



Pope urges aid for flood-hit Pakistan

Pope Francis on Sunday called on the international community to help Pakistan, where deadly floods have killed more than 1,000 people. The Argentine pontiff appealed for "prompt and generous international solidarity", and said he was praying for the victims. His comments came as he visited the city of L Aquila in central Italy, which was hit by an earthquake that killed more than 300 people in 2009.



Ashrafi slams profiteers, hoarders in flood situation

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony Maulana Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said that hoarding and illegal profiteering is haram (unfair) and people would be held accountable on the day of judgment. He said that price hike in days of calamity and disaster was illegal and a very shameful act, slamming the mafias for spearheading this act.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

France ready to support flood victims of Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: French President Emmanuel Macron while expressing solidarity with the flood victims of Pakistan has said that his country was ready to provide help.

On his Twitter handle, the French president said that their thought went to the people in Pakistan who had been facing terrible floods with countless people missing.

"Our thoughts go out to the Pakistani people facing terrible floods, to the families of the countless people missing and to the populations affected. France stands ready to provide help," he posted.

Azerbaijan to provide \$2m as flood relief aid to Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan Permanent Representative to Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Ambassador to Iran Ali Alizada on Sunday said that under the instruction of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, his country would provide US\$ 2 million in relief assistance to Pakistan to cope with the situation in the aftermath of recent massive floods.

Ali Alizada, who also served as Azerbaijan's ambassador to Pakistan, posted on his Twitter handle.

"By the instructions of the President, Azerbaijan will provide to Pakistan 2 million USD aid to assist in elimination of the consequences of large scale floods," he posted.

Time to Console

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacting with flood victims in Village Haji Allah Dino, District Jaffarabad on Sunday.

