to 100. They had got a miracle and secret of development and technologies in the field of invention, innovations and strongest economical and political background. On the other hand the poorest countries could be found at the edge of chaos, anarchy, war and destruction. Especially the Muslim world who possess literacy ratio between 28 and 34 like Benin, Guinea, Tanzania, Chad, Niger, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Congo are nearest to collapse. Just imagine 57 Muslim countries have 26% literacy ratio which is surprising and astonishing. Until the Muslim countries and specially Pakistan may not adopt a policy to raise its literacy ratio from 60% to 90% development is impossible. In the coming decades it will be in fact a disturbance factor for destabilization and lowest level of social, economic, political background and chaos, anarchy will be our destiny.

## Int'l Day of Democracy on Sep 15

ISLAMABAD: International Day of Democracy will be marked on September 15 (Thursday) to raise public awareness about democracy. The International Day of Democracy aims to raise public awareness about democracy - its meaning and importance. Various activities and events are held around the world to promote democracy on this date. Many people and organizations worldwide, including government agencies and non-government organizations, hold various initiatives to promote democracy on the International Day of Democracy. Events and activities include discussions, conferences and press conferences involving keynote speakers, often those who are leaders or educators heavily involved in supporting and endorsing democratic governments and communities. Leaflets, posters and flyers are placed in universities, public buildings, and places where people can learn more about how democracy is linked with factors such as freedom of expression and a tolerant culture. Organizations, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), organize activities such as public opinion surveys about democracy and political tolerance. There has been a campaign, known as the Global Democracy Day Initiative, which involves a petition being made to the UN and heads of states to officially adopt October 18 as Global Democracy Day to support International Day of Democracy. The UN general assembly decided on November 8, 2007, to make September 15 as the annual date to observe the International Day of Democracy. The assembly invited people and organizations, both government and non-government, to commemorate the International Day of Democracy. It also called for all governments to strengthen their national programs devoted to promoting and consolidating democracy. The assembly encouraged regional and other intergovernmental organizations to share their experiences in promoting democracy. - APP

## HEC, Huawei to organize online training

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Huawei Technologies (Pvt.) Ltd Pakistan to organize an eight-day long online training for 30 to 40 outstanding Pakistani students in the field of ICT tentatively from September 26, 2022 onward for a week period. HEC and Huawei, in that regard, are inviting applications from potential Pakistani undergraduate students under the "Huawei Seeds for the Future Programme 2022". According to the Assistant Director Learning Opportunities Abroad Higher Education Commission Pakistan, Under the subject program, in the last 7 years, 130 students were selected from varsities across Pakistan by HEC and 55 of them were sent by Huawei to China for two weeks training on culture and advance ICT skills. Same like last year, due to Covid-19, HEC & Huawei has again planned to organize online training this year. HEC Official informed that the deadline to apply for this program is 18th September 2022. The selected students will be able to obtain valuable cutting-edge ICT knowledge (5G, Cloud, AI, etc.) developed by Huawei's Headquarters and experience a cross-cultural communication virtually. As per eligibility criteria, the candidate must be a Pakistani/AJK national & permanent resident of Pakistan/AJK. Dual nationality holders are not eligible. - APP

## ANF recovers 462 kg hashish

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has recovered 462 kilograms of hashish from a secret compartment in a truck near York Toll Plaza Dera Ismail Khan and arrested two accused. According to ANF spokesperson, the accused were trying to smuggle hashish from Balochistan to Peshawar and Punjab. A case has been registered against them under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigation was started by the force. - APP



## Helping the flood victims

THE friendly countries have stepped up their efforts to help flood victims in Pakistan as another flight from the United Arab Emirates carrying relief goods for the flood-stricken people of Pakistan arrived here at Nur Khan Airbase on Wednesday. So far, 19 flights from the UAE have landed in Pakistan carrying food, medical supplies and tents etc. This is in continuation of the humanitarian air bridge established between Pakistan and the UAE.

"Pakistan is thankful to the Government and people of UAE for showing support and solidarity in these times of grave crisis," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had also thanked the UAE government for its continued support to the flood victims including the establishment of humanitarian corridor between the two countries.

The water level in Manchar Lake on Wednesday recorded a slight decrease. According to official figures, the water level had dropped to 122.3 foot-reduced level (RL) at noon from 122.5RL at 6am.

Meanwhile, Indus River remained in high flood at Kotri barrage with around 58,382 flowing downstream at noon against upstream discharge of 604,127 cusecs. Only a marginal drop was seen at upstream discharge at Kotri barrage on Wednesday. After causing widespread destruction in the country's north, floodwaters have converged in Sindh in the south, where the Dadu district has been particularly affected.

Dadu DC Syed Murtaza Ali Shah estimates that over 1.2 million people have been affected by rains and floods since July 7 in the district. He said that 201 relief camps had been set up in the district, where flood-affected people were being provided meals twice a day. Hundreds of others, he said, were living in the streets and they, too, were being provided food. Separately, the European Union (EU) said it was coordinating incoming aid offers to help the country face the ongoing emergency at the request of Pakistani authorities. "The European Civil Protection Mechanism is deploying one liaison officer to help coordinate the arrival of further aid," it said in a statement.

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## The Hundred: a short format

YOUR starter for 10. The finals of the men's and women's Hundred competition were held at Lord's last Saturday. Who won? Have to hurry you. Have you got it? Award yourself 10 points if you said the Oval Invincibles won the women's crown and another 10 points if you knew Trent Rockets were the men's winners. The Invincibles and the Rockets – not yet names that trip off the tongue like Man United and Arsenal, or, to take a US baseball analogy, the almost universally recognised Red Sox and Yankees. The competition was supposed to revolutionise English and Welsh cricket, making it fit for the snazzy, dynamic sporting world of the 21st century, and for an audience with ever shortening attention spans. Yet, in its second year, it has been struggling to establish itself. Running alongside the start of the football season has not helped: Man United and Arsenal are global mega-brands; the Trent Rockets are ... well, who knows what they are, other than a bunch of pretty good cricketers in a stripy yellow kit, who vaguely represent the cricketing traditions of the east Midlands? When the Hundred was launched, the heritage of 18 counties, which had in many cases been in operation for more than 100 years, was shoehorned into eight new "franchises". Bashing the Hundred has, though, become a little tiresome and predictable. Yes, it is a horribly simplified version of a wonderfully complex game; yes, the commentators, with their endless bigging up of some very ordinary cricket are annoying; yes, the rise of short-form franchise cricket across the world threatens the traditional game. But at least it has got the sport back on to terrestrial TV, and at the same time given a boost to the women's game. The Hundred was invented to address cricket's increasing marginalisation, and the middle-aged accountants and retired colonels who adore the labyrinthine plot twists of a Test match have to recognise those challenges: struggling counties; an ageing demographic; the posh, public school image of cricket (many state schools have unfortunately given up on the game); the failure to bring players from south Asian backgrounds into the first-class game. Cricket is not a perfect world being wrecked by the beastly Hundred; the Hundred is a garishly imperfect attempt to solve deep-seated problems in a sport which, ever since it made its Faustian pact with Rupert Murdoch's Sky in 2006, has been losing its place in the national conversation. The accountants and retired colonels can afford a Sky subscription to watch England and South Africa play the final – and deciding – Test of their series at the Oval later this week. But what about the kid in the not-very-well-off household in Nottingham who might wonder what cricket is all about? How does he or she get to grips with the true glory of the game? The instant dazzle of Trent Rockets may not be the answer, but, if you are denied access to "real" cricket on TV, it might be better than nothing.

# Catastrophe or mismanagement

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

The glaring mismanagement is also evident while looking at the tenders of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). We all started listening about unprecedented monsoon season in Pakistan from May onwards this year but NDMA failed to notice this phenomenon. Detail of tenders from May onwards by the NDMA at their website suggests...

PAKISTAN is not even among top 100 countries which are subject to maximum rainfall. The country at the hundredth slot receives rain double to Pakistan according to the data of last 60 years average. But the scale of devastation during floods in Pakistan always remains miserable. When we talk about the extent of destruction we don't consider the element of mismanagement the whole nation is subject to at the moment.

