



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
عبداللہ بن ابی اوفی رضی اللہ عنہما نے بتایا کہ ہم نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے ساتھ سات پانچ غزوں میں شریک ہوئے، ہم آپ کے ساتھ ٹوٹی کھاتے تھے۔ سفیان، ابو یوسف اور اسحاق نے ابو یوسف سے بیان کیا اور ان سے ابن ابی اوفی نے، سات غزوں کے لفظ روایت کئے۔
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PML-N leaders, workers must help flood affectees: Nawaz

Former premier Nawaz Sharif urges PML-N lawmakers and workers to help the flood-hit people. I urge PMLN, its MNAs, MPAs, workers and leaders, inside Pakistan and around the world, to go all out to help the people affected by floods. The duty to reach out to those in need must take precedence over everything else. Politics can wait.



Member states should assist flood victims in Pakistan: OIC SG

The Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Houssein Ibrahim Taha says all member states, Islamic humanitarian organizations and the international community at large must extend emergency assistance to mitigate the suffering of the affected populations in Pakistan. I express deep sorrow over the casualties, massive destruction of property and loss of life resulting from the floods in Pakistan.

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Care

Sajawal: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with flood affectees of District Sajawal at relief camp of Gul Muhammad Uplano Village.



Photo: PID

Fighting rulers, flood is need of hour: Farwad

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Farwad Chaudhry on Saturday said that the government is running a media campaign worth billions of rupees that PTI must suspend their campaign of "Haqeeqi Aazadi" for the change of government because of the floods in the country. Former Information Minister said that the government has filed terrorism cases on opposition, channels are being closed and journalists are forced to leave the country. Farwad went on to say that the worst violence is being done to the political workers, the inflation in the country has reached upto 44%, in this situation if Imran Khan suspends the movement, these rulers will devastate the people of Pakistan. Farwad said that fighting the current rulers and floods at the same time is the need of the hour.

Rs38 bn

Govt starts funds' payments to flood victims in Sindh: PM

PM expresses resolve to fully support, assist flood-hit areas

Staff Reporter

SAJAWAL/ ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the federal government had allocated a grant of Rs38 billion to support each flood-affected family with a disbursement of Rs25,000. Speaking to the flood-affected people, the prime minister said he had already announced a grant of Rs15 billion to Sindh province while the distribution of flood relief amount among each family had commenced in Sindh province after Balochistan under Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). BISP had the complete data, ensuring prompt and justified distribution among

the deserving families, he added. Assuring the provincial governments of the federal government's support, the prime minister said others provinces would also be

PM urges for joint efforts to support calamity hit populace

extended with such grants. The prime minister was accompanied by Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, federal ministers and other relevant authorities. He said with the support of the National

Disaster Management Authority and other relevant departments, the federal government continued to support the provincial governments in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts.

He said that a combined survey would be completed soon which would enable them to get an estimate of the damages and losses caused by floods across the country. The prime minister stressed that in this hour of trial, they had to work collectively, irrespective of doing politics. Without naming Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, he said it was unfortunate that a political party was doing politics over the agreement with International Monetary Fund and such self-centered politics could cause irreparable damage

to Pakistan as an IMF board was scheduled to hold a meeting.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz said that the entire country was badly affected with flash floods due to incessant monsoon rains, and resolved to overcome the issues with collective efforts.

The prime minister said that the heavy downpours in the season had caused human losses, damaged road and links infrastructure across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. During a visit to review rescue and relief operations in flood-hit areas of Faqirani Jat, Oplano and others, the prime minister was given a detailed briefing over the situation and the relief efforts.

Safety & wellbeing

People of Pakistan top priority: COAS

Says won't rest until each one of flood affected is rehabilitated

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa says people of Pakistan are our priority and we will not spare any effort to assist them in this difficult time. According to the ISPR, he expressed these views during his visit to flood affected areas of Balochistan on Saturday.



The Army Chief said safety and wellbeing of our country men comes first and we won't rest until each one of flood affected is not only reached but rehabilitated, no matter how much effort is required. He directed the authorities concerned to utilise all available resources to assist the civil administration for rescue, relief and rehabilitation of people and infrastructure in the flood affected areas.

The Army Chief directed to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need without waiting for orders and help them overcome this natural calamity. He also visited flood relief and medical camps established at Goth Sadoori, Lakhra, Lasbe-

la and inquired about wellbeing of local people affected due to floods. The Army Chief also met troops busy in relief operations and lauded their efforts in service of men, women and children in distress.

Pakistan Army has established flood relief camps at various locations in Karachi to support victims trapped following heavy floods and torrential rainfall. The Pakistan Army has set up flood relief camps at various locations of Karachi, including Fawara Chowk and Sharfabad. The soldiers were busy in collecting relief goods for the flood victims. Philanthropists can donate for the flood-stricken people, a message inscribed on banners.

PTI foreign funding

FIA writes to 7 countries for assistance

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has written letters to 7 countries for legal assistance in a foreign funding case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). According to FIA officials, the letter was written for mutual legal assistance, seeking information through the Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU) for global assistance.

FIA officials said letters were written to Australia and Canada

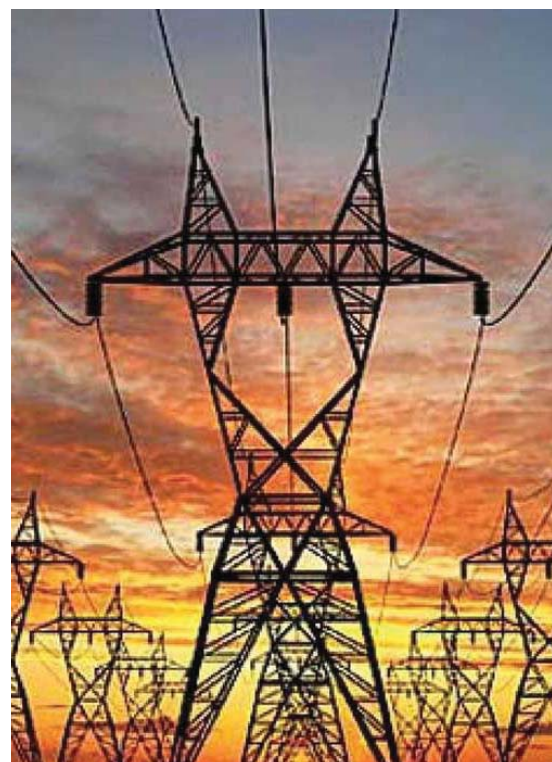
for information on companies based there, while Singapore was asked for detailed information on Nasir Aziz and Romita Shetty. A letter to Switzerland inquired about E-Planet Trustees, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was requested to provide information of Bristol Engineering and California-based Corporation. FIA officials said the letter was written to the United Arab Emirates for Wootton Cricket Club and Abraaj Group, and to the US for a Texas-based corporation and firm.

Users 200 units to get revised electricity bills: Khurram

HYDERABAD: Power Minister Khurram Dastagir said on Saturday that users consuming under 200 units would be reissued their subsidized bills. The last date for bill submission has also been forwarded to September 6, 2022, the Power minister added. Talking to media representatives in Hyderabad, Khurram Dastagir said that rainfall seven times higher than average caused damage to grid stations. He has ordered HESCO and SEPCO officials to carry out the repair work, he added.

The power minister said that 54% of total consumers use under 200 units of electricity. The government is trying to facilitate people with lower incomes, he added.

He added that areas with good recoveries and lesser line losses do not have to suffer from load-shedding. The expected demand was 26,000 MW but it went up to 30,000 MW due to higher temperatures, he added. The power minister said that 1980 MW would be added to the grid by Thar Coal while the government is focused



on solar power to reduce the production cost.

Khurram added that the federal government is contemplating handing over HESCO and SEPCO to the Sindh government. Talking about the economic situation Dastagir said that Miftah Ismail took charge

in a very difficult situation. Party leaders can disagree upon economic policies, which is what is happening in the PML-N, he added. The Prime Minister and Miftah were working very hard to improve the economic conditions, whose results would be evident by 2023, he added.

Floods, economic turmoil end PDM's politics: Sh Rashid

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AMLPP) leader Sheikh Rashid on Saturday said that floods and economic turmoil in the country has wiped out the politics of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). Taking to Twitter, former Interior Minister Rashid said that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto is in Larkana and JUI-F's Fazalur Rehman is in Dera Ismail Khan and are not in a position to go in the public.

While lashing out at Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, he said that the current government is just trying to end cases on it. He said that the whole country's infrastructure is broken and Pakistan Army has come to help in all four provinces. In another tweet, he said the inflation rate has increased by 45 percent, petrol prices are going to be increased by 20 rupees per liter. The life of a poor man has been ruined in 5 months.

Pakistan facing highest level of flash floods, rains: Marryium

Says relief cells set up at PBC's HQs, regional stations

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marryium Aurangzeb said on Saturday that Pakistan had never faced such highest level of flash floods and intensity of rains in its history. The flash floods and torrential rains inflicted huge human and infrastructural damage. Pakistanis should come forward to help and support the people hit hard by natural calamities.

Talking to the media, she said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif was departing from Lahore to Sajawal district of Sindh to visit the flood-hit areas. She claimed that heavy rains increased by 190 percent in the country, with Balochistan and Sindh receiving 400 and 480 percent more, respectively. She added that the data showed that such rains of high intensity and flash floods had never been witnessed in Pakistan.

"At first, its concentration was very high in Balochistan and South Punjab, and for the last two days its concentration was also observed in the North," she maintained. He Minister said that Sindh province was affected the most and was damaged due to heavy downpour and flash floods.



She said that floodwater washed away houses, cattle and all other belongings of the people, because of which, children, old people and women were in great trouble. Yesterday's flash

directives of Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marryium Aurangzeb who presided over a meeting here on Saturday to review the devastation caused by flood in different parts of the country, said a news release issued here.

The minister appreciated the Radio Pakistan for playing its due role in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation activities being carried out across the country for the flood victims. Radio Pakistan was the only national broadcasting network which had been playing an effective role while realising its responsibilities in the flood affected areas, Marryium Aurangzeb remarked. She lauded the Radio Pakistan's management for timely launching a special transmission to provide immediate support and assistance to the families affected by the flood.

The minister urged the management to step up efforts in this regard. She directed the Radio Pakistan's management to develop a live-call system in its studios on modern lines so that the representatives of different aid agencies could guide the flood affectees after listening to their messages and calls. Maryam Aurangzeb asked the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to send their representatives to the respective radio stations where they could listen to the direct calls and messages of the flood victims and could help them in an efficient way.

Helping hand

PAF personnel are distributing relief goods amongst flood affectees on Saturday.



Photo: Daily The Spokesman

Bilawal briefs Turkish FM on floods' havoc

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed his gratitude to his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu for immediately sending volunteers for help in rehabilitation after flood.

In a telephonic conversation on Saturday, he apprised the Turkish Foreign Minister about enormous damage caused by the unusual rains and floods in Pakistan.

Thanking the Turkish Foreign Minister for Turkiye's timely dispatch of team for flood relief assistance at the outset, the Foreign Minister highlighted that since June 2022, Pakistan had witnessed highest rainfall on record.

This had caused widespread flooding and landslides, with extreme repercussions for human lives, livelihoods, livestock, property and infrastructure. The disaster would likely be compounded by riverine floods as well.

Flash floods

Turkiye, Iran, UAE express solidarity with Pakistan

Tayyip Erdogan, Ebrahim and Sheikh Mohamed assures all-out support to PM for flood relief

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received telephone call from President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on Saturday. The Prime Minister briefed the Turkish President on the latest situation on floods in Pakistan and the government's efforts to provide relief on an emergency basis. The Prime Minister highlighted that Pakistan had been enduring unprecedented monsoon weather since mid-June 2022, with record rainfall. This had caused massive devastation in various parts of the country, resulting in loss of human lives, livelihoods and extensive damage to infrastructure.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif remarked that despite that the rainfall had severely damaged infrastructure, the government was making all efforts to reach out to affected areas and assist people in their relocation and through delivery of aid. The Prime Minister shared that Pakistan had prepared a "UN Flash Appeal" which would be launched

on Tuesday and expressed the hope that the international community would contribute towards meeting the funding requirements of the Flash Appeal. The Prime Minister thanked President Erdogan for humanitarian relief aid.

In the bilateral context, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed commitment to boost relations in all areas. He also thanked President Erdogan for Turkiye's unflinching support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan commiserated with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on loss of lives and extensive damage due to severe rainfall and floods. He added that Turkiye would always support Pakistan. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received telephone call from President of Iran Syed Ebrahim Raisi, on Saturday.