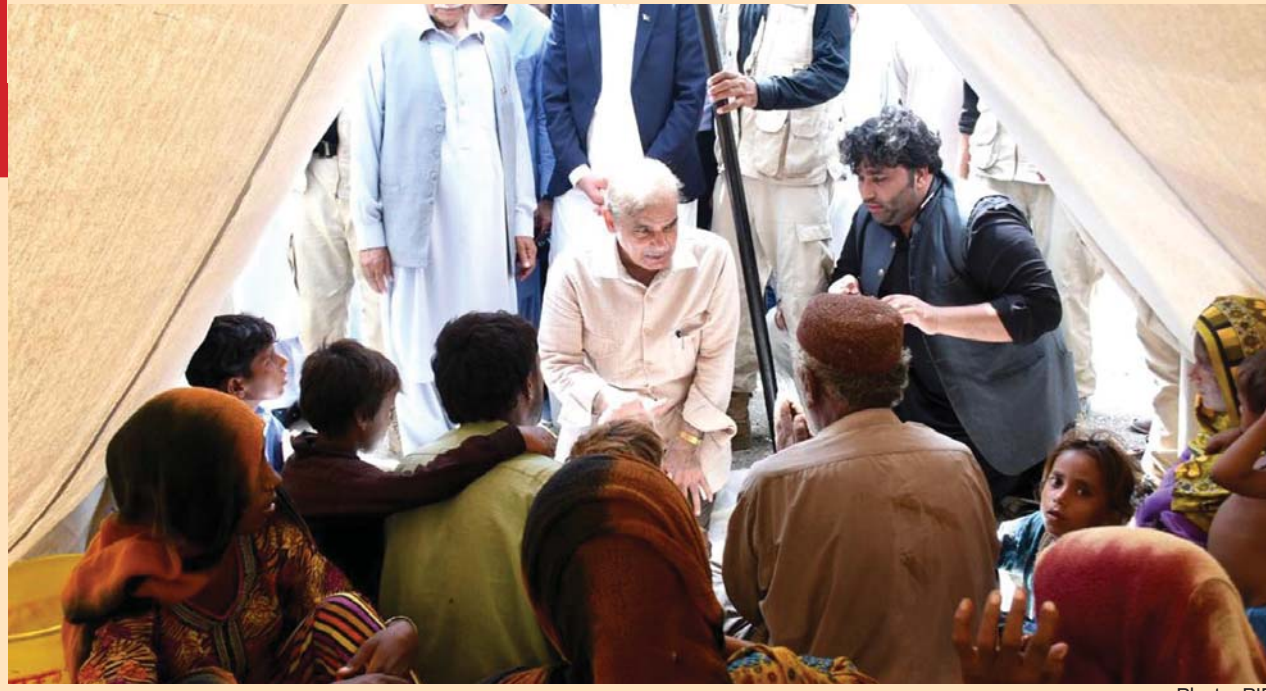


Photo: PID

PM announces Rs10b grant for calamity hit Balochistan

Shehbaz Sharif thanks the friendly countries for their support and solidarity

Spokesman Report

JAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday announced a grant of Rs10 billion for Balochistan province to cope with the situation and assist the flood victims in the aftermath of recent heavy rainfall and floods.

Speaking to media after visiting the flood-affected areas including Haji Allah Dino village, the prime minister said that he had never witnessed in his lifetime such massive destruction wrecked by unprecedented floods and rainfalls across the country.

He said the impacts of natural calamities could not be overcome with mere raising of slogans, making of statements and hurling of allegations.

He stressed that they would have to work hard, and shed sweat

and blood to overcome the flood situation in the country, adding that different countries had devised technical mechanisms by making investments to overcome the natural catastrophes.

Impacts of natural calamities could not be overcome with mere raising of slogans

The prime minister regretted that false statements by certain political figures could not mislead the nation. "I will speak the truth. For the last 73 years, Pakistan could not stand on its feet," he regretted.

The prime minister also expressed gratitude to the Presidents of the United Arab Emirates and Turkey for expressing their grief over loss of lives in Pakistan and their concerns over the distressed Pakistanis who were facing ordeals due to floods.

He said that they were thankful to the friendly countries who were extending flood relief and assistance to the flood victims, adding two plane loads of relief assistance from Turkey would land in Karachi while another from the UAE would arrive Islamabad.

"We are grateful to the friendly countries for their support and solidarity. The UK government and other countries have announced their support in this hour of distress for which we express our thankfulness," he added.

The prime minister also appealed to the wealthy people of the country to support the millions affected people with their generous donations who had been in dire need of immediate relief and assistance.

He said in the past, the people had supported the calamity hit populace, adding that they were receiving donations in the PM Relief Fund, and cited a donation of worth Rs45 million by a group while another significant contribution by an individual.

The prime minister said the federal government was providing Rs25,000 to each flood affected family out of allocated grant of Rs38 billion through the NDMA and the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), so that the deserving were not deprived of the assistance package.

COAS emphasises helping flood victims

General Qamar Javed Bajwa says we must take pride in serving nation in need to best of our abilities



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Sunday emphasised that helping the people of Pakistan in need was a noble cause and "we must take pride in serving them to the best of our abilities".

The COAS visited army troops busy in relief activities in flood-affected areas of Khairpur and Kambar Shahdad Kot, Sindh, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The Army Chief spent the whole day

with flood victims in relief and medical camps established for the local population at Village Jilani, Khairpur, and Kambar Shahdad Kot. The flood victims at Khairpur and Kambar Shahdad Kot thanked the COAS for reaching out to them and sharing their problems and discomfort due to the floods. The COAS met with troops on the ground and appreciated their efforts to bring comfort to the people awaiting their support. Agencies

Govt to rehabilitate flood victims: Zardari

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPP) Asif Ali Zardari said the government would definitely fulfill the responsibility of rehabilitating the rain and flood victims.

In a statement issued here by the party secretariat, he said that it was a painful situation due to rains and floods. Asif Zardari said he would have been present with the victims in such a situation if his health had permitted.

"Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would not leave the people alone. We believe in the Almighty Allah and will succeed in helping people emerge from this difficult situation," he added.

He instructed all the PPP ministers and assembly members to stay among the people of their constituencies.

"The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) should be further expanded and all possible assistance should be given to the poor victims of floods," he said.

He urged the government to help the poor by mobilizing Baitul-Mal. He said that the political paradise was under the feet of the people.

Asif Zardari promised the victims of flood that the PPP would not rest until their rehabilitation. "Politics can wait as this is the time to serve the people," he added. APP

Pak-Turkiye Interior Ministers discuss flood situation

ISLAMABAD: Turkiye Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu had a telephone conversation with Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday and discussed flood situation in Pakistan and emergency humanitarian assistance from Turkey.

The Turkish Interior minister expressed grief and sorrow over the human and property loss due to the floods in Pakistan, said a press release. He expressed solidarity with Pakistan and assured all possible cooperation in relief assistance in all sectors.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, on behalf of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, thanked the Turkish President and the people for providing emergency assistance to the flood victims. He also thanked the Turkish Interior Minister for his sympathy and concern over the flood situation.

The Turkish minister said relief goods have been dispatched to Pakistan through a special plane. The relief goods included tents, medicine and food items,

he said.

He said some 10,000 tents, 3,000 food boxes and 1,000 baby food boxes have been sent to the flood victims.

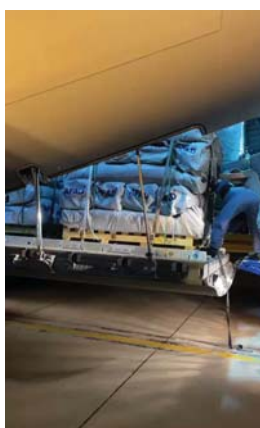
Turkiye has always generously helped Pakistan in difficult times and they were very grateful to the Turkish government for its generous help, Sanaullah said.

He said the flood situation in the country was very alarming due to the record rains in Pakistan this year. Flash floods and landslides had caused severe damage to human lives, property and infrastructure, he said. Sanaullah said saving human lives was government first priority of the government. All resources were being used to provide relief to the flood victims, he said.

He said they would not sit down till complete rehabilitation of the flood victims and compensation for their losses. They were very grateful for the emergency assistance provided by the international community to the flood victims, he said. APP

Relief Goods

Two planes from Turkiye due in Karachi today



ISTANBUL: Two planes carrying relief goods from Turkiye will land in Karachi on Monday.

Consul General of Turkiye in Karachi will hand over the relief goods to the Pakistani authorities at the airport.

The relief items include tents and medicines for the flood affected people.

It is pertinent to mention here that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had a telephonic conversation with Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday regarding the flood situation in Pakistan. Agencies

Int'l community comes to rescue of flood-ravaged Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: As the floods triggered by "above normal" monsoon rains killed over 1,000 people and caused widespread devastation in Pakistan, the international community conveyed its solidarity with Islamabad and assured all-out support in relief assistance to mitigate the sufferings of more than 5.7 million flood-affected population.

OIC appeals to member countries for aid

The Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary General, Houssein Ibrahim Taha expressed deep sorrow over the casualties, massive destruction of property and loss of life resulting from floods in Pakistan.

In a statement, Houssein Ibrahim Taha, while offering sincere condolences to the government and people of Pakistan, expressed sympathies to the victims of the floods and appealed to all member states, Islamic humanitarian organisations and the international community at large for emergency assistance to mitigate the suffering of the affected populations.

Canada announces support
Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his country is providing support to Pakistan through United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund and Red Cross Canada



(From left to right) Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, Turkish President Erdogan, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and OIC Secretary General Houssein Ibrahim Taha. Photo: file

to provide food, clean water and other essential services as quickly as possible. In a tweet, he said like many other Canadians, he is also thinking of everyone affected by the devastating flooding in Pakistan.

UAE offers all possible assistance
United Arab Emirates has offered all possible assistance to Pakistan to mitigate the sufferings of flood victims in the country. This assistance was offered during a telephonic conversation between President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. During the call, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed apprised the Prime Minister that UAE would be immediately dispatching food supplies in addition to medical, pharmaceutical, tents and shelter

materials. He also conveyed his heartfelt condolences over the loss of precious lives due to torrential rains and flash floods in different parts of Pakistan. He expressed firm solidarity with the people of Pakistan in this difficult time and wished all the injured a speedy recovery.

Iran, Turkiye assure all out support
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also received telephone calls from the presidents of Iran and Turkiye.

President Ebrahim Raisi and President Erdogan conveyed solidarity with Pakistan and assured all out support in relief assistance in all areas affected by heavy floods and rains.

UK announces urgent support of £1.5m for flood relief

The UK is providing urgent support to Pakistan after flooding in the south of the country killed nearly 1,000 people. Extreme monsoon rainfall has affected millions, with at least 700,000 homes destroyed. 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."

\$160m UN Flash Appeal for flood donations

The United Nations is set to launch a Flash Appeal in support of Pakistan following devastating rains and floods that have disrupted the lives of millions in the country. According to a report by Dawn, the UN will launch a \$160 million appeal.

In his weekly press briefing on Friday, Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said a UN Flash Appeal will be launched on Tuesday, August 30, simultaneously from Geneva and Islamabad. Agencies

Big Donation

ISLAMABAD: A young girl donates money for the affected people of flood of Pakistan at Sunday weekly bazaar in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Flood Situation

Multi-party conference summoned today

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has summoned a multi-party conference to mull over future course of action with regard to devastations caused by floods and heavy rainfall nationwide, ARY NEWS reported. According to media reports, the multi-party conference will be held at the Prime Minister House on Monday (tomorrow) where consultations will be made on rehabilitation of the flood affectees. "All political parties including allies in the coalition government will be invited to the meeting," they said. Agencies

Uninterrupted electricity being provided in Sindh: Dastagir

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Khurram Dastagir Khan has said uninterrupted electricity is being provided to the pumping stations in Sindh. According to the Power Division, the Minister has been visiting Sindh since last week. It said that the Minister for Power has continuously been monitoring the restoration work of electricity in Sindh. It said that the electricity of most of the areas has been restored. Agencies

Asad briefs Pak diaspora on flood situation

Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed highlighted that massive relief operation is underway in the country

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Pakistan's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan convened a meeting of the leading Pakistani community members based in Belgium at the chancery on Sunday. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the Pakistani diaspora on the situation resulting from flash floods across the country and to coordinate the provision of relief assistance from Belgium for the flood affected population.

While underscoring that the ongoing rains have caused unprecedented damage and devastation in Pakistan, the Ambassador indicated that more than 1033 people including 348 children had lost their lives and 1,527 people got injured including 355 children.

Ambassador Khan underlined that over 33 million people have been badly

affected by the floods and losses could be much more than the 2010 floods. He explained that as per the initial assessments almost 3451.5 km of roads, 149 bridges, 949,858 houses have been destroyed and 719,558 livestock have been lost due to the heavy rains in 116 affected districts, including 66 districts officially declared 'calamity hit' across Pakistan.

The Ambassador highlighted that massive relief operation is underway in the country with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Armed Forces, civil society, philanthro-

pists and welfare organization working hard to reach out to the stranded people with direly needed supplies.

Ambassador Khan mentioned that given the scale of the challenge, the Government has decided to reach out to the friendly countries, donors and the international financial institutions for their support and cooperation at this difficult time.

He appealed to the community members to join hands with the government to save lives and provide much needed supplies including food, water, medications and tents to help fellow Pakistanis.

While apprising the community about the establishment of Prime Minister relief fund for assistance of the flood-affected people, the Ambassador highlighted the procedure for channelizing donations for flood victims through the recently released IBAN numbers by the State Bank of Pakistan.

Over 33mln people badly affected by floods and losses

Saving human lives top priority: Asad Mehmood

TANK: Federal Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mehmood has visited several flood affected areas and distributed about 2,000 food packages among the flood victims.

The minister, along with Tehsil Mayor of Tank Saddam Hussain Betni and Tehsil Mayor of Ladha (South Waziristan) Haji

Taj Maluk, also visited medical camps and flood relief camps and distributed the ration packages among the flood victims.

The heavy machinery including 13 excavators, 15 tractors with trolleys and four extraction machines from the personal fund of the minister were taking part in relief and rescue operations. APP

Govt machinery deploys for flood relief operation: Barrister Saif

PESHAWAR: Advisor to KP Chief Minister on Information, Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif on Sunday said that the government machinery has been deployed in flood hit areas while KP government has released an additional fund of Rs.2.5 billion to provide necessary assistance to flood-victims.

In a statement issued by KP Information Department, Mohammad Ali Saif said that temporary shelters have been setup for flood affected migrants with provision of all the food, grocery, tents, blankets and medicines facilities. He said that KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has deployed a helicopter that was being used by him for rescue and relief operations.

He said that directives have been conveyed to all members of provincial assembly for maintaining liaison with

Catherine phones Bilawal

French FM offers condolences

On devastation caused by floods in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari received telephone call from his French counterpart Catherine Colonna on Sunday.

Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna offered condolences on the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan. The Pakistan Foreign Minister thanked her for France's expression of solidarity and offer of assistance to Pakistani people in this hour of need. He briefed his French counterpart on the widespread destruction caused across Pakistan by unprecedented rainfall resulting in floods and landslides.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari informed that the floods have caused extensive loss of human lives, livelihoods, livestock, crops, property and infrastructure and the situation is likely to deteriorate further as heavy rains continue over areas already inundated by over two months of storms and flooding.



He apprised the French Foreign Minister of government's humanitarian response for people in the affected areas, including establishing a Relief Fund for people all over the country and overseas to donate to the flood relief efforts.

The Foreign Minister shared that a "UN Flash Appeal" 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 two Ministers also exchanged views on reinvigorating and strengthening the bilateral relations in areas of mutual interest. Agencies

President appeals for int'l assistance



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday reinforced the Government of Pakistan's appeal for international assistance and relief to support the flood affectees.

On his Twitter handle, the president said that recent floods had devastated Pakistan as more than one thousand people had lost their lives with billions of dollars damages caused to infrastructure.

The president also appealed to the people in the country to donate generously to help support the flood victims.

"Floods have devastated Pakistan. More than 1K lives lost & billions of \$s of infrastructure damaged. Our institutions are trying their best to help people & knowing our unique spirit, I am sure that we will open our hearts. Let me reinforce govt's appeal for int. assistance," he posted. APP

Nawaz urges political parties to serve flood affectees

LONDON: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Sunday urged the political parties and workers to devote all their activities to serve the flood victims.

While speaking regarding the aid to the flood victims, the PML-N supremo said that the flash flood has caused widespread destruction in Pakistan. People who are victims of natural calamities are waiting for the help of their brothers and sisters, he added.

Urging that this not the time for politics, the former prime minister said there is a dire need to extend full support to the flood-affected people. Besides the political leaders, Nawaz urged the whole nation, including the philanthropists to unite for helping the victims in this hour of sorrow.

Nawaz said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's efforts to help the flood victims are worthy of praise. PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz will also visit the flood-affected areas soon and meet the victims, added the PML-N supremo.

The former prime minister also said, "We pray to Allah Almighty to grant us all the opportunity to serve the suffering people". As the victims of natural calamities are waiting for help, Nawaz added. Agencies



district administrations of the province and relief providing institutions to monitor ongoing relief and rescue operations.

He said that Chief Minister has also directed the heads of all the hospitals to ensure necessary medicines and anti-venomous vaccine stock so that

the affected could be provided treatment in time.

Saif also appreciated the services rendered by the staff of all the departments for organizing comprehensive plans and conducting relief and rescue operations in flood affected areas throughout the province. APP

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PRIME MINISTER FLOOD RELIEF FUND 2022

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For details on flood

Flood Carnage

Millions need humanitarian aid, say experts

ISLAMABAD: Millions of people hit by the worst floods in Pakistan's history of six decades need huge humanitarian aid in terms of food and non-food items, tents, toilets, hygiene kits, sanitary pads, and cash for quick response, rescue and recovery.

Pakistan also needs trained humanitarian workers with global expertise to bring people out of trauma and flood waters and help them rebuild.

This was the crux of a discussion over twitter space organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) wherein experts with humanitarian background high-

lighted a number of policy options for adequate response, recovery and rehabilitation plan. Speaking at the occasion, Executive Director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, said when losses are more than the 2010 floods, a bigger response and recovery plan backed by adequate resources should be made leaving aside political differences and considerations. He said that the damages will result into livelihood losses and food insecurity. He said BISP is a great cash disbursement programme as social safety net. Those who are not registered, they

could be taken on board and cash transfer should start as soon as possible so that people start returning to normalcy and markets are up and running. Head of Pakistan Humanitarian Forum Syed Shahid Kazmi said that we need to prioritize providing cooked food, nutritious dry food items, drinking water, medical camps, fodder and other veterinary services for livestock, de-watering, mosquito nets and shelters with temporary toilets. He said under such circumstances, there is a need to provide women and children safe spaces to protect them against violence. APP

Heavy rains, floods kill 1,033 people, hurt over 1,500

Floods affect over 350 million people, cause loss of over 800,000 livestock

QUETTA/PESHAWAR/KARACHI: The torrential monsoon rains across the country wreak lives and property losses as the total death count in various incidents crossed 1033 and 1500 individuals got injured since the start of monsoon season.

The heavy rains lashing out in 110 districts of the country have incurred multiple life, property, and infrastructure losses during the monsoon period, media reported.

The flood has affected over 350 million people, caused loss of over 800000 livestock and damaged over one million houses across the country.

The heavy rains and floods in the country have washed away the standing corps in various parts of the country.

The floods has also washed away 150 bridges and damaged different roads and highways with 3500 km

length across the country, it added. Many small and medium dams have been swept away and many link roads have been destroyed in the country due to heavy rain in the season. The train service has also been affected due to floodwater in the country.

Pakistan Navy rescue and relief operation on Sunday was underway in coastal and creeks areas and it has further extended its teams to different areas of Sindh.

The Navy extended its teams to areas of Sanghar, Qambar Shahdad Kot, Sukkur, Bakrani, Larkana, Mirpur Khas and Dadu on special request from Sindh government, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Pakistan Navy personnel rescued the locals stranded inside flooded homes and shifted them to safer locations by using helicopters and boats.

The population of an entire village of

Dadu District naming Goth Muhammad Hassan Chandio was evacuated through Sea King Helicopter.

These people took shelter on roof tops of their houses as they cut off from land access due to 5-6 feet water around them.

Pakistan Navy troops distributed dry ration, cooked food, fresh drinking water, tents and other household items to affected populace through land and aerial means especially to the people stuck at their homes and not willing to leave.

Moreover, medical camps established by Pakistan Navy are also working in these areas to provide first aid and free medical facilities to aggrieved populace. Pakistan Navy is determined to continue the rescue and relief operation till the rehabilitation of distressed countrymen.

Meanwhile, all the provincial minis-

ters were actively participating in relief activities in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while Chief Minister Mahmood Khan himself was monitoring relief operations.

Labour minister, Shaukat Yousufzai said his during his visit to the flood affected areas in Charsadda district on Sunday. He said that as many as 34,000 houses have been destroyed in the floods while 230 deaths have been reported in the province.

He said that KP Chief Minister has increased the compensation amount from Rs 300,000 to Rs 800,000 for each dead, while the amount for each damaged house has been increased from Rs 100,000 to Rs 300,000 per house.

The minister inspected all the relief camps and met with flood-victims. He also inquired about the ongoing relief activities of the provincial government.

14 complainants recruited on orders of Ombudsman Office

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: 14 applicants from different districts have been provided with regular jobs in provincial government departments under Rule 17-A of Punjab Civil Servants (Appointment and Conditions of Employment) Rules, 1974 after the involvement of the Office of Ombudsman Punjab.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the spokesman mentioned that Ms Aqsa Naz of Nankana Sahib has been recruited as a data entry operator in grade 12 in Punjab Employees Social Security Institutions in Lahore while Syed Mohsin Qurban of the provincial metropolis has been recruited as accounts assistant in Punjab Workers Welfare Fund in grade 11 after the involvement of ombudsman office.

As a result of the intervention of the ombudsman office, Anam Ali of Lahore has been appointed to the forests department, Aoun Muhammad of Bahawalpur to the metropolitan corporation Bahawalpur, Muhammad Asad of Mianwali to the deputy commissioner's office, Osama Akram of Gujranwala to the local government & community development department, Shahbaz Jabbar Khan to the district education authority Rajanpur and Muhammad Aftab of Vehari has been hired in grade-11 as a junior clerk in the highways department, the spokesman added.

In the meantime, Adnan Hussain of Jhelum has been recruited as a water carrier in grade one in the police department while the son of another applicant from Gujranwala namely Hameed Bibi has been hired as a naib qasid in the education department along with payment of 8,78,232 rupees as pension arrears.

The spokesman further explained that Mohammad Umar Abrar of Multan and Ghulam Ali of Jhang have been employed as naib qasid in the office of the director agriculture water management and district council Jhang, Ali Khan of Bhakkar as cattle attendant in the livestock department and Eltsham Ahmad of Faisalabad has been employed as patwari in the revenue department.

Seminar on tourism held at University of Central Punjab

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Seminar on Tourism was held at University of Central Punjab where large number of students were also present in the seminar.



Dr. Jamshaid Associate Professor of UCP organized this Seminar and Jamil Raza the Ceo of Explorer Den Tourism Service gave the presentation regarding the Tourism locally and internationally. He said that Pakistan has great potential in Tourism field in locally and internationally. He further said that the international tourist really like to Pakistan places and Pakistan is hub of tourism.

At the end of the Seminar Dr. Jamshaid presented the shield to Jamil Raza. On this occasion the other faculties of UCP were also presence and they thanked to Jamil Raza to give a fruitful presentation regarding Tourism.

PTA, NHMP start travel advisory SMS service

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in collaboration with National Highways and Motorways Police has started travel advisory SMS service for mobile subscribers to exercise caution while travelling on highways and motorways to flood affected areas.

The objective of the SMS service was to give awareness to the public to avoid unnecessary travel in such areas where flood warnings have been issued said a news release issued here on Sunday.

Punjab Govt to upgrade welfare institutions

MULTAN: Punjab government will upgrade all welfare institutions to facilitate the deserving citizens by ensuring all sorts of essential items.

Deputy Commissioner Tahir Watto said this during distribution of stitching machines and some other items among the waif and stray kids, residing at Child Protection Bureau Multan here on Sunday.

He observed that the Child Protection Bureau would be shifted to a new building. He instructed the administration of the Child Protection Bureau to introduce courses.

Regarding the upgradation of welfare institutions, Watto maintained that furniture and other facilities would be added to Dar ul Aman and Nagheban Centre as budget was being earmarked for both institutions.

IGFC South reviews relief work



Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: IGFC South Major General Muhammad Munir visited Tank, to review the relief work of District Tank flood victims, met the flood victims of Garah Baloch village, rations and tents were also distributed among the affected families.

In Tank where the district administration and other relevant departments are working in the relief activities of the flood affected people, on the other hand, Pakistan Army and FC South are also actively participating in the work of the flood victims.

According to the details, on Sunday, IGFC South visited Garah Baloch, the flood-affected area of Tank district, Before visiting Garah Baloch, IGFC