In these times flood is a kind of disaster which doesn't knock your doors with surprise, there is always sufficient information available prior to the floods. We were expecting the same kind of calamity, we issued alerts, we ensured announcements, we identified danger zones, we forced evacuations; it

means we were fully aware of the severity of expected floods.

But we still failed to save precious lives despite hours before they were swept by the merciless flood waves. We remained unsuccessful in extending quick response to the victims. Principally if we were aware of the emergence of the flood then it would have been appropriate to have helicopters and evacuation boats ready with search lights, life jackets and other necessary equipment to execute rapid rescue operation on the entire expected route of the flood. I think, there is absolutely nothing as 'quick rescue response' even in the procedures of armed forces of Pakistan.

We didn't notice any visible quick response from armed forces during first two days of the flood. Army is a disciplined yet extremely capable organization in the Country to handle catastrophe of this scale but they can't respond as long as there is any established mechanism to provide quick and immediate rescue operation.

After two days there was visible rescue operation by the armed forces which saved several lives. If there had been any mechanism for quick rescue operation in the armed forces we could have probably saved even more lives including those five young friends and an old age person in KPK who lost their lives in two different incidents during the flood. Still miseries of people in the South of the Country on a usual route after weeks of flood's initial emergence are making a mockery of the abilities of institutions established for disaster prevention and management.

We all feel saddened looking at buildings and hotels washed away by the flood but none of us identified departments and authorities responsible to ensure safe constructions. Why relevant departments failed to stop these constructions. Did they issue any warning

to these buildings? If they didn't then there is a huge question mark on their abilities to ensure safe constructions in vulnerable sites on riverbanks and areas subject to excessive land sliding.

We all shared several videos of vehicles swept away in the flood but no one demanded to penalize people and departments who are responsible for road safety, to put visible signs and water gauges with clear instructions not to enter in the stream of prohibited scale. Number of dams has been breached in Baluchistan but there is not even a single voice to condemn the entire process and design to build such vulnerable water reservoirs which eventually aggravated the degree of devastation while consuming exceptional resources for these structures.

The glaring mismanagement is also evident while looking at the tenders of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). We all started listening about unprecedented monsoon season in Pakistan from May onwards this year but NDMA failed to notice this phenomenon. Detail of tenders from May onwards by the NDMA at their website suggests engagement of the authority in renovation & maintenance of premises & vehicles, tax consultancy, procurement of almirah & jerry cans by the end of July 2022. It was August when destructions of flood lost their peaks the NDMA issued an 'emergency' tender for family tents, look at the emergency of our disaster management authority that when NGOs such as Al-Khidmat and Edhi have already reached at every depth and breadth of the Country, when relief goods have already reached from Turkey, UAE, China and Qatar, when masses have already extended their support to the victims then our specially established institution issues 'emergency' for family tents on August 27, 2022. Now the question is that will these

tents be delivered within stipulated time because market is already short of tents, the answer is probably not.

The fate of this procurement seems the warehouse and if we don't, and we pray we don't, experience this degree of flood in near future the whole purchase will perhaps go in vain, which is a clear example of mismanagement that prevails in our institutions leading to the sufferings of this scale in case of any calamity. I intentionally didn't mention the name of a country at hundredth slot in terms of rains because people start taking about the development status while comparing countries. Let's take the example of Rajasthan which witnessed record rains this monsoon in decades, but the CM appeared in media and said that we stored enough water however five reservoirs still have the capacity to store further water.

According to estimates we lose water of worth 15 billion USD every year in addition to destructions repeatedly over the years but failed to build dams to store water to avoid severe floods, to produce less expensive electricity, to cultivate more agriculture land to meet food shortages and above all to ensure sustainability and security of Pakistan. We need to reflect and determine that if we suffered to a catastrophe or our mismanagements at every level from the government, administration and masses at large to hinder strategic decisions to protect our motherland. Besides relief and rehabilitation activities we should focus on establishing affective & efficient institutions and processes to avoid any mismanagement in case of catastrophe of scale in future.

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# A new nuclear deal won't bring Iran and the US closer

Ahmadi Ali

Iran has already resolved to look East, particularly for its economic aspirations.

This is both a result of sanctions and economic practicalities. Even with a deal, lingering restrictions on business with Iran and the precedent Trump set will mean that Western firms are unlikely to flood the Iranian market any time soon. Tehran knows that. On the other hand, the centre of the global economy continues to move eastward, driven by Asian economies, especially China. To be sure, Iran under President Ebrahim Raisi will want to make sure it doesn't become over-reliant on China

WHEN Iran and six global powers announced a nuclear deal in the summer of 2015, there was substantial global diplomatic optimism. The pact, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), capped Iran's nuclear programme and provided the country relief from many of the sanctions imposed over the previous decade.

The United States, however, withdrew from the agreement during the presidency of Donald Trump. Now, after almost a year and a half of negotiations, the US – under President Joe Biden – and Iran appear on the brink of a new understanding to revive the fledgling accord.

As always in such high-stakes diplomacy, there are last-minute niggles to navigate. Iran has demanded that the International Atomic Energy Agency end an investigation into safeguards in place at the country's nuclear facilities, as a precondition for the deal. Meanwhile, the world is waiting to hear back from Iran, which is reviewing US responses to a European Union-drafted text for a revived nuclear deal. Yet, even if Iran and the US manage to strike a fresh agreement, the hope and momentum of 2015 will be difficult to resurrect. The optimism back then was about more than just the terms outlined in the text. The deal represented a triumph for conflict resolution and created a new esprit de corps among diplomacy-focused politicians around the world. Importantly, it was seen as a harbinger of a new era of moderation in the long-tortured US-Iran relationship.

The environment in 2022 is considerably darker. Hanging over proceedings is the knowledge that any commitment made by the US can only be counted upon as long as the administration that made it is in office. That reduces the incentive for all sides to meaningfully build on the agreement. From Tehran's perspective, any potential economic benefits for Tehran are in doubt if it can't trust that the deal will last beyond 2024. Meanwhile, Iran's nuclear programme has advanced to the

point where it no longer needs a year for a nuclear breakout – the timeline that was the basis for Washington's demands in the original negotiations. So while the text of the agreement remains unchanged, both sides will have to settle for a diminished version of the benefits they successfully bargained for in 2015. Ultimately, what this agreement – if it comes to fruition – will yield is a stripped-down version of the JCPOA, with little hope of advancing towards a more comprehensive accommodation.

That's no coincidence. When the two sides first set about trying to revive the deal last year, many argued that there should be a "less for less" interim agreement reached first. Some said that this would help reduce tensions and improve the atmosphere for negotiations, while others in Washington saw this approach as a means to halt Iran's ambitions while retaining parts of the sanctions regime. Unlike in 2015, a new deal won't be an historic trust-building opportunity – just the opposite, in fact. Still, both sides will see a key gain there.

While the complicated and hostile entanglement between Washington and Tehran is set to continue, the agreement represents an opportunity for both sides to devote more of their attention elsewhere. Iran has already resolved to look East, particularly for its economic aspirations. This is both a result of sanctions and economic practicalities. Even with a deal, lingering restrictions on business with Iran and the precedent Trump set will mean that Western firms are unlikely to flood the Iranian market any time soon. Tehran knows that. On the other hand, the centre of the global economy continues to move eastward, driven by Asian economies, especially China.

To be sure, Iran under President Ebrahim Raisi will want to make sure it doesn't become over-reliant on China. However, while the administration may court economic interactions with Europe, it's clear to most where Iran's actual opportunities lie. Meanwhile, reduced tensions with Iran will allow

the Biden administration to finally downgrade the Middle East in America's strategic calculus. Before Biden was even inaugurated, his senior foreign policy aids were telling seemingly any reporter who would listen that the Middle East was a "distant fourth" in their ranking of regions to focus on behind the rest of Asia, Europe and even the Americas.