The Prime Minister thanked President Raisi for his sympathy on the flood situation, stressing that Pakistan had been enduring severe monsoon weather since mid-June 2022, with many areas receiving 4-5 times and even more. This had caused widespread flooding

and landslides, with extreme repercussions for human lives, livelihoods, livestock, property and infrastructure. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif underlined that the humanitarian situation was being compounded by drastic impact to infrastructure including roads and bridges, which was impeding both the passage of people to safer locations and the delivery of aid.

Highlighting the government's efforts in this regard, the Prime Minister shared that Pakistan had prepared a "UN Flash Appeal" which would be launched on Tuesday. He expressed the hope that the international community would contribute towards meeting the funding requirements of the Flash Appeal. In the bilateral context, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed commitment to boost relations in all areas. He also conveyed appreciation for Iran's steadfast support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. President Ebrahim Raisi conveyed solidarity with Pakistan and assured of all out support in relief assistance in all areas.

Contempt of court

IHC forms larger bench to hear case against PTI chief



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Saturday constituted a new larger bench to hear a case against former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan over his derogatory statement against Additional Sessions Judge, Islamabad, Zeba Chaudhry, at a rally in F-9 Park of the federal capital.

A larger bench comprising of five judges, headed by Chief Justice Athar Minallah and other judges including Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb, Justice Babar Sattar and Justice

Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri will hear the case.

It should be noted that the Supreme Court has issued a show cause notice to Imran Khan for insulting remarks against Additional Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry and has summoned him personally on August 31, while Imran Khan has also been ordered to respond to the show cause notice by August 31. Has been given. While after spending holidays abroad, Chief Justice Athar Minallah reached the Islamabad High Court today. He was on leave from July 12 to August 25.

Over 50 dams swept away in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: The heavy floods have washed away six more dams in Quetta, Mastung and Ziarat on Saturday as the total tally cross the fifty figures in the Balochistan. Around 50 dams have washed away and many others link roads have been swept away in the province due to heavy recent rains and floods, private news channel reported.

Around 19 dams were washed away in Killa Abdullah and Chaman and several link roads were destroyed due to untoward situation in the area. The Rachkai dam was also damaged a few days ago.

The heavy rain has also damages small medium dams in area and caused over floated thousands of houses. The flood-water after breaking down many roads has suspended trade and other commercial activities and also caused immense trouble not only for the travellers but also for locals.

The Irrigation Department was taking all possible measures to protect the dams from damages and continuously monitored the situation which was under control. The department was taking all out efforts to remove encroachment on the canals and to clean them. The flood-affected people sought immediate help from the government to avoid further damages. APP

National unity vital to counter flash floods: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has called for unity and collective responsibility to help flood victims in this hour of need. Addressing media on Saturday, he appealed all political leaders to actively participate in relief and rehabilitation work for all those affected by the floods. The Minister said the government is making all possible efforts for the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people of the country. Ahsan Iqbal said NHA has been directed to ensure the restoration of highways which were badly affected by floods so relief efforts could not be disturbed.

He said the National Disaster Management Authority is distributing food items amongst the affected people. He said issue of tents will be resolved in next few days. He said that 25,000 rupees cash assistance is being given to every flood affected family through the Benazir Income Support Programme while the family of any deceased is being given one million rupees. He said for this purpose Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has allocated a huge amount of 100 billion rupees. He also appealed the philanthropists, national and international organizations to help affected Pakistanis. APP

Floods

Imran should announce fundraising: CM Elahi

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Parvez Elahi on Saturday telephoned top PTI leaders to persuade party chairman Imran Khan for announcing a fundraising campaign for flood affectees. Parvez Elahi telephoned Asad Umar and Shibli Faraz and urged them to ask Imran Khan to announce a fundraising drive for flood affectees. "Floods have wreaked havoc across Pakistan and we should leave all things aside and support the victims," he said.

He emphasized that the entire nation should work together for the restoration of roads, schools and hospitals. "The rehabilitation of the victims and provision of food and medicines is among our top priority," the chief minister Punjab announced. He assured the flood victims that the Punjab government would rehabilitate them, construct houses for them and also compensate their loss of harvest. "We will not sit until the last affectee is rehabilitated," Parvez Elahi

vowed.

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister (CM) Mahmood Khan on Friday visited Dera Ismail Khan to review the relief and rehabilitation activities in the flood-hit areas. Expressing grief over the loss in natural calamities, the PTI Chairman said that besides Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan has also witnessed damages during the floods. Agencies

Weekly Roundup

PSX to be positive area in the upcoming week

KARACHI: with IMF and Pakistan meetings scheduled in the coming week, it is expected that IMF will approve the \$1.17 billion tranche enabling the disbursement within a week or so. Keeping in view the ongoing result season, some sectors and scrips are expected to stay in the limelight, predicting that the market is expected to be positive in the upcoming week. "The KSE-100 is currently trading at a PER of 4.2x (2022) compared to the Asia-Pacific regional average of 12.7x while offering a dividend yield of 9.6% versus 2.7% offered by the region," the brokerage house stated.

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) endured a relatively volatile

week as the winning streak of the past three weeks came to an end. The equity market shed 679 points or 1.57% in the outgoing week and settled at 42,592 points as external woes and fast depleting foreign exchange reserves kept the benchmark index under pressure. The week kicked off on a negative note as stocks came under massive selling pressure with over 400 points being wiped off on the first day of the rollover week as the market players refrained from taking fresh positions ahead of the monetary policy announcement.

The tables turned and the market posted gains on Tuesday following improved investor sentiments on

the back of the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) decision to maintain a status quo in the monetary policy rate for the next seven weeks. Moreover, Qatar's announcement regarding its \$3 billion assistance for Pakistan triggered an uptrend in the market. However, a dramatic turn of events was witnessed as bears once again reigned supreme on Wednesday as the euphoria over inflows from Qatar and Saudi Arabia died down and investors offloaded overbought stocks. With no apparent development ahead of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) board meeting, scheduled to be held on August 29, concerns over the economic situation added to the sombre mood and

the market remained in the red zone till the end of the rollover week.

Other major developments during the week were: current account deficit during July shrank by 4.5% month-on-month to \$1.21 billion, the rupee lost over Rs6 against the US dollar during the week, SBP reserves fell by \$87 million, to settle at \$7.8 billion, Pakistan Oilfields found hydrocarbons in Tolanj West-2 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Asian Development Bank approved \$0.7 million in technical assistance, international institutions announced \$500 million assistance for floods, foreign direct investment dropped to \$59 million in July, and Rs36 billion tax imposed on cigarettes.

Target thieves

My struggle will continue be it rains or hot weather: Imran Khan

Announces to hold int'l fund raising telethon for flood affectees tomorrow

Our Correspondent

JHELUM: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Saturday said that his struggle against the "thieves" will continue whether it is raining or hot weather. Speaking at a public gathering here the former prime minister said that he is fighting for the supremacy of law in Pakistan. "I have struggled for 26 years while remaining within the boundaries of law and Constitution," he said. Talking about the Sharif and Zardari families, Khan claimed that Pakistan was at the top before they ruled Pakistan. "Nawaz Sharif looted the country and is now telling us what to do," he added. The ex-premier said that the floods have affected Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Imran Khan said that the incumbent government should talk to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for relief because floods have wreaked havoc across the country. The former PM said due to floods, people are suffering in Baluchistan, Sindh and Punjab, adding that we all have to face this test together, as we faced in the 2010 floods, while Tiger force will go to the affected areas and help the governments. A telethon will be held on Monday to raise donations for flood-hit people, he added.

While reacting to the government's allegations to jeopardise the IMF deal, Imran Khan said, "Miftah Ismail is saying that we want to make the IMF programme fail. For two months, Taimur Jhagra has been calling them

for a meeting. The government should talk to the IMF for relief because floods have wreaked havoc across the country."

"There is a campaign going on against us in newspapers. A media house always protects the money of thieves, while I have been fighting for real freedom against those who looted the country for 30 years, I am fighting for the supremacy of law in the country. "Our struggle will continue even in the face of floods and wars; our struggle will continue until we achieve true freedom," the PTI chairman added. Continuing his speech, Imran Khan said that the band of thieves should open their ears and listen. The struggle will continue till freedom from thieves, he added. He will help the flood victims



in every possible way, but will not leave the thieves.

Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Saturday announced to hold international telethon to raise funds for the flood affectees on Monday. In his latest Tweet on Saturday, he said that he would do an international telethon to raise funds for the flood on Monday night.

The former PM said that Imran Tigers will be activated to volunteer for relief work. Imran Khan went on to say that a committee under Sania Nishtar will be set up to identify and coordinate funds allocation based on needs. "Let me make clear that our movement for Haqeeq Azadi will continue alongside our flood relief work," he added.

Rescue, relief operations underway in flood-hit areas

Relief camps established across all calamity hit districts

QUETTA/PESHAWAR/LAHORE: The rescue and relief operations were underway in flood affected areas of the country and stranded people were being shifted to the camps and safer places.

Relief camps were established across all calamity hit districts, whereas food, medical aid and other relief items were being provided to affected people in the camps. Provincial Disaster Management Authority and other relevant stakeholders continued distributing tents among affected people.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visited Faqirani Jat, Oplano and other flood affected areas of district Sajawal in Sindh province. The prime minister reviewed the rescue and relief activities and met the flood affectees.

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa were visiting the flood-hit areas of Balochistan

and Sindh to get latest update on ground and meet the troops busy in rescue and relief efforts.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a news release said the Army Flood Relief Camps were established in various areas. Army Flood Relief Helpline also established for public facilitation to coordinate rescue and relief efforts across the disaster hit areas of the country.

"Army help desks in various formations can be reached on Universal Access Number (UAN) 1135," the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) had set up multiple flood relief cells at the Radio Pakistan's headquarters and its regional stations to play more active and effective role with regard to the ongoing rescue, relief and rehabilitation activities in the flood-hit areas.

The initiative was taken on the

directives of Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb who presided over a meeting here to review the devastation caused by flood in different parts of the country.

On the directives of Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan two helicopters were provided to the district administration of Swat to carry out rescue and relief operation in Kalam.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Swat, Ibrar Wazir told APP that one helicopter belongs to KP government and another from Pakistan Army MI17 helicopter were taking part in rescue and relief operation in Kalam.

Meanwhile, floods has destroyed a portion of Tangi Bridge near Monda headworks disconnected traffic between Peshawar and Tangi tehsil in Charsadda district.

According to district administration Charsadda, the high floods in

Rivers Swat and Kabul have inundated low lying areas in Charsadda and Nowshera districts affected thousands of people.

Director General Rescue 1122 Dr Khateer Ahmad has said that relief operations were ongoing in Peshawar, Charsadda and Nowshera districts and the rescue teams have shifted hundreds of people from the flooded areas to safest places.

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam had directed Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) for restoration of electricity in flood-hit areas.

Sindh Minister for Universities & Boards and focal person for rain emergency Ismail Rahi along with Deputy Commissioner Agha Shah Nawaz Khan visited relief camps to review facilities being provided to rain-hit people.

Enjoying weather

LAHORE: A family enjoying at historical Shalimar Bagh during a cloudy weather, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Govt committed to hold LG elections: PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that in accordance with the vision of the party chairman Imran Khan, the PTI government in Azad Kashmir was committed to hold local body elections to transfer power to the grassroots level.

The AJK premier expressed these views while talking to the Central Additional Secretary General of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and President North Punjab Amir Mehmood Kayani who called on him in Islamabad on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion the PM while briefing him about his government's efforts aimed at resolving people's problems said that private sector was also being encouraged in various sectors to get the people of Azad Kashmir out of the problems. Regarding the flood situation, the PM said



that comprehensive arrangements have been made to provide relief to victims and rescue people in flood hit areas of Azad Kashmir.

Expressing his grief and sorrow over the loss of lives due to ongoing flooding across Pakistan, the PM said that after the Corona Pandemic, floods have wreaked havoc in Pakistan. "Hundreds of people were killed whereas property, infrastructure, and livestock worth billions of rupees have been destroyed", he said.

He said that the Azad Kashmir government was also contributing to the relief of the victims. "Dozens of NGOs from Azad Kashmir are currently participating in relief operations in flood-affected areas", the PM said.

Regarding municipal elections, the PM said that holding of local body elections in Azad Kashmir according to the policies of Chairman Tehreek-e-Insaf and former Prime Minister Imran Khan has been the incumbent government's top priority.

Speaking on the occasion, PTI leader Amir Mehmood Kayani hailed the AJK Prime Minister and his team for their services for the people of Kashmir. He said that under the leadership of prime minister Azad Kashmir was entering into a new era of development and welfare.

Meanwhile, a delegation of PTI workers from Sidhanoti thanked Prime Minister for appointing Sardar Atiq Sakhawat Advocate as DG Food Authority.

Ministerial Committee reviews rehabilitation activities

LAHORE: A meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Disaster Management, with Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Chairman of the Committee Muhammad Basharat Raja in the chair, reviewed relief and rehabilitation measures being taken and issued necessary directions to the authorities concerned.

On the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi, relief activities have been started from Saturday in the flood-affected areas by helicopters. For the purpose, two helicopters have already been handed over to the administration and the PDMA Punjab by the provincial government, the meeting was told.

Provincial ministers — Sardar Mohsin Laghari and Raja Mansoor Ali Khan, chief secretary, IG Police Punjab, additional chief secretary (ACS) Home, Special Member board of Revenue (SMBR), secretaries and commissioner Dera Ghazi Khan attended the meeting. Chief Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal and SMBR Zahid Akhtar Zaman briefed the meeting regarding their recent visits to flood affected areas.

Chairman Committee Muhammad Basharat Raja expressed his satisfaction that all departments and institutions were busy in the flood affected areas; however, he emphasised the need to make the activities more coordinated.

"Although rescue work in the flood affected areas has been completed, there is still a risk of flooding in the Indus River, so the authorities concerned should remain on alert," said the chair.

He said that the focus of the government is now on relief and rehabilitation work. "So far 30,000 tents have been provided in flood affected areas.

The district administrations of Rajanpur, Dera Ghazi Khan and Mianwali have been provided funds for disbursement among affectees," the minister added.

The committee decided to arrange regular briefing to the media on the relief measures taken by the Punjab government and directed Information Secretary Raja Mansoor Ahmed to arrange a visit of the media team to the affected areas.

Virtual Reality photo exhibition held at RWU

RAWALPINDI: A virtual Reality (VR) photography exhibition titled 'Stepping to Metaverse' was held at Rawalpindi Women University (RWU) with an objective to sensitize students and give them exposure to explore their talent for future endeavours.

The exhibition was organized by the Mass Communication Department of the university. A number of students competed in the exhibition and demonstrated their talent in depicting virtual reality, according to press statement issued by the university.

The main themes on which students worked during the competition included products' photography, street photography, photography of nature, point of view (POV) photography and other relevant subjects.

The exhibition provided the student an opportunity to familiarize themselves with immersive media technologies and experiences in the contemporary world.

Speaking on the occasion, Head of Department (HoD) Mass Communication, Dr. Asma Zahoor lauded students for putting the best of their skills into practice and proving themselves as talented starts. She said, such events facilitate students to explore their abilities and skills and refine them.

Another 72 cases dengue reported in Punjab

LAHORE: Another 72 new cases of dengue virus were reported in Punjab on Saturday.

According to the health department, during the current year, a total of 929 cases of dengue virus were reported and 3 people died from virus while 221 patients were under treatment in different hospitals of the province.

The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department said that 29 cases of dengue were reported in Rawalpindi, 34 in Lahore, 02 in Muzaffargarh, 01 in Kasur, 01 in Layyah, 01 in Sargodha, 1 in Mandi Bahaudin, 01 in Nankana Sahib, 01 in Faisalabad and one case of dengue virus in Attock during the last 24 hours.

All the suspected dengue cases have been kept in surveillance and their tests are being conducted. The anti-dengue squad under the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) destroyed dengue larvae at 579 places in the province during continuous daily based surveillance.

The anti-dengue squad conducted surveillance at 335,115 indoor and 93,645 outdoor places in different areas to detect dengue larvae during the last 24 hours. The P&SHD urged the people to adopt precautionary measures and keep their environment clean and dry to protect themselves from dengue.

Minister attends policemen course completion ceremony

SARGODHA: A ceremony in connection with completion of 37 lower class courses was held at Police Lines Sargodha on Saturday in which Provincial Minister for Labour and Manpower Ansar Majeed Khan participated as a special guest.

Principal Police Training school SSP Jawaria Muhammad Jameel welcomed and briefed the provincial minister about the programme. The minister distributed honorary shields among police personnel who performed well in the course.

Ansar Majeed congratulated 200 policemen over completion of the course and expressed his best wishes and said that whether it was the forces of Pakistan or other law-enforcement agencies, they were guarantors of the country's survival. With the blood of their martyrs, the country and its inhabitants were living their lives in peace, he added.

He said, "We pay homage to all martyrs of Pakistan Army and Police." At the end of the ceremony, the provincial minister also planted a sapling at the Police Lines as part of the plantation campaign.

Punjab Govt distributes compensation cheques

MULTAN: Punjab government offered cheques amounting Rs one million each, among heirs of deceased persons, here on Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner Tahir Watto and MPA Wasif Raan distributed the cheques among eight families. Due to recent rains, eight families lost their family members due to mishaps.

"The government is standing by the people in distraught," said Tahir Watto. He stated that Punjab government would continue to support the aggrieved families. MPA Wasif Raan also condoled the families on loss of precious lives of their members of families. "The government is also offering assistance to flood victims," said Wasif Raan.

"It is the responsibility of the State to compensate the poor families," he stressed.

Police facilitation centres extended: CCPO

LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Additional IG Gulam Mahmood Dogar has said network of police facilitation centres had been extended to the maximum areas of the city.

In a statement issued on Saturday, he said people were being facilitated in police related matters by an online integrated system in the centres.

He said people were being provided around 14 online facilities, including police character certificate, general police and vehicle verification, tenants registration, loss reports, copy of FIRs, registration of private employees, legal aid women violence, renewal and new learner traffic driving licence and international licence at eight facilitation centres in the city.

BISP disburses Rs4.78 bln to flood-hit families

HYDERABAD: Financial aid of Rs.25000 under Flood Relief Cash Assistance through Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Marri all payment centers were provided to every flood affected families in the flood hit areas of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

So far a total amount of Rs.4,784,057,630 have been disbursed among 190,326 affected families under this programme.

According to the BISP statement, special payment centers were established in the flood affected areas. 170 campsites in Sindh, 23 in Punjab, 97 in Balochistan and 84 campsites in KP have been established.

Currently, 36,728 affected families have received Rs.927,798,712 in Balochistan; 112,159 families have received Rs.2,815,360,366 in Sindh; 11,409 families have received Rs. 286,557,000 in KP and 30,030 families have received Rs.754,341,552 in Punjab, it added.

On the directions of Federal Minis-

ter for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety / Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Marri all payment centers were remained open on Saturday (holiday) for the disbursement of payment to the affectees.

The administration of Benazir Income Support Programme has directed the concerned staff to fully cooperate and facilitate the people in their respective regions.

Affected families can send their CNIC number to 8171 for registration in Flood Relief Cash Assistance program and upon receiving payment message they can visit their nearby campsite to receive their payment.

A control Room has also been established at Benazir Income Support Programme headquarters to ensure smooth payments. People can visit BISP headquarters or contact at 051-9246312 from 08:00 AM to 07:00 PM for the assistance and other related information.

Ufone4G provides free calls in flood-hit areas

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani telecom company, Ufone 4G is providing free calls in the flood affected areas to establish connectivity between the affected people, their loved ones and rescue personnel to facilitate relief activities.

Ufone 4G will provide free calls from Ufone-to-Ufone network and on PTCL numbers in the flood affected districts. This initiative is valid for

both prepaid and postpaid customers. Ufone customer can avail the facility by dialling *4375#.

This initiative is currently accessible to Ufone 4G users in Barkhan, Sibi, Kalat, Matiari, Bolan, Jacobabad, Mastung, Naushahro Feroz, Ghotki, Shikarpur, Musakhel, Khairpur, Naseerabad, Kashmore, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allah Yar, Sukkur, Rajanpur, Jaffarabad, Larkana, Thatta, Dadu, Lasbella and Jamshoro for now.

Speaking on the development, Hatem Bamatraf, President & Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone, said: "We are aware of the natural calamity that has struck in various parts of Pakistan and believe that it is our duty to extend support towards the affected community. With the scale of devastation, we understand that a majority of the people using our network in the disaster-hit districts may not have access to mobile recharge and hope the free calls will help not only family

and friends, but also authorities and relief workers to connect with people most pressed for rescue and relief."

Ufone 4G, which is part of the PTCL Group, takes immense pride in its Pakistani identity and hence feels it is its national responsibility to reach out to the people in distress. The Group is undertaking multiple initiatives to facilitate flood affected communities in line with its commitment to fostering social wellbeing both in emergency and peace time.

Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:10 am
Zohr	12:10 pm
Asr	4:48 pm
Maghrib	6:40 pm
Isha	8:08 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Enquiry	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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

PMD forecasts rain

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has indicated chances of rain-wind/thundershower in north-east Punjab, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north Balochistan, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan during the next 24 hours.

Hot and humid weather is likely to prevail over most plain areas of the country. According to the synoptic situation, a westerly wave was affecting western and upper parts of the country.

During the last 24 hours, rain-wind/thundershower occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, north Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan, upper Sindh, Khanpur and Joharabad.

Google for Startups Accelerator launches in Southeast Asia & Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Google is launching the seventh edition of the Google for Startups Accelerator (GFSA) for Southeast Asia (SEA) and Pakistan, where it will enroll up to 15 seed and series A startups who are focused on solving the region's most important challenges, particularly in Fintech, Healthtech, Retail and e-commerce and SME-focused B2B solutions.

The three-month program will help startups solve their specific challenges by providing the best of Google resources: Google mentors, a network of new contacts to help them on their journeys, and the most cutting-edge technology. Throughout the program, startups will receive customized mentorship from Google's global mentor network, access to Google's artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud, Android, and web experts, as well as training in fields such as product design, business strategy, customer acquisition, and leadership development. Since Google's first GFSA launch in 2016, it has supported over 90 startups, who have then gone on to raise over US\$5.4 billion in funding and created more than 1,600 jobs across Southeast Asia and Pakistan.

Ashrafi for APC to meet flood situation

Says current flood situation required a united response from all parties

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Saturday said the All Parties Conference (APC) was a way out to cope with flash floods in the country. In an exclusive talk with APP, Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council said the current flood situation required a united response from the political and religious parties.



He urged the government to hold the APC to meet the prevailing flash flood situation in the country on priority, he added. He said the nation, philanthropists, volunteers and political and religious parties' workers should come forward along with Pakistan Army to help the flood victims. He also urged the Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi to play his role with the national unity and consensus to help the flood affected people. Ashrafi also thanked Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates for the announcement of financial support and investment in Pakistan. He said the Arab-Islamic countries were friends

of Pakistan adding they should not be involved in the internal politics of the country. He also clarified that the prime minister and his delegation did not meet any Israeli during the recent visit to Qatar. The Pakistan's stance on the Palestine issue was very clear and laud and no one could change it, he said adding the establishment of an independent and autonomous Palestinian state was the interpretation of the stance of Pakistan and the Islamic world. Ashrafi urged the Arab, Muslim brotherly countries and the world to play their role to help the flood affected people in

Pakistan because the current flash floods were more disastrous than the past ones and natural calamities in the country.

He said the government of Pakistan alone could not deal with this sad and painful situation, where millions of the people were affected by the flash floods across the country.

He said the non-government and charitable organizations, carrying out welfare activities in the country, should be allocated areas for welfare activities so that they could serve their countrymen effectively and efficiently.

He said the role of the Pakistan Army in the current flood situation was commendable.

Ashrafi said the way, nation unitedly fought for the end of terrorism and extremism after the Army Public School, Peshawar tragedy, it needed the same spirit and courage, to cope with the prevailing flood situation in the country.

He proposed all the political and religious leaders to suspend their political activities for one month and help the flood victims with national and religious spirit.

Grading process

ISLAMABAD: Vendors are busy in grading sugarcane before supply at Fruits and Vegetable Market in Sector I-11, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Chairman PHA vows to make city green

RAWALPINDI: The newly appointed Chairman, Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi, Asif Mehmood here on Saturday chaired a meeting and directed the officers to take all possible steps to make Rawalpindi city green and beautiful.



On the occasion, Director General (DG) PHA gave a briefing and informed the chairman about overall performance of the authority, ongoing projects and issues being confronted.

In the beginning of the meeting the DG and all the officers of the authority welcomed the chairman and congratulated for once again taking over charge of the office.

During the meeting, the Chairman issued instructions to the officers to improve their performance and take all possible steps to make Rawalpindi city green and bright. In the meeting, the Chairman PHA also directed the officers to set up a flood relief camp for the flood victims in view of the current situation in the country and extend full cooperation to all the departments concerned. Earlier, the Chairman PHA Rawalpindi,

Asif Mamoud once again took over charge of the office today.

The PHA employees and officers on arrival of Asif Mehmood at the office gave a warm welcome. The Punjab government had once again appointed Asif Mehmood as Chairman PHA.

Asif Mehmood after assuming charge of the office held a meeting and issued instruction to accelerate work on ongoing projects. He expressed his determination that he would work day and night to make Rawalpindi city green and beautiful and thanked all the employees and officers. He also urged them to work hard with commitment and dedication.

Sanjrani urges entire nation to help flood victims

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Saturday urged the entire nation to come forward to help the flood victims as no government alone can cope with such floods and rains.



Talking to media at a relief camp organized by PFUJ and Pakistan Sweet Home at National Press Club Islamabad, he said that the recent flood situation is unprecedented in the country's history said a news release. Senator Manzoor Kakar also visited the flood relief camp.

Chairman Senate appreciated the efforts of all the provincial governments in providing relief and much-needed help to the flood affectees.

He said that rehabilitation of the flood victims is the main goal after the immediate relief

work is done. Chairman Senate thanked the organizers for inviting him to the relief camp and

said that the country is in dire need of more such efforts at this time. He said that along with the aid, we should bow

before Allah and pray that Allah forgives our mistakes and reduces the sufferings of the flood affectees.

Health Corner

Eye test could screen children for autism

ISLAMABAD: Measuring how the eyes' pupils change in response to light — known as the pupillary light reflex — could potentially be used to screen for autism in young children, according to a study conducted at Washington State University.

First author Georgina Lynch said the proof-of-concept study builds on earlier work to support the continued development of a portable technology that could provide a quick and easy way to screen children for autism, a disorder that affects communication and social interaction with others. Such a tool would allow health care providers to catch children earlier in their development when interventions are more likely to benefit them.

"We know that when we intervene as early as ages 18 to 24 months it has a long-term impact on their outcomes," said Lynch, an assistant professor in the WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine who worked with children with autism while practicing as a speech-language pathologist. "Intervening during that critical window could be the difference between a child acquiring verbal speech and staying nonverbal. Yet, after 20 years of trying we still have not changed the average age of diagnosis here in the U.S., which is four years old."

Published in the journal *Neurological Sciences*, the study tested 36 children aged 6 to 17 who had been previously diagnosed with autism along with a group of 24 typically developing children who served as controls. Children's pupillary light reflexes were tested by trained clinical providers using a handheld monocular pupillometer device, which measures one eye at a time. Analyzing the results, the researchers found that children with autism showed significant differences in the time it took for their pupils to constrict in response to light. Their pupils also took longer to return to their original size after light was removed.



"What we did with this study is we demonstrated the parameters of interest that matter — speed of constriction and return to baseline," Lynch said. "And we demonstrated it with monocular technology because we knew there is no significant difference between eyes in terms of the pupillary response in autism, unlike in head injury or concussion where it's common to see unequal pupil sizes."

An earlier study led by Lynch tested children in a laboratory setting using binocular pupillometry, which uses an expensive, stationary setup that measures both eyes at once. The lower expense and portability associated with monocular technology made it possible to move testing into clinical settings similar to those in which the screening tool Lynch is developing might be used once it is commercially available.

Supported by funding from the Washington Research Foundation, Lynch is now working to expand testing to a group of 300 or more 2- to 4-year-olds across a larger number of clinical sites. Data from that study will be used to validate the earlier findings and will be integrated into the ultimate screening device to provide a benchmark providers can use to decide whether or not to refer a child for evaluation.

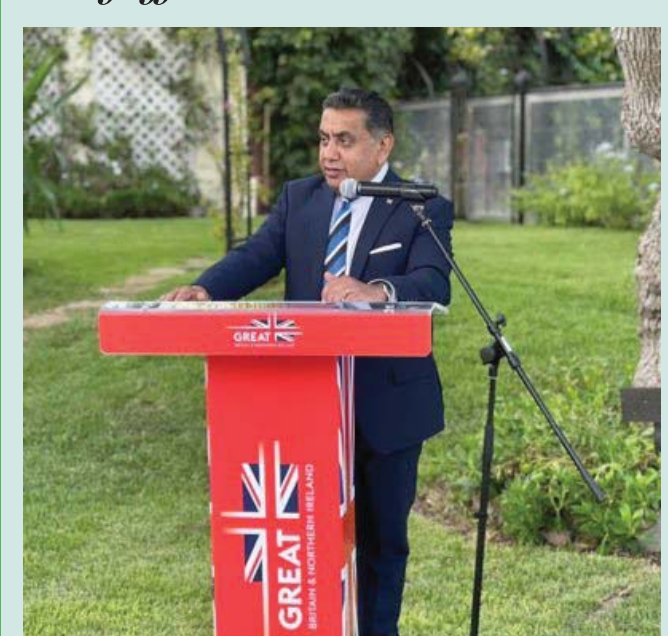
Meanwhile, Lynch is preparing to file for Food and Drug Administration premarket approval for the screening device through Appature Biotechnologies, a spinoff company she cofounded to help move this technology from an academic research setting toward widespread use in pediatric clinics.

Lynch's desire to improve autism screening grew from her experiences watching parents struggle through the cumbersome process of pursuing a formal diagnosis for their child.

While an estimated one in 44 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) by age 8, many kids get misdiagnosed or missed altogether due to the subjective nature of the diagnostic process. Having a quick, objective screening method to bolster behavioral screening could help improve the accuracy and speed with which children are diagnosed. Looking at the pupillary light reflex as a potential screening biomarker made sense to Lynch given her own observations and earlier studies that found abnormalities in the pupillary light reflex of children with autism.

"Even as a clinician, I noticed this state in kids with ASD where their pupils were very dilated even in the presence of bright light," Lynch said. "That system is modulated in the brain by cranial nerves rooted in the brainstem, and adjacent cranial nerves affect your ability to acquire speech and language. The pupillary light reflex tests the integrity of that system, so it seemed logical to try this very simple, noninvasive measure to determine whether there were differences between typical development and autism." Courtesy Science Daily

UK assisting Pakistan in flood relief efforts



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The UK is providing urgent support to Pakistan after flooding in the south of the country killed at least 900 people. Extreme monsoon rainfall has affected millions of people, with 700,000 homes destroyed.

In response to the disaster, the UK will provide up to £1.5m support the relief effort. The UN is carrying out a needs assessment over the weekend, and a UN appeal is expected to be launched on Tuesday.

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth and the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, said:

"The floods in Pakistan have devastated local communities and the UK is providing up to £1.5 million to help the immediate aftermath. We are witnessing the catastrophe that climate change can cause and how it impacts the most vulnerable.

"My thoughts and prayers are with all the victims and their families and I would like to pay tribute to everyone involved in the relief efforts. We are also working directly with the Pakistan authorities to establish what further assistance and support they require. The UK stands with the people of Pakistan during this time of need."

The UK also provides assistance to Pakistan through international organisations working directly with the victims of the disaster, including the World Bank and the United Nations.

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Algorithmic society: Fear or blessing

Jamal Nasir

It is tempting to dwell on the thought that whether our society is surrounded by algorithms or not. Some academics think that we are already living in a society where the algorithm is used in many ways: from predicting the pros of a matter to getting the result of intricate calculations. We are near to the days when we would get an e-mail from the food inside our freezer, a bottle of juice may send an alarming e-mail about the expiry date, or a pizza would inform us about its spoilage time. These things will happen near when we may be engulfed by the algorithms and the society turns into an algorithmic society. The algorithm is at many places in our daily life from Facebook "people you may know" to Netflix's recommendations list even most dating sites use strong algorithms to have you a perfect mate. Nonetheless, there are many frightening things about it; what if the algorithm turns into algorithmic governance? What if a simple mistake takes you out of your survival job? What if a tremendous number of account-

ants be sent home because an algorithm replaces their place? These types of questions make us think about its consequences and compel us to question the way it is happening. Moving toward some of the frightening thoughts. A man may try to be rational in every act but this could be a simple try and would never turn into a real possibility. It is because of sentiments that a man possesses either by the blessing of nature or by enculturation of society. On the other hand, an algorithm is rational in every calculation. Its tendencies would toward veracity which is an intense quality of it. While processing and calculating the data, it can't feel the resentment, sentiment, torment, and indignant rather an algorithm would simply produce the result without any discretion. Many examples came on the curtains from them a case of a mother came up who put a piece of slight wrong information about her son, and got her son deprived of the essential scholarship. The algorithm did what was near to the veracity and gave perfect calculation but couldn't feel whether a mother had the strength in her fingers to write something against her son or not. In 2016,

the increasing aero plane crashes in Sweden turned out a big mistake of the algorithm. If you put a good amount of data from air quality to weather conditions but mistakenly you forget to mention the humidity, can cause several deaths. The world has become a place of bitterness where prejudices and hatred have altered the passion for love and modesty. What Rik Peeters argued in his book algorithmic society was a skeptical tendency toward the subjectivity of the person who would shape the algorithm. The algorithm is formed and shaped by the makers (algorithm engineer) and what if while putting information engineer showed some kind of prejudice? If the engineer does this, the algorithm would work in an altogether different way having a perception of prejudice. Take the example of Islamophobia, a person having some sort of condition like Islamophobia shapes an algorithm. Then algorithm results would certainly have some kind of problematic response on finding a Muslim. An e-mail's algorithm having a little heinous perception about Muslims may show reservation on the account of a Muslim or an algorithm may

show demur on realizing that you are a black. According to toward data science, in 2019, a researcher found that in the US the algorithm that predicted which patients need more care, the algorithm always favored white patients over black. So, in this sense, it is very hard to escape from the subjectivity of engineers and if we show a little skeptical tendency toward the algorithm, the result is crystal clear to us that the algorithm could be very frightening. The coming age is the age of uncertainty and unpredictability. We don't know what is happening around us, we are unaware of the condition of the person next door to us, and we involve in extensive irrelevant things. Every day, we are facing the music. Have a look at the political turmoil, trembling capitalist economy, and severe social problems. In every sense, the algorithm is snatching human jobs, gradually. Let's take the example of accountancy, a lot of jobs are vanishing just because of algorithm does a good job. In many health care systems, it is taking jobs from humans. Even some scholars think about the algorithm governess. But fear of job loss is everywhere and you are not

certain that you would be kicked off your job next the moment an engineer develops the algorithm. This severe job crisis is a question of the sustainability of the capitalist system. From the words of a young scholar, Usama Salis Ansari in these times. "It is the age where we can say the death of death happened" Moving toward the algorithm, it would enhance the amount of uncertainty. The algorithm is replacing human activities. But could it replace humans? There are a lot of books in which academics have been concerned with the question of algorithms replacing humans. Byung Chal Han dealt with it in non-things and Hubert Dreyfus illustrated it in his book what computer can't do. Dostoevsky, in his existential book notes from underground, elaborated that what completes human beings is some streams of irrationality. If we see the case of an algorithmic society, it is very hard to stabilize the society and deny the cognitive and psychological needs. Can algorithm deal with emotions? If not, then how would a society bear it? *The writer is a student of sociology at the University of Punjab.*

EU's energy crisis

Aworsening cost-of-living crisis across Europe has already seen workers in France, Spain and Belgium go out on strike in the public transport, health and aviation sectors, pushing for higher wages to help them cope with rocketing inflation. Meanwhile, the European Union has committed to reducing its Russian fossil-fuel imports by two-thirds and cutting gas demand by 15% by year's end. Before the Ukraine war, it had already set a target to become the first carbon-neutral continent by 2050. The squeeze on oil and gas imports from Russia, after its February invasion of Ukraine, has left countries scrambling to plug the energy gap through a mix of energy efficiency measures, firing up old coal plants and boosting renewable energy projects. Some economists say the immediate need to keep Europe's electricity and heating running should trump medium-to-long term goals to adopt more clean energy and curb climate change, especially heading into the colder winter months. But climate campaigners want to see governments turn their back on fossil fuels entirely, invest more heavily in efficiency measures and add more renewables to their energy mix. Whichever route they choose, the coming winter is set to be plagued by social unrest. Faced with the threat of power outages, EU countries have introduced a raft of energy efficiency measures to help slash power bills, as annual inflation hits a record 8.9%, with about 4 percentage points of that due to more expensive energy.

Spanish citizens have been feeling the heat during a sizzling summer, after the government ordered air-conditioning to be set no cooler than 27 degrees Celsius (80.6F) in public buildings, hotels, restaurants and shopping centres. France, meanwhile, is focusing on energy sobriety with measures to be launched by the end of summer including dimming illuminated public billboards overnight, and fining shops that leave doors open while using heating or cooling.

Germany, the EU state most dependent on Russian fuels, has announced heating limits of 19C (66.2F) in the winter for public buildings and colder public pools, while cities like Augsburg are contemplating which traffic lights to turn off. Such efforts form part of a wider EU drive to slash gas demand as the bloc races to shore up supplies ahead of winter, amid fears Russia will further restrict gas deliveries in response to EU financial sanctions. But energy savings have yet to ease the pressure of surging utility bills and protests have been planned from Madrid to London for the autumn in response to the cost of living crisis.

Cassie Sutherland of C40 Cities, a network of major cities pushing for swift action on climate change, said measures were required to cushion the impact of energy inflation while also cutting emissions fast enough to limit global warming to 1.5C, the lower goal set by governments in the 2015 Paris Agreement. European consumer organisation BEUC agrees that countries should roll out ambitious retrofit plans to protect households from energy price volatility.

As fears rise over energy insecurity, Germany, Italy, Austria and the Netherlands have signalled they will allow shuttered coal-fired plants to reopen or prolong operations beyond planned closure dates. A new report from the Climate Crisis Advisory Group (CCAG), a panel of 16 international climate experts, called on governments to use the energy crisis to slash greenhouse gas emissions deeply and rapidly and accelerate the switch to renewables.



Tech & Human Resource

Zaid M. Belbagi

Supermarket shoppers in the Middle East usually have their goods checked out and bagged by two members of floor staff, a luxury that is antiquated in many parts of the world where customers increasingly serve themselves. The number of self-checkout machines worldwide has grown year on year, while supermarket employment rates have steadily declined. This trend is representative of the wider reality of job automation as technology increasingly provides solutions that can save businesses time, minimize the risks to staff and, importantly, offer ever-more competitive economies of scale. The transition is not without issue, however; automation is encroaching upon the employment space, threatening long-term career prospects and causing industrial disputes. The UK has recently been blighted by industrial action. Its creaking public-transport network, though extensive, has never been known for its reliability at the best of times. Last week, joint industrial action on bus, train and metro networks has forced businesses to close and led to mass cancellations.

Drivers and auxiliary staff across transport companies are striking for a pay deal that would enable them to keep pace with the rising cost of living. In addition, employees are seeking guarantees about job security, which some argue is being affected by the prospects for automation. The Transport Salaried Staffs' Association, a union that represents railway workers, is seeking "clear assurances and clarity on job security and working practices."

The Chinese city of Nanjing is constructing a fully automated metro system. And in the UK, which has experienced several strikes in recent weeks, "Automatic Train Operation" has been a feature on some metro lines for several years. Spiraling living costs and battered supply chains have slowed the post-pandemic recovery across the board. Just as ground-based public-transport networks have experienced strike action, so too have ports and airports come to a standstill, with staff reluctant to continue working after the lay-offs and furloughs of recent years. Strikes over pay also caused havoc at European airports last month.

This has compounded a decade of weak wage growth in wealthier countries that followed the 2008-09 recession, causing inflation to edge into double digits and worsening the plight of the working poor. The increased industrial unrest has therefore created the circumstances for an interesting shift in the employment market. Trade unions had lost much of the clout they wielded before the economic liberalization of the 1980s. However, given the spread of industrial action at present there are two changes that could occur. In one scenario, the strikes could spread, with workers in other sectors following suit and reversing a decades-old decline in industrial action that resulted in employers significantly gaining the upper hand in labor relations. The disruption caused by such action could, however, push employers and governments toward further automation and digitization efforts. The European Trade Union Institute has reported a dip in labor-related disruption as trends such as outsourcing and the gig economy emerged. However,

the coordination that unions lost as a result of automation has been regained, in some quarters, through the digital organization of industrial action and petitioning.

In the US, for example, Starbucks employees forced improvements through such efforts, and in Britain the Trades Union Congress has reported a surge in traffic to its "find a union" web page.

While less than 5 percent of occupations can be automated, about 60 percent of occupations have at least 30 percent of constituent activities that could be automated. These figures are likely to grow in light of further technological advances, thereby raising the specter of an increase in industrial action. It is estimated that as many 12 million jobs could be lost to automation across Europe by 2040, a decline that is forecast to have the greatest effect on workers in industries such as retail, food services, and leisure and hospitality.

Such large-scale automation will cause significant policy challenges for governments. In the Arab world, for example, the state remains the net employer and youth unemployment remains stubbornly in double digits. Indian Railways, meanwhile, employs close to 1.54 million people, making it the seventh-largest employer in the world. Automation of such a large industry will undoubtedly lead to further peaks in unrest, just as manual textile workers in 19th-century Britain once rose up and destroyed the efficient new factory machines designed to replace them.

The writer is a political commentator and an adviser to private clients between London and the GCC. Courtesy Arab News

Ugh! Difficult English

Syeda Sawaiz Subazwari

*No wonder that English language is so very difficult to learn
 I sometimes wonder how we manage to communicate at all!
 We'll begin with a box and the plural is boxes.
 But the plural of ox should be oxen, not axes.
 The one fowl is a goose but two are called geese.
 Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
 You may find alone mouse or a whole set of mice,
 Yet the plural of house is houses not hiee.
 If the plural of man is always called men,
 Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
 If I speak of a foot you show me your feet,
 And I give you a boot, a pair be called beet?
 If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
 Why should not the plural of booth be called beeth?
 Then one may be that and three would be those,
 Yet hat in the plural wouldn't be hose.
 And the plural of cat is cats and not cose.
 We speak of a brother and also brethren,
 But though we say mother, we never say methren,
 Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
 But imagine the feminine she, shis and shim,
 So English, I fancy you all will agree,
 Is the funniest language you ever did see?*

8-A

Ukraine-Russia War & US propaganda

Samir Humbatov

The "American Institute for the Study of War" (ISW), which operates in the United States and has been investigating Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine since the very beginning, has shared new information about the Russian-Ukrainian war in its latest published report. In the report shared by the Institute, the commanders of the Russian military groups in Ukraine are directly subordinate to the Russian President Vladimir Putin. That is why those commands do not act according to the orders of Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu or Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov. Even the "American Institute of War Studies" claims that after the end of the first stage of the war of aggression carried out by Russia in Ukraine and called special military operations, Russian President Vladimir Putin took the command in Ukraine from Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov. From the report shared by the "American Institute of War Studies", it can be concluded that Russia is about to lose control over its war of aggression in Ukraine since the end of March.

A few days ago, Russia's statement regarding the reduction of active combat operations on the Ukrainian front,

"everything is going according to plan", it is clear that the control is not in the hands of Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu. From the shared information, it can be concluded that there are two important reasons behind the Russian side's inability to achieve serious success in the Ukrainian war, despite the passage of more than 6 months. 1. Russian troops in Ukraine cannot be fully controlled. 2. Weapons and military equipment support given to Ukraine from the West. The first reason is already known, and this situation can be considered as one of the main factors working against Russia in this war.

As for the second reason, there is a different approach. In other words, the Western countries show that they are not single-minded in supporting Ukraine. If we look at the progress of the processes, the picture may look like this. The United States and England support Ukraine. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is coming to Ukraine. He declares his support for Ukraine. But the support provided is not fully implemented.

From the aid given, it can be felt that the support given to Ukraine was calculated to prolong the war. Other western countries are almost trying to play a double game between Russia and Ukraine. There are other reasons behind this. Although France, Germany, Italy and other states say that they support Ukraine, in practice this support is hardly felt. This creates a serious basis for prolonging the war. The prolongation of the war, in turn, accelerates the process of disintegration of Russia and erases Ukraine from the face of the earth.

The writer is head of Center the International Relations and Diplomatic Studies.

China opposes US Congress members' Taiwan visits: spokesperson

Join hands with Pakistan in weather observation

BELJING: A Chinese mainland spokesperson on Saturday expressed firm opposition to the visits by some U.S. Congress members to China's Taiwan region in so-called "unofficial" capacities. These acts have seriously violated the one-China principle and the provisions of the three China-U.S. joint communiqués, said Ma Xiaoguang, a spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, in response to U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn's visit to Taiwan from Thursday to Saturday. The spokesperson warned Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party authorities that their attempts to draw in external anti-China forces to make provocations seeking "independence" are doomed to failure.

A lidar station set up at the University of Peshawar can provide atmospheric clouds, aerosols, temperature, humidity and other data concerning the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) area, and facilitate research on climate change, pollution and sand storm. The station was put into use in Peshawar, Pakistan earlier this month for climate observation under a Belt and Road project jointly undertaken by Chinese and Pakistani universities, according to People Daily.

Jointly built by the two universities, the station is the most advanced climate and environment observation station in Pakistan, according to Huang Zhongwei, a professor with the Lanzhou University based in northwest

China Gansu province. The Peshawar station is part of a lidar network that also includes eight stations in northwest China's Gansu Province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Combining the lidar network on climate change, pollution and sand storm. The station was put into use in Peshawar, Pakistan earlier this month for climate observation under a Belt and Road project jointly undertaken by Chinese and Pakistani universities, according to People Daily.

Preparation to build the station started as early as in 2018. Key equipment provided by Chinese side were sent to Pakistan last year. Engineers from the Lanzhou University visit-

ed the University of Peshawar from July 25 to August 6 this year to help install the equipment and train Pakistani engineers. We provide the equipment while the University of Peshawar is responsible for the site selection, electricity supply and equipment maintenance. The two sides share the data in the Belt and Road lidar network, said Li Wuren, an engineer with Lanzhou University. Khan Alam, associate professor at the department of physics with the University of Peshawar, said the high-tech instruments from China would help assess and mitigate air quality issues in Peshawar, and observe the impacts on human health as well as climate changes.

Russia fires on cities not far from nuclear plant: Ukraine:



KYIV: Russian forces fired missiles and artillery on Ukrainian-held areas across the river from Europe's largest nuclear power plant, authorities said Saturday as concern persisted about safety at the Russian-controlled plant after it was temporarily knocked offline. Grad missiles and artillery shells hit the cities of Nikopol and Marhanets, each about 10 kilometers (6 miles) and across the Dnieper River from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, said Valentyn Reznichenko, governor of Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region. Russian forces occupied the nuclear plant complex early in the war in Ukraine, and Ukrainian workers have kept it running. Each side has repeatedly accused the other of shelling the complex, raising fears that the fighting could trigger a catastrophe.

Authorities began distributing iodine tablets Friday to residents who live near the plant in case of a radiation leak. The move came a day after the plant was temporarily knocked offline because of what officials said was fire damage to a transmission line. Recent satellite images from Planet Labs showed fires burning around the complex over the last several days. The U.N.'s atomic energy agency has been trying to send a team in to inspect and help secure the plant. Officials said preparations for the visit were underway, but it remained unclear when it might take place.

Ukraine has claimed Russia is using the power plant as a shield by storing weapons there and launching attacks from around it. Moscow, for its part, accuses Ukraine of recklessly firing on the nuclear complex.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, one person was killed and another wounded in Russian firing in the Mykolaiv region, local government officials said. Mykolaiv city is an important Black Sea port and shipbuilding center. The governor of the eastern Donetsk region, Pavlo Kyrylenko, said Saturday that two people were killed in Russian firing on the city of Bakhmut, a significant target for Russian and separatist forces seeking to take control of the parts of the region they do not already hold.

Tanzania, UNHCR to launch reforestation program



DAR ES SALAAM: Tanzania and the UN refugee agency are in negotiations to launch a reforestation program in refugee-hosting regions of Kigoma and Kagera, the UN refugee agency chief said on Friday evening. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said on Friday he held talks with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan on the launch of the reforestation program. The influx of refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has caused deforestation for firewood and building shelters around refugee camps in Kigoma and Kagera regions. "The felling of trees is impactful to mankind," Grandi told a news conference in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam.

Grandi said partners of the UN refugee agency, including the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), will be involved in the execution of the program. Grandi, who was on a four-day official visit to Tanzania, said the reforestation program will go in tandem with the provision of alternative sources of energy to the refugees. On Thursday, Grandi spent time with Congolese and Burundian refugees in Nyarugusu refugee camp in the Kigoma region where he handed over birth certificates to refugee babies which he said were important for their identification.

He said he also inspected a housing program for the refugees and gardening activities ran by the refugees to supplement their food rations. Grandi thanked the government of Tanzania for its continued hospitality in sheltering refugees and pledged to strengthen support to the government, improve protection and assistance to refugees, and find solutions to their plight. He said that currently there are 250,000 refugees hosted in Tanzania, mostly Congolese and Burundians.

Nuclear deal

US response to EU likely lead to new talks: Iranian MP

TEHRAN: A senior Iranian lawmaker said on Saturday that Iran and the parties to the Vienna talks are close to a deal, but it may require a new round of meetings, Iran Front Page news website reported. Fadahosseini Maleki, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, said "the United States has given a response that will make a new round of talks inevitable." Officials cannot say when the deal will be reached, Maleki said, adding the U.S. side must show more seriousness than before in the nuclear talks.

Maleki urged Washington to "act wisely at this critical juncture and show it is determined to resolve differences." On Wednesday, the spokesperson of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Nasser Kanaani, said that Iran had received, through the European Union, the U.S. government's response to Tehran's views about the resolution of the outstanding issues in the talks on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal. Kanaani said that Iran had started to assess the American side's views carefully and would inform the EU coordinator of its viewpoints following the completion of its reviews.

Iran signed the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, with world powers in July 2015, agreeing to curb its nuclear program in return



for the removal of sanctions on the country. However, former U.S. President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the agreement and reimposed unilateral sanctions on Tehran, prompting the latter to drop some of its commitments under the pact. The talks on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal began in April 2021 in Vienna

but were suspended in March this year because of political differences between Tehran and Washington. The latest round of the nuclear talks was held in Austria's capital Vienna in early August after a five-month hiatus. On Aug. 8, the European Union put forward a "final text" of the draft decision on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal.

Armed clashes break out in Libyan capital

TRIPOLI: Rival Libyan groups exchanged gunfire in the Libyan capital overnight Friday-Saturday, raising fears of all-out conflict in a country facing a grave political crisis. The fighting broke out in various districts of Tripoli between groups armed with both heavy and light weapons, as two rival governments yet again vie for power in the oil-rich but impoverished North African country. Gunshots and explosions rang through the darkened streets of Tripoli, the AFP correspondent said, adding that there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The crisis pits groups that back the Tripoli-based Government of National Unity (GNU), led by Abdulhamid Dbeibah, against supporters of a rival government led by former interior minister Fathi Bashagha. According to local media, two influential armed groups faced off against one another in Tripoli, where divisions have deepened among militias on opposing sides of the political divide. Bashagha was appointed in February by a parliament elected in 2014 and based in the eastern city of Tobruk, but has since been unable to impose his authority in Tripoli.

Initially ruling out the use of force, the former minister has more recently hinted that he could resort to armed conflict.

Bashagha is supported by eastern-based military strongman Khalifa Haftar, who launched an unsuccessful offensive on the capital between 2019 and 2020.

Tunisia hosts Japanese-African economic cooperation meeting

TUNIS: African heads of state, representatives of international organizations and private business leaders gathered in Tunisia on Saturday for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, a triennial event launched by Japan to promote growth and security in Africa. Economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, a food crisis worsened by Russia's war in Ukraine, and climate change are among the challenges facing many African countries expected to define the two-day conference. Tensions among African countries also weighed on the meeting: On Friday, Morocco announced a boycott of the event and recalled its ambassador to Tunisia to protest the inclusion of a representative of the Polisario Front movement fighting for independence for Western Sahara.

The conference comes as Russia and China have sought to increase

their economic and other influence in Africa. While 30 African heads of state and government attended the event in Tunis, Tunisia's capital, many key talks are being held remotely, including those involving Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who tested positive for COVID-19 ahead of the summit. The Japanese government created and hosted the first TICAD summit in 1993. The conferences now are co-organized with the United Nations, the African Union and the World Bank. The summits have generated 26 development projects in 20 African countries. This year, discussion around an increase of Japanese investments in Africa is anticipated, with particular focus on supporting start-ups and food security initiatives. Japan has said it plans to provide assistance for the production of rice, alongside a promised \$130 million in food aid.

Africa Center for Strategic Studies, an academic institution of the U.S. Defense Department, compared the conference's format to the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, "where government, business, and civil society leaders participate on an equal basis." However, this weekend's summit has sparked controversy in Tunis, which faces its own acute economic crisis, including a recent spike in food and gasoline shortages. Critics have spoken out about organizers' alleged "white-washing" of the city, which has seen cleaner streets and infrastructure improvements in preparation for the conference summit. One local commentator said the North African capital looked like it had applied makeup to impress participants.

Meanwhile, the journalists' union in Tunisia issued a statement Friday condemning restrictions on reporting

and information around the summit. Morocco's complaint stemmed from Tunisia inviting the Polisario Front leader to attend. Morocco annexed Western Sahara from Spain in 1975, and the Polisario Front fought to make it an independent state until a 1991 cease-fire. It's a highly sensitive issue in Morocco, which seeks international recognition for its authority over Western Sahara. "The welcome given by the Tunisian head of state to the leader of the separatist militia is a serious and unprecedented act, which deeply hurts the feelings of the Moroccan people," Morocco's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Morocco announced its withdrawal from the conference and the recall of its ambassador for consultations. But the ministry said the decision does not "call into question the commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco to the interests of Africa."

Russia blocks final document at nuclear treaty conference

UNITED NATIONS: Russia has blocked agreement on the final document of a four-week review of the UN treaty considered the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament which criticized its military takeover of Europe's largest nuclear plant soon after Russian troops invaded Ukraine, an act that has raised fears of a nuclear accident. Igor Vishnevetsky, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Department, told the delayed final meeting of the conference reviewing the 50-year-old Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty that "unfortunately there is no consensus on this document." He insisted that many countries — not just Russia — didn't agree with "a whole host of issues" in the 36-page last draft.

The document needed approval by all 191 countries that are parties to the treaty aimed at curbing the spread of nuclear weapons and ultimately achieving a world without them. Argentine Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, pres-

ident of the conference, said the final draft represented his best efforts to address divergent views and the expectations of the parties "for a progressive outcome" at a moment in history where "our world is increasingly wracked by conflicts, and, most alarmingly, the ever growing prospect of the unthinkable nuclear war." But after Vishnevetsky spoke, Zlauvinen told delegates, "I see that at this point, the conference is not in a position to achieve agreement on its substantive work."

The NPT review conference is supposed to be held every five years but was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This marked the second failure of its state parties to produce an outcome document. The last review conference in 2015 ended without an agreement because of serious differences over establishing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

Those differences haven't gone away but are being discussed, and the draft outcome documents obtained by the

Associated Press would have reaffirmed the importance of establishing a nuclear-free Mideast zone. So, this was not viewed as a major stumbling block this year.

The issue that changed the dynamics of the conference was Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which brought Russian President Vladimir Putin's warning that Russia is a "potent" nuclear power and that any attempt to interfere would lead to "consequences you have never seen." He also put Russia's nuclear forces on high alert. Putin has since rolled back, saying that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," a message reiterated by a senior Russian official on the opening day of the NPT conference on Aug. 2. But the Russian leader's initial threat and the occupation of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southeastern Ukraine as well as the takeover of the Chernobyl nuclear plant, scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986, renewed global fears of another nuclear emergency.



Earlier this week, the US ambassador to the UN, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, told the Security Council that the Biden administration was seeking a consensus final document that strengthens the nuclear treaty and acknowledges "the manner in which Russia's war and irresponsible actions in Ukraine seriously undermine the NPT's main purpose."

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia accused the United States and its allies at that council meeting of "politicizing the work on the final document, putting their geopolitical interests in punishing Russia above their collective needs in strengthening global security." "Against the backdrop of the actual sabotage by the collective West of

the global security architecture, Russia continues to do everything possible to keep at least its key, vital elements afloat," Nebenzia said. The four references in the draft final document to the Zaporizhzhia plant, where Russia and Ukraine accuse each other of shelling, would have had the parties to the NPT express "grave concern for the military activities" at or near the facility and other nuclear plants.

It also would have recognized Ukraine's loss of control and the International Atomic Energy Agency's inability to ensure the plant's nuclear material is safeguarded. It supported IAEA efforts to visit Zaporizhzhia to ensure there is no diversion of its nuclear materials. The agency's director is hoping to organize in the coming day. The draft expressed "grave concern" at the safety of Ukraine's nuclear facilities, in particular Zaporizhzhia, and stressed "the paramount importance of ensuring control by Ukraine's competent authorities."

FCEPL posts profit of Rs.938 mln in H1 2022

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Despite steep increases in commodity costs due to soaring inflation, and the rapid, unprecedented devaluation of the Pakistani Rupee, FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEPL) registered a Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 938 million in the first half of 2022 against Rs. 1,414 million for the same period last year.

The flagship brand, Olper's, led the growth in the segment along with strengthening its market leadership position through consistent brand building and trade activities. The segment recorded growth of 23.4% versus last year with a revenue of Rs. 26.4 billion.

The significant expansion was witnessed in the retail footprint and E-Commerce channels during the period. The segment will continue to explore new channels and routes to market to serve its customers effectively and efficiently.

In Q1 2022, Olper's UHT new campaign expanding on the theme of "Happy Mornings" was launched, which is already resulting in strengthening the brand's equity and accelerating conversion from loose milk.

Olper's Cream also launched a new copy refreshing its association with the morning occasion. The campaign not only focuses on Olper's cream's nutritional credentials as a morning spread but also highlights its versatility for other key occasions.

The company continues to leverage FrieslandCampina's global expertise to introduce new products and innovations as a key driver of future business growth. The Company is focusing its attention on exploring new opportunities to offer breakthrough products that fulfill its consumer needs particularly around the morning occasion.

The company's other products like Olper's Flavored Milk, Olper's full cream milk powder (FCMP), Olper's Pro-Cal and Olper's Cream have also gained a healthy market share in a short span of time despite strong competition from established players.

The segment of Ice Cream and Frozen Desserts recorded a growth of 39% versus last year with a revenue of Rs. 4.4 billion. This growth has been enabled by the segment's investment behind season opening activities and expansion of the trade universe by inducting more assets in the market.

Telenor Pakistan to provide free calls in flood affected areas

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Extending its support to fellow Pakistanis, Telenor Pakistan has enabled free voice calls for its users in flood affected areas of the country. Torrential rains this year have wreaked unprecedented havoc across the country, dealing heavy damage to the country's southern regions.

Telenor Pakistan is offering free Telenor-to-Telenor calls in severely hit areas of the country so that residents can stay connected to their loved ones and reach out to authorities to seek help in these challenging times. This facility will enable users who have zero balance or have run out of their bundles and packages, to make calls and stay connected. Telenor Pakistan realises that paramount need the communications plays in such circumstances, and the difficulty faced by the people to recharge their mobile balance.

Irfan Wahab Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Telenor Pakistan, said, "Our heart goes out to the people affected by this disaster across the country, and we would like to assure them that we are here for them. Unhindered and free communication is the need of the hour, and our teams are constantly monitoring the situation to extend the necessary support. It's time for us to stand together as a nation and help each other get back on our feet."

Iranian delegation interested in JVs and investment in Pakistan

Muhammad Shakeel Munir says Pakistan and Iran enjoy cordial relations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A business delegation of Iran led by Shokouhian visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and showed interest to make joint ventures and investment in Pakistan in various sectors including oil & gas, engineering, mining & construction machinery, fertilizers, electrical vehicles, car batteries, electronic tools, plastic products, dairy products and food & dry fruit industries.

Sabir Khalifi, Kazim Kishwar Shahi, Majid Muhammad and Raza Muhammadi were in the delegation. ICCI former President Tauseef Zaman, Khurshed Barlas and others were also present at the occasion. The delegation had come to Pakistan to participate in a Pak-Iran trade exhibition.

Addressing the delegation, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry welcomed the business delegation from Iran and briefed them about the potential areas of JVs and investment in Pakistan for Iranian investors and stressed that they should capitalize on



these opportunities by investing in Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan and Iran are enjoying cordial relations that should be transformed into growing trade and investment relations between the two countries. He said that both

countries have great potential to enhance bilateral trade in many items. He said that the existing level of two-way trade of around USD 1 billion is not matching with the actual potential of both countries and it can be increased to

at least USD 5 billion per annum if the potentials of both sides are fully exploited.

ICCI President said that Pakistan and Iran should focus on removing tariff and non-tariff barriers to improve the flow of bilateral trade through air, road and railway links as none of these modes of transportation has been fully utilised economically so far. He stressed that both countries should consider slashing customs duty on each other's goods to check the menace of smuggling. He assured that ICCI would fully cooperate in connecting Iranian investors with right partners in Pakistan.

The Iranian business delegation was of the view that Iran and Pakistan should encourage frequent exchange of trade delegations and try to organize exhibitions in each other country to explore all potential areas of promoting bilateral trade.

They said that organizing Pak-Iran Trade Exhibition in Islamabad is a right step in that direction and more such exhibitions should be organized on reciprocal basis to improve trade ties between Iran and Pakistan.

Adamjee Insurance brings digital healthcare services for customers

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Adamjee Insurance Pakistan's Leading Insurance Company announced that it had signed an agreement with Sehat Kahani, a leading telemedicine platform aiming to provide health care (OPD) services as value added service to its existing and potential Health Insurance subscribers.

This collaboration, Adamjee Insurance as the leading general insurance coverage provider, its health Insurance portfolio having one of the largest market shares in Pakistan. With Sehat Kahani application to ensure 24/7 availability of a dedicated telehealth helpline for all the smart phones and non-smart phone users of the health and micro insurance products.



In addition, a Special medical helpline will be created for those beneficiaries who do not have smart phones / or are unable to use the application. This dedicated helpline will facilitate users according to Pakistan Medical & Dental

Council guidelines and will be available 24/7.

Speaking at the signing ceremony Mr. Ahmer Shoaib - Deputy Executive Director Adamjee Insurance said "We believe this alliance will help Pakistan to fulfill the health

insurance needs by using technology".

Further, Dr. Aliya Zia-Head of Health Insurance Department for Pakistan & UAE added her remarks on this occasion "With the help of Sehat Kahani, we plan to enhance the healthcare experience of our customers by adding Telemedicine Platform as Value Addition to our current portfolio.

Also, Dr. Sara Saeed, CEO & Co Founder, Sehat Kahani added, "We are thrilled to partner with the largest general insurance company of Pakistan. Having ourselves associated with Adamjee Insurance is a privilege, and we look forward to providing the same state-of-the-art telemedicine facility to Adamjee Insurance customers that has been a trademark for Sehat Kahani."



Mr. Khurshid Barlas Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry hosted a farewell dinner in the honour of Mr. Yves Manville Deputy Ambassador French Embassy, H.E. Ibrahim Madni Ambassador of Jordan, Ms. Lianne Nouben Deputy Ambassador of Netherland, Col Mehmood Hasan Defense Attache Embassy of Egypt, Mr. Aslam Perwaiz Trade Officer Denmark Embassy and executive members of PAEI also galated the occasion.

Huawei Watch GT 3 Pro wins EISA's best Smartwatch Product Award

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG) recently received an award from the Expert Imaging and Sound Association (EISA) for its latest smartwatch device, the HUAWEI WATCH GT 3 Pro.

Composed of over 60 of the most respected international specialist consumer electronics magazines, websites, and journalists, EISA named the HUAWEI WATCH GT 3 Pro its 'Best Smartwatch Product for 2022-2023', based on the independent technical reviews of its members. Huawei has been awarded this category for the third consecutive year. The award comes in the wake of several other publication awards for the HUAWEI WATCH GT 3 Pro, which has also won prestigious industry awards from the likes of Android Headlines, Tech Advisor, and PhoneArena.

In the judges' comments, EISA referred to the HUAWEI WATCH GT 3 Pro as 'Huawei's most polished and perfected smartwatch to date', praising its 'classy' and 'luxurious design' which comprises a 'titanium casing, ceramic back and sapphire glass face' as well as Huawei's 'crisp' and 'colourful AMOLED display'. Its 'advanced operation system' and 'plethora of applications and features' were also marked out for praise, including its blood oxygen level monitoring, stress testing, water resistance, and 'exceptional' battery life.



The latest instalment in Huawei's highly popular HUAWEI WATCH GT Series, the HUAWEI WATCH GT 3 Pro is a flagship smartwatch which aims to marry exquisite craftsmanship with high-end aesthetics, allowing users to take their health and fitness to the next level, or even down to completely uncharted waters thanks to its 5ATM and 30 meters diving waterproof [1]. Sporting a premium, Neo-crystal-line look in either the Titanium or Ceramic colourway options, the HUAWEI WATCH GT 3 Pro is the ultimate workout companion which further illustrates the benefits of Huawei's Seamless AI life and 1+8+N strategy.

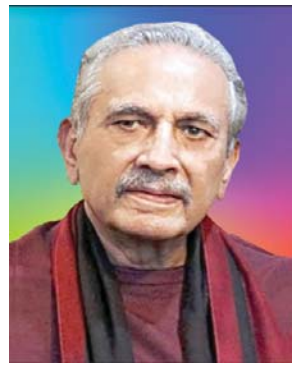
Crop destruction, transport disruption can trigger a food crisis

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Saturday said the food losses are increasing continuously, which may exceed two trillion rupees.

There is a fear of a food crisis in the country because of the disruption of the transport network and the destruction of crops on tens of millions of acres, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that most of the attention of the concerned authorities is focused on saving people, while the survivors need shelter, food,



clean drinking water and medicines, which need attention.

In a statement issued here today, the business leader said that apart from the destruction of crops, millions of live-

stock have been carried away by water, roads and bridges have been washed away and deaths are increasing continuously.

This means that the areas that delivery of food in areas spared by floods will be a formidable challenge, he said, adding that many people in the affected areas are facing severe food shortages and if clean drinking water is not provided to them, they will be forced to drink contaminated water which will cause them diseases, he observed.

He feared that the powerful profiteering mafia will take full advantage of the food shortage situation across the country and if they are not controlled, they

will make Pakistan the most expensive country in the world for their gains.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that central and provincial governments should put aside political tricks and take joint measures to ensure food security in the country because the state of the country's treasury is not such that large quantities of grains and other food items can be imported.

He said that government can consider banning export of food items to improve situation at home.

At this critical juncture, helping flood victims is equivalent to saving humanity and the country.

Gwadar undergoes repaid transformation under China-led developments: Report

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar is undergoing repaid transformation phase under China-led developments, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

Compared with the past, Gwadar is passing through a promising and positive change in terms of its outlook and public life. It is still in the phase of transformation with flying colors.

According to the reports, the people of Gwadar are witnessing the change in their living standards, livelihood, business, and socio-economic dynamics. Credit goes to China-led developments indeed.

It is a matter of fact that Gwadar has been transformed from a small fishing town to a commercial and tourist hub. Undoubtedly, development is a progressive and time-taking process, and to say that Gwadar is set to be the commercial torchbearer for Pakistan would not be an overstatement.

The infrastructural transmutation over the period was largely initiated during the early period of the port's construction and later compounded by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The period from 2015 was particularly a watershed moment for Gwadar, thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative. Apart from the operationalization of the port, China has undertaken a number of initiatives in Gwadar.

East Bay Expressway (EBEW), New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), China-Pakistan

Vocational and Technical Training Institute (PCVTI), China-Pakistan 300 Bed Friendship Hospital, 1.2 million Gallons per Day (MGD) desalination water plant, and a number of other infrastructural development projects are some of the China-funded schemes.

Many of these projects such as EBEW and PCVTI are functional. Others are expected to be completed soon.

Since China's takeover of Gwadar port in 2013, a number of direct and indirect benefits have been offered to the local community. Several job opportunities have been provided. With the ongoing process of industrialization, especially in Gwadar Free Zone, thousands of additional jobs will be created. Moreover, indirectly, Gwadar has been benefitted considerably.

The real estate and construction sectors in the city have been boosted. The tourism sector has gained traction, thanks to the unremediated marketing due to CPEC. In addition to the infrastructure developments, Gwadar is witnessing multiple social welfare programs, such as Gwadar Women's Development Centre, aimed at skills development, women empowerment, and poverty alleviation.

Furthermore, the planned projects can eventually make the locals self-sufficient. Moreover, China has so far installed over 7,000 solar panels in district Gwadar to provide efficient electricity to local users.

Gwadar port is functional with a remarkable capacity to process containers, bulk cargo, and LPG vessels. Hundreds of thousands of cargo is processed annually. Recently, a web-based custom (weboc) service has been instituted as well, which will accelerate the clearance process. In Gwadar Free Zone, more than 50 companies, both from Pakistan and abroad, have been registered and are in the operational stage.

The areas of manufacturing/ processing range from agriculture to trading, food processing, chemical fertilizer, metal processing and agricultural production.

The Scientific Research Laboratory in Free Zone equipped with sophisticated technology is working selflessly on modern techniques to explore new varieties of plants favorable to Gwadar's environment. So far, they have cultivated several varieties of bananas.

Cultivation of other plants such as figs and king-grass which are seemingly unfeasible has made it possible for the local farmers to prospect new avenues of livelihood.

Apart from managing commercial activities, China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC), the concession-holder and operator of Gwadar Port and Free Zone, has undertaken a number of initiatives in the social sector, within the port premises and beyond.

The China-Pakistan High School for girls in Faqeer Colony, which is governed by COPHC,



has proved to be a great achievement in the education sector.

The Women Garments Factory and the goat farm in the Free Zone, in addition to skills enhancement, are a source of livelihood for the local workers.

Besides, Chinese enterprises working in Gwadar, under the framework of CSR, extend a helping hand to their local brothers. During the floods earlier this year, COPHC reached the families on the outskirts of Gwadar. Edible items to 1000 affected families were distributed.

Fishing nets were given to the local fishermen. Apart from social services, China has also striven to enhance the institutional efficiency of Gwadar. Motorcycles and laptops have been given to Gwadar Police to increase their productivity.

For the pursuit of clean and green Gwadar, China-Pakistan Friendship Forest was established where more than 50,000 plants have been planted. This has improved the natural environment of Gwadar.

This is not the end. Gwadar is yet to achieve its full potential. With the construction of the breakwater, completion of the port's dredging process and operationalization of the international airport, Gwadar port will truly prove to be the engine of Pakistan's economic development.

The industrialization of the Gwadar Free Zone will start a new era for Pakistan's progress. With the commencement of manufacturing in the free zone, Pakistan will emerge as a production hub in South Asia. Exports will increase, curtailing Pakistan's current account deficit and increasing the foreign reserves.

Pakistan to take on India in T20 Asia Cup 2022

Babar Azam says we are not a one-man side

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Local residents and cricket fans who have travelled for the event will head to the Dubai International Cricket Stadium today and those unable to attend the match will be glued in front of their television screens at 6pm local time (7pm Pakistan time) when Pakistan and India go toe to toe in a mouth-watering Group A fixture of the ACC T20 Asia Cup 2022.

Provided both the sides progress to the Super Four stage from Group A, which also includes Hong Kong, they will meet again on Sunday, 4 September, with one eye on the 11 September final. However, before reaching the final, they will have to overcome the challenges of the top-two sides from Group B, which comprise Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Before the start of the tournament, both the sides have injury concerns. Pakistan are without Shaheen Shah Afridi, while there is a question mark on Mohammad Wasim Junior's participation, whereas India are without Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel.

However, the absence of these players will not reduce the competitiveness



between the two sides who will be aiming to make a winning start to the competition. Sunday's match will also be the first time the two sides will meet following their clash in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 at the same venue when Pakistan won by 10 wickets.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam: "I know there is tremendous excitement in both the countries but for us, it is just another game. Our preparations have been excellent and we will take the field oozing with confidence."

"Our victory over India 11 months ago

at the same venue is a good reference point, but that's all. While we will continue to reflect on it positively, Sunday and any other matches down the line will be new fixtures that will be played in new conditions.

"I have always believed you don't need any additional motivation to play and perform for Pakistan. Representing your country at a global stage itself is a huge honour and pride, and the objective is always to make the country proud."

"We have a squad full of quality cricketers and match-winners, who will step-up in the absence of Shaheen Shah Afridi and take additional responsibility during the tournament. In the 2021 T20 World Cup, we have already demonstrated we are not a one-man squad. In five league matches, we had five different players of the matches."

"I was actually touched by the way they met Shaheen Shah Afridi during Thursday's training session and expressed their support to him. The visuals of the players interacting with each other were also heartwarming and reflected the respect and friendship they enjoy. But on the match day, everything will be kept aside

and players from either side will come hard at each other in an effort to overpower the other."

On a head to head, India lead Pakistan 7-2. However, in the past 12 months, India have played 29 matches and won 22, while Pakistan have played 13 matches and lost two.

This will be the 15th edition of the Asia Cup since its inception in 1984, but only the second time it will be played on a T20 format. India had won the 2016 event in Bangladesh played on the T20 format, while Pakistan had finished third.

Pakistan: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Shahnawaz Dahani and Usman Qadir.

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, R Pant, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, R Jadeja, R Ashwin, Y Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan.

Rybakina unhappy over Wimbledon rankings snub

NEW YORK: Elena Rybakina accused women's tennis of "weak" leadership on Friday for stripping Wimbledon of rankings points due to the championship's ban on players from Russia and Belarus.

Rybakina realised a life-long dream last month when she claimed a 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Ons Jabeur in the Wimbledon final to claim her first Grand Slam title.

But speaking ahead of the US Open on Friday, Rybakina said she doesn't feel as if her career has benefited from the boost that would normally come with her Wimbledon crown.

In normal circumstances, winning the prestigious grass-court showpiece would have catapulted the 23-year-old into the top 10, and comfortably on course for a place at the season-ending WTA Finals.



Instead, Rybakina will start her campaign at Flushing Meadows next week as the world number 25, prompting the Moscow-born Kazakh to describe her post-Wimbledon experience on Friday as "not the greatest". "I think this is the problem of the structure of the tour," Rybakina said.

"Honestly, a bit weak leadership because we have

so many things going on. It was my dream to win Wimbledon. It's (a) pity. I feel like actually I'm not the Wimbledon champion. "It's everything around. It's (the) points situation. I don't think that it's fair. Of course, we cannot change it. It was a decision before, no one saying about this."

If rankings points had been granted at Wimbledon,

Rybakina would have been second on the WTA's Race to the Finals standings. Only the top eight qualify for the tournament, and Rybakina is currently 20th in the standings.

"Knowing that as of today I will be No 2 on the Race (to the WTA Finals) and I'm not able to play the Race, I don't think it's fair. I'm talking not only about myself, but just generally I think with all the decisions, many players are paying for all these decisions," she said.

"For all these decisions, players are paying. That's what I'm trying to say. I'm not surprised, and this is how I feel also, I'm not surprised that in the end of the day we had many examples when player is actually young and they did amazing results, but in the end decides to quit tennis."

Djokovic absence from US Open 'very sad': Nadal

NEW YORK: Rafael Nadal said he is saddened by Novak Djokovic's absence from the US Open as he returns to the tournament for the first time in three years.

The Spanish legend has not played in New York since defeating Daniil Medvedev in five sets to lift the 2019 title.

Nadal has added three more Grand Slam singles titles to his haul since that victory, taking his total to 22 – the all-time men's record. While the 36-year-old will be looking to add to that tally over the next fortnight in New York, Nadal admitted on Friday that the absence of Djokovic left him "very sad".

Djokovic confirmed on Thursday he will play no part in the tournament after refusing to get vaccinated against Covid-19 – placing him at odds with US government travel requirements for international visitors. "From my personal perspective, it's very sad news," Nadal said.

"It's always a shame when the best



players of the world are not able to play a tournament because of injuries or because of different reasons. "In this case, not having one of the best players of the history in the draw of Grand Slam is always an important miss, no? Tough for the fans, tough for the tournament. In my opinion, tough for the players, too, because we want to have the best field possible."

Yet despite Djokovic's absence, Nadal is adamant that the tournament will not be diminished by the non-participation of the Serbian great, who is just one behind the Spaniard in Grand Slam

singles titles with 21. "I repeat what I said plenty of times: the sport in some ways is bigger than any player," Nadal said.

"I missed a lot of important events in my tennis career because of injuries, without a doubt. Last year I was not here. Two years ago I was not here. The tournament continues. The world of tennis keeps going. "Even if it's not a good news for everyone, the world continues and the tennis will continue after me, after Novak, after Roger (Federer)."

Nadal started 2022 in blistering fashion, winning both the Australian and French Opens before an abdominal muscle injury forced him to scratch from the Wimbledon semi-finals.

He returned from that injury at the Cincinnati Masters this month but exited in the second round. Nadal said Friday he had been protecting the injury during his Cincinnati comeback. "It's a tough injury because it's dangerous, it's risky," he said.

Inter slip up as Lazio go top of Serie A



MILAN: Inter Milan slumped to their first defeat of the season as Spanish duo Luis Alberto and Pedro Rodriguez struck late to guide Lazio to a 3-1 win on Friday which takes the Roman club to the top of Serie A.

It marked another disappointing evening for Inter manager Simone Inzaghi who has yet to pick up a point at the ground he graced as a player for over a decade and where he managed until 2021.

The former Italy striker, instead, had to play second fiddle, as he did last year when Inter were handed another 3-1 defeat, to Maurizio Sarri, the man who replaced him on the Lazio bench. "It was a very bad loss," Inzaghi told DAZN. "It was an even game. We had a good first half but Luis Alberto's goal shifted the balance."

Sarri brought on Luis Alberto and Pedro just before the hour mark, shortly after Inter's Lautaro Martinez had cancelled out Felipe Anderson's 40th minute opener. Luis Alberto restored the Lazio advantage in the 75th minute with a superb shot which left Samir Handanovic stranded in the Inter goal before Pedro wrapped things up four minutes from time.

"This victory is important for us, it's the path we need to follow to progress," said Pedro. With two wins and a draw in three matches, Lazio take over top spot in the table, one point ahead of Inter, who won their first two matches. In Friday's other game, promoted Monza slipped to their third defeat of the season when they lost 2-1 at home to Udinese who collected their first win. Andrea Colpani put the Silvio Berlusconi-owned side ahead just after the half-hour but the lead only lasted four minutes before Beto levelled for Udinese.

Monza were looking good for their first point of the season until 19-year-old defender Destiny Udogie, on loan from Tottenham, knocked in the winner 12 minutes from time. On Saturday, Juventus host Roma, who have won two out of two, while Bologna travel to AC Milan. Napoli can also go three wins from three when they travel to Fiorentina on Sunday.

Marin vows to return to top



TOKYO: Spanish badminton star Carolina Marin vowed to get back to her dominant best after her bid for a record fourth world title was ended by Japan's Akane Yamaguchi.

Marin is feeling her way back into competition after suffering a horror knee injury last year that forced her to miss the Tokyo Olympics and kept her out of action for a year.

She returned to the court in May this year but current world number one Yamaguchi was too strong in their world championships quarter-final in Tokyo, advancing with a 21-17, 21-17 win. Marin said she "felt quite good" physically but "made many mistakes in my strategy" as Yamaguchi wore her down in front of an expectant home crowd.

The Spaniard said she would "keep looking forward" as she tries to recover the form that made her a three-time world champion and an Olympic gold medalist at the 2016 Rio Games. "I know that if I keep going, if I keep practising hard, I will get back to my best level," said the 29-year-old, who also missed last year's worlds in her home city of Huelva because of injury.

"It's tough to lose in a quarter-final at the worlds but this is the life and times. Sometimes we need to learn about losing." Yamaguchi's win meant all four top seeds advanced to the semi-finals of the women's competition.

The Japanese ace will face South Korea's An Se-yung, who beat China's Han Yue in a 21-14, 15-21, 22-20 thriller, while the other match between Chen Yufei and Tai Tzu-ying will be a re-run of last year's Olympic final. China's Chen, who won gold last year in Tokyo, beat Canada's Michelle Li 21-18, 21-17, while Taiwan's Tai advanced with a 21-16, 21-9 win over Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan.

On the men's side, Singapore's defending champion Loh Kean Yew said he would try to "improve everything" after his reign ended with a 21-12, 17-21, 21-8 loss to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn.

Number eight seed Loh said he struggled to cope with the drift inside Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium but vowed to return stronger. "Everything I am good at, I need to become better – whatever I'm not so good at, I need to improve that as well," he said.

China sweeps Australia in quarters of AVC Cup for Women

MANILA: China's women's volleyball team claimed a straight-set victory over Australia in the quarterfinals of the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Cup for Women in Pasig City, the Philippines on Saturday.

Despite dispatching its second-string team to the continental Cup, China proved to be too strong for Australia, winning 25-13, 25-8, 25-8.

China will contend for a final berth with the winner between Thailand and the Philippines on Sunday.

Perez fastest in final practice for Belgian GP



SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Sergio Perez was fastest in final practice before qualifying for the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix on Saturday.

The Mexican, among the favourites for pole position, edged out team mate Max Verstappen, who is facing a grid drop from power unit and gearbox-related penalties, with a one minute 45.047 second lap.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz was third but nearly a second off the pace as Red Bull continued to display a dominant turn of speed, around a cold and overcast Spa-Francorchamps.

Verstappen, who came under investigation for failing to slow down for yellow flags, leads Ferrari's Charles Leclerc by 80 points in the overall standings with nine races remaining.

Leclerc has not given up hope but, like Verstappen, is set to line up at the back of the grid after also collecting power unit and gearbox-related penalties.

The pair are among seven drivers facing similar grid drops. Lando Norris was fourth for McLaren ahead of Alpine's Fernando Alonso, George Russell in a Mercedes and Leclerc, who had a spin into the barriers.

Aston Martin's Sebastian Vettel complained of power unit problems but was eighth fastest ahead of Esteban Ocon's Alpine. Pierre Gasly rounded out the top 10 in his AlphaTauri.

Lyles trumps Norman at Lausanne Diamond League

LAUSANNE: World champion Noah Lyles notched up another victory in his rivalry with fellow American Michael Norman in the 200m at the Diamond League meet in Lausanne on Friday.

Lyles clocked 19.56 seconds, with world 400m champion Norman second in a season's best of 19.76sec.

"I would have taken anything under 19.60, so 19.56 is alright for tonight," said Lyles. "I am in a good physical and mental space and very capable of producing some good times this year. I feel if I have a 19.30 in me." Lyles' teammate Aleia Hobbs made up for the absence of Jamaican duo Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Elaine Thompson-Herah to win the women's 100m.

Five-time 100m world cham-

Fraser-Pryce, with six sub-10.70sec times to her credit this season, was a late withdrawal due to a "muscle sprain" she experienced during her warm-up.

And four-time Olympic sprint gold medallist Thompson-Herah was disqualified for a false start in front of a sell-out 12,700-strong Stade olympique de la Pontaise. Hobbs went on to clock 10.87sec for victory in a photo-finish ahead of a third Jamaican, world 200m champion Shericka Jackson.

Fraser-Pryce said she had been feeling "discomfort in my hamstring". "Unfortunately it doesn't seem to be getting any better," said the 35-year-old mother-of-one.

"As a precaution my coach decided not to risk racing at this

point." Hobbs added: "I had a good start today and I know that if I start well I can get great times. I'm happy with the 10.87, it's another sub-10.9 for me."

Double European champion Jakob Ingebrigtsen set a world leading time of 3:29.05 as he won the 1500m ahead of Kenya's Abel Kipsang.

The Olympic gold medallist, who had to settle for world silver behind Britain's Jake Wightman, was happy that he had kicked on after a strong pace was set. "I've had a good season," the Norwegian said. "Obviously I was disappointed in Eugene. There are always things I can do better and it doesn't always go as expected."

"For the end of the season and next year I have to put in a lot of work to get faster and break records." Treble Europe-

an champion Femke Bol of the Netherlands smashed the meeting record in clocking 52.95sec to win the 400m hurdles.

Former world record-holder Dalilah Muhammad of the United States finished well off the pace in seventh. "It's amazing to run a meet record here and run again in 52," said Bol. "The first 200m felt easy and I wasn't too close to the hurdles. The second part is my better part this year. I am getting tired."

"I was less tired than expected actually. In the last few days I've spent 11 hours a day in bed." A loaded women's 100m hurdles featured all three medallists from Oregon: Tobi Amusan, Britany Anderson and Jasmine Camacho-Quinn. The latter claimed the win in Lausanne in a meet record of 12.34sec, with Amusan



at 0.11sec.

And there was another meet record, by more than 5sec, for Burundi's Francine Niyonsaba, who marked her return from injury with victory in the 3,000m in 8:26.80 ahead of American Alicia Monson and

Kenya's Beatrice Chebet. Dutchwoman Sifan Hassan came fourth while Britain's Laura Muir finished seventh.

Jamaican Rasheed Broadbent pulled off a surprise win in the 100m hurdles, going sub-13sec for the first time in his career as

he beat a strong field in 12.99sec. "I will never forget this race, it's my first time under 13 seconds and I'm very happy for it," he said. "New training camp, much better results, the proof is there. I am happy with how things are going right now."

Americans Trey Cunningham and Grant Holloway completed the podium. Indian Neeraj Chopra outgunned the Czech Republic's European champion Jakub Vadlejch in the javelin, managing a best of 89.08m.

"I am delighted with my result tonight," Chopra said. "I had to skip the Commonwealth Games due to injury and I was a bit nervous. '89m is a great performance. I am especially pleased as I am coming back from an injury and tonight was a good indicator that I have recovered well."