

Domestic politics

LAHORE: Member National Assembly, Shakila Luqman calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday.



Photo: PID

IS Tough terms & conditions

PTI govt's pacts with IMF main reason behind inflation: Gillani

Stresses of the supremacy of the rule of law and the constitution

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani said that the agreement made by the previous government with International Monetary Fund (IMF) on tough terms and conditions was the main reason of inflation in the country. Talking to media persons after visiting different mourning procession here on Monday, Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani said that the international agreements are not made with any political party but with the country and the government should honour them.

He said that previous government made agreements on tough term and conditions with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the incumbent government was bound to fulfill

the agreements which resulted into inflation. Gillani stated that the members of national assembly of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were not presented before the Speaker Raja Parvez Ashraf for verification of their resignations but they refused to come. "The PTI MNAs were not participating in assembly session after submitting their resignations then why they are going to contest the by-elections, he questioned.

He said that it should be cleared that Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi was not attending the assembly session then, how, his daughter would take oath of the assembly as MNA after winning the by-election at NA-157. He said that people would vote the candidate who has ability to represent

them in the national assembly instead of the candidate whose party has boycotted the assembly and submitted resignations.

Mr Gillani maintained that there should be the supremacy of law and constitution in the country through which the country can be strengthened. He said that judiciary and election commission were independent. He said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) always honored the decision of courts even then when he was disqualified from prime ministership despite the fact that he was an elected prime minister of the country.

The former prime minister said that all senior leaders of different political parties including Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari remained in jail during the government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He alleged that Commissioner Multan Division has put application for leave due to intense pressure on him and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Multan before by-election NA-157 and demanded that Election Commission of Pakistan must took notice on it.

Gillani urged masses to maintain peace during ongoing Muharram and said that every Muslim respect this month. PPP's Yousaf Gillani stresses supremacy of constitution PPP leader and former prime minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said on Monday that the secret of country's progress lay in supremacy of the constitution. He regretted he was disqualified by the Supreme Court despite the fact that he enjoyed the support of all parties in the parliament.

He said he was surprised as to why PTI leader and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi had fielded his daughter as a candidate in the by-election on a National Assembly (NA) seat.

Gillani claimed that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was an autonomous and an independent body. He accused the Punjab government of pressuring the commissioner and deputy commissioner of Multan ahead of by-election. "The commissioner has applied for leaves only because he could not withstand the pressure," he said, and asked the ECP to take notice of the situation.

PM nods Sindh-Balochistan flood drain project

PPP leader says a committee for implementation on the crucial project formed

LARKANA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved Sindh and Balochistan's demand of construction of a mega flood drain to avoid losses during flash floods, an influential PPP member of Sindh Assembly here said. Sindh and Balochistan provinces have suffered huge losses in flooding after above normal rainfall in the region. Mir Nadir Magsi, a former provincial minister, has said here that the members of flood emergency committees of the two provinces had



demanded building of a flood drain between two provinces for drainage of the floodwater. "The prime minister has

constituted a committee for implementation on the crucial project," he said. "I am also a member of the committee to discuss the project and compile recommendations for its implementation," Magsi said. This year's above normal rainfall has hit hard to Sindh and Balochistan provinces, in Pakistan's south and southwest, and inflicted huge losses of life and hitting hard the agriculture and other economic activities.

Sindh's Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah in an early-

discussion with the prime minister had urged for an early completion of the Right Bank Outfall Drain (RBOD), besides upgradation of storm water drainage system in Karachi.

Right Bank Outfall Drain is a long term project to drain out sewerage and water from towns and agricultural lands on the right bank of the River Indus. It carries effluents from the upper Sindh and adjacent areas of Balochistan and these are ultimately drained into the Arabian Sea.

Fazl condemns Israeli airstrikes on Gaza

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman on Monday strongly condemned the Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, Palestine. He, in a message said, the worst aggression on Gaza and martyrdom of the oppressed Palestinian people and children were another stigma on the faces of Israel and its backers. He expressed the hope that the eternal sacrifices of Palestinian Muslims against these



Jewish oppressors would surely usher in a new era in their life.

CM Punjab orders work on RRR, Lai Expressway projects

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Monday directed the concerned departments to start working on Rawalpindi's Ring Road and Lai Nullah Expressway projects at the earliest. He was chairing a high-level meeting in Lahore convened to review development schemes of the garrison city. The meeting was told that earlier the Lai Nullah Expressway project was estimated to have been completed at the cost of Rs110 billion. But now on the directives of the CM, the project would cost only Rs46 billion, it was informed.

The chief minister, on the occasion, directed that transparency and proper utilization of government funds

be ensured during the construction of the Ring Road. "It should also be made sure that no inconvenience is caused to the people living in the vicinity of site of the project," Chaudhry Pervaiz ordered. He added that other roads would be expanded too to rid people of the city of traffic problems. "We will also discuss the proposal to build homes for the people who would be displaced due to work on these projects," he informed. The CM was of the view that stopping work on a clean drinking water project for the residents of Murree amounted to 'criminal negligence.' "The Punjab government also plans to launch a similar project in Rawalpindi," he told the meeting.

PPP didn't fulfill promise on LG Act: MQM

KARACHI: The coordination committee of MQM-Pakistan has said that the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) has not fulfilled its promise regarding the Sindh Local Government Act and appealed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to play role in fulfilling the promise made with the party. A meeting of the MQM-Pakistan coordination committee was held in Bahadurabad under the chairmanship of Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

During the meeting, the committee members said that the PPP had

promised to prepare the Sindh Local Government Act in accordance with the article according to the decision of the Supreme Court. Whereas contrary to the decision of the Supreme Court the constituencies in Sindh were done by the provincial government instead of the Election Commission. The meeting said that the MQM has always worked to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas of Sindh. The committee also demanded compensation for the loss of life and property caused by the recent rains and floods.

IS Rawalpindi to Lahore

PTI changes venue of August 13 power show

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to change the venue of its forthcoming August 13 power show from Rawalpindi to Lahore. The decision was taken in the meeting of PTI's political committee chaired by chairman Imran Khan today. The political party will hold its power show in Lahore instead of Islamabad. The venue of the August 13 rally will be Lahore's Hockey Stadium.

PTI will organise the 75th Independence Day celebrations in Lahore. Imran Khan handed over important tasks to the party leaders during the political committee meeting. He directed the PTI leaders to make maximum steps to make the upcoming rally successful. The PTI chairman also gave the tasks to the Lahore organisations and asked them to start preparations for the Independence Day celebrations.

Khan asked the Lahore leadership to run a door-to-door mass contact campaign ahead of the public gathering.

PTI leaders Omar Ayub Khan and Ali Nawaz Awan told the media that Imran Khan decided to hold a public gathering in Lahore on August 13.

A PTI delegation visited the Rawalpindi cricket stadium and Liaquat Bagh.

Earlier, it was decided to organise the rally in Rawalpindi cricket stadium but the making of new pitches by the cricket board would affect the rally, said Omar Ayub Khan.

He said that The officials of the English Cricket Board are also expected to visit the stadium.

"Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) is also holding a public meeting on August 13. PTI will hold public gathering like a festival," said Ali Nawaz Awan. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) decided to hold a public gathering in Islamabad on August 14, a day after the party gave a one-month deadline to the federal government to hold general elections in the country.

Minus-Imran formula was presented before no-trust vote: Asad

Flays interrogation from employees at PTI office

ISLAMABAD: PTI Secretary-General Asad Umar claimed Monday that he was approached for a minus-Imran Khan formula ahead of the no-confidence vote against the then-prime minister.

PTI Chairman Khan was removed from office in April through a no-confidence motion and he, to date, claims that it was a US-backed move. However, the then-opposition and the American government both deny the allegations.

"This is an incident that took place two or three days before the vote of no-confidence. I received a call from Bani Gala, asking me to reach there immediately," Umar said. The former federal minister said some people whom he refrained from naming called him towards them upon his arrival at Bani Gala. "They shared with me



this 'brilliant idea' of proposing three names in place of Imran Khan [as the prime minister] and suggested that my name be added to it," Umar said.

In response to their proposal, the ex-federal minister said he told them that they were "out of their minds" as PTI is "noth-

ing" without its chairman, Khan. Moving on, Umar said that in line with professionalism, the person best to lead the army should be appointed to the office of the chief of army staff (COAS). "But a controversy will stir up if a controversial government appoints an army chief. It is better that a

new government with a fresh mandate, appoint the next chief."

Umar pointed out that in case anyone thinks that if they appoint an army chief, then he will support them, then they have no idea about the history of Pakistan. "All armed forces' chief, who have directly or indirectly, intervened [in political matters] were the ones who were appointed by the prime ministers [who thought that they might favour them]," he added.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Asad Umar tweeted Monday, "The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) is interrogating those who work at the office of the PTI while Hamza Shehbaz, who is an accused in the Rs24 billion money laundering case, is enjoying himself in London.

IS Six-member

JIT to probe malicious drive against state institutions

ISLAMABAD: A six-member Joint Inquiry Team, headed by the Additional Director General Cybercrime Wing of the Federal Investigation Agency, has been constituted to probe the malicious campaign on social media against state institutions. The committee also includes representatives from the Inter-Services Intelligence and the Intelligence Bureau. To this respect, the Interior Ministry issued a notification on Monday.

Federal government notified a six-member committee comprising members from the FIA, Intelligence Bureau (IB) and ISI to probe a negative campaign being launched post helicopter crash in Lasbela that saw martyrdom of six Pakistan Army officials including Lieutenant General Sarfraz

Ali. According to the notification, the six-member committee formed to probe the negative campaign would be led by Additional Director General (DG) of FIA cybercrime unit Muhammad Jaffar.

The members included Lieutenant Colonel Saad from ISI, Deputy Director IB Waqar Nisar, Director FIA Waqaruddin Syed, deputy director Ayaz and Imran Haider. The committee will identify those who launched the negative campaign on social media and arrest them and launch legal proceedings against them. The Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) has condemned negative propaganda over social media after the Helicopter crash in Lasbela, killing 5 Army officers.

A statement issued by ISPR said that the propaganda hurt

the sentiments of the families of the martyrs. Pakistan Army's ranks and files have expressed severe displeasure over the negative propaganda, ISPR said. They added that the nation stands with the Pakistan Army in this difficult time. The negative callous propaganda is unbearable and condemnable, they added.

The wreckage of an unfortunate Army helicopter that went missing during a relief and rescue operation in the flood-hit Balochistan area has been found in Musa Goth, Winder. DG ISPR, Major General Babar Iftikhar confirmed the news that all the six officers and soldiers including Corps Commander Southern Command, Lt General Sarfraz Ali embraced martyrdom.

Ashura to be commemorated across country today

With the pledge to pay homage to the supreme sacrifice rendered by the grandson of the last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) at Karbala

ISLAMABAD: ‘Youm-e-Ashura’, the martyrdom day of Hazrat Imam Hussain, (Razi Allah ho Ta’ala Anho) his family and devoted companions will be commemorated across the country including Rawalpindi and Islamabad on Tuesday with the pledge to pay homage to the supreme sacrifice rendered by the grandson of the last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) at Karbala (Iraq).

Muharram was the month of mourning for the seventh-century martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A.).