The "war on terror" and Washington's historic fixation with the Middle East have so far distracted the US from what it has – since the Obama administration – formally acknowledged as its biggest strategic challenge: its competition with Russia and China. While a reconstituted JCPOA does not mean that the US will forget the Middle East entirely, it will give the Biden administration the freedom to redirect more of America's capacities to a new era of great power competition.

Any real opportunity for more meaningful discourse and compromise between the US and Iran will likely arrive only once it is clear that a future Republican president won't abandon a deal. Looking at the current slate of possible GOP nominees for the presidential election in 2024, that's not a very hopeful prognosis.

Still, any future US president contemplating the abandonment of a revised nuclear deal would have to contend with new realities and a more complex international environment as the American moment of unrivalled primacy fades and more powerful adversaries than Iran challenge the potency of Washington's economic arsenal. Would it make sense to unsettle the little calm that an agreement with Iran would bring?

For the moment, it's impossible to know how a future American administration might answer that question. That's why, rather than hope for a more civil bilateral relationship, we are left with a guarantee of continued confrontation in the region, policies defined by leverage seeking and one-upmanship, and likely another decade of this hostile saga.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera



## Briefs

## Pakistan...

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for \$160 million in aid to help the flood victims. Many of those affected are from Sindh, where Pakistan's largest freshwater lake is dangerously close to bursting its banks, even after having been breached in an operation that displaced 100,000 people. National disaster officials said eight children were among the dead in the last 24 hours. The floods were brought by record monsoon rains and glacier melt in Pakistan's northern mountains. With more rain expected in the coming month, the situation could worsen further, a top official of the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) has warned. Already, the World Health Organization has said more than 6.4 million people need humanitarian support in the flooded areas. The raging waters have swept away 1.6 million houses, 5,735 km (3,564 miles) of transport links, 750,000 head of livestock, and swamped more than 2 million acres (809,370 hectares) of farmland. Pakistan has received nearly 190% more rain than the 30-year average in July and August, totalling 391 mm (15.4 inches), with Sindh getting 466% more rain than the average.

## PM inspects...

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communication and roads infrastructure projects in the flood hit areas. The Prime Minister also waved to flood victims accommodated in tents there. The bridge was washed away by the recent flash floods in D I Khan. It was the second visit of the Prime Minister to D I Khan after the recent flood besides visited Tank, Nowshera, Charsadda, Swat and Kohistan where he personally inspected rescue and relief operations. — APP

## PTI...

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forces that are appointed by the Prime Minister after necessary consultation," he mentioned. The close associates of Imran Khan in his party were abstaining from commenting on his statements, he said, adding, "They are avoiding from commenting on it and a day earlier President of Pakistan who has been nominated by PTI disassociated himself from what Imran Khan had said." He sought Imran Khan to prove when there was any appointment of the armed forces' chiefs was done without merit. "The current COAS was appointed by our previous government and he endorsed his appointment. In three years, he (Imran Khan) has applauded the current COAS perhaps the most appreciated by him." He alleged that Imran Khan as prime minister used to remain absent from many important meetings chaired by the COAS that were of critical nature. Khawaja added that Khan had left many core issues of political and security nature on the COAS to handle. After losing power he was criticising the military leadership and deliberately creating doubts about the next inline COAS. He made a flurry of queries on Imran Khan asking him, "Was Buzdar's appointment on merit? Or the appointment of Chief Minister KP was on merit? What he (Imran Khan) has done on merit? BRT inquiry was silenced. Is that merit? Toshi Khana diamonds case? 180 million pounds sent here by National Crime Agency, UK with its letter in the name of Supreme Court and was sent in Bahria Town's liability account. Is that justified? Sohawa University land was procured and only 38 students were being enrolled and there was no such university on ground. Is that merit? Is selling the Toshah Khana gifts at F-7 shop merit?" He quoted the maxim of law saying, "Who comes into equity must come with clean hands." He continued, "Does this man has clean hands? No he had not. Does he probe medicines, sugar and wheat scams? He did not probe any." He commented that Imran Khan after his ouster through no confidence motion started claiming US and others for conspiring it. "You have accused US for it and then hired a lobbyist on US\$25,000 to appease the US. Is that merit?"

## Global effort needed to confront climate change

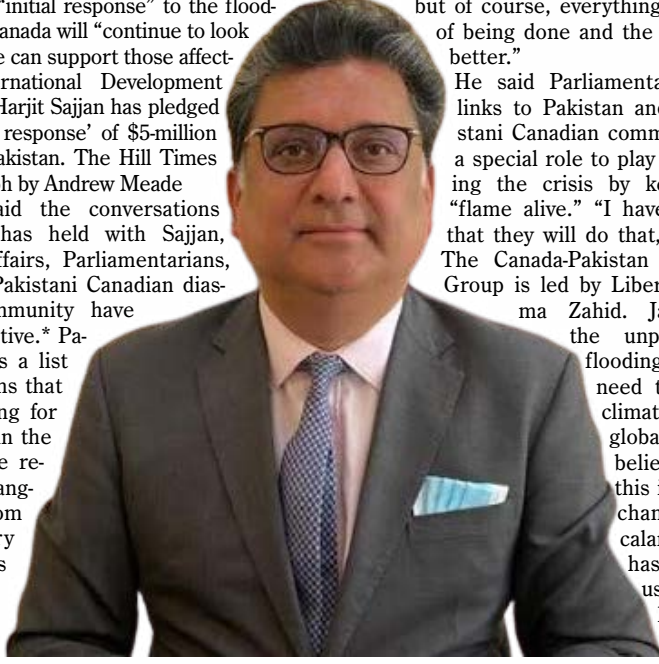
DNA

CANBERRA: As unmatched flooding has displaced millions and led to the deaths of more than 1,200 people, Pakistan's top diplomat in Canada is calling for an international effort to help address the immediate crisis and to help his country's recovery. The flooding, which has been caused by an atypically heavy monsoon season and the melting of Himalayan glaciers, has affected at least 33 million people, with one-third of the country submerged at one point. The World Health Organization said last week that more than 6.4 million people are in "dire need of humanitarian aid." "These are floods of biblical proportions," Pakistani High Commissioner Zaheer Janjua told Canadian newspaper in interview. He said there is a need to address the immediate needs that the flooding has caused, as well as to assist in longer term rehabilitation and rebuilding. He said the initial estimates show that repairing damage will cost more than \$10-billion, but noted a full assessment will only be possible when the flooding starts to recede. "It is a task which Pakistan alone cannot fulfill. We do need the international community's support," he said, noting that Pakistan is "very happy and grateful" with Canada's commitments so far. International Development Minister Harjit Sajjan announced last week that Canada was providing \$5-million in humanitarian assistance, on top

of funds provided in the Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund and contributions to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. In a press release, Sajjan said the funding is part of Canada's "initial response" to the flooding, and Canada will "continue to look at ways we can support those affected." International Development Minister Harjit Sajjan has pledged an 'initial response' of \$5-million to help Pakistan. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade Janjua said the conversations that he has held with Sajjan, Global Affairs, Parliamentarians, and the Pakistani Canadian diaspora community have been positive. \* Pakistan has a list of 40 items that it is asking for to assist in the immediate recovery, ranging from temporary shelters and toilets, to water rescue vehicles and dewatering pumps. It also seeking more than a dozen medicines, including antibiotics and anaesthetic ointments. Janjua

said he hopes that Canada will help assist Pakistan recover from the flooding over the long term. "Time is of the essence," he said. "It should've been done yesterday, but of course, everything has a way of being done and the sooner the better."

He said Parliamentarians with links to Pakistan and the Pakistani Canadian community have a special role to play in addressing the crisis by keeping the "flame alive." "I have no doubt that they will do that," he said. \* The Canada-Pakistan Friendship Group is led by Liberal MP Salma Zahid. Janjua said the unprecedented flooding shows the need to confront climate change globally. "We believe that this is a climate change-induced calamity that has befallen us," said the high commissioner, noting that Pakistan is low on the list of carbon-emitting countries, but is among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. "These



## Putin...

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order that is beneficial only to them, to force everyone to live according to the infamous rules that they themselves invented and regularly violate, rules they are constantly changing for themselves depending on the current circumstances," the Russian president said. This was also reflected in the attendees at the summit in Vladivostok, who included Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and senior Chinese legislator Li Zhanshu.

## Imran...

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said he had never given or would give such a statement in the future that would have an affect on pending court case. He further wrote that I couldn't even think of running a malicious campaign against the judiciary and prayed the court accept his explanation. Courts always recognize the Islamic principles of forgiveness and tolerance, he said, adding that those Islamic principles would also apply to this case as well. The answer said the court gave me an opportunity to submit a supplementary reply but it was used for political points scoring. Chairman PTI Imran Khan has submitted a 19-page reply in the Islamabad High Court. It should be noted here that on August 31, the larger bench of IHC had declared Imran Khan's interim response unsatisfactory and ordered him to submit the answer again by September 8.

## 'Conspiracy...

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"Mr X and Mr Y". Addressing a rally in Chishtian, he said that PTI's Punjab lawmakers were being offered bribes worth millions of rupees. "And Mr X and Mr Y are threatening them to accept these bribes." Imran implied that the Punjab government would be toppled via a no-trust vote and subsequently showed a series of past statements by PML-N leaders where they could be heard saying that the establishment played a "third party" role in the no-confidence movement against him earlier this year. "So if the no-confidence vote succeeds in Punjab, then according to them [the PML-N], it will be done by the establishment," he said. Elaborating on his claim further, the PTI chief stated that the "conspiracy was being hatched" to bring PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif back to the country. However, Imran said that he was unfazed by Nawaz's return. "I am waiting for you to come back. And when you do, it is my promise that the nation will welcome you in a way which has never been seen before in the country." But, the PTI chief contended, "while the nation is reeling from floods and there is an economic crisis, you are playing these political gimmicks". "Don't you have any care for the country and its people? You are destroying everything," Imran also criticised the suspension of YouTube service across Pakistan during his Peshawar rally yesterday, saying that the government was cracking down on journalists supporting PTI and channels showing his speeches out of fear.

## Nasim...

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openers started to hit the ball over the park. However, Harris Rauf dismissed the explosive Rahmanullah Gurbaz in the fourth over and Mohammad Haseeb removed Hazratullah Zazai to bring two new batsmen to the crease. Once the openers were dismissed, Babar brought in Mohammad Nawaz and Shadab Khan who put pressure on Afghanistan with their tight bowling. The pressure eventually got to Karim Janat and Ibrahim Zadran who were struggling to middle the ball. In the 12th over, Nawaz dismissed Janat to put Afghanistan three down. From then on, regular dismissals by the bowlers and tight bowling by the Men in Green put Afghanistan in check. It was only two boundaries by Rashid Khan in the last over that pushed Afghanistan to 129-6 and helped them set a 130-run target for Pakistan. For the Men in Green, Harris ended up with two wickets while Nawaz, Shadab, Haseeb, and Naseem took one wicket each. For Afghanistan, Ibrahim Zadran was their highest run scorer who ended up with 35 runs off 37 balls.

## Jabeur becomes first female Arab to reach US Open semis

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Tunisia's Ons Jabeur has become the first African and Arab female tennis player to reach the semi-finals of the US Open. Jabeur, who also claimed a notable first in July as the first woman from Africa to reach the final at Wimbledon, sealed a 6-4, 7-6 win over Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic on Tuesday. The 28-year-old will now face Caroline Garcia in the semi-finals after the in-form 17th-seed dispatched the 18-year-old Coco Gauff 6-3, 6-4 in Tuesday's other quarter-final. Jabeur said she had been infused with belief since reaching the Wimbledon final, where she was beaten in three sets by Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina. "I believe more in myself," Jabeur said. "After Wimbledon, it was very positive. Even though I lost the final, I knew I had it in me to win a Grand Slam. And here I am in the semi-finals of the US Open." Jabeur is known affectionately as the "Minister of Happiness" by fans in Tunisia for the joy that her progress on court has brought to her homeland. "We have a lot of courts [in Tunisia], especially in hotels,"



which is unbelievable. I'm grateful for

her to introduce me to this amazing sport." On Tuesday, she admitted she

had let her frustration get the better of her when she banged her racket in frustration several times after coughing up multiple service breaks in the second set.

"I think I'm gonna be fired from my job as Minister of Happiness," she joked. "It is tough to manage my frustration. I apologise for my behaviour. I really wanted to keep calm but the racket kept slipping away from my hand." The win was the world number five's 43rd this season, trailing only world number one Iga Swiatek. Jabeur had reached the quarter-finals at the 2020 Australian Open and 2021 Wimbledon Championships, with her recent runner-up finish proving a breakthrough. "I think the fact that I broke that barrier of being in the quarter-finals all the time, that did help with my confidence," she said. "Knowing that I could make finals in Grand Slams really helped my game, just trying to build that experience to get into second weeks in grand slams. It was very tough coming here, you know, just the hard court season like wasn't that great for me. So I was trying to build more and more confidence on hard courts."

## Khachanov downs Kyrgios to reach semi-final

NEW YORK: Karen Khachanov set-up a US Open semi-final duel with Casper Ruud on Tuesday when he battled past "devastated" Nick Kyrgios in a big-hitting five-setter, shattering the Australian crowd-pleaser's dreams of a maiden Grand Slam title. Russian 27th seed Khachanov triumphed 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4 over the Wimbledon runner-up to make the last-four at a major for the first time. Earlier Tuesday, Norwegian fifth seed Ruud defeated Italy's Matteo Berrettini 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) to make his second Slam semi-final of 2022 having finished runner-up to Rafael Nadal at the French Open. Khachanov fired 30 aces and a total of 63 winners past Kyrgios. "I did it, guys. Finally, you are showing me some love," Khachanov told the mostly pro-Kyrgios crowd on Arthur Ashe Stadium. "It was a crazy match I was expecting it would be like this. I'm ready to run, to fight to play five sets. We played almost four hours and that's the only way to beat Nick." The Russian said he had "nothing to lose" when he faces Ruud on Friday. "I would like to win it," said Khachanov who lost to the Norwegian on clay in Rome in 2020 in their only previous meeting. "But as deep as you go the expectations rise up. I did the step forward, I made my first semi-final and I think I have nothing to lose. I just want to go for it and be ready for the next match and hopefully it will be a good one." Kyrgios, who had knocked out defending champion Daniil Medvedev in the last-16, hit 31 aces in his 75 winners. However, his unforced error count of 58 was almost double the 31 of Khachanov. "I'm devastated. It's heart-breaking for me and everyone," said Kyrgios. "I feel like I have let so many people down." After Kyrgios had levelled the contest just after midnight with a dominant tiebreaker, he allowed Khachanov to break for a 1-0 lead in the final set. Kyrgios then failed to convert break points in the second and fourth games and his chance was gone. — Agencies

## Chelsea sack manager Tuchel

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Chelsea on Wednesday sacked manager Thomas Tuchel just seven games into the new season, hours after they suffered a chastening Champions League defeat at Dinamo Zagreb. The former Borussia Dortmund and Paris Saint-Germain boss leaves Stamford Bridge after a tumultuous period at the club, which included a Champions League triumph and the end of Roman Abramovich's reign. Chelsea said they would move "swiftly" to appoint a replacement, with former Tottenham and PSG boss Mauricio Pochettino and Brighton manager Graham Potter among the early favourites. "On behalf of everyone at Chelsea FC, the club would like to place on record its gratitude to Thomas and his staff for all their efforts during their time with the club," the Premier League club said in a statement. "Thomas will rightly have a place in Chelsea's history after winning the Champions League, the Super Cup and Club World Cup in his time here." The Stamford Bridge club, bought by Todd Boehly's consortium in late May, defended the timing of the decision, which is understood to have been made before the loss in Croatia.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan WADA Mitsuhiro exchanging views with Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation. — DNA

## Mbappé leads PSG to victory over Juventus

AGENCIES

PARIS: Kylian Mbappe produced two lethal first-half finishes as Paris Saint-Germain got their latest bid for Champions League success off to a winning start by beating Juventus 2-1 at the Parc des Princes. Mbappe's two goals were stunning, the first coming after an outrageous scooped assist by Neymar inside five minutes and the second at the end of a superb move midway through the first half. PSG were cruising at half-time before being given a wake-up call early in the second half as substitute Weston McKennie headed Juventus back into the game. Yet Juve are a faded force compared to just a few years ago and came to the French capital without several key players, including former PSG star Angel di Maria. They could not find an equaliser and the Parisians claimed their first three points in Group H. "I was very pleased with the team," said PSG coach Christophe Galtier. "Winning in difficult circumstances can only make us stronger." Mbappe, along with Galtier, had come in for stiff criticism in France in the 24 hours leading up to this game for laughing when a question was put to him in the pre-match press confer-

ence about his club's decision to travel for last weekend's league visit to Nantes by private jet rather than take a more environmentally friendly train. The World Cup winner's performance here suggested none of the negative headlines had remotely bothered him, as Mbappe confirmed exactly why PSG were so desperate to keep him at the end of last season when he seemed set to depart for Real Madrid. "We knew before this game that we had weaknesses but we are working

to improve," Mbappe told broadcaster Canal Plus. He signed a new deal in Paris to 2025 with the aim of leading his hometown team to a first Champions League title after a decade of disappointing defeats and occasional humiliations at the business end of the competition. "I have a

new role in the side now. The coach wants me to be someone who can hold the ball up, to get in behind and also that I act as a link between Leo and Ney. I am trying to adapt to that new role while also scoring goals." He needed just five minutes to get the breakthrough on a balmy evening after linking up brilliantly with Neymar, one of his rivals for the limelight in PSG's squad of superstars. Mbappe, coming in from the left, supplied Neymar before continu-

ing into the box to meet the Brazilian's delightful return pass with a volley across goalkeeper Mattia Perin into the far corner. Juve actually very nearly equalised in the 19th minute when Arkadiusz Milik's header from Juan Cuadrado's cross was parried by Gianluigi Donnarumma. It was 2-0 just three minutes later, as Mbappe played an electrifying exchange with Achraf Hakimi this time before sending another first-time strike past Perin. With Marco Verratti and summer signing Vitinha robbing balls in

midfield, Lionel Messi slipping in between the Juve defence and midfield to play intelligent passes, and Mbappe seeking to deploy his electrifying pace, PSG looked impressive. But Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri sent on McKennie for the ineffective Fabio Miretti at half-time, and the United States international reduced the deficit in the 53rd minute. Leandro Paredes played a short corner on the left to Filip Kostic, and his cross was headed home by McKennie with Donnarumma caught in no-man's land. Mbappe had squandered a great chance to make it 3-0 moments before that when he chose to shoot into the side-netting rather than pick out Neymar at the back post. The home side then had Donnarumma to thank for a fine save to keep out a Dusan Vlahovic header, but a bigger margin of victory for PSG would not have been undeserved, with Perin keeping out a late Neymar volley. "We could have got a positive result. But PSG are an extraordinary team with fantastic players, and they had several chances too," admitted Allegri. Mbappe has nine goals in six games for his club this season, and has scored eight in his last seven Champions League appearances. If he keeps playing like he is just now then this could well be PSG's year at long last.





## Briefs

## Baltics to restrict entry of Russians

DNA

RIGA: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have agreed to restrict the entry of Russian citizens travelling from Russia and Belarus, their foreign ministers said on Wednesday (7 September).

The three Baltic member states expect the entry ban to be in place by mid-September after it gets formal approval from national governments, Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics said. "In the last couple of weeks and months, the border crossings by Russian citizens holding Schengen visas have dramatically increased. This is becoming a public security issue, this is also an issue of a moral and political nature," he told reporters after the meeting in Kaunas. The countries will turn back all Russian citizens with visas attempting to enter the EU's Schengen open border area. Exceptions will be made for Russian citizens crossing the border for humanitarian and family reasons, lorry drivers and diplomats.

The announcement comes a day after the European Commission backed a proposal for new hurdles for Russian travellers seeking EU entry visas that could take effect as soon as next week, following a political agreement between the bloc's foreign ministers last week.

## Tunisia opposition to boycott polls

DNA

TUNIS: Tunisia's main opposition alliance said Wednesday its members including the once-powerful Ennahda party would boycott December polls to replace a parliament dissolved by President Kais Saied. The vote is set for nearly a year and a half after Saied suspended the Ennahda-dominated assembly and sacked the government, later pushing through a constitution enshrining his one-man rule. "The National Salvation Front has definitively decided to boycott the upcoming elections," said Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, head of the front which is made up of parties and movements opposed to Saied. He said the move was in response to an electoral law written "by Saied alone", part of a "coup against constitutional legitimacy". Saied's power grab was welcomed by many Tunisians tired of what they saw as a fractious and corrupt system established after the 2011 revolution. But opposition forces say his moves, culminating in a new constitution confirmed by a widely boycotted July referendum, amount to a return to autocracy in the only democracy to have emerged from the Arab Spring.

## French senators arrives in Taiwan

DNA

PARIS: A group of French lawmakers landed in Taipei on Wednesday, the first high-level European delegation since China conducted huge war drills to protest a visit to the island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Democratic Taiwan exists under constant threat of an invasion by authoritarian China, which claims the self-ruled island as part of its territory to be seized one day - by force if necessary. Beijing lashes out at any diplomatic action that might lend Taiwan legitimacy, and has responded with growing anger to visits by Western officials and politicians. The delegation of five French lawmakers is being led by Senator Cyril Pellavat, Taiwan's foreign ministry said, adding it was the fourth visit by French politicians in the past 12 months. Last month China sent warships, missiles and fighter jets into the waters and skies around Taiwan in a show of opposition to Pelosi's presence, its largest and most aggressive exercises since the mid-1990s. Pelosi, a veteran Beijing critic, was the most senior US politician to visit Taiwan in 25 years. She was followed by multiple separate US delegations in August.

## Turkiye President faults West's policy towards Russia

During Erdogan's visit - the second stop on a three-nation Balkan tour - Türkiye and Serbia signed seven agreements in such areas as the economy, industry, and technology, including a protocol allowing passport-free travel for nationals on both sides

## NEWS DESK

BELGRADE: The West is following a "provocation-based policy" towards Russia, but Moscow should not be underestimated, Türkiye's president said on Wednesday. "I can clearly say that I do not find the attitude of the West (towards Russia) right. Because there is a West that follows a policy based on provocation," Erdogan told a news conference with his Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic in the capital Belgrade. Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine this February, Türkiye has stressed it is following a "balanced" policy that has yielded dividends, such as the historic deal in Istanbul this July unblocking grain exports from Ukraine. Erdogan added that it does not seem the Russia-Ukraine war will end "anytime soon," adding: "I say to those who underestimate Russia, you are doing it wrong. Russia is not a country that can be underestimated." The Turkish president also reiterated Ankara's balanced policy between Russia and Ukraine to



help solve the crisis. The Turkish policy of keeping lines of diplomacy open with Russia has also resulted in Türkiye hosting the highest-level meetings of officials from Moscow and Kyiv since the war began. During Erdogan's visit - the second stop on a three-

nation Balkan tour - Türkiye and Serbia signed seven agreements in such areas as the economy, industry, and technology, including a protocol allowing passport-free travel for nationals on both sides. Erdogan hailed the deal that enables citizens of both countries to travel with

just national IDs, predicting that it would take "excellent" bilateral relations to the next level. "After the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova, Serbia will be the sixth country where it is possible to travel recip-

rocall using ID cards with chips," he said. He said that in 2021 Türkiye and Serbia reached a bilateral trade volume of \$2 billion, adding: "I believe that we will continue to work with the same determination to reach our common goal of \$5 billion."

Vucic, for his part, welcomed Turkish investments in Serbia, saying that both countries aim to raise the bilateral trade volume. He added that Serbia wants to buy Bayraktar drones, the acclaimed Turkish-made UAVs seen as pivotal in conflicts ranging from Karabakh to Ukraine. Thanking President Erdogan for his "frankness" and the importance he attaches to the region, Vucic said, "We show respect and interest to Türkiye, make you feel at home here. I recommend that everyone should go to Türkiye. I think that everyone should see what this great country has achieved under Erdogan's leadership." About the recent tension between Serbia and Kosovo, Erdogan said: "We are very pleased that Serbia and Kosovo have reached an agreement on border crossings using IDs." Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, with most UN member states, including the US, UK, France, Germany, and Türkiye, recognizing it as a separate autonomous country from its neighbor. Serbia continues to see Kosovo as its territory.

## Pak-Sino trade volume expected to double in 3-5 yrs: Envoy

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan, China trade volume is expected to reach in double figures in next 3-5 years, said Pakistani Ambassador Moin ul Haque. "Last year Pak-Sino trade volume hit a record level. We expect that in the next 3 to 5 years, we can double this level," he said in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN). The recent 6-day long China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) was successfully held in Beijing. It witnessed an active engagement of Pakistani officials, experts, merchants and so on. "Every year CIFTIS is growing and becoming

bigger and bigger. I think this is China's strength - innovations, new technologies, new approaches, new development..." Moin ul Haque expressed his excitement. Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China, told the reporter, "This fair is a wonderful opportunity for Pakistan and other countries to represent themselves and showcase their unique products. In terms of services, this is one of the areas where we are focusing more and where we are trying to carve out a win-win solution for enterprises of both countries." "China is already Pakistan's largest trading part-

ner and last year our trade volume hit a record level. We expect that in the next 3 to 5 years, we can double this level." Moin ul Haque told CEN, adding that both countries are working together to expand bilateral trade, especially to boost Pakistan's exports to China. The ambassador pinpointed, "Our cooperation in trade in services is currently a weak area, so using this platform of CIFTIS, we hope to improve our bilateral trade in trade, like logistics, financial services, e-commerce." "Surely we are looking forward to our participation not only in CIFTIS, but also in other trade fairs, like China International Import

Expo to be held in November," he further said. "We welcome Chinese firms to invest in Pakistan," Ghulam Qadir said, adding that "There is so much to be done, and we are looking forward to it." Themed "cooperate for better development, innovate for a greener future," the 2022 CIFTIS is co-hosted by Ministry of Commerce, China and the Beijing municipal government. It is a crucial platform for China to expand opening-up, deepen cooperation and pioneer innovation, which has made a positive contribution to promoting the development of the global services industry and services trade, the CEN's report added.

## Albania cuts ties with Iran over 'cyberattack'

TIRANA: Albania broke diplomatic ties with Iran on Wednesday over an alleged cyberattack against the government this summer, prompting rebuke from Washington, which vowed to hold Tehran accountable for targeting its NATO ally. Albania and Iran have been bitter foes for years, stemming from Tirana's hosting of the Iranian opposition group the People's Mujahideen of Iran (MEK) on its soil. Prime Minister Edi Rama on Wednesday accused Iran of directing a cyberattack against Albanian institutions on July 15 in a bid to "paralyze public services and hack data and electronic communications from the government systems". It was the first time Tirana spoke about the alleged attack, and Rama said his country cut ties with Iran over it. "The Council of Ministers has decided on the severance of diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran with immediate effect," said Rama. "The said attack failed its purpose. Damages may be considered minimal compared to the goals of the aggressor. All systems came back fully operational and there was no irreversible wiping of data." The prime minister went on to say that Iranian diplomats and embassy staff had 24 hours to leave the country. Following the announcement, Washington lambasted Iran for the alleged cyberattack, vowing to provide support to its ally in the Balkans. "The United States strongly condemns Iran's cyberattack against our NATO ally, Albania," National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said in a statement. - APP

## Pak-China collaboration to boost home appliance industry: Report

ISLAMABAD: Home appliance in Pakistan is a huge market of 200 million people while its industry size is not big enough as compared to the market, said Faisal Afridi, President, JW Group (partner with Haier & MG) in Pakistan. The electrical appliance industry in Pakistan is growing rapidly with an output value of around \$1.1 billion, which, however, still cannot meet the local demands. Pak-China collaboration in this industry is a key source for introducing the best quality electronics appliances in Pakistan. It can also assist Pakistan in achieving its industrial progress, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. "In Pakistan, different local and Chinese brands have tried to provide electronic products at a reasonable price to Pakistani consumers by adopting the roadmap of assembling and manufacturing. A part of this effort is also being contributed by our company. We have launched LED TVs of Hisense, microwave ovens and water dispensers of Midea in Pakistan," said Imran Ghani, CEO, Tri-Angles Electronics Private Limited, which is the distributor of Hisense and Midea in Pakistan. "In Pakistan, power cuts are quite common. We are the first manufacturer to make fully automatic washing machines in Pakistan. But when power shuts down, the machine cannot automatically restart." General manager of Haier Pakistan Industrial Park Hu Ganggang introduced one typical example of the localization of home appliance products in Pakistan. - DNA

## Germany has plans to avoid energy shortage

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Wednesday assured the country that his government has plans to avoid energy shortage this winter, amid growing tensions with Russia. Addressing lawmakers during a budget debate, Scholz said his coalition government started to look for alternatives to Russian gas, immediately after it came to power in December, foreseeing that Moscow may cut gas supplies to Europe. "We've decided to build LNG terminals in the North Sea, we've expanded capacities of pipelines from Belgium and Netherlands, and now also from France, we started preparing ourselves at a time when nobody was even talking about this," he said. The chancellor dismissed criticism from the opposition parties, and argued that the government is doing everything to prevent an emergency situation this winter. Scholz said the country's gas storage

facilities are already filled to around 85%, and one of the planned LNG terminals will be opened as early as January 2023. He also noted that several coal-fired power plants are reactivated to save gas for the winter. Scholz's left-liberal coalition government introduced a package of energy-saving measures this month to decrease consumption by 20% and fill up gas storage facilities to 95% by Nov. 1. Last week, Russia temporarily halted gas deliveries to Germany via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, and Moscow argued that the Western sanctions were hampering the maintenance work for turbines. Before the war in Ukraine, Russia was supplying 55% of Germany's natural gas, but the government has managed to reduce that reliance to 26% in June, according to official figures. Berlin is hoping to reduce this figure to a maximum of 10% by 2024 summer. - Agencies

## EU economy grows by 4.2%

DNA

BRUSSELS: The EU economy grew by 4.2% year-on-year in the second quarter of the year, and 0.7% on a quarterly basis, above market expectations. According to Eurostat's data on Wednesday, the eurozone economy also expanded by 4.1% and 0.8% over the same period. Among member countries, Ireland posted the highest annual GDP rise with 10.8% while Germany and Slovakia saw the minimum increases with 1.7%. On a quarterly basis, Portugal (minus 2.1%), Estonia (minus 1.3%), Latvia (minus 1%), and Lithuania (minus 0.5%) posted negative GDP growth rates, while Romania posted the highest one with 2.1%. The employment rate grew by 0.4% in both the eurozone and the EU in the second quarter versus the previous quarter, while 2.7% in the eurozone and 2.4% in the EU on a yearly basis.

## Belgian unions threaten strike

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: Belgian unions will strike on 9 November if solutions to the purchasing power crisis are not found quickly, the chair of the CSC Christian union Marc Leemans tweeted. The current situation is becoming "untenable" for many people, Leemans tweeted. He expects solutions to come out of the consultations between the country's employers and governments' representatives. However, "if no solution is found, the CSC will call a general strike on 9 November," Leemans added. The federal and regional governments already held consultations with employers' organisations on Monday and consultations with the trade unions are to follow on Wednesday. This announcement comes amid the energy and subsequent cost of living crisis facing European households. In Belgium, the inflation rate increased to its highest level in 46 years with 9.94% in August, compared to 2.44% in 2021 and 0.74% in 2020. The country's three largest trade unions - CSC, FGTB and CGLSLB - call on the Federal government to find solutions soon, as many people can not keep up with the cost of living. Economist Bruno Colmant warned that around "40% of the population were at risk of falling below the poverty line" in light of the energy crisis, which he claimed to be "much more serious than covid", in an interview on a Belgian TV channel RTL-TVI on Sunday. The economic burden weighing on the State and households will give rise to "civil disobedience," he added.

## 23 dead in Vietnam karaoke bar fire

HANOI: The death toll from a fire that tore through a karaoke bar in southern Vietnam has risen to 23, an official said Wednesday. The blaze engulfed the second floor of the building on Tuesday night, trapping customers and staff as dense smoke filled the staircase and blocked the emergency exit, reports said. Many crowded onto a balcony to escape the flames, which grew quickly as they caught the wooden interior, while others were forced to jump from the building, state media added. Photos showed plumes of smoke billowing out of the bar - located in a crowded residential neighbourhood in Thuan An city, north of commercial hub Ho Chi Minh City in Binh Duong province - as firefighters on cranes tried to extinguish the blaze. "We are still searching for more victims but the death toll so far is 23, and 11 people injured," Mai Hung Dung, a top official with the ruling Communist Party in Binh Duong, told media. - APP

## Search for stabbing suspect widens

DNA

JAMES SMITH CREE NATION: Police on Wednesday widened their search for the second suspect in a deadly stabbing spree in western Canada, as a shattered Indigenous community ventured out of lockdown to mourn its dead. The Sunday attack in the James Smith Cree Nation Indigenous community and the town of Weldon - the motive for which remains unknown - killed 18 people and wounded 18. A manhunt for two brothers believed to be responsible for one of the worst incidents of mass violence in Canada has taken police from the remote Indigenous community across a vast Prairies region, to Saskatchewan province's capital Regina 300 kilometers (185 miles) to the south, and back. It turned up the body of one of the brothers, 31-year-old Damien Sanderson, on Monday in a grassy field in the Cree community. Authorities said he very likely had been killed by his fugitive sibling, Myles Sanderson, 32. The community locked down late Tuesday after reports of a possible sighting of the older Sanderson, as police in heavily armed vehicles and a helicopter swooped in.

## Iran calls for boosting bilateral ties with Indonesia

## FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Wednesday that Tehran and Jakarta's good relations in various fields can lead to the development of constructive cooperation between the two states at regional and international levels. President Raisi met and held talks with Indonesia's Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Muhammad Syarifuddin here in Tehran on Wednesday. Describing the relations between Iran and Indonesia as friendly and progressive, President Raisi noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran's will to develop relations with Indonesia in all areas is serious and the current level of relations between the two states is not proportional to the capacities in the two countries. He highlighted that the good relations between Tehran and Jakarta in various fields can lead to the development of constructive cooperation between the two countries at regional and international levels. Referring to Indonesia's active approach in international organizations, President Raisi emphasized



the strengthening of cooperation between the two states in international institutions and forums as one of the areas of cooperation between Iran and Indonesia. Syarifuddin, for his part, described the relations between the two countries as friendly, cordial, and progressive. Expressing his country's

interest in boosting the level of relations between the two countries in various fields, he urged cooperation and using the experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of legal and judicial technologies. Earlier, Chief Justice of Iran Ghulam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei has underlined the need for expansion of

judicial cooperation and exchange of legal experiences between the Islamic Republic and Indonesia. The Judiciary chief met with Indonesia's Chief Justice of Supreme Court Muhammad Syarifuddin and his entourage in Tehran on Wednesday. The Iranian chief justice expressed gratitude to the

Indonesian government and judiciary system for their cooperation with the Islamic Republic in recent years, saying that Jakarta and Tehran have good relationship for more than 70 years and that the ties have improved in recent years. The trips by the Indonesian president and other high-ranking officials to Iran as well as the Iranian president and other authorities to Indonesia along with holding meetings at different levels have played a key role in enhancing relationships between the two great Islamic countries, Mohseni Ejei noted. As to agreements in legal and judicial fields between the two states in recent years, he expressed hope for the implementation of the accords as soon as possible. Indonesia is the most crowded Muslim country in the world and Iran enjoys a remarkable position in the West Asia region; so, both countries can cooperate in different arenas and help introduce the beloved Islam to the world public opinion and prevent distortion of its image by extremists, he added. The arrogant powers and their extremist pawns attempt to portray a fake image of Islam and the great Prophet to the world, he warned.



**Briefs**

**Israel root cause of instability: Lebanese FM**

DNA

BEIRUT: Lebanon's caretaker Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Abdallah Bou Habib, has described Israel as the root cause of insecurity and instability across the Middle East, stating that the Tel Aviv regime adamantly insists on its hostile policies in the region. Bou Habib made the remarks at the 158th regular session of the Arab League Council at the foreign ministerial level in the Egyptian capital city of Cairo. He stated that Lebanon suffers from Israeli incursions and acts of aggression against its sovereignty almost on a daily basis. The regime presses ahead with its aggressive and tension-making hostile policies and violates the Lebanese airspace to strike targets inside Syria in the absence of a deterrent regional or international force. "Israel still refuses to withdraw from occupied Lebanese territories of Kfar Chouba and Ghajar under the United Nations Security Council resolution 425 and 1701," the Lebanese foreign minister said, arguing that the international community's silence and inaction have emboldened the regime to further infringe upon Lebanon's sovereignty. Bou Habib added, "Israel also continues its hostile policies against Palestinians in the occupied lands, with an intent to abort any initiative aimed at the final resolution of the Palestinian issue. This clearly shows that the Zionist regime is the root cause of insecurity and instability in the region."

**Oil slides to 7-month lows on economic woes**

DNA

LONDON: Oil prices fell by more than \$3 on Wednesday to their lowest since Russia invaded Ukraine on demand fears stoked by looming recession risks and downbeat Chinese trade data. Brent crude futures were down \$3.40, or 3.66%, at \$89.43 a barrel by 1338 GMT, touching their lowest since February 3, and falling below \$90 a barrel for the first since February 8. US West Texas Intermediate crude fell by \$3.42, or 3.94%, to \$83.46, reaching its lowest since January 24 as recession fears moved back into the spotlight. "The spectre of a demand-sapping recession across the Western world is closer to becoming reality as soaring inflation and rising interest rates dent consumption," said PVM analyst Stephen Brenneck. Credit rating agency Fitch on Tuesday said that the halting of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline has increased the likelihood of a recession in the eurozone.

**Inflation rate to come down from next month**

The finance minister said the PTI government had put the country's economy on the verge of default and Pakistan was on fourth number of the defaulting states

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Terming the hike in electricity and petroleum prices a result of unwise policies of the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail Wednesday hinted at slowing down the inflation rate from next month. "The nation would have to bear the higher rates for one more month", he said while addressing a press conference here along with the Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif. He said former Prime Minister Imran Khan did not follow the commitment made with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) especially with regard to subsidies on electricity, gas and petroleum products. He said the previous government had committed to the IMF that the government would not give any amnesty to the businessmen and subsidies on petroleum, gas and electricity but going against the commitment, then government offered amnesty in February 2022 and then providing subsidy on electricity on petroleum products and the electricity. He said this was the reason why the rates of electricity and petroleum products sky rocketed now.



The finance minister said the PTI government had put the country's economy on the verge of default and Pakistan was on fourth number of the defaulting states. However, he said due to the prudent policies of the current coalition government, the country had come out of crisis. Miftah

Ismail said Imran Khan government did not work on the renewable energy including the solar energy. "Had he worked on the installation of solar energy, the rates of the electricity would be much lower now", he said adding that if the electricity load shedding is reduced to zero, the prices

would further increase which the government might not afford. To a question, the minister maintained that the prices of petroleum products were directly linked to the international market therefore, he was unable to predict the future prices. He said due to floods, shortage of some commodities including tomatoes and onion was witnessed due to which the prices increased but now they were coming down. To another question, he said the government was in contact with the IMF with respect to the devastation caused by the recent floods. He said the damage needs assessment of the floods had not finalized yet, and the government was working with the World Bank to provide the reliable and accurate assessment of losses in recent floods. Replying to a question with respect to trade with India, the minister informed that the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) was asking the federal government to allow import of cotton from India but the minister said it the government had not taken any decision in this regard. He said the commodities such as tomatoes and onion were being imported from Afghanistan and if the market gets stable with this import, the government would not need to import the commodities from India.

**Ex-Pentagon Chiefs warn of political interference in Military**

DNA

WASHINGTON: Former Pentagon chiefs warned that the deep divisions in US politics are putting unwanted pressure on the armed forces and expressed concern that civilian political interference in the military could worsen. Eight former defense secretaries and five ex-joint chiefs chairmen signed a statement on 16 "Best Practices of Civil-Military Relations" that came after several years — particularly under former President Donald Trump — in which the Pentagon became enmeshed in political machinations. "We are in an exceptionally challenging civil-military environment," they wrote. "Politically, military professionals confront an extremely adverse environment characterized by the divisiveness of affective polarization that culminated in the first election in over a century when the peaceful transfer of political power was disrupted and in doubt," they said. "Looking ahead, all of these factors could well get worse before they get better." The statement, published by the defense-focused War on the Rocks website, did not cite any examples to illustrate civil-military tensions. But it did make reference to the challenge to the 2020 election results by Trump and his supporters that led to the violent January 6, 2021 assault on the US Capitol. The Pentagon has been accused of stalling the deployment of National Guard troops to confront the attackers. Also during the Trump years, military personnel were asked to help in a number of non-traditional activities, including building a border wall and guarding the border against undocumented migrants, and helping police cities hit by violent protests. In one incident, Trump had then-defense secretary Mark Esper and General Mark Milley, who is still the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, walk alongside him in front of the White House after police cleared the street of people protesting the murder of Black man George Floyd by police.

**Pakistan appreciates UAE's assistance**



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Islamabad Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al Zaabi on Tuesday called on former President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House. Both Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto

to Zardari thanked the UAE Ambassador for his country's assistance to the flood-affected people in Pakistan. On the occasion both sides exchanged views on further strengthening bilateral relations. Asif Ali Zardari noted that whenever Pakistan faced tough times, UAE stood by it. — DNA

**Fazal lauds PM for personally overseeing relief operations**

DI KHAN: Central Amir of Jamiat Ulema Islam (F), Maulana Fazalur Rehman here Tuesday highly lauded Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for personally overseeing the rescue and rehabilitation operations in flood hit areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Addressing a function regarding reconstruction and rehabilitation operations in DI Khan also attended by the Prime Minister, Maulana Fazalur Rehman said that despite of the busy schedule, the Prime Minister has paid the second visit to flood hit DI Khan district and oversaw the relief and rescue operations including the under construction Shagu bridge that was destroyed by the floods. Lauding the Government departments and relief organisations of political parties, Fazalur Rehman said that food and non food items as well as cash assistance were provided to flood victims besides stranded people were rescued after washing away of the Shagu bridge. He urged for provision of tents to all those floods victims whose houses were destroyed. He said that construction of small dams were inevitable to control floods in DI Khan. Maulana Fazalur said that construction of Choudhan, Tank Zam and Nawab Haider dams would help control floods of Koh e Sulaman and other areas and would save DI Khan from flash floods. He said damage assessment survey in DI Khan and its report would soon be submitted to government for consideration. He also sought expediting of reconstruction works on roads connectivity projects in Kohistan, Swat, Dir, DI Khan and Tank districts. Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mahmood and Prime Minister Adviser for Political and Public Affairs Engr Amir Muqam were also present. The JUIF Chief appraised the Prime Minister floods devastations and rehabilitation operations in DI Khan. — APP

**Xi and Putin to meet in Uzbekistan next week**



BEIJING: Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin will meet next week during a regional summit in Uzbekistan, a Russian

diplomat said Wednesday, in what would be the Chinese leader's first trip abroad since the early days of the pandemic. "In less than 10 days, our leaders will meet at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit" in Samarkand, Russian Ambassador to China Andrey Denisov said in comments shared with AFP. "We are planning a serious, full-fledged meeting between our two leaders and are working on a detailed agenda with our Chinese partners," Denisov said, adding that the leaders "have a lot to talk about both on bilateral issues and international problems". Beijing's foreign ministry did not immediately confirm the meeting, with a spokesperson saying at a regular press briefing that "there is no information to provide" on the matter. The ministry later said in a statement that "the leaders of China and Russia maintain close exchanges through various means". — DNA

**PM Shehbaz decides not to retain any foreign gift**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday decided not to retain any foreign gifts and ordered that all precious gifts, received by him during his foreign visits, would be permanently displayed at PM House. According to an official source, "The Prime Minister does not wish to retain any of the gift items presented to him during his visits to Saudi Arabia and UAE dated 28 - 30 April, 2022." The prime minister also decided that as a policy, all precious gifts be taken on charge by Toshakhana and consequently be permanently displayed at Prime Minister House. The gifts would be displayed in secure display cabinets, equipped with alarm system, under responsibility of the Toshakhana. The source said that in the first phase, five such cabinets dedicated to each country including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Turkey and China be prepared to showcase the gifts received from respective countries. The prime minister also instructed to put on display the gifts he had received during his visit to Saudi Arabia and the UAE on April 28-30, 2022. The gifts included one wrist watch (A. LANGE & SOHNE Datograph Fly back- No.242655), pair of cufflinks (Chopard), One Pen (Chopard), One Ring (Chopard) and One Rosary/Tasbeeh (Chopard). The gifts also included a wrist watch "Rolex" (model No. 326259TBR-Sr No.(85C423E3). The two diamond studded wrist watches deposited by the prime minister valued Rs 270 million with one valuing Rs 100 million and the other Rs 170 million. — APP

**UK Lord questions trade deal with India**

ISLAMABAD: Member of the UK's House of Lords, Lord Qurban Hussain has questioned the British government's proposed trade deal with India, asking how it would meet Britain's foreign policy and international principles considering the "one of the worst" human rights record of the South Asian country. "Looking at India's record on human rights through the eyes of renowned international human rights organisations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Genocide Watch, India is seen to be one of the worst human rights offenders in the world," Lord Qurban said in a debate at the British parliament. Forcefully and convincingly contesting the British government's proposal of trade agreement with India, he said according to the 2022 Amnesty International report, the Indian government had drastically intensified the repression of rights in Jammu and Kashmir in the three years since the change in the status of the region. He said he was eager to see the UK's trade links with other countries, including India, improved, but he always believed that "our trade must be linked with human rights." He said the Amnesty International report noted how civil society at large, and journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders in particular, had faced relentless interrogations, arbitrary travel bans, revolving

indoor detentions and repressive media policies. The access to appeals or justice via the courts and human rights bodies has also been blocked. Amnesty has also said that "civil society and media in Jammu and Kashmir have been subjected to a vicious crackdown by the Indian government, which is determined to stifle dissent using draconian laws, policies and unlawful practices in their arsenal... By harassing and intimidating critical voices, authorities are targeting all credible, independent sources of information in and about Jammu and Kashmir." He also quoted a 2022 Human Rights Watch report saying, "Indian authorities intensified their crackdown on activists, journalists, and other critics of the government using politically motivated prosecutions in 2021... BJP supporters engaged in mob attacks or threatened violence, while several states adopted laws and policies to target minority communities, particularly Christians, Muslims, Dalits, and Adivasis." Lord Qurban said the Genocide Watch's 2022 report, an expert, who is said to have predicted the massacre of the Tutsis in Rwanda years before it took place in 1994, warns that genocide of Muslims in India could be about to take place. Gregory Stanton, the founder and director of Genocide Watch, warned that genocide could very well be happening in India. — APP

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