



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
آپ ﷺ فرماتے تھے کہ میں تمہیں بتائے
آری کے متعلق نہ بتاؤں۔ دو بیٹے میں کمزور
باتوں سے ہے۔ لیکن اللہ کے یہاں اس کا
مرتبہ ہے کہ اگر کسی بات پر اللہ کی قسم
کھائے تو اللہ اسے ضرور پوری کر دیتا ہے اور کیا
میں تمہیں دوزخ ناموں کے متعلق نہ بتاؤں
ہر بخوبی ہماری قسم والا اور سب کر کے والا۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 4918)

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RAWALPINDI

No one is allowed to malign armed forces: Abbasi

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi says no one is allowed to malign armed forces and such elements must face the music as per law. He said maligning armed forces, the judiciary and others institutions is against the constitution. The Minister said the entire nation stands united with the armed forces for security and stability of the country.



AJK PM urges centre to release required grant of budget

Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, has urged the federal government to provide the required grant of budget to the AJK government in accordance with 2018's financial contract. Talking to journalists here on Sunday, the AJK premier, while referring to his government's legitimate demands, said that Azad Kashmir was facing a severe financial crisis. News on Page 2

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Politicians react to threats hurled by PTI chief

ISLAMABAD: The parties in coalition government have strongly condemned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan's statement in which he hurled threats to Islamabad police and a woman judge. In a joint statement, the coalition parties including Pakistan Muslim League (N), Pakistan Peoples Party, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (Pakistan) Jami-at Ulema-e-Islam (F) and others denounced the derogatory speech made by Imran Khan against the Additional District and Sessions court Judge Zeba Chaudhry and Islamabad police officials during a rally at F-9 Park in Islamabad. The statement said that Imran Khan uttered the name of the woman judge in the PTI rally and intimidated her. The parties in the coalition government sought legal action against Imran and his aides for threatening the female judge and interfering in the matters of Interior Ministry. Agencies

CM Elahi orders to take action over exhibiting arms

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Sunday ordered to take indiscriminate action against the elements exhibiting arms across Punjab, saying that indiscriminate action should be taken against the exhibition of arms. According to a private TV channel, he said that MNAs and MPs of Gujrat called on CM Elahi. During the meeting, the Punjab Chief Minister directed the Inspector General of Police to ensure strict compliance with the law prohibiting the exhibition of arms. Elahi called for legal action against those involved in the arms exhibition, irrespective of their political affiliation. The lawmakers praised CM Elahi for his decision to take action against the arms exhibition, saying that his decision would play an anchoring role in maintaining the law and order situation across the province.

In the line of duty

Pakistan Army soldiers carry coffins of soldiers who were martyred in the Shaujabad area of Bagh in AJK on Sunday.



Photo: ISPR

Rescue, relief operations

PM, COAS discuss flood situation in country

Prime minister stresses upon acceleration of the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehabaz Sharif on Sunday discussed with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt. General Akhtar Nawaz the flood situation, and rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in the flood affected areas. During the telephonic conversation, the prime minister and the chief of army staff discussed the situation of flood affectees and relief and rehabilitation operations in the flood-hit areas, especially in Sindh province.



The prime minister stressed upon acceleration of the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The army chief apprised the prime minister of the army's full cooperation in the rescue and relief operations in Sindh province. The prime minister directed for provision of helicopters in the province as the road and bridges

had been damaged in the province. He observed that helicopters would be helpful in the rescue and relief operations since the linking roads between Sindh and Balochistan provinces had been eroded. He also appreciated the cooperation and passion of the Pakistan Army in the rescue and relief operations. General Bajwa also informed that he had issued special direction to the Commander Southern Command over the relief activities in Balochistan. The prime minister directed the relevant authorities of Benazir Income Support Programme to immediately distribute cash amount among the flood affectees of Sindh province. Chairman NDMA apprised the prime minister of the latest situation of rainfall and floods in Sindh and also about the cooperation extended during the ongoing rescue and relief operations in the two provinces and the measures taken so far.

Special direction issued to Commander Southern Command over relief activities in Balochistan

PTI leads NA-245 by-poll

KARACHI: PTI is leading the NA-245 by-poll in Karachi with the MQM-P trailing behind as the counting of vote is underway on the National Assembly seat that fell vacant after the death of Aamir Liaquat Hussain, who was elected on a PTI ticket in 2018. The polling process started at 8am and continued till 5pm today (Sunday). However, the polling time was extended by an hour at Polling Stations 55, 143 and 144. Aamir Liaquat beat Dr Farooq Sattar in 2018 after securing 56,673 votes. Unofficial results from 192 polling stations showed PTI's Mehmood Maulvi leading with 21,393 votes, MQM-P's Mueed Anwar in second with 7,802 votes, TLP's Muhammad Ahmed Raza with 6,336 votes, Farooq Sattar has secured 2,183 and PSP's Syed Hafeez Din in last position with 749 votes. The polling for the by-poll was held amid strict security on the 263 polling stations. Out of the 263 60 were declared sensitive and 203 most sensitive. The by-poll in this constituency was scheduled for July 27, however, the ECP postponed the election owing to the lashing rains in the metropolis. Agencies

9 soldiers martyred in AJK

Funeral prayers of soldiers martyred in AJK accident offered at Mangla Garrison

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: At least nine soldiers on Sunday were martyred and four were injured after a Pakistan Army vehicle met an accident and fell into a nullah in the Shaujabad area of Bagh in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) read. The military's media wing stated that the vehicle met an accident and fell into the nullah early morning today during routine military duty. "Resultantly, nine soldiers

embraced shahadat while four are injured," said the ISPR. It added that the injured have been evacuated to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Rawalpindi. Funeral prayers of all the martyrs were offered at the Mangla garrison. The prayers were attended by Corps Commander Rawalpindi Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and other military officials. The bodies of the martyred soldiers will be sent to their native towns and buried with full military honours, said the military's media wing.

ICT police registers FIR against Imran Khan

Case registered under Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have registered First Information Report (FIR) against PTI Chairman Imran Khan for terrorizing police as well as judiciary in his speech at F-9 Park a day ago. PTI Chairman Imran Khan has been booked under Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (punishment for acts of terrorism) regarding his comments at his Islamabad rally where he threatened top police officials and a female additional and sessions judge in his address. According to the FIR registered at Islamabad's Margalla police station at 10pm on Saturday, under the complaint of Magistrate Ali Javed, it has been stated that Imran Khan terrorized and threatened top police officials and a respected female additional and sessions judge in his address to a rally at F-9 park. The FIR reproduced the comments of PTI chairman where he spoke about the female judge as well as Islamabad police officials and warned them not to be spared. It is to mention that Additional District and Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry

approved Gill's two-day physical remand at the request of the capital police. Imran Khan threatened her by saying that she should prepare herself as action would be taken against her. He also warned IGP Islamabad and DIG that they both also would not be spared. The FIR argued that Imran's speech was meant to terrorize the top police officials and the judiciary so they could not perform their functions and abstain from pursuing any action against any PTI-related individual(s) if required to do so.

Police deployed around Bani Gala

Additional police force has been deployed outside Imran Khan's Bani Gala residence and the road leading to his residence has also been closed for unauthorised people, allowing only people close to him and the residents of the area to enter. Meanwhile, PTI workers are also present at Imran Khan Chowk. It is unclear whether the arrest warrants of the PTI leader have been issued. Agencies

Might is Right

Gill's sedition case turns into a fiasco on torture charges

By Amjad Mehmood

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shabbaz Shabbir Gill publically known as Shabbaz Gill is currently under the custody of the Islamabad Police. A treason case was registered against him at Kohsar Police Station in Islamabad under several sections of the Pakistan Penal Code, including 124-A (sedition), 131 (abetting mutiny, or attempting to seduce a soldier, sailor or airman from his duty), 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot if rioting be committed; if not committed), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups, etc), and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), among others. He was arrested by the Islamabad police on August 9, soon after he made controversial remarks on ARY News Channel during a show which were later categorized 'highly hateful and seditious' by Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA). Chairman of PTI, Imran Khan's Chief of Staff, Mr. Gill is known for his furious remarks against political opponents, media personalities, and Govt officials. Previously on several occasions, he utterly failed in selection of decent words for criticism, however; due to unconditional support from the party chief and applause from followers, he continued behaving harshly by crossing all ethical limits. On August 9, he was arrested from Banigala Chowk and subsequently booked on charges of

sedition and inciting the junior rank members of the state institutions against their leadership. Initially, the court granted a two-day physical remand and directed the police to present him on August 12 before the court. The police sought an extension in Gill's remand for another 12 days on August 12 but the court dismissed the plea and sent the accused to judicial custody at Adiala Jail Rawalpindi. PTI leadership blamed the Islamabad police for torturing Shabbaz Gill while arresting him at Banigala Chowk, however, the police released CCTV footage to deny the charges leveled against them by PTI on social media platforms. PTI leadership including Imran Khan have distanced themselves from the Shabbaz Gill statement during media talk and termed it an 'irresponsible' statement. At the same time, they demanded that similar statements were passed by many leaders of opposition parties in the past therefore, Mr. Gill should be freed from sedition charges and be given a fair opportunity to defend his position. The PTI has alleged that Gill was tortured inhumanly during police custody and his life is in serious danger. Chairman PTI, Imran Khan through his tweets said, Shabbaz Gill is not only tortured physically and mentally but he has also been sexually abused. PTI leader, Fawad Ch demanded an independent probe into the custodial torture of Shabbaz Gill. Earlier, Islamabad Advocate General Jahangir Khan Jadoon in the Islamabad High Court



on Saturday, August 13 pleaded to challenge the denial of Gill's further remand from the lower court. The authorities had maintained in the plea that the physical remand of Gill is important for the recovery of his cell phone, and laptop to complete the case's investigation. The IHC on Tuesday, August 16, referred the plea seeking Gill's physical remand to the sessions court for further hearing. Additional District and Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry on Wednesday, August 17 approved a two-day physical remand of PTI leader Shabbaz Gill at the request of the capital police. The judge also directed the Investigation Officer (IO) to get Mr. Gill medical-

ly examined and submit a report to the court. The situation turned more intense when Jail authorities in Rawalpindi and Islamabad police were in a standoff position on handing over Mr. Gill on court's order for 2 days' physical remand. Later, Mr. Gill was shifted to PIMS Hospital in Islamabad for medical examination on his complaint of deteriorating health. The police claimed that the medical board declared Shabbaz Gill fit and noticed no marks of torture on him. They just recommended a few more tests for advanced examination. The Islamabad Police shifted Mr. Gill to court in an ambulance from PIMS, where he was shifted due to his complaint of breathing problems and amid the reports of torturing him during police custody. He appeared in court Friday, August 9, on a wheelchair in mourning situation for a mask. The Islamabad district and sessions court directed the Islamabad police to shift Mr. Gill to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences for another medical examination. The Islamabad-based Journalist, Hamid Mir on several talk shows claimed that he has proof of torture on Shabbaz Gill which are not portrayable on TV screens. There were also rumors in town that Mr. Shabbaz Gill is being investigated by some other agencies as well and during the investigation due to his non-cooperative behavior he was tortured. Interior Minister, Rana Sanaullah denied all allegations of PTI leadership for torturing and sexually abusing Shabbaz Gill in Islamabad Police custody. He said

Mr. Gill is staging a drama of bad health and if 'Khan thinks that someone has committed any abuse, he should file an application against him.' Amnesty International South Asia also shared concerns through its official Twitter account by stating "Amnesty International is concerned about the allegations of torture being made by the lawyers of @SHABAZGILL, and calls for an immediate, effective, and impartial inquiry investigating these claims." Pakistan has a written constitution where law process and procedures are very well defined and if someone has committed a crime and is subjected to trial for any charge under the relevant rules then the accused must be given a fair trial without compromising the supremacy of law. The courts should decide the fate of the case presented before them for the sake of justice. This is the only process to save the future of the nation and democracy in Pakistan. The opposition parties should also support the due law process in Mr. Gill's case rather than advocating any illegal action of torturing to accused as alleged by PTI. The political parties and leaders should support the constitution of Pakistan and supremacy of law as if they supported any illegal path to establishing sedition cases and undermining opponents, this will open a gateway to treat the opposition in a similar fashion. The police, law enforcement agencies, and courts should follow the due law process so no one has reasons to question their role and transparency of affairs.

Plight

DERA ALLAH YAAR: Flood effectees living in temporary makeshifts alongside a road at Goth Ismail Khan.



Photo: Online

Princess of Jordan arrives in Pakistan

KARACHI: The Princess of Jordan Sarah Zeid arrived at Jinnah International airport here on late Sunday night, where she was warmly welcomed by the Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri and Administrator Karachi and Spokesperson for Sindh government Barrister Murtaza Wahab.

The Princess of Jordan will visit the Benazir Nashama program's center in Badin apart from her meetings with CM Sindh and other officials. It is pertinent to mention here that Princess Sarah Zeid is an advocate for maternal and newborn health and nutrition, and working with the World Food Programme to increase awareness of the specific needs, vulnerabilities and contribution of women, girls, children and newborns in humanitarian and fragile settings. APP

Pak-US ties to serve interests of peace: Masood

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan says strong Pak-US partnership will serve interests of peace, security and stability of the region and across the World.

He said this during a meeting with retired US General David H. Petraeus in Washington.

The Ambassador thanked David H. Petraeus for his contributions towards strengthening Pak-US relations. He said that he looks forward to working with him to promote Pak-US economic ties.

General David Petraeus has been commanding NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and U.S. Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A) during 2010-11. He had also served as Director CIA. Agencies

Clarification

Allegations of torture on Shahbaz Gill rejected

Interior Minister made it clear that coalition govt did not believe on any kind of torture

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan on Sunday rejected allegations of torture on PTI leader Shahbaz Gill in police custody and made it clear that the coalition government did not believe on any kind of torture.

Addressing a press conference here, Rana Sanaullah Khan said that PTI Chairman Imran Khan had started propaganda that police tortured his chief of staff Dr Shahbaz Gill during the custody.

He said that PTI on the behest of Imran Niazi launched condemnable campaign over the Lasbella incident by leveling heinous allegations on the families and martyrs of the Pak Army.

He said that PTI leveled such allegations against the state which even were not leveled by enemy state Afghanistan.

On August 8, Dr Shahbaz Gill, in continuation of previous allegations, appeared on a television with a fixed plan and aired comments against the Pakistan Army on Imran Khan's agenda. Shahbaz Gill had

everything planned with the private television channel, from when they will call him, to how long the conversation will run.

According to details, on August 9, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered against Shahbaz Gill over his remarks and Islamabad police arrested him over instigating Army Officers to not obey the orders of the high command.

He said that politicians at many times had talked about the intervention of the establishment in the politics but not a single person had ever stated that army officers should not obey the orders of the high command. He said that any state or institution could never allow anyone to spread such kind of allegations.

He said that Shahbaz Gill was produced before the judicial magistrate within 24 hours of his arrest and he (Shahbaz) did not utter any word regarding torture and misbehave before the Magistrate and media.

On August 11, a medical board examined the health of Dr Shahbaz Gill and declared him normal and fit and not

mentioned any sign of torture while Shahbaz Gill also did not lodge any complaint about torture before the medical board. On August 12, Shahbaz Gill was sent to jail on judicial remand.

"I can confirm as the interior minister that no torture was carried out against Gill during the police custody," he said and added the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) as party always opposed and condemned any kind of torture as it was clear violation of the constitution.

The whole leadership of the PML-N was put behind bars during the tenure of Imran Khan. He said that Imran Khan should sought apology from the nation over his acts during his tenure.

He said that Shahbaz Gill remained in Adiyala Jail from August 12 to 17 and Shahbaz Gill never stated that he was tortured.

Terming the PTI's narrative as drama, he said that the victim (Shahbaz Gill) had never stated that he was tortured or sexually abused.

For real independence

IK vows not to surrender



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan has vowed not to surrender in the struggle for real independence.

While addressing the public gathering at Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh today, Imran

Khan said, "Only nation can defeat the corrupt people. I will stay on roads until getting the real independence."

He congratulated the PTI organisers for holding a successful public gathering in a very less time. "Today, a campaign is started in the country that aims to deprive the nation of real independence."

Khan said that the youth is the future of Pakistan and they will decide the fate of the country. He criticised the discriminative enforcement of law separately for rich and poor people in the country.

The PTI chief criticised that he was ousted from power through an alleged foreign conspiracy when the country was witnessing significant economic growth. He said, "Regime change was staged in Pakistan as Imran Khan has rejected the US slavery. Countries design their foreign policies for the betterment of their nations. I did not want my nation to join the US-led war." Agencies

Shahbaz Gill was tortured in a CIA cell, Fawad Chaudhry claims

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Senior PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday claimed that party chairman Imran Khan's chief of staff Shahbaz Gill was "tortured in a CIA cell".

Addressing a press conference of his own in response to one held by Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah, Chaudhry said that the torture of political prisoners cannot be condoned under any circumstances.

"I'm surprised that Rana Sanaullah didn't learn anything from the torture inflicted on him in the past," Chaudhry said, expressing disbelief at how the allegations that PTI has been repeating about Gill being "tortured" are being so easily "dismissed".

Chaudhry said that Sanaullah is

Imran threatened female magistrate to spread anarchy: PML-N

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leadership on Sunday lambasted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former premier Imran Khan, saying that 'foreign-funded' Imran Khan's threatening to a female magistrate is an incitement towards anarchy and violence.

Federal Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique took to Twitter to criticize the PTI chairman saying that he (Imran) considers himself above all accountability and law. He said that judicial action is mandatory for issuing open threats to the judge.

Federal Minister for Defense Khawaja Asif said that when acci-

dents of history and misfortunes of a nation give a small person a big status or position, it does not mean that person becomes big. Asif added that the value of a person like Imran Khan rarely changes. He abuses and threatens his benefactors, government officials and women, Asif said.

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said SC's duty is to ensure rule of law is upheld in the country. Abusive, bullying & then luring in tactics of Imran Khan against state institutions & officials shall not serve his nefarious designs (InshahAllah), he added. He further said that foreign-funded anarchy to disrupt economic recovery shall be defeated. Agencies

Punjab Govt to end 'fake cases' against PTI workers

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to dissolve 'fake cases' against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers, a private tv channel reported on Sunday.

The Punjab government took a decision to end 'fake cases' against the PTI workers which were deliberately filed to target the political opponents by the previous government led by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) after May 25 rally.

Punjab Home Minister Hashim Dogar sought an inquiry report on the cases registered against the PTI workers on May 25. Hashim Dogar said that the 'fascist government' had lodged 'fake cases' to terrorise the political workers on May 25. "I have sought a report on the fake cases from the high-level officials and concerned departments."

"All fake cases registered against the PTI workers will be dissolved and the responsible officers will be held accountable."

"Legal action will be taken against the representatives of the fascist government. They had violated the law in Punjab and later in the federal capital Islamabad. PML-N had used Punjab and Islamabad police departments for its political motives."

The Punjab home minister said that the PML-N leaders were now trying to hide from the authorities due to fear of getting arrested. "We will not treat you in same way which you have done with us. How many days you will hide from us. You will have to face the music in accordance with the law." Agencies

FM to embark on EU countries visit today

Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will embark on an official visit to Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway from Monday.

According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, besides consolidating and expanding bilateral cooperation with these important partners, the visit will provide a valuable opportunity to further strengthen Pakistan's engagement with Europe and to share perspective on regional and global issues.

In addition to meeting his respective counterparts in Berlin, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Oslo, the Foreign Minister will also interact with the media.

The focus of the visit would be on further deepening and broadening Pakistan's economic engagement with these key export destinations and identifying more opportunities for our people.

The Foreign Minister will also sign a 'Green Framework Engagement' agreement with Denmark, focusing on Climate Change Cooperation, a priority area of the government. APP



acting nowadays as the "mouthpiece of the army." He complained that Imran Khan and party lawyers were not allowed to meet Gill.

"Why aren't they letting anyone meet Gill if he is in good health?" he asked also asking: "Why are they avoiding inquiry if he [Gill] wasn't tortured?"

Reiterating his proposal from yesterday, he said that PTI demands the formation of an independent commission comprising Saad Rafique, Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, Shireen Mazari and others.

"The judge who doesn't consider torture a serious issue has no right to serve the post," he said. Chaudhry said that PTI will file a case against Islamabad inspector general, deputy inspector general and the lady magistrate. Agencies

Pakistan rubbishes India's false terror-related allegations

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has firmly rejected the recent spate of false terrorism-related assertions made by India in which some detached alleged incidents were being distorted and presented as a so-called 'terror' plot, reminding it 'not to make any mistake again'.

"All this is nothing but continuation of the sinister Indian design to yet again raise the "terrorism" bogey to malign Pakistan. We reject these allegations and Indian machinations outrightly," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release on Sunday.

While strongly denouncing the latest Indian insinuations and allegations, Pakistan called upon India not to make any mistake again.

"Pakistan stands ready and resolute and is fully capable of effectively responding to any misadventure as was manifestly evident in response to India's ill-advised and irresponsible action in February 2019," the spokesperson

son said.

In order to build on this orchestrated 'terrorism' narrative against Pakistan, a section of the Indian media reported that India had intercepted a message from a 'Pakistani' WhatsApp number as well as seized an 'empty box' in Maharashtra along with some weapons.

Segments of the Indian media deceitfully sought to link these to the preposterous claims about a so-called 'Mumbai style' attack being planned. Separately, the Indian media also reported that the Indian intelligence and border forces were on high alert for possible 'cross-border infiltration' attempts along Rajauri.

The spokesperson said that the mischievous Indian propaganda campaign and baseless allegations against Pakistan reflected its utter desperation emanating from its complete failure to break the will of the Kashmiri people in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The possibility of a choreographed 'false flag



activity' to target Pakistan and negatively affect its political and economic interests could not be ruled out, as Indian propaganda was pointing in that direction, it was added.

"India must recognise that no amount of

its false propaganda can deter Pakistan from exposing India's brutalisation of the Kashmiri people through an unabated military siege, indiscriminate use of force, extra-judicial killings, incarceration of Kashmiri leaders and

youth, crackdown on the media and human rights activists, and denial of access to international human rights and humanitarian organisations to IIOJK," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said Pakistan also urged the international community to take immediate cognizance of the fact that India was yet again resorting to classic 'false flag' methods to advance its sinister designs and that this could have serious implications for peace and security in the region. The international community must urge India to act responsibly.

India should also be held accountable for its gross and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in IIOJK. The realisation of sustainable peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia remained contingent upon peaceful resolution of the long-standing Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people, it was further added.

Under BISP

Federal Govt earmarks Rs.37.5B for rain-hit people: Shazia Mari

Says Sindh Govt will submit report to National Disaster Management Authority

SANGHAR: Federal Minister of Poverty alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Mari on Sunday said that Federal Government has earmarked Rs37.5 billion for the rain and flood hit people, Rs.25000 would be paid to 1.5 million families under Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

She expressed these views while talking to the media after visiting rain-hit areas of Sanghar. Shazia Mari said "after issuance of notification for declaring different districts calamity hit, the Sindh government would submit a report to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) after which payment will be made to rain-hit families through BISP's database and system." The Federal Minister said that recent rains caused havoc and destruction in Sindh including



Sanghar district which has also been badly affected.

She said "Financial assistance to rain-victims to be ensured through a systematic way and database to be

used for ascertaining status of destitute families and no illegal deduction from allocated amount will be tolerated and action will be taken against agents and staff found negligent in

this regard.

Earlier, addressing a press conference with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Shazia Mari said that in the 2011 flood we stood with rain-hit people and provided relief to deserving families.

She expressed gratitude to Asif Ali Zardari who in his tenure had personally visited rain-hit areas and issued Pakistan Cards and Watan Cards to people, however the Sindh Government was also taking sincere efforts to provide relief to rain-hit people on priority basis.

The Sindh Chief Minister has clearly stated that every rain hit person would be provided ration on an equitable system and strict action would be taken against persons found guilty in this regard, she said. APP

DPO South Waziristan inaugurates plantation drive

Our Correspondent

WANA: District Police Officer of South Waziristan Khanzeb Khan Mohmand (PSP) inaugurated the plantation drive, on this occasion Divisional Forest Officer Saleem Marwat was also present.

On the occasion of the plantation drive, the DPO said that in order to deal with the challenges of extraordinary changes in the environment, the plantation drive should be converted into a national campaign and every place should be a part of plantation.

He said that the importance of forests will always remain an indisputable fact, at the official level, activities are underway to plant saplings in government offices and educational institutions across the district. However, the DPO appealed to the general public, students and every citizen of Waziristan through the media to plant more saplings as a national duty.

Therefore, the Clean and Green Pakistan campaign will provide a better and cleaner environment to our future generations, because trees are the guarantee of environmental protection. In the end, all the participants also asked for special prayers for the development and peace of Pakistan.



Mulling to declare Sindh 'calamity hit', says CM

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday apprised that the entire province had received 400 percent more rainfall this year as compared to the average annual downpours during the monsoon season in recent years.

At a press conference at Shahbaz Hall of Shahbaz Building here in Hyderabad, the CM said after his day-long visit to several districts of Hyderabad division he had reached to the conclusion that the ongoing rains were the most torrential in the province's history.

He admitted that the rainfall had affected hundreds of thousands of people across the province, also causing devastation of crops, houses and livestock.

"The entire province may have to be declared as the calamity hit," he regretted.

Meanwhile, announcing the relief package the CM announced that the provincial government would provide financial support worth of Rs 25,000 per household to the affected people, adding that the amount would be released in coming two weeks.

"The government will provide relief to the affected people and we are assessing the total losses as well," he told. The CM said the government was employing all resources to drain out the rainwater from the flooded rural and urban areas. APP

Punjab CM for effective efforts to control lumpy skin disease

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi Sunday ordered to implement effective measures to control the spread of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD).

According to official sources here, the CM said that livestock camps should be increased at tehsil level in affected areas. "Proper awareness regarding precautionary measures about LSD should be created among cattle breeders", he added.

Pervaiz Elahi said that after diagnosis, animals should be administered vaccine. He further said that affected animals should be kept separate from healthy one and for this purpose, proper arrangements should be ensured.

Meanwhile, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has ordered launching a crackdown on the elements found involved in display of weapons across Punjab.

He directed the inspector general of police (IGP) Punjab to take an indiscriminate action against those displaying weapons and ensure strict implementation of the Prohibition of Display of Arms Act.

Talking to a delegation of parliamentarians from Gujrat here on Sunday, the CM ordered for eliminating illegal weapons from the province and improving law and order situation. Pervaiz Elahi said every moment was precious and vowed to undertake every step for welfare of masses. He said that public welfare projects and initiatives would be restarted and completed at a fast pace.

Power show

KARACHI: Leader of Jamat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addressing to the supporters during long March title "Vote do Karachi ko" at Nipa Chowranghi road, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

12 more test positive for Covid-19 in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: As many as 12 people were tested positive for COVID-19 in the city during the last 24 hours.

According to the health department spokesperson, 381 coronavirus tests were conducted in public as well as private sector labs during the same period.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mst. Asma Altaf d/o Malik Altaf Hussain of plot No.230-D Area Development Scheme - Talagang has appointed General Power of Attorney to Muhammad Faisal Altaf son of Malik Altaf Hussain vide deed No.88/4 dated 20/11/2021 from Sub Registrar Talagang. Now the general power of attorney wish to transfer share of along with own share plot in the name of Mst Ifet Nisar Fatima w/o Rifat Abbas.

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Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency Sub Region Rawalpindi

AJK PM urges centre to release required grant of budget

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, has urged the federal government to provide the required grant of budget to the AJK government in accordance with 2018's financial contract.

Talking to journalists here on Sunday, the AJK premier, while referring to his government's legitimate demands, said that Azad Kashmir was facing a severe financial crisis. "The federal government should fulfil our legitimate demands rather than treating us as beggars", he maintained.

Regarding the central government's step motherly attitude towards the AJK government, the PM said, "It was quite unfortunate that the PML-N led coalition government is not treating us fairly".

"I salute Raja Farooq Haider Khan for his courage he had shown during successful passage of 13th amendment that granted administrative and financial autonomy to Azad Kashmir", the PM said, adding that he had already acknowledged his services on the floor of the Legislative Assembly.

Regarding the establishment of Tourism Authority (TA), the PM made it clear that the setting up of the TA was meant to make investment possible through one window operation. On municipal elections, he said that the government was serious enough to hold the much-delayed polls in the region.

Reiterating his commitment to safeguard the interests of the people of Azad Kashmir, the PM said that he would never compromise on the honour of the people of this region.

The PM said that his stance on 15th amendment was very clear. "The PTI government won't compromise on vital national interests", he said adding that negative propaganda being peddled on social media regarding the abolition of 13th amendment was a conspiracy aimed at creating political unrest within the region.

"We support the 15th Amendment to the extent of increasing the number of Ministers", he said adding that 16 ministries were not enough to run 24 departments.

"The previous government governed with 25 ministers and we have a cabinet of just 16 ministers" he said. "I want to strengthen the atmosphere of tolerance within liberated territory, but the attitude

of the federal government towards Azad Kashmir is not good for anyone", the PM said, adding that the government was being forced to raise our voices.

"As per the 2018 financial agreement, Azad Kashmir should get 3.6% share from federal taxes pool", the PM said.

"Since we are not part of the finance commission, no one is listening to us", he lamented. The federal government, he said, was supposed to release a grant 225 billion rupees to the AJK government but not a single penny has been released so far.

He said that a summary was formally sent to the centre for the release of our funds but we were asked to meet the expenses from our own resources. "Even the responsibility for accomplishing the projects initiated and funded by the federal government has been laid on our shoulders", Khan said.

"What they want to achieve from the Azad Kashmir government through financial pressure", the PM said, adding that the issue should be discussed openly. "No one is anti-Pakistan in Azad Kashmir, Kashmiris are well-wishers and loyal to Pakistan, we do not need certificates of patriotism from any one", he said.

PRCS hand over two ambulances to BHUs in South Waziristan

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Pakistan Red Crescent Society Merged Areas (PRCS-MA) on Sunday handed over one well equipped ambulance each to Basic Health Unit (BHU) Baloch Kot and BHU Chagmalai, district South Waziristan.

Chairman PRCS-MA, Asif Khan Mehsood handed over both the ambulances during a ceremony that was attended by Brigadier Syed Qasim Mehmood commander of sector headquarters in South Waziristan and elders of the area.

PRCS initiated different endeavors generally and specif-



ically in the health sector and now the chapter is successfully operating 9 BHUs in Merged Districts. While these Health Centers facilitated 0.04 million patients by providing free medicines to the most vulnerable communities across the Tribal Districts. On the other side, PRCS constructed 190 community latrines and distributed 12,000 water filtra-

tions kits. During the first and second tenure of Asif Khan Mehsood PRCS distributed more than 86 thousand health and Hygiene Kits, Masks, and PPEs during COVID-19 pandemic as well.

Recently, Chairman PRCS-MA Mr. Asif Khan Mehsood inaugurated two Basic Health Units (BHUs) fully operational in South Waziristan after 20 years. Chief Guest Asif Khan Mehsood-Chairman (PRCS-MA's) for the first time in history two newest ambulances were also handover to the Basic Health Unit Baloch Kot of Baloch Kot and Chagmalai for the referral mechanism to serious patients South

Indonesian Consulate General organizes blood donation program



KARACHI: Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi held a blood donation program in collaboration with Afzaal Memorial Thalassaemia Foundation (AMTF).

The program indeed has been a custom developed by the Consulate as part of the commemoration of Indonesian's Independence Day on every 17 August, which is the 77th this year. The event was attended by Commissioner of Karachi, Muhammad Iqbal Memon, and Consul General from Turkey, Thailand, and Head of Trade office of Vietnam, Pakistani colleagues from business and social culture community, as well as Indonesian Community in Karachi.

During his opening remarks, Indonesian Consul General, Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, has stated that this event constitutes a form of stronger relationship between Indonesia and Pakistan as two biggest Muslim countries and brotherly nations who had supported each other's for their independence. This is also a form of tolerance from Indonesia community in Karachi and Paki-

stani society, by sharing their blood, especially for those who suffer from Thalassaemia.

Commissioner of Karachi, M. Iqbal Memon had presented his highly appreciations to the initiative taken by the Consulate as part of the effort to strengthening bilateral relations between two countries. Further, he stated that Karachi Metropolitan Commission KMC always stands ready to build the bridge between the foreign mission and the Pakistani Government. He also express his concerns over the thalassaemia suffered by Pakistani community especially those who are in Karachi.

CEO of AMTF, Dr. Asim Qidwai also delivered his appreciations to the Consulate for the established collaborations in organizing blood donation program annually. Further, Dr. Asim Qidwai expressed his readiness to collaborate further with Indonesia in fighting Thalassaemia disease by efforts such as procuring less-costly medicine for Thalassaemia and/or through collaboration with educational institution.

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Global digital governance

Lang Ping

The digital space has become a new wrestling ground for major-country competition. China, the United States and the European Union, with respective comprehensive strengths and sci-tech capabilities, have become the three poles in the global digital geopolitical landscape.

While China and the EU each has respective strengths, they both have a noticeable gap with the US in overall strength.

In September 2020, the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School released the National Cyber Power Index 2020, which measured 30 countries' cyber capabilities. The NCPI 2020's Most Comprehensive Cyber Powers were: the US, China, the United Kingdom, Russia, Netherlands, France, Germany, Canada, Japan and Australia. With regard to the size of the digital economy, the US ranked first (\$13.1 trillion), followed by China (\$5.2 trillion), Germany (\$2.44 trillion), Japan (\$2.39 trillion), the UK (\$1.7 trillion) and France (\$1.17 trillion).

According to a report from the Evergrande Research Institute in 2020 comparing the

technological strength of China and the US, China is already a world leader in communications and the smartphone terminal market. The country has made marked progress in the field of semiconductor integrated circuits, but it can hardly shake the monopoly position of the US. It is weakest in fields such as software, the internet and cloud computing. In contrast, the US has absolute dominance in such fields as semiconductor integrated circuits, software, the internet, cloud computing, and the high-end smartphone market. However, Chinese tech giant Huawei is breaking the US monopoly in a number of high-tech fields such as communications and chip designs.

The China-US tech rivalry will remain the principal contradiction in China-US relations for a very long time to come. In the global geopolitical landscape of the digital space, the biggest game-changer is the US containment of Chinese technologies and the direction of bilateral relations. With the Donald Trump administration's crackdown on Huawei and "Clean Network" program as a symbol, the US' policy intent to decouple from China in advanced technology sectors currently centers on supply chain security and data security, but could later expand

to more areas of the digital space, including infrastructure, internet services, relevant trade, finance, and people-to-people exchanges.

Since President Joe Biden took office, the new administration has launched strategic competition with China in the technology sphere with a focus on beefing up domestic innovation, building "a small yard with high fences", and forging tech alliances. The China-US competition in the digital space will become more and more complex.

In an aggressive move to enhance Europe's strategic autonomy in the digital field, the EU has rolled out digital sovereignty for Europe, further widening the EU-US divergences of interest in the digital field. The notion of "technological" or "digital sovereignty" has recently emerged in the EU as a means of promoting the notion of European leadership and strategic autonomy in the digital field. It shows that European countries have high hopes for seizing digital age opportunities in the digital age and reclaiming Europe's position on the global stage.

The essential difference between the US and the EU when it comes to data protection and a digital services tax is that the US focuses on protecting its domestic tech compa-

nies' competitiveness without taking full consideration of the interest demands of the EU. The Biden administration has made repairing the relations between the US and its allies a primary foreign policy objective. However, if such alliances are aimed at engaging in global competition with China regardless of Europe's geopolitical interests, US-EU cooperation in the digital environment will face grave challenges.

Against such a backdrop, China-EU relations have greater strategic importance. The two boast great potential in closer cooperation and development opportunities in the digital environment. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, leaders from China and European countries have held many virtual meetings, expressing their sincere wish to deepen bilateral cooperation in digital technologies and the digital economy.

The EU advocates digital sovereignty and China calls on countries to respect one another's cyber sovereignty. Both emphasize that individual countries should play a larger role in digital governance. Despite differences and competition in a number of fields, China and the EU have great cooperation potential to unlock.

Major-country relations in

the digital age are entering a new phase. Centering on science and technology leadership, digital trade rules and cyberspace security codes, major-country competition will become increasingly intense and be bestowed with greater meaning. However, the digital age won't change the geopolitical nature of country, nor will it change the logic of the traditional strength-based power game as stated in international politics. What it changes is the organization and pattern of actions by countries and the content and means of major-country competition. As the power of digital technologies quietly but fiercely shocks existing boundaries and defenses, the reshaping of international rules and order will gradually unfold and proceed on the global stage. Competition between the world's major countries will expand to more areas and get increasingly complex, which requires more refined responses. (Courtesy: China Daily)

The author is a research fellow and head of the national security division of the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

Global youth unemployment

The total global number of unemployed youths should fall to 73 million in 2022, down by two million from the year before. However, the figure is still six million higher than the pre-pandemic level of 2019, with the recovery in youth unemployment lagging behind the bounceback in other age groups. Between 2019 and 2020, those aged 15 to 24 experienced a much higher percentage loss in employment than the rest of the labour market. An update on key youth labour market indicators and trends said the pandemic exacerbated the market challenges generally facing young people.

Many dropped out of the labour force, or failed to enter it altogether, due to the difficulty of finding a job during Covid-19 lockdowns and while businesses were closing due to the pandemic. The Covid-19 crisis has revealed a number of shortcomings in the way the needs of young people are addressed, especially the more vulnerable such as first-time job-seekers, school dropouts, fresh graduates with little experience and those who remain inactive not by choice.

The 27.4 percent of young women were projected to be in work in 2022, compared to 40.3 percent of young men. This gender gap "has shown little sign of closing over the past two decades. The gap is largest in lower-middle-income countries, at 17.3 percentage points, and smallest in high-income states, at 2.3 points. The share of youth not in employment, education or training in 2020 -- the latest year for which a global estimate is available -- rose to 23.3 percent, up 1.5 percentage points from 2019 to a level not seen in at least 15 years.

The global youth unemployment rate is projected to be 14.9 percent in 2022. In Europe and central Asia, the rate is predicted to be 16.4 percent, but the actual and potential shocks of the war in Ukraine are highly likely to affect the results. The rate in Asia and the Pacific is set to match the global average at 14.9 percent; in Latin America, it should hit a worrying 20.5 percent; while in North America the figure should be 8.3 percent. The 12.7 percent rate in Africa masks the fact that many youths have chosen to withdraw from the labour market altogether. But the Arab states have the highest and fastest-growing unemployment rate of young people worldwide at 24.8 percent -- a figure that hits 42.5 percent for young women in the region.

On the positive side, young people were well-placed to benefit from the expansion of the so-called green and blue economies, centred around the environment and sustainable ocean resources. An additional 8.4 million jobs could be created for young people by 2030 through green and blue investments, notably in clean and renewable energies, sustainable agriculture, recycling and waste management. Achieving universal broadband coverage by 2030 could lead to a net increase in employment of 24 million new jobs worldwide, of which 6.4 million would be taken by young people. Investments in care sectors would create 17.9 million more jobs for young people by 2030.



Future of the UK's climate leadership is under serious threat

Andrew Hammond

Less than a year ago, the UK sought to lead the world on climate change when it hosted COP 26, the UN Climate Change Conference, in Glasgow. However, there is now a significant right-wing backlash against this agenda, which threatens to undermine more than a decade of bipartisan policy consensus.

Although the UK's two most recent prime ministers, Theresa May and Boris Johnson, signed up to a 2050 target date for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, the political ground in the Conservative Party might be crumbling under this. There is a significant campaign underway on the right wing of the party to undermine the commitments.

These attacks began in the intellectual community, with some conservative thinkers asserting that net-zero amounts to unilateral UK eco-disarmament. This language, more or less, was parroted last month by Tory leadership candidate and former minister Kemi Badenoch, when she described UK climate policy as "unilateral economic disarmament."

It has also been reported that Attorney General Suella Braverman, who fell out of the Conservative leadership contest at a relatively early stage, received a donation of £10,000 from a consultancy owned by the chairperson of the Global Warming Policy Foundation between 2019 and 2021. The GWPF is opposed to net-zero and has been sanctioned by the UK's Charity Commission for failing to follow rules on "balance and neutrality."

Both of the remaining Tory leadership contenders, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak, know that net-zero is not a super priority for a significant chunk of the approximately 160,000 members of the Conservative Party who will choose the new leader, and that they will therefore win comparatively few votes by

championing this agenda — even though some polls suggest that the wider national electorate ranks it as one of the top issues.

Indeed, a recent poll by YouGov found 59 percent of Tory voters want net-zero commitments suspended during the cost-of-living crisis that is currently engulfing the UK. In contrast, only 30 percent of Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters would like to see the climate target frozen by the next prime minister.

This is not the only worrying undercurrent within the Conservative leadership contest relating to energy and climate issues. There has also been relatively little discussion about energy security during the debates, especially from Truss who is the strong favorite to win.

It is not only politicians who have noticed this, but also business leaders. Take, for example, Rolls Royce CEO Warren East, who commented on the issue in the context of his company's desire to secure government approval for the new small, modular nuclear reactors it is involved in developing.

He said: "You can invest a lot in wind and you can invest a lot in solar but at a latitude such as where we are at in the United Kingdom, then unfortunately neither wind nor solar gives you sufficient continuous power unless you have a huge amount of storage, which makes the economics of this very different."

Truss and Sunak have not said much about nuclear power. While in government however, as foreign secretary and finance minister respectively, both of them were publicly supportive of Johnson's goal for nuclear facilities to deliver a quarter of the UK's electricity by 2050.

Truss, who appears more skeptical than Sunak about UK net-zero commitments, claims that overall she backs the mid-century target set by May and Johnson. However, she stressed that "we need to reach net-zero in a way that doesn't harm businesses or consumers."

During the leadership contest, she has won the support of a wide range of Conservative MPs who

are skeptical of the net-zero agenda. Moreover, she has committed to the restoration of gas fracking and other measures that will make it harder for the UK to meet its net-zero commitments. She is also "very supportive" of using gas as a transition fuel.

Both she and Sunak have also been criticized for not being more supportive of the development of a greater number of UK solar-energy farms. Both have said that they want more agricultural crops, not solar farms, in the UK countryside.

In the immediate term, Truss has proposed that a solution to the UK's soaring energy costs is a suspension of the green levies that add about 10 percent to bills. This is despite the role these play in reducing the dependence on fossil fuels.

Sunak seems stronger than Truss in his commitment to carbon neutrality and wants to ensure the nation is energy self-sufficient by 2045 to boot. He proposes a massive expansion in offshore wind farms to help deliver on these goals.

Previously, he had vowed to maintain a ban on new onshore wind farms, even though these can generate electricity relatively cheaply. On Aug. 3, however, he performed a U-turn on this issue and said he would scrap the ban on new turbines.

Taking all this together, it is possible that whether Truss or Sunak becomes prime minister he or she might potentially revert to the electoral center ground and once again embrace net-zero more enthusiastically.

This is by no means certain, however, against the backdrop of shifting Conservative Party dynamics on climate change, and the historic cost-of-living crisis in the UK — which could bring these issues into the crucible of the UK's next general election, due before the end of 2024. (Courtesy: Arab News)

Andrew Hammond is an associate at LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics.

One year on, Afghanistan still suffers from US-inflicted pain

By Liu Jianna

Afghans celebrated the one-year anniversary of the US withdrawal from the war-torn country, which is now a national holiday, on Monday. As if intended as a ridicule of Washington which has spent \$300 million each day in the past 20 years but in the end fled in disorder, marchers shouted victory slogans beside the US embassy in Kabul.

But the chaotic and humiliating withdrawal of the US forces one year ago has left a tattered and impoverished country in its wake. The country's bleak economic situation has not been helped by the US' freezing of \$7 billion Afghan assets. Now nearly half of its people are suffering from acute hunger, the United Nations says. Three meals a day remains a distant dream for many.

The US' plundering of the country's precious funds exposes its extreme selfishness and inhumanity. And it seems ultra hypocritical of Washington to find fault with the Afghanistan administration considering the fact that it is the one that has created all the chaos and misery for the landlocked country and its people in the first place.

The key to the reconstruction of nation and improving the well-being of its more than 30 million

people lies in releasing the billions of dollars of Afghan government assets.

The Joe Biden administration has refused to do so on the grounds that the funds could end up in the hands of terrorists. That is outrageous since what the US did in Afghanistan in the past decades resembles terrorism more than the actions of any other organization.

To begin with, it launched the Afghanistan war that killed at least 174,000 Afghans, more than 30,000 civilians included, made nearly one-third of Afghan population refugees, and forced nearly half the population to suffer acute hunger. It did so, in the name of anti-terrorism, which has proved to be a lie meant to serve its own narrow self-interests.

While the Taliban administration is not free from criticism, its governance of the country is more justified than the US alliance which is obviously indifferent to the Afghan people's pains. If the US could resist the impulse to interfere with others' internal affairs and leave a country's business to its own people, it would do much more to promote global peace and development. Afghans, and people around the world, would be all the more thankful for it.

(Courtesy: China Daily)
 The author is a writer with China Daily.