The mourning processions would be taken out in all the cities and towns of the country. Muslims would perform mourning rituals to mark the ashura, the holiest festival in their Calendar in many places across the country.

Strict security measures have been

ensured by the local managements of different cities and some road closures were also in place to avoid any untoward incident.

Law enforcers, including police, Rangers, FC and others have been deployed along the procession routes.

The azadars (mourners) would pay glowing tributes to sacrifices offered by Hussain (R.A.) and his companions for the supremacy of islam. Ulema and Zakireen would highlight the bright and candid teachings of Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A) and various aspects of Karbala tragedy.

Medical camps, Sabeels and stalls were also being arranged to provide assistance to the participants.

Mobile phone services have partially been suspended as a security measure in different cities as precautionary measure.

In Islamabad, over 613 policemen including one SP, 04 DSPs, and 22 Inspectors would be deployed at various routes of processions to avoid inconvenience to road users.

Nearly, 965 Majalis and 181 mourning processions would be taken out from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

As part of the security arrangements, the administration has blocked the routes by erecting containers and other obstacles including barbed wire in the procession routes and the central areas have been sealed from all sides, visitors were being allowed to enter after passing through the walk-through gate.

Arrangements have been finalized in Rawalpindi to provide security cover to mourners.

Three layer security cover would

be provided to the main procession besides deploying Quick Response Force (QRF).

Over 6,000 cops, 2,000 volunteers would guard 447 mourning processions, to guard 1925 Majalis from 6th to 10th Muharram. Six main processions of Zuljinnah, Alam and Tazia would be taken out on Ashura from different areas of the garrison city.

All the processions would be culminated at Inambargah Qadimi at 10:00 pm. Nearly 1,000 traffic police personnel would be deployed at various points of the routes of the processions on the ashura day.

Over 2,500 security personnel would be deployed to guard the main procession while 3,500 cops would provide security cover to other processions and Majalis across the district. Agencies

Rescue 1122 performs duties on 9th Muharram

SIALKOT: Rescuers performed duties under the leadership of District Emergency Officer (DEO) Engineer Naveed Iqbal in the processions and gatherings on 9th Muharram.

According to rescue spokesperson, on the 9th of Muharram, the main processions of the area were taken out in Gujral and Bhair town of Daska, in which a large number of mourners walked and expressed their grief by wailing and beating their chests and flagellating themselves with hands and knife-fitted chains.

He said that the mobile teams of rescuers and rescue guards were present with the processions all the time.

Rescue 1122 provided first aid on the spot to 161 mourners in the procession while 3 mourners were shifted to hospital after first aid. APP

Karbala tragedy teaches about supremacy of truth: Governor

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said Ashura Muharram reminds the great sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions in Karbala.

In his message issued here on Monday, he said: “The Karbala tragedy teaches us about supremacy of truth and resistance against the oppression”.

The governor said: “The eternal sacrifices of the martyrs of Karbala gives a message to all of us that we should always support the truth by clearly distinguishing between the right and wrong”.

He said: “ Let us be firmly committed to truth, justice and bravery, making the immortal message of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) the motto of our lives”.

Four policemen injured in exchange of firing

SWAT: At least four cops, including a DSP, were injured during the intense exchange of firing between the police and alleged terrorists in Matta, an upper area of Swat.

According to media reports, the police was carrying out a search operation in the area, when alleged terrorists opened fire on them.

A heavy contingent of police reached the spot and cordoned off the area. APP

Heavy rains cause 176 deaths in Balochistan

QUETTA: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) reported that the heavy rains caused loss of 23,013 livestock and damaged 198,461 acres of crops in Balochistan.



According to data shared by the PDMA, 75 people, including 48 men, 11 women, and 16 children were injured due to floods, while over 1500 people were displaced.

The report informed that the deaths in rain-related incidents were reported from Chaman, Kachi, Barkhan, Dera Bugti, Zhob, Duki, Pishin, Panjgur, Kohlu, Harnai, Killa Saifullah, Sibi, Lasbela, Loralai, Jaffarabad, Kalat, Kach, Khuzdar and other districts.

The PDMA reported that a total of 18,087 homes were damaged or demolished due to the floods in the province. Six different highways with 670 km length and 16 bridges were damaged due to the floods, it added.

Moreover, tube wells, solar panels and other forms of communications are severely damaged due to the rains. Agencies

Ahsan Iqbal visits residence of Naik Mudassar Fayyaz Shaheed



Our Correspondent

NAROWAL: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal visited the residence of Naik Mudassar Fayyaz Shaheed at Shakargarh, who embraced martyrdom in helicopter crash in Lasbela along five other senior army officials.

The Minister offered fateha for the martyrs and said the whole nation is proud of them.

Later talking to media, he regretted that a political party used the Lasbela incident for its nefarious designs.

Ahsan Iqbal said propaganda against institutions is against the interest and security of the country.

Talking about the current economic situation of the country, the Planning Minister said stabilizing the national economy is priority of the government.

He said the process of census has been started and it will be completed by February next year.

9th Muharram procession

KARACHI: People attending 9th Muharram ul Haram procession, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Six years on, grief of martyred lawyers still fresh: CM Bizenjo

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on Monday said the grief of the martyred lawyers of Quetta’s Civil Hospital tragedy was still fresh in our hearts.

He said this in a message on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the martyred lawyers of Civil Hospital tragedy issued here.

He said the cowardly terrorists brutalized the educated and intelligent section of our society, adding that the enemies of the country attacked our hearts.

“The people of the province and the government equally share the grief of the families of the martyrs,” he said, adding that the terrorists involved in



the tragedy and their guardians would be brought to justice at any cost for interest of durable peace.

He said that the memories of the martyred lawyers who lost their lives in the tragedy could never be forgotten.

He said the lawyers of Baluchistan were among the best lawyers of the

country. “Our lawyers have better knowledge and understanding of law and legal affairs.”

The CM said a programme to provide young lawyers scholarship opportunities for pursuing higher education abroad was in progress.

He said Balochistan government had given special grant-in-aid to Pakistan Bar Council, Balochistan Bar Council and all district bar associations to provide best facilities to the lawyers.

He said that measures were being taken to improve law and order situation as peace and order was indispensable for the establishment of a welfare society. APP

Punjab govt ensuring exemplary security arrangements in Muharram

MULTAN: Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab Amir Saeed Raan Monday said that provincial government had made exemplary security arrangements during Muharram ul Haram to maintain law and order situation across the province.

During his visit of different mourning procession in the city to review security arrangements, the CM Advisor said that Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervez Elahi issued instructions to ensure all arrangements for maintaining peace during the holy month.

He said that all mourning processions of 9th of Muharram had been completed peacefully and added that the efforts would continue to maintain law and order situation on 10th of Muharram also. He lauded the role of peace committee for playing an effective role in discouraging law violators during Muharram. He said that Ulmas from all schools of thought had also played a vital role in maintaining peace during the Muharram. APP

Govt should announce dev package for Makran: PML-Qayyum

Faisal Bhatti says a province rich in natural resources is deprived of basic needs

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Central Deputy Secretary Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan Muslim League Qayyum (PML- Qayyum) Faisal Bhatti said that Balochistan has the right to free education and health which no one can deprive them of. Even in today’s development era, clean drinking water is not available to the people of Balochistan.

He said that due to the CPEC in Balochistan, the traffic of the people has become much easier due to the construction of roads, but other basic facilities of life have not been paid attention to, due to which the people here are angry and their feeling of deprivation increased. Faisal Bhatti said that the government must provide free treatment and education in Balochistan. The federal government should work with the provincial governments to provide



relief to the people.

He said that Pakistan Muslim League Qayyum chief Syed Faqir Hussain Bukhari is leaving on an organizational visit to Balochistan on August 10. Party Central Information Secretary Asad Mehmood, Deputy Information Secretary Faisal Bhatti, and Social Media Organizer Saqlain Bukhari will also be accompanied by him.

Meanwhile, the party chief will chair

the party meeting with local leaders in Gwadar, Turbat, and Quetta and take important decisions for the organization of the Muslim League Qayyum. During the six-day visit, Syed Faqir Hussain Bukhari will also hold meetings and discussions with important political figures in order to discuss the problems of Balochistan.

Faisal Bhatti said that Pakistan Muslim League has the potential to play an important role in the development of the country. We want to direct the attention of the government toward Balochistan so that the economic and financial condition of the people here can improve. The previous governments also made a big mistake by not paying attention to this aspect, but we will never allow this to happen. He said that Balochistan is the glory of Pakistan and we will not allow any sacrifice to maintain our glory.

People visits graveyards to put clay on graves

BADIN: Keeping tradition alive, a large number of people visited graveyards to offer ‘Fateha’ for the departed souls of their beloved on Monday (9th Muharram-ul-Haram). According to details, people sprinkled water, made mud plaster on graves and also recited from the Holy Quran.

They offered ‘Fateha’ and showered rose petals and laid floral wreaths on the graves of their dear ones.

People also complained about rain water accumulated in graveyards which makes it difficult to put clay on the graves and demanded the district administration to carry out cleanliness drives in graveyards. Agencies

Court grants bail to Nazir Chohan in armed clash case

LAHORE: A local court on Monday granted bail to Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) leader Nazir Chohan in an alleged armed clash case.

The court directed the PML-N leader to submit surety bonds of Rs 50,000 for availing the relief of bail.

Earlier, the Johar Town police produced Nazir Chohan before Duty Magistrate Muhammad Asif on expiry of four days physical remand.

The PTI MPA Shabbir Gujar along with injured Adil Mehmood also appeared before the court.

The court was apprised that parties had reached a compromise and they did not have objection on bail of Nazir Chohan.

At this, the court observed that the case was registered on complaint

of ASI Amin then how Shabbir Gujar could become a complainant in the matter.

To which, a counsel for parties apprised that the police had registered the case against the parties whereas injured Adil Mehmood had also recorded his statement.

The police apprised the court that it did not require further physical remand of Nazir Chohan.

Subsequently, after hearing detailed arguments on bail plea of Nazir Chohan, the court granted post-arrest bail to the PML-N leader.

Johar Town police had registered a case regarding an armed clash between the PTI and PML-N workers during the by-election for PP-167-APP



Islamabad

23° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:52 am
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:03 pm
Maghrib	7:02 pm
Isha	8:35 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

Pakistan sees minor uptick in COVID-19 cases

ISLAMABAD: The country reported a slight rise in COVID-19 cases during the last 24 hours with 628 new infections, the National Institute of Health, (NIH) Islamabad data showed Monday morning.

According to the latest statistics issued by the NIH, during the last 24 hours, 19,451 diagnostic tests were conducted, out of which 628 COVID-19 cases were detected.

The NIH data showed that the positivity ratio was recorded at 3.23% with three more deaths overnight.

As per NIH, 163 COVID-19 patients are admitted in intensive-care units (ICU) and are being treated at different medical facilities across the country.

NIH has restricted the elderly and children from attending the gatherings and majalis during Ashura in a COVID-safe manner, as the risk of another outbreak looms with an uptick of the virus across Pakistan. Agencies

15 more diagnosed with deadly coronavirus in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: As many as 15 more people were diagnosed with fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the district's tally of confirmed cases to 47,326.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Monday, the infected cases included 43,743 from Rawalpindi and 3,583 from other districts. Among the new cases, six each arrived from Potohar Town and Rawalpindi Cantonment, two from Islamabad and one from Kalar Syeda.

"Presently, 128 confirmed patients are quarantined at homes while no one is admitted to any district's health facility", the report added. Agencies

RDA making efforts to raise awareness against dengue

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of Director General, RDA, is making efforts to raise awareness against dengue.

According to RDA spokesman, a walk on dengue control and prevention was organized with an aim to raise awareness against the disease.

The DG RDA has urged the RDA staff members to ensure cleanliness of

Amid tight security

Muharram 9 processions held countrywide

The main procession in Islamabad started from Markazi Imambargah Asna Ashri in Sector G-6/2 and culminated at the same place

ISLAMABAD: The country-wide Muharram 9 mourning processions came to an end peacefully on Monday amid strict security to ensure the prevention of unfortunate events.

Mobile services were turned off in major cities of the country, including Peshawar and Karachi, while thousands of police personnel were deployed for the

security of processions.

The main procession in Islamabad started from Markazi Imambargah Asna Ashri in Sector G-6/2 and culminated at the same place after passing through its traditional route.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir said 2,200 police officials of the capital police were

deployed for maintaining peace in the city.

He said that the cooperation of organisers should be ensured by police and law enforcement officials.

The IGP directed all police officials to maintain high vigilance of processions using smart cars, as well as safe city, surveillance and drone cameras.

High security

ISLAMABAD: Rangers and police personnel stand guard during a religious procession held ahead of Ashura on the ninth day of the holy month of Muharram in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

IG Islamabad visits G-6 Imam Bargah to check security arrangements

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has visited the Central Imam Bargah Asna-e-Ashra G-6 in the Federal capital on 9th Muharram-ul-Haram to check the security measures for the central Imam Bargah and the procession.

According to the details, during the visit, SSP Operations and SSP Traffic briefed him about the security arrangements.

On this occasion, IG Islamabad said that Islamabad Capital Police has made strict security arrangements throughout the district during the holy month of Muharram.

In this regard, 2200 officers and personnel of Islamabad Capital Police had been deployed to ensure the security of Majaalis and processions on the 9th of Muharram.

With the help of safe city cameras and drones, the strict monitoring of the main Imam Bargah and the procession was being observed, whose central control room is established in Safe City.

Out of total 2066 cameras of Safe City Islamabad, with the support of 2050 cameras, the monitoring and surveillance was being ensured.

Police 4g network had completely been restored for the first time in five years for the

best telecommunication system. All technical resources were being used to ensure the safety of the mourners involved in the procession.

Security was on high alert throughout the district in view of the main procession on the day of 9th Muharram, while the emergency had also been imposed in all the hospitals of the federal capital.

The Quick Response Force was ready to deal with any untoward incident.

To ensure the security of the procession, the bomb disposal squad was clearing the procession routes with the help of modern technology.

Specific points had been

allocated for citizens to enter the procession, for which, a heavy contingent of police was deployed for supervision.

Lady police personnel were also deployed for checking of women and there are separate entry points for them to enter the procession.

DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chattha was supervising all security arrangements for the procession.

IG Islamabad said that Islamabad Capital Police is all time ready to ensure peace in Islamabad.

No element will be allowed to disturb the law and order situation in capital, he added. Agencies

Health Corner

Down On Vitamin D? Chronic Inflammation

ISLAMABAD: Inflammation is an essential part of the body's healing process. But when it persists, it can contribute to a wide range of complex diseases including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and autoimmune diseases.

Now, world-first genetic research from the University of South Australia shows a direct link between low levels of vitamin D and high levels of inflammation, providing an important biomarker to identify people at higher risk of or severity of chronic illnesses with an inflammatory component.

The study examined the genetic data of 294,970 participants in the UK Biobank, using Mendelian randomization to show the association between vitamin D and C-reactive protein levels, an indicator of inflammation.

Lead researcher, UniSA's Dr Ang Zhou, says the findings suggest that boosting vitamin D in people with a deficiency may reduce chronic inflammation.

"Inflammation is your body's way of protecting your tissues if you've been injured or have an infection," Dr Zhou says.

"High levels of C-reactive protein are generated by the liver in response to inflammation, so when your body is experiencing chronic inflammation, it also shows higher levels of C-reactive protein.

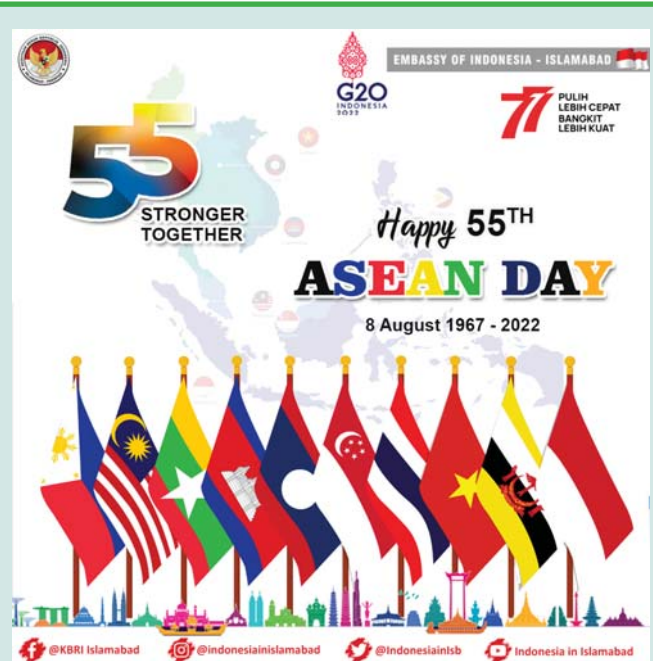
"This study examined vitamin D and C-reactive proteins and found a one-way relationship between low levels of vitamin D and high levels of C-reactive protein, expressed as inflammation.

"Boosting vitamin D in people with deficiencies may reduce chronic inflammation, helping them avoid a number of related diseases." Supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council and published in the International Journal of Epidemiology the study also raises the possibility that having adequate vitamin D concentrations may mitigate complications arising from obesity and reduce the risk or severity of chronic illnesses with an inflammatory component, such as CVDs, diabetes, and autoimmune diseases.

Senior investigator and Director of UniSA's Australian Centre for Precision Health, Professor Elina Hyppönen, says these results are important and provide an explanation for some of the controversies in reported associations with vitamin D.

"We have repeatedly seen evidence for health benefits for increasing vitamin D concentrations in individuals with very low levels, while for others, there appears to be little to no benefit," Prof Hyppönen says.

"These findings highlight the importance of avoiding clinical vitamin D deficiency, and provide further evidence for the wide-ranging effects of hormonal vitamin D." (Courtesy: Science Daily)



ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad wishes the ASEAN Community on its 55th ASEAN Day Celebration.

Abdul Ghafoor Shah passes away

Manchester entrepreneur, father of senior journalist Haroon Shah and former deputy director Abdul Ghafoor Shah met his creator at a local hospital in Islamabad after a brief illness

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Life is a priceless gift of nature to human beings, the Lord of the worlds gives life. He is also the owner of the power of death. Respected Abdul Ghafoor Shah, father of Manchester businessman and senior journalist Haroon Shah, after a short illness, passed away at a local hospital in Islamabad.

He was buried in the local cemetery of Islamabad. Apart from family members, a large number of socio-political businessmen and people participated in the funeral prayer. The deceased was a former high-ranking officer. The proof of his love and generosity towards his people was the large number of people attending his funeral prayer.

His son Haroon Shah said that he will continue his father's mission. Eminent Lawyer Barrister Anjad Malik-Consul General of Pakistan Tariq Wazir-Mayor Rochdale Ahmed Ali Member of British Parliament Afzal Khan Mayor Bri Shahina Haroon Councilor Naila Sharif Ashton Group President Haji Abdul Qayyum Mirza Muhammad Yunus Haji Ashfaq Warsi Haji Muhammad Azram Deputy Mayor Oldham Dr. Zahid Chauhan, former mayor Atiqur Rahman-Deputy Lord Mayor Manchester Councilor Yasmin Dar, senior journalists Allama Azeemji-Ijaz Afzal Sheikh-Tahir Chaudhary-Mehboob Elahi Butt-Mirza Shehzad-Chaudhary Ishaq-Fayyaz Bashir-Wasim Chaudhary-Malik Azeem-Parvez Masih-Mian Amir-Haroon Mirza-Chaudhry Aitzaz Asim-Mahmood Asghar Chaudhry-Mustafa Mughal-Sabra Naheed Chaudhry-Holy Madam-expressed their heartfelt sorrow to Haroon Shah and his entire family and said that Haroon Shah and his family are dear friends and close relatives. They prayed that may Allah give him the courage to bear the great shock, Ameen and pray that late Abdul Ghafoor Shah will be given a high place in Jannat al-Firdous, Ameen.

Medical camps to be set up for mourners

RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority will set up four free medical camps along with the main Ashura procession route to provide the mourners with first aid health care facilities. The authority spokesman Dr Waqar Ahmed told APP that medical camps would be set up at Committee Chowk, Pul Shah Nazar Dewan Chowk, Kotwali chowk and Qasai Gali bazaar on Muharram 10. Agencies



the office and their homes.

He said awareness played a key role in the fight against dengue because preven-

tion was far better than cure.

He stressed the need for collective as well as individual efforts along with collaboration of all the stakeholders for the awareness, implementation and control of any epidemic.

He also highlighted ways to control various developmental stages of dengue from its eggs to larva and full grown mosquitoes.

He advised the citizens to remove

stagnant water so that dengue larvae could be prevented.

On severe violations, strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against the violators and FIRs are also being lodged, he added.

He informed that the authority would continue its efforts against dengue.

Later, the pamphlets were also distributed among the citizens on Murree road. APP

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Bleeding IIOJK

Plagued by Indian thralldom, the history of bleeding, screaming and subjugated populace of the Illegal Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is a big scar on the face of self-acclaimed human rights champions of the world. The hypocritical approach of the world masters continues to encourage India to play havoc with the innocent people of IIOJK, subjecting them to unprecedented violence, jailing, torturing, raping women, hitting infants with pallets guns and extra-judiciously killing struggling for their right to self-determination. Instead of pushing India to abide by the United Nations resolutions, the unbelievable silence of the key players in international politics encouraged India to further its agenda of subjugation through revoking articles 370 and 35A of its constitution on August 05, 2019.

By revoking Article 370, the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) regime usurped the special right of IIOJK people for citizenship and ownership of property, besides the fundamental right of residence. This law provided that the citizens from other states could not buy property in the IIOJK and New Delhi had no power to declare a financial emergency in the region. The BJP also revoked Article 35A which gave the IIOJK legislature full discretionary power to decide who could be the ‘permanent residents of the state. This article also ensured special rights and privileges for the state government’s employment, acquisition of property, settling in the state, right to scholarships, aid provided by the state government, and imposed restrictions on the persons who were not permanent residents.

The history of such acts is long and painful. Starting from October 1947, when Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir signed the ‘Instrument of Accession with India, agreeing to transfer three subjects including foreign affairs, defence and communications to New Delhi. Later on, after the appointment of an interim government by Maharaja with Sheikh Abdullah as its prime minister, the latter along with three colleagues negotiated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir with the Government of India subsequently led to adoption of Article 370 and Article 35A in 1954.

Under the partition formula, the Hindu majority areas had to be with India and the Muslim majority ones with Pakistan. But, Maharaja Hari Singh, against the will of Kashmiri people, decided to annex the state with India making the local population to rise up against his unfair decision. This also led to a war-like situation between India and Pakistan, and the then Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru took the matter to the UN where the resolution was adopted to give the Kashmiris the right to self-determination.

It was also Jawahar Lal Nehru’s stated policy that “wherever there is a dispute in regard to any territory, the matter should be decided by a referendum or plebiscite of the people concerned. We shall accept the result of such referendum whatever it may be.” But, neither Nehru nor his followers honoured his words and kept shying away from holding the plebiscite. The dispute still lingers on making the IIOJK people to suffer for the last 75 years despite being a Muslim majority region and its economic, cultural and geographic contiguity with the Muslim majority areas of Punjab. Anyway, the tension between India and Pakistan in 1948 ended up in the demarcation of Line of Control, a temporary settlement to the dispute till its resolution through the plebiscite. In this settlement, Pakistan was left with territory thinly populated, relatively inaccessible and economically underdeveloped as compared to the developed and thickly populated area falling under Indian control.

Appointments of CEC & Chief of Army Staff

Munir M Hasan, PhD

These days two issues are vehemently being discussed in the media by the politicians, anchors, various commentators and others. These relate to the positions of Chief Election Commissioner and the Chief of Army Staff who are not on friendly terms with the former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his party, Pakistan, Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI). I don’t find much intelligence in these discussions. My views are as under: According to the article 213 of the Constitution of Pakistan, President of Pakistan appoints the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of Pakistan on the recommendation of the Prime Minister in consultation with the Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly and a Parliamentary Committee.

The present CEC was appointed on 27 January 2020 during the tenure of the former Prime Minister, Imran Khan. As alleged by Imran Khan now, the name of the present CEC was proposed to Imran Khan by the Army Chief when Imran Khan’s relations with him were praiseful and Imran Khan could not refuse his recommendation. Surprisingly, this name of CEC was not opposed by the then Leader of Opposition who is now the Prime Minister. Imran Khan,

at that time, may not be knowing his nominated CEC personally, and his political affiliation, but prompt approval of this name by the then Leader of Opposition speaks a lot of his affiliation.

If, according to PTI, the CEC is now working against their party, then Imran Khan himself is responsible for this because Imran Khan finalized his name without investigating the political background of his nominee. That was the past. Presently, it is hard to believe that the CEC will resign as he still has the backing of those who proposed him for CEC. Even if he resigns, or he is removed by the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), which is a remote possibility, the next CEC will be recommended to the President of Pakistan by the present National Assembly and the Prime Minister.

Under the prevailing circumstances how Imran Khan can be sure that the next CEC will be a man who is fair and unbiased, and the next general elections will be held fairly? In one of my previous articles, I have pointed out that, in Pakistan, elections do not represent the will of the masses. Out of many reasons for it, one of them is that people vote for a certain candidate and the result shows the win of a different candidate. It seems to be a magic, but people say that “angels” vote for the winning candidate. One of the many basic problems of Pakistan is that ALL

the institutions which should remain unbiased and non-political have been completely politicized.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) is appointed by the President of Pakistan on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. So, the Prime Minister is the real authority to appoint COAS. The speculation in the media is going on who will be the next COAS. To me, it is a useless discussion and waste of time. For the appointment of a 3-star General, the selection is based on certain criteria which are same for all of them. So, all the 3-star Generals have the same mindset.

The speculation that a certain 3-star General may be close and loyal to a certain political party is fundamentally wrong. They all follow the established tradition and policies of COAS. So, it is immaterial which of the 3-star General, junior or senior, is appointed as COAS. The history has confirmed that all the Prime Ministers of Pakistan have been selecting a 3-star General of a certain seniority for the appointment as COAS, thinking that he will be helpful to him (the Prime Minister), but it always proved wrong, so much so that even he removed the Prime Minister who appointed him. So, to me, any discussion on who will be the next COAS is a useless discussion.

The writer is senior analyst and columnist.

When will Israeli siege of Gaza Strip end?

M Muhannad Ayyash

With few exceptions, mainstream media

across Europe and North America is once again framing the latest attack on the Gaza Strip through the prism of “borders,” “Israeli self-defence,” “precision strikes,” and “Palestinian terrorism” or what seems to mean the same thing for Euro-American audiences – “Palestinian militancy.” It is as if the Palestinians have agreed on these so-called borders that separate Israel from the Gaza Strip, and from their side of the border, plot to terrorise Israel for the sake of terror and destruction, driven as they are by “Islamist” ideologies that are inherently anti-Semitic, violent, and barbarous. This drive is everywhere, and though it appears in different forms and tones, you can find it across the political spectrum. Its pervasiveness across political affiliations and ideologies suggests that this discourse constitutes a larger worldview – a set of ideas and concepts that a large number of people use to make sense of the world.

Unfortunately, worldviews that are completely divorced from reality can and do gain prominence and the status of “factual knowledge”. This is not an accidental occurrence. Rather, such worldviews come to occupy positions of prominence precisely because they serve existing power relations that not only benefit from the concealment of reality but must necessarily and actively conceal their brutal reality in order to maintain and expand their

power. By Israeli settler colonial design, this worldview works to render the Gaza Strip as an exceptional space, inhabited by people who do not qualify as human. The Palestinians who inhabit this space become beasts whose very nature is to attack Israel for the sole purpose of destruction, violence, and terror. Thus, Israel can do whatever it pleases to these beasts.

“The health ministry in Gaza said at least 10 people were killed including al-Jabari and a five-year-old girl. At least 55 people were wounded and being treated at hospitals as a result of the Israeli raids.”

I want to present this contrast here to show the reader the difference between a worldview that posits Palestinians as beasts and one that views them as they are – human. Alaa’s precious life, her father’s precious life, the precious lives of those left behind, are worth more than all of the accolades, bloated salaries, and statuses of all these so-called journalists at these so-called prestigious organisations. Against the Euro-American discourse that reveals nothing about reality is the reality of total Israeli control and forceful enactment of settler colonial sovereignty over the entirety of the historic land of Palestine, and that includes the Gaza Strip.

As Palestinian scholar Tareq Baconi argued last year, the Gaza Strip is not exceptional and it does not fall outside the framework of Israeli settler colonialism because of the so-called disengagement plan that then Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon began in 2005. Rather, Baconi states “the Gaza Strip is the outcome of processes of land consolidation and demographic isolation that began in what is now Israel and continue apace in the rest of historic Palestine.”

What Baconi is pointing out is that because Israel, like all settler colonial states, must expel the Indigenous people (in this case, Palestinians) and replace them with settlers (Jewish Israelis), land and demography become paramount in all Israeli policies, violence, plans, and actions, and that includes Israeli plans for the Gaza Strip.

What Israel has done is basically force a Palestinian population that is largely made up of displaced Palestinians from the 1948 settler colonial conquest of Palestine into a very small area of land. In reality, the siege is not of people who are from the Gaza Strip, but rather of people who belong to destroyed and eliminated villages and towns from across all of Palestine and are now imprisoned within a besieged small space. In other words, by preventing the expelled Palestinians from returning to their lands, the besiegement of these Palestinians within the Gaza Strip is part and parcel of the Israeli effort to secure and cement its ever-expansive conquest of Palestine.

This is no ordinary modern siege that ends with a negotiated settlement that benefits the powerful once the besieged are weakened to a degree where they can no longer militarily resist. Rather, this is a siege whose end goal is, not just the weakening, but the eradication of all Palestinian resistance – the resistance that seeks decolonial liberation of the entirety of Palestine for all Palestinians. And since this is impossible, since this form of Palestinian resistance has not abated for more than 100 years and will go on for another 100 years and more if needed, this means that the Israeli siege of the Gaza Strip will not end. By its very structure and purpose, this siege cannot end because

its purpose is the eradication of something that cannot be eradicated: Palestinians as a sovereign people who declare their belonging to their Palestinian homeland.

It is within this context that we can properly understand these military onslaughts. They are brutal acts of violence that are designed to shatter and eliminate Palestinian “sumud” (steadfast perseverance). They are basically Israel’s way of constantly reaffirming for the Palestinians inside and outside the Gaza Strip that Israel has the first and last word on the life and death of Palestinians – that Israel is the lord and master of the land. This overwhelming force is meant to break the spirit and will of the Palestinian people and eradicate all their hopes for return and liberation.

I am not completely discounting analyses of some of the immediate causes that can explain why Israel launched this attack at this moment (for example, the upcoming Israeli elections, Biden’s recent visit that reassured complete and total American support, etc). But these immediate causes are themselves caused and explained by a more foundational structure, which is a settler colonial conquest that demands the elimination of indigenous Palestinians and their sovereignty.

Though Palestinian sovereignty is not legally or officially recognised by Euro-American imperial hegemony, it is in fact a much deeper and substantive form of sovereignty than legally sanctioned settler colonial forms. It is a form of sovereignty that does not require nuclear weapons and the military apparatus and force of empire, political sophistry, and fantastical ideologies to create a connec-

tion between the land and the people. Rather it is a form of sovereignty that is experienced and practised in the very existence of Palestinians as being of the land. Not people who must forcefully take and hold the land but a form of sovereignty that recognises the land itself as sovereign, where people come to exist in a reciprocal relationship with it.

Israelis, too, can attain this form of sovereignty. But that can only happen with a complete and foundational transformation of Israel, away from the Zionist settler colonial project.

So long as Israeli settler colonialism remains concealed in public discourse and continues full throttle in practice, as it has for decades, the 15-year-old siege will not end, the killings will not end, the 100-year displacement and expulsion of Palestinians will not end. And Palestinian resistance will not end. Even if this siege ends with the expulsion of the majority of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip who leave because they can no longer call life there a human life, as some early architects of the siege hoped would happen, exiled and displaced Palestinians across the world have already shown what the response of those would-be expelled Palestinians will be: a resistance that keeps alive their belonging to their homeland. Palestinians will always remain as human beings of Palestine. The sooner that Israel and its allies realise this basic fact, the sooner we can begin to move beyond the brutal propagation of Israeli settler colonial violence and build a decolonial alternative.

The writer is Associate Professor of Sociology at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Canada. Courtesy Al Jazeera



Monsoon

Sound of rain, intoxicating fragrance of flowers, misty air, thunder of clouds; scent of wet soil with it a cup of sweet tea and spicy hot pakoras! World at large enjoys four seasons, but we are blessed with five. Monsoon makes this exception. Every season comes with its own set of consecrations, however it’s always monsoon that has been much celebrated. It is an intrinsically strong affection we have with the rainy season. Like rains returns life to the barren dry soil, it returns the existence of our soul. From creative writing to penning a verse, from painting to practicing a song, the rain waters the buried seeds within our soul, the new inspirations.

In our culture, following the tradition of twelve months, the glory of each month is fondly celebrated with poetry, music and art. Since the subject of this tradition is normally lovers, monsoon is the favorite as it lends itself to multitude imageries of love, longing and a season that signifies plenty; a perfect share of plenty of romantic rainy days. This brief monsoon is nothing short of a celebration – kids are on the streets getting drenched in rain, couples are seen spending time sitting in cafes; friends make plans to reconnect, and families having good time at popular picnic spots. The monsoon has so much to offer that you don’t have to really worry about places visit, since every place had turned into glory. Wherever eyes can see, it is the glory of nature, the emergence of life.

Moreover, monsoon is the lifeline of this region;

let’s say our agriculture relies on the yearly rain. Many areas lack irrigation systems, supplies of water are shallow. This monsoon satisfies the needs for the rest of year. With this, the industry of dairy farm also depends on rains. Furthermore, a great deal of electricity is generated by hydro-electric power plants, which are driven by water collected during the season. In short, monsoon is a connection to the life. Likewise, our history, art and



Munaza Kazmi

literature display an ample connection with monsoon, memoirs of Emperor Babur and Jahangir is a firm supporter. Emperor Shah Alam II composed verses in genre of ghazals, kabitt, dohas, taranas and hori in Rag Gaund (a rag especially deeply connected with the monsoons).

We all grew up reading and listing the verses of lost love and the connection between clouds and cuckoos callings for the Return. Hence, in my opinion monsoon is regarded as a metaphor of reunification, like the rebirth of soil from the droplets of water, meeting of Sky and Earth, yearning and return of the beloved. It could be the call of unity, friendship and harmony. However, today the Phool walon ki Sair is no longer held in the months of sawan and bhadon, it was these months that the last two Mughal emperors celebrated it. A message of virtue and union, much have been changed since then nevertheless the hopes of sitting together.

The writer is senior travel writer and analyst.

Israel-Palestinian truce holds, Gaza power plant restarts

44 Palestinians including children were killed in Israeli strikes

GAZA: With a cease-fire between Israel and Palestine holding after nearly three days of violence, Gaza's sole power plant resumed operations Monday as Israel began reopening crossings into the territory.

Israel also lifted security restrictions on southern Israeli communities after the Egyptian-mediated truce took effect late Sunday. Fighting abated, and war-weary people in Gaza and Israel were left picking up the pieces after another round of violence — the worst since an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas last year.

Since Friday, Israeli aircraft had pummeled targets in Gaza while the Palestinian Islamic Jihad fired hundreds of rockets at Israel.

Over three days of fighting, 44 Palestinians were killed, including 15 children and four women, and 311 were wounded, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. Islamic Jihad said 12 of those killed were militants. Israel said some of the dead were killed by rockets misfired from Gaza. No Israelis were killed.

The violence had threatened to spiral into another all-out war but was contained because Gaza's ruling Hamas group stayed on the sidelines,



possibly because it fears Israeli reprisals and undoing economic understandings with Israel, including Israeli work permits for thousands of Gaza residents that bolster Hamas' control over the coastal strip.

The cease-fire deal contained a promise that Egypt would work for the release of two senior Islamic Jihad detainees held by Israel, but there were no guarantees this would happen. The weekend fighting was also bound to complicate Islamic Jihad's relations with Hamas.

A senior Israeli diplomatic official said the offensive was successful and

had taken Islamic Jihad's capabilities back "decades," citing the loss of the two leaders and hits to the group's rocket production and firing capabilities, among other blows.

U.S. President Joe Biden welcomed the cease-fire. "Over these last 72-hours, the United States has worked with officials from Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Qatar, Jordan, and others throughout the region to encourage a swift resolution to the conflict," he said in a statement Sunday.

In the occupied West Bank on Monday, Israeli troops demolished the

homes of two Palestinians suspected of carrying out a deadly attack against Israelis in the city of Elad in May. The soldiers faced a violent protest during the operation, the military said.

The U.N. Security Council was to hold an emergency meeting Monday on the violence. China, which holds the council presidency this month, scheduled the session in response to a request from the United Arab Emirates, which represents Arab nations on the council, as well as China, France, Ireland and Norway.

"We underscore our commitment to do all we can towards ending the ongoing escalation, ensuring the safety and security of the civilian population, and following-up on the Palestinian prisoners file," said U.N. Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, in a statement.

Over the past year, Israel and Hamas have reached tacit understandings based on trading calm for work permits and a slight easing of the border blockade, imposed by Israel and Egypt when Hamas overran the territory 15 years ago. Israel has issued 12,000 work permits to Gaza laborers, and has held out the prospect of granting another 2,000 permits.

TTP's top commander Omar Khalid Khorasani killed in Afghanistan

Raja Furqan Ahmed



ISLAMABAD/KABUL: A vehicle carrying senior commanders of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), including Omar Khalid Khorasani, has been targeted with a mysterious explosive device in eastern Afghanistan.

According to sources, "A vehicle reportedly carrying TTP Mohmand chief Omar Khalid Khorasani, aka Abdul Wali Mohmand, Mufti Hassan and Hafiz Dawlat Khan, was targeted in Sharki village, near Margha, in Bermal district of Paktika province." The TTP spokesperson has also confirmed the death. Khorasani, who belonged to the Mohmand tribal district, was considered a member of the TTP top hierarchy. Hafiz Dawlat, from the Orakzai tribal district, was considered to be an important member of the group and a close trustee of Khorasani.

Mufti Hassan hailed from the Malakand Division and was one of the TTP leaders who pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the deceased leader of the Islamic State. Sources claim that Hassan had allegedly kindled conflict within the TTP some years ago. Khorasani carried a bounty of Rs10 million on his head. Dawlat and Hassan had joined the Khorasan franchise of Islamic State when it was set up, but they were later wooed back into the TTP's folds.

Negotiators optimistic about progress on Iran nuclear deal

VIENNA: Top negotiators in renewed talks to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal indicated Sunday that they are optimistic about the possibility of reaching an agreement to impose limits on Tehran's uranium enrichment.

"We stand 5 minutes or 5 seconds from the finish line," Russian Ambassador Mikhail Ulyanov told reporters outside Vienna's Palais Coburg, four days into the talks. He said there are "3 or 4 issues" left to be resolved. "They are sensitive, especially for Iranians and Americans," Ulyanov said. "I cannot guarantee, but the impression is that we are moving in the right direction."

Enrique Mora, the European Union's top negotiator, also said he is "absolutely" optimistic about the talks' progress so far.

"We are advancing, and I expect we will close the negotiations soon," he told Iranian media. Negotiators from Iran, the US and the European Union resumed indirect talks over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal Thursday after a months-long standstill in negotiations.

Since the deal's de facto collapse, Iran has been running advanced centrifuges and rapidly growing its stockpile of enriched uranium.

Chad's junta, rebel groups sign peace deal

DUBAI: Chad's military government and some rebel groups signed a pledge Monday in Qatar ahead of planned national reconciliation talks, though the deal did not include the country's main opposition group.

Under the terms of the deal in Doha, those who signed have agreed to a cease-fire ahead of the Aug. 20 talks planned in the Chadian capital of NDjamena. Chad's junta also agreed to "not take any military or police operations against the signing groups" in neighboring countries.

However, the Front for Change and Concord in Chad, the main rebel group in the country, did not sign the pledge. The shadowy group, known by its French acronym FACT, is blamed for the 2021 killing of Chad's longtime President Idriss Deby Itno, who had ruled the country since 1990.

On Aug 5, 2019 Kashmir's illegal dismembering took place: Chidambaram

NEW DELHI: As India bracing for its 75th Independence Day a week later, senior Congress leader and seasoned politician P Chidambaram has said he was veering to the conclusion that Parliament has become dysfunctional and democracy is gasping for breath in India with almost all institutions tamed, emasculated or captured.

He also said Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu "failed" to protect Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge last week from being summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) when the House was in session. In a media interview, Chidambaram said, "Moreover, it was on August 5, 2019 that the illegal dismembering of Jammu and Kashmir took place!" Chidambaram said.

US official says Solomon Islands leader 'missed opportunity'

WELLINGTON: The U.S. deputy secretary of state said Monday the prime minister of the Solomon Islands "missed an important opportunity" by failing to attend a memorial service to mark the anniversary of a key World War II battle, amid concerns the South Pacific island nation is building closer ties with China.

Wendy Sherman and U.S. Ambassador to Australia Caroline Kennedy were among dignitaries who attended a dawn service near the capital Honiara on Sunday to commemorate the Battle of Guadalcanal.

Sherman's father, Marine Mal Sherman, and Kennedy's father, the late President John F. Kennedy, almost died in fighting on the Solomons. Kennedy had been the commander of a patrol torpedo boat that was rammed and sunk by a Japanese destroyer.

Sherman was wounded during the Guadalcanal campaign, which was the Japanese army's first defeat of WWII. Local media reported that Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, who signed a security pact with China this year, appeared to have snubbed the ceremony, a claim his office later denied.

Two more grain ships sail from Ukraine as third port opens

ISTANBUL: Two more ships, carrying corn and soybeans, departed from Ukrainian Black Sea ports on Monday, Turkey and Ukraine said, taking the total to ten since the first ship sailed last week under a deal with Russia to unblock Ukrainian grain exports.

The United Nations and Turkey brokered the agreement last month after warnings the halt in grain shipments caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine could lead to severe food shortages and even outbreaks of famine in parts of the world.

The Sacura, which departed from Pivdenniyi, is carrying 11,000 tons of soybeans to Italy, Turkey's defense ministry said on Monday, while the Arizona, which left Chornomorsk, is carrying 48,458 tons of corn to

Iskenderun in southern Turkey.

Separately, the Polarnet, which departed on Friday, reached its final destination in northwestern Turkey's Derince on Monday morning to be unloaded, marking the completion of the first shipment since the exports were re-launched.

So far, around 243,000 tons of corn has been exported from Ukraine on seven ships since the first departure on Aug. 1, according to a Reuters tally of data from Turkey's defense ministry. The other ships carried 11,000 tons of soybeans, 6,000 tons of sunflower oil and 45,000 tons of sunflower meal.

Ukraine's infrastructure minister, Oleksandr Kubrakov, confirmed the two latest ships left on Monday, adding

Pivdenniyi, the third Ukrainian port included in the deal, was finally up and running as part of the initiative.

Kubrakov had said previously the opening of Pivdenniyi would push Ukraine's total export capacity up to three million tons a month. In peacetime, Ukraine exported up to six million tons of grain a month from its ports on the Black Sea and Sea of Azov coast.

The four ships that left Ukraine on Sunday are expected to anchor near Istanbul on Monday evening, Turkey's defense ministry said, adding they would be inspected on Tuesday.

Before Russia invaded Ukraine for what it calls its "special military operation," the two countries together accounted for nearly a third

of global wheat exports.

The resumption of grain exports is being overseen by a Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul where Russian, Ukrainian, Turkish and UN personnel are working. The Razoni, which was the first ship to depart, was scheduled to arrive in Lebanon on Sunday but is currently at anchor off Turkey's southern coast, according to Refinitiv ship tracker data.

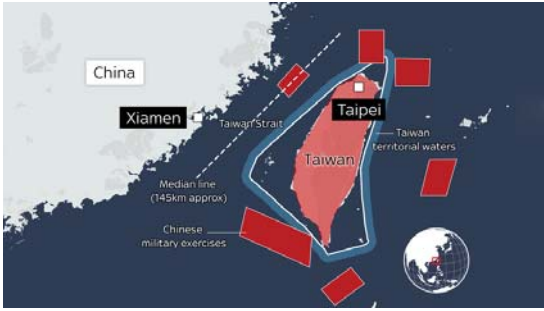
Ukraine's Infrastructure Ministry said on Sunday the Fulmar S, the first foreign-flagged bulk ship to reach the Black Sea port of Chornomorsk since the conflict, was ready for loading. A second ship traveling to Ukraine, the Osprey S, was inspected in Istanbul on Sunday and was nearing Ukraine on Monday morning, Refinitiv data also showed.

China extends military drills around Taiwan

TAIPEI: China's military announced fresh military drills in the seas and airspace around Taiwan on Monday, a day after the scheduled end of its largest ever exercises to protest against last week's visit to the island by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

China's Eastern Theatre Command said it would conduct joint drills focusing on anti-submarine and sea assault operations—confirming the fears of some security analysts and diplomats that Beijing would continue to maintain pressure on Taiwan's defenses.

Taiwan's foreign ministry condemned the move, saying China, which claims the self-ruled island as its own, was



deliberately creating crises. It demanded Beijing stop its military actions and "pull back from the edge."

"In the face of military intimidation created by China, Taiwan will not be afraid nor back down, and will more firmly defend its sovereignty, national security, and free and democratic

way of life," the ministry said in a statement.

U.S. President Joe Biden, in his first public comments on Taiwan since Pelosi's visit, said he was not worried about Taiwan but was concerned about China's actions in the region. "I'm concerned they are moving as much as they are," Biden

told reporters in Delaware. "But I don't think they're going to do anything more than they are."

Pelosi's visit infuriated China, which responded with test launches of ballistic missiles over Taipei for the first time, as well as ditching some lines of dialogue with Washington.

Taiwan's defence ministry later said it had detected 39 Chinese air force planes and 13 navy ships in and around the Taiwan Strait on Monday. Twenty-one Chinese air force planes had entered Taiwan's air defence zone, including fighter jets that crossed the median line in the northern part of the Taiwan Strait, the ministry said.

Khoja Ahrar Valiy-Spiritual scientist of the Est

Spokesman Report

SAMARKAND: Khoja Ubaidullah Ahror Wali was born in 1404 (Hijri 806) in the mountain village of Bogistan near the ancient city of Shash (currently Tashkent) Maverannahr. It said that from his father side he was pertained to the first of Chohoryors (First four cilyfas, pads of the Prophet Muhammed)-Abu Bakr Siddiq (632-644) and second

hohoryor-Umar ibn al-Hattob (634-644) from his mother side. Khoja Ahroriy Valiy takes a special place among the great scholars of wise men of the Muslim world. He studied the ideas put forward to the Sufi waysteppers of the Sufi way, and progressively subdue the Tasawuf method.

He has perfectly mastered the secrets of all kinds of knowledge of Islamic science. The greatness of Khoja Ahror is that his sacred character based on Islamic self sacrifice, justice, equity, generosity, stubbornness, poverty and patriotism.

One of the attributes of Khoja Ahror is that he uses the method of «dreaming» in analyzing the facts and phenomena, making conclusions and summarizing their results. In fact, he liked to disclose his findings and impressions as «clear in my dreams». Therefore he was compared with region and glorified as Khoja Ahror Valiy. The original name of this person was Ubaydullah and the term Ahror is a nickname of a noble meaning. Only three of 356 saints in the history of the

Muslim world have been recognized as «Qutb ul-aqtob». He was the one of these three saints.

During Khoja Ubaydullo's youthful years in Tashkent, when he was in school, he was fond of books. He respected Abu Bakr Koffol Shoshiy, Sheikh Khovandi Tohur, Sheikh Zayniddin Kuyiorifon-scholars from Tashkent and always visited their graves.

Historical sources say that Khoja Ahror had friendly relations with Timurid princes. He lived in Samarkand for a while, then in Herat. From his works «Risolai Volidia» (Parent Booklet), «Risolai havoriya» (Booklet of faires), «Faqirot ul ofarin» (The Gospel of Donation) have come to us.

The Holy miracle worker

Khoja Ahrar calmed his soul 89 years in 1493 (some historical books indicate the date of death 1489-90) in the town of Kamangaran in Samarkand. His grave is located in the glorious city of Samarkand, with a white marble carved stele. In the cemetery where the spiritual thinker is buried, there are also tombs of great spiritual people.

140 years after the death of Khoja Ahrar Wali, ruler Nadir Divanbegi ordered the construction of a mausoleum in his honor as a sign of reverence and respect for the great spiritual leader. The structure with the image of tigers is painted with patterns and ornaments, carved mosaics are laid out. In the mausoleum there is a winter and summer mosque, an aivan and a tower towering



above them, from which at any time of the year the muezzins summon pilgrims who have come from different parts of the world to pour themselves, find peace of mind and their way to the truth.

The last restoration of the Khoja Ahrar Wali Mosque was carried out in the 1990s. The building was recognized as an emergency and it was completely rebuilt by modern architects,

the cube was demolished, and instead of one dome, now there are three. In 2003, by the decision of the first President of Uzbekistan, the mosque was rebuilt on the same site using modern methods of construction and decoration.

Among the saints especially revered by Muslims of Central Asia and the whole world—Ismael Al-Bukhari, Ahmad Yassawi, Bahauddin Naqshbandi, At-Termezi, Afacq Khoja, Khoja Ahrar occupies an honorable place. Many mysteries and legends are associated with his name.

In 1638, at the revered tomb of the sheikh, by order of Nadir Divanbegi, architect Dostmukhammad built a large madrasah, which was considered the "mirror of Sher Dor".

PBF for maximum women’s participation in trade activities



LAHORE: The Pakistan Businesses Forum (PBF) has called upon the business community to encourage and ensure maximum participation of women in their trade and industrial activities.

Women comprise more than a half of the country’s population and without their full participation, the nation could not make progress, she added.

PBF Chairperson (Women Wing) Ayesha Farooqui expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the business community here on Monday.

She said women chambers of commerce and industry should also help exploit fully the potential of women entrepreneurs by ensuring equal opportunities to them at par with other entrepreneurs to do away with gender inequality and discrimination.

Ayesha Farooqui suggested that short technical courses must also be launched across the country to impart basic knowledge to women in various trades to meet the ever increasing demands of skilled workers in industry.

She said women entrepreneurship had been recognized as provider of social upgrading, presenting economic regeneration, growth and job creation. Women participation in economic expansion had also been documented as very important for a country particularly their participation in the areas of entrepreneurship, she concluded. APP

Apple to open distribution center at Riyadh airport

RIYADH: US tech firm Apple will soon open a center for the distribution of its products and spare parts in the logistics zone at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, the Saudi investment minister told Al-Arabiya.

Khalid Al-Falih said several international companies, including Google, Alibaba, Microsoft and IBM, have invested or intend to invest in the Kingdom.

These investments will be coupled with the development of human resources through partnership of these companies with academies, universities and training centers, he added. Arab News

China’s new energy sector moves into high gear

BEIJING: As construction of large-scale wind and photovoltaic power bases accelerates, China’s new energy sector is expected to have greater growth potential this year amid efforts to achieve “dual carbon” goals.

In Urumqi, capital of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the construction of a wind power and photovoltaic base by China Huadian Corporation with a total installed capacity of 1 million kilowatts is progressing in full swing.

The project, which is among the first batch of large-scale wind and photovoltaic power bases greenlighted by the government, is expected to generate 2.5 billion kilowatt-hours of green electricity while saving consumption of 830,000 tonnes of standard coal and reducing carbon emissions of 2.1 million tonnes after completion.

All of the initial batches of such projects have thus far broken ground. The list of the second batch, which includes bases to be built in Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Qinghai and Gansu, has been released.

Experts believe that the promotion of new energy bases will significantly spur the development of the new energy industry.

In the first half of 2022, China’s installed capacity of wind and photovoltaic power added 12.94 million kilowatts and 30.88 million kilowatts, accounting for 18.7 percent and 44.7 percent of total new capacity, respectively, data from the National Energy Administration showed.

Driven by the country’s “dual carbon” goals, the new energy sector has become one of the few industries that features a high utilization rate without generating excess capacity, said Jiang Debin, an expert with the China Electricity Council.

Su Xinyi, an analyst with China Electric Power Planning & Engineering Institute, noted that the new energy sector will continue fast expansion in the second half.

China’s newly installed capacity of wind and photovoltaic power for the entire year is expected to exceed 100 million kilowatts, while the consumption of power produced by the two energy sources is estimated to reach over 12.2 percent of total power consumption, Su said.

In addition to boosting energy supply capacity, companies plan to double down on investments in projects including ultra-high voltage to improve the efficiency of new energy consumption. Xinhua

Power sector a major threat to country’s economy

Atif Ikram Sheikh says circular debt surpassed Rs2.25 trillion

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Presidential candidate for FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Monday said the power sector has become a big threat to the country’s economy, which should be immediately tackled.

This sector loses over one trillion rupees annually despite getting a 12 percent share in the budget as subsidy, which is more than the annual development budget, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that despite the repeated increase in electricity price, the performance of this sector is declining instead of improving resulting in problems for the masses and the business community.

The business leader said that last year Rs2.89 trillion was spent

on electricity production while the government received 1.53 trillion rupees through electricity bills while the shortfall was 1.35 trillion rupees recorded which is not sustainable.

He noted that every administration claimed to reduce the revolving debt but it has increased and now this debt has surpassed the mark of Rs2.25 trillion.

He regretted that no serious effort was ever made to find out the root cause of the losses in the power sector. A full forensic audit of the power sector in which every step from the purchase of fuel to the delivery of electricity to the consumer is carefully reviewed, then the situation can improve.

He said that at present the losses of the power sector are increasing



because of the price of oil and LNG in the international market which is

creating more problems for the country’s economy.

Presently, the power shortfall hovers around 5000-6000 MWs that is causing load all over the country and the government is trying to get cheaper fuel such as coal from Afghanistan.

The government also seeks to diversify generation from non-imported and inexpensive fuel sources. But with so many technical challenges also engulfing the sector, the outlook appears bleak.

The power sector has held the economy hostage for decades. It is draining revenue, hitting the industry, bankrupting oil companies and forcing the country to repeatedly borrow from the IMF and other lenders.

No business activities

ISLAMABAD: A view of closed shops at Blue Area market due to 9th Muharral-ul-Haram procession in federal Capital.

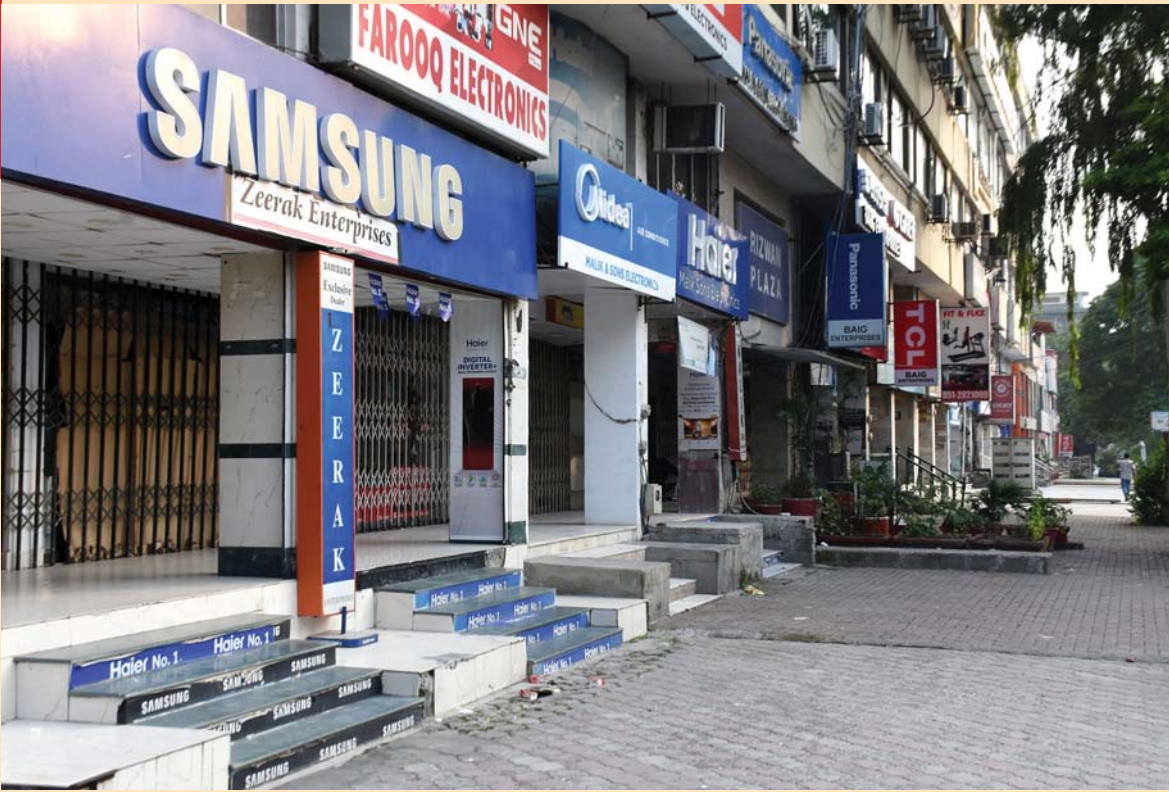


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Reduced wheat production feared, says Mian Zahid

Legal action for maligning army demanded

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the government would have collapsed and the country would have gone bankrupt after great instability if the value of the dollar was not eroded.

We are grateful for General Bajwa’s personal efforts to save the country from anarchy and to stabilize the sliding economy, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the business community hopes that the army will continue to perform its duties for national security in the future as well.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that some miscreants are still criticizing the army and raising pointless questions about the helicopter crash which is highly condemnable and shameful.



He paid glowing tribute to Gen. Sarfaraz Shaheed who not only helped people during the floods but also took many steps to provide relief to the people and saved many livelihoods in Balochistan.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the export of grain from Ukraine has started, which is reducing the fear of food shortage in the world and famine in many poor

countries but it will take some time.

He said that after the increase in the prices of all agricultural inputs in Pakistan, now the price of DAP has also increased significantly, which has raised concerns about the wheat crop.

The government should try to import at least 50 million bags of DAP from other countries or reduce its price in the local market or give subsidies to farmers, otherwise, the food security situation in the country may worsen.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that a bag of 50 kilos of DAP was worth 6,000 a year ago, but now it has become 14,800, the price of which many small farmers cannot afford.

It is necessary to reduce, while the price of urea also needs to be reduced to 2100 rupees, otherwise, the production of wheat may decrease up to five and a half lakh tons, after which heavy expenses will have to be incurred to import wheat.

He said that some improvement in the situation is possible if the yield is reduced due to the use of fertilizer.

Stocks rise, dollar eases as investors focus on US inflation

LONDON: Stock markets rose and the Dollar retreated Monday as investors turned their attention to US inflation data later this week and weigh the prospect of further monetary policy tightening.

The dollar was weaker as investors took profit on the strong gains notched up last week on speculation that the US Federal Reserve will announce a third successive rate increase of three-quarters of a percentage point in September.

“The macro Calendar is quiet this week with US inflation data being the main highlight,” said forex.com analyst Fawad Razaqada.

“This will keep the dollar... in focus after a very strong US jobs report on Friday rekindled the possibility of a hat trick of 75-basis-point rate hikes in September.” Data due Wednesday is expected to show inflation in the world’s biggest economy slowed slightly in July, but remained close to the four-decade

highs seen in recent months.

The reading “seems very unlikely to offer compelling evidence of a slowdown needed for the Fed to pull away from its aggressive inflation-fighting mode”, said



SPI Asset Management analyst Stephen Innes.

Oil prices retreated on expectations of weaker demand amid a cost-of-living crisis.

A rise in US crude stockpiles was partly responsible for a 10-percent drop in prices last week.

Govt’s backsliding on traders’ tax is regrettable

Now this tax will be collected from poor people, says Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Monday said the government has taken a U-turn over the issue of fixed tax on traders which is unfortunate.

The tax has been rolled back which means that now this tax will be collected from the masses for which a mini-budget can also be introduced, it said.

The government has decided to collect almost Rs42 billion under this head but it has bowed down to the traders and withdrawn the fixed tax scheme calling it their mistake, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW.

He said that retailers account for almost 20 percent of the GDP, this is the third largest sector of the economy providing 15 percent employment but they are not willing to pay taxes, he added.

He said that the retail-

ers start protesting as soon as the government tries to impose a direct tax on the and the government reverses its decision due to political considerations.

Now the government has no option but to put the burden on the poor people through indirect taxes to cover the loss, he observed.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that there are three million retailers in the country while the number of filers is a mere two million, of which 1.3 million are salaried individuals.

The population is growing at the rate of two percent putting burden on resources and infrastructure, but the number of filers is not increasing accordingly which is a recipe for disaster.

The tax to GDP rate in Pakistan is only 9.2% and as long as the government does not collect taxes from the rich, it will remain dependent on debt and the condition of the poor will worsen.

Pak IT parks provide best opportunities for investment in AI Business



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s Honorary Ambassador-at-Large on Investment Zeeshaan Shah visited Silicon Valley of the United States of America (USA) and showcased the vibrant economic opportunities Pakistan’s Information Technology (IT) market offered for the world.

He visited the worlds IT Mecca home to global giants including, Facebook, micro-soft and Apple, said a statement on Monday.

Zeeshaan Shah engaged with a number of leading entrepreneurs and sector professionals in Silicon Valley where he discussed Pakistan’s IT sector and invited them to be part of it.

Engagements were held at the Four Seasons Hotel Palo Alto through out the day including meetings with a leading developer of data centres who are interested in investing up to \$100 million USD in Pakistan.

He outlined in the meetings that Pakistan’s IT sector was a sleeping giant which is now starting to reach it’s true potential. The IT exports have shown expo-

nential growth growing from \$400 million in 2012 to \$2 billion plus in the last financial year.

He especially thanked the American Pakistani diaspora for the role they played in bridging the gap between Pakistani companies and Pakistan’s largest export market the USA.

He went on to explain that Pakistan presents a phenomenal Virgin opportunity, with amongst the world’s youngest populations, a tech savvy, smart phone using population of almost 220 million consumers.

Pakistan can learn from the principles of the United States’ success in the modern world, by utilising their energies towards science, innovation and technology, to lead Pakistan into the 21st century as a valuable and progressive contributor to the global economy, he added.

Zeeshaan Shah will be attending the leading global investor network OPEN Silicon Valley’s annual dinner whilst in the Bay Area in addition to closed door engagements with industry leaders.

Commonwealth Games

Arshad Nadeem tears record books to win gold medal

Nadeem now sets his eyes on gold in Paris Olympics

BIRMINGHAM: Commonwealth Games record-breaking javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem has set his eyes on Paris Olympics 2024, saying he will try to win gold medal in the prestigious event.

Arshad claimed gold medal in the javelin throw event of the Commonwealth Games with a massive throw of 90.18m at Alexander Stadium Birmingham on Sunday.

The 25-year-old Khanewal born, logged 86.81m in his first attempt and bettered it 88m with his personal record in the third attempt after missing the second attempt.

He remained at top with another fine throw of 85.09m in the fourth attempt. The medal-winning 90.18m throw came in his fifth attempt. The feat also saw him becoming the first South Asian to cross the 90m mark. Besides he became only the second Asian to cross that point after Taiwan's Chao-Tsun Cheng (91.36m). He also smashed the CWG record of 88.75m by South Africa's Marius Corbett that stood since 1998.

"I will be featuring in a number events in the future and will try to live upto the expectations. But my main target is Paris Olympics where I believe I can win gold,"



Arshad told APP on Monday.

The gold medal winner of the previous edition of CWG, Neeraj Chopra of India was ruled out of the event due to fitness issues. Arshad also surpassed Chopra's Tokyo Olympic throw of 87.58m (gold) and World Athletics Championship throw of 88.13m.

Arshad said Chopra was his friend and he missed his absence in the competition. "Unluckily, Chopra could not feature in the event due to injury. We have been taking part in international events togeth-

er. I felt his absence a lot.

"But injuries are part of the game. I wish him a speedy recovery and good luck for his upcoming assignments," he added. He said he was happy that he had won the medal at a time when the nation was set to celebrate its Independence Day.

"I'm thankful to my parents, and the entire Pakistani nation for praying for my success. This medal is a gift for my nation on the Independence Day.

"I'm also thankful to Athletics Federation of Pakistan and Pakistan Olympic

Association (POA).

"I'm also grateful to International Olympic Committee for awarding my scholarship till the Paris Olympics. This scholarship is the result of POA's efforts. I will be spending this scholarship on my training so that I can fully prepare myself for the Olympics," he added.

The whole Pakistan nation is feeling proud of athlete Arshad Nadeem who defied his injury and won gold medal for Pakistan in javelin throw competition during Commonwealth Games 2022.

President Dr Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PTI Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and many other prominent figures congratulated Arshad Nadeem for historic win in the Commonwealth games.

It was Pakistan's second gold in Birmingham and the first was also won with a Games record when Nooh Dasagiri Butt triumphed in the +105kg weightlifting competition.

Like Nooh, Arshad was also one of Pakistan's leading hopes for a medal going into the Games and he delivered a statement of his intent with just his first throw.

ILT20 franchises secure over 50 intl players in first sign-on

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: The UAE's International League T20, the ILT20, has today announced a stunning line-up of the game's superstars have signed-on to participate in the Inaugural event.

Khalid Al Zarooni, Chairman UAE ILT20 League said; "Over the past weeks, ILT20's six franchises have started discussions and engaged with players, and players' agents, to exercise their 'Direct Acquisition' rights, and we are extremely delighted to be in a position today to announce the first set of players who will compete in UAE's Inaugural (T20) League."

Some of the biggest names in global T20 cricket from countries including England, the West Indies, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and Ireland, as well as from various leading ICC Associate Nations including USA, Namibia, Netherlands and Nepal have now signed-on to represent the League's heavy-hitting Franchise-owners—Reliance Industries, Kolkata Knight Riders, Capri Global,

GMR, Lancer Capital, and Adani Sportsline—to dazzle fans in UAE's Inaugural Event.

Marquee Players who have signed to appear and compete in the Inaugural edition include; Moeen Ali, Andre Russell, Dawid Malan, Wanindu Hasiranga, Sunil Narine, Evin Lewis, Colin Munro, Fabien Allen Sam Billings, Tom Curran, Alex Hales, Dushmantha Chameera, Shimron Hetmyer, Akeal Hosein, Chris Jordan, Tom Banton, Sandeep Lamichhane, Chris Lynn, Rovman Powell, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Mujeeb Ul Rahman

Commenting on the team-structure, Mubashshir Usmani, Emirates Cricket's General Secretary said: "It's exciting to see how well the squads are shaping up for the first season of ILT20. Each team will consist of 18 players including 4 UAE players and 2 other players from ICC Associate countries. The quality of the names announced today is outstanding and so is the interest in our league from top players from

all around the world."

Further international players will be announced by the league later this week, and then the process to sign the 4 UAE players for each team will commence.

As one of the leading ICC Associate Members, Emirates Cricket remains cognisant of its role to inspire burgeoning and existing member-unions, as well as to provide sustainable and effective opportunities to bolster UAE National-team players through continued investment in their development.

"We are very excited that a select number of UAE representative-players, from our current pool, will also be considered and signed-on to participate in the League, it is also extremely important to note that these (UAE) players will form part of the team's playing XI." "One of the key objectives for ILT20 is to provide opportunities for players from UAE and other Associate nations to perform on the big stage, and, ECB extends its deep appreciation to the six-franchises for their support of



Sri Lankan spin ace takes home Player of Month award

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan spinner Prabath Jayasuriya's sensational start to international cricket has been capped off by winning the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for July 2022.

Jayasuriya beat England batter and June's Player of the Month winner Jonny Bairstow, and French sensation Gustav McKeon for the coveted monthly award, after a brilliant start to international cricket in the longest format.

The 30-year-old was thrilled to have won the monthly award. "I am delighted with this announcement, and wish to thank the fans for voting me as the ICC Men's Player of the Month," Jayasuriya said.

"Certainly it has been an incredible month for me, as I made the Test debut, and also got the opportunity to contribute for my team to level the Test series played against Australia and Pakistan. "I take this opportunity to thank my



fans, team-mates, coaches, family and friends for helping my journey, and thrilled with what I am experiencing at this moment in my life."

Jayasuriya emerged as a new spin hero for Sri Lanka, having one of the most memorable debut Test matches. The spinner registered figures of 6/118 and 6/59 as Sri Lanka roared back against Australia in Galle to level the two-match Test series. His exploits helped the hosts beat the visitors by an innings and 39 runs.

His form would continue into the

Test series against Pakistan. Despite Sri Lanka succumbing to a defeat in the series opener in Galle against Babar Azam and Co, Jayasuriya was the most threatening bowler for the hosts, with figures of 5/82 and 4/135.

In the second Test against Pakistan, Jayasuriya clinched his fourth five-wicket haul in only three Test matches. After 3/80 in the first innings, he registered figures of 5/117 in the second innings, as Sri Lanka romped home to a 246-run victory to level the series.

With his performances, Jayasuriya registered four five-wicket hauls in only three Test matches, and four in six innings – a truly astonishing feat. The award caps off a brilliant start in the international arena for the 30-year-old left-arm spinner, who will be hoping to replicate such feats during upcoming Test matches.

Rabada fitness is top priority for South Africa's test team

CAPE TOWN: South Africa have made getting opening bowler Kagiso Rabada fit for the three-test series against England their top priority, captain Dean Elgar said on Monday.

Radaba hurt ligaments in his left ankle in last month's Twenty20 series against England but has been bowling in the nets since the test squad began a pre-series camp in Canterbury, Elgar told a virtual news conference.

"The workload is maybe the biggest concern, whether he can get himself throughout a test match with the intensity and obviously the volume of overs in a day's play," Elgar said.

"For now he's doing all the right things but I can't say 'yes or no' as yet," Elgar added about Rabada's chances of making the first test at Lords on Aug. 17. "But it's high on our list to get him fit and giving us more resources going into the first test."

PM rejoices at feats of Pak athletes in CWG

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistani athletes competing in different categories of the ongoing Commonwealth Games, (CWG) 2022 have brought laurels to Pakistan by increasing country's prestige among the comity of nations.



On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that Nooh Butt, Arshad Nadeem, gold medalists, Sharif Tahir, Zaman Anwar and Inam Butt, silver medalists, Shah Hussain, Ali Asad and Inayat-ullah, bronze medalists had made him and the Pakistani people proud of their successes.

In a related tweet, the prime minister posted that he would meet these triumphant athletes after their return to the country to encourage them. Besides, he also appreciated the performance of all other Pakistani athletes taking part in the CWG as they had been representing Pakistan with their hard work and struggle.

"Win and loss are the parts of a game. Don't lose the nerves and strive harder," he further advised. APP

DG Sports Punjab felicitates Arshad Nadeem

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi has congratulated national athlete Arshad Nadeem for winning gold medal in javelin throw event of the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.

In his greeting message on Monday, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that Arshad has created history by winning coveted gold medal. "Arshad Nadeem's record throw of 90.18 meters will be remembered for a long time. The whole nation is happy about his success and is paying tribute to him". DG Sports Punjab M Tariq Qureshi further said that Sports Board Punjab extended every kind of assistance to Arshad in the past and will continue to cooperate with him fully in the future as well. "Arshad Nadeem is a role model for young players. Provision of best sports facilities to all athletes is the mission of Sports Board Punjab," he added.

Lack of self belief cost Man Utd: Ten Hag

LONDON: Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said a lack of self belief cost his side on Sunday as they slumped to a 2-1 home defeat by Brighton & Hove Albion in their Premier League opener.

Brighton's Pascal Gross scored twice in the first half before an Alexis Mac Allister own goal gave United a glimmer of hope in the 68th minute, but Brighton held on for their first ever win at Old Trafford. "I think it was a good start and then after (the first goal) we dropped down a level, dropped down in belief and we made mistakes and the opponent punished us," Ten Hag told reporters.

"We dropped down in belief in the first half and that cannot happen, you always have to believe in yourself and stick together as a team. "We came back in the second half and we had to believe on the pitch and that was good to see. They have to deal with those setbacks and give themselves belief because they are really good players."

Ten Hag defended his decision to start with Cristiano Ronaldo on the bench, saying the Portugal international was not ready to play a full match after skipping United's pre-season tour to Thailand and Australia. Christian Eriksen was instead deployed as a 'false nine', with Ronaldo coming on in the 53rd minute. "If there was an available striker, I would have played him," Ten Hag said.

Marseille win Ligue 1 season opener

PARIS: Marseille started their Ligue 1 campaign Sunday by defeating Reims 4-1 in Igor Tudor's first match as coach, while Aaron Ramsey struck on his Nice debut to salvage a point in Toulouse.

After a troubled summer during which Jorge Sampaoli walked out over his unhappiness at the club's transfer approach, it was a welcome win for Tudor following a turbulent pre-season. "I'm clearly very happy, it's a clear and deserved victory," said Tudor.

Kyrgios wins first ATP title in 3 years

WASHINGTON: Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios won his seventh ATP title and first in three years by defeating Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka in Sunday's men's final at the ATP and WTA Washington Open.

The 27-year-old Australian downed 96th-ranked left-hander Nishioka 6-4, 6-3 for his first ATP title since capturing the 2019 Washington crown. "It's emotional for me to be back here again and claim another title," Kyrgios said. Kyrgios, who lost to Novak Djokovic last month in his first Grand Slam final, made back-to-back tour-level finals for the first time in his career and didn't allow a service break all week. "It's just very emotional for me to see where I was at last year to now.

It's just an incredible transformation," Kyrgios said. "I've been in some really dark places. "There are so many people who have helped me get there but myself, I've shown some serious strength to just continue and just persevere and get through all those times and be able to still perform and win tournaments like this one."

World number 63 Kyrgios fired 12 aces and 32 winners against four double faults and 20 unforced errors while taking 22 of 25 first-serve points to defeat Nishioka in 81 minutes. "I came out with great energy," Kyrgios said.

Australia win historic cricket gold

BIRMINGHAM: Australia won the first women's cricket gold medal in Commonwealth Games history on Sunday as Scotland's Laura Muir captured the 1500m title on the final night of athletics.

On the penultimate day of competition in Birmingham, England's women won hockey gold and Australia beat Jamaica in the netball final. With just a few events to go on Monday, Australia lead the way with 66 golds, 11 ahead of hosts England. Hot favourites Australia held their nerve to beat India by nine runs in a Twenty20 thriller in front of a big Edgbaston crowd.

Opener Beth Mooney top-scored with 61 as Australia made 161-8 in their 20 overs in the warm sunshine. India appeared to be on course for a

shock win when they were cruising at 118-2. But the dismissals of Jemimah Rodrigues (33) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (65) sapped their momentum and they fell frustratingly short. Australia partied on the pitch as the lights went out around the stadium. "It's absolutely huge," said left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen.

"We are blessed enough to be part of some winning World Cup teams but to win the first gold medal for women's cricket in the Commonwealth Games, you're only ever going to do that once." Victory underlines the dominance of Australia's women, who are also world champions in the 20-over and 50-over formats. In the bronze medal match earlier on Sunday, New Zealand coasted to an eight-wicket win over England.

Muir ended her Commonwealth Games campaign with a flourish by winning gold in the 1500m at the Alexander Stadium.

The 29-year-old's teammate, 10,000m champion Eilish McColgan, just failed in her bid for memorable double, finishing second behind Kenya's impressive world silver medalist Beatrice Chebet in the women's 5,000m. Muir, who won bronze in the 800m on Saturday, kicked for glory before the bell and ran a fairly moderate field — lacking two-time Olympic champion Faith Kipyegon — ragged, timing 4min 02.75sec. The Olympic silver medalist was overjoyed, having failed to medal in 2014 and missing the 2018 Games due to veterinary exams.

"You learn from it and your

time will come," said Muir. "It sounds cheesy but it's true. Eight years of Commonwealths and it's been bugging me so this means a lot." Wylife Kinyamal defended his men's 800m crown in a time of 1:47.52. It was an impressive turnaround for the 25-year-old, who finished last in the final of the world championships in July. "Eugene (the world final) was disappointing but it is just like any race," he said. "Because if today you win, tomorrow you lose. "I guess because I failed there, I looked forward to coming here to defend my title."

New Zealand cyclist Aaron Gate won the men's road race to collect his fourth gold medal of the Commonwealth Games. "Three felt great and I was super happy with that," said Gate, who



won three track events earlier in the Games. "I came here today and managed to help the team, and if the opportunity arose to go for a fourth one I just had to grab it with both hands." In the women's race, Australia's Georgia Baker won her third gold of

the games. England won hockey gold for the first time after holding off a fightback from Australia to win 2-1.

Second-quarter goals from Holly Hunt and Tess Howard ultimately provided decisive 24 hours after the men's team had suffered

semi-final despair at the hands of Australia. Australia's men, who are six-time defending champions, take on India in the final on Monday. There was more joy for Australia in the netball competition, with a 55-51 over Jamaica in the final. Australia also shone at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre, wrapping up the diving competition in style. Cassiel Rousseau took the men's 10m platform title and Maddison Keeney won her second gold of the games in the women's 3m springboard. England's Delicious Orie won super heavyweight gold on a busy night of boxing, beating India's Sagar Ahlawat. India won three other golds in boxing but Northern Ireland took five, including a special double for Aidan Walsh and his sister Michaela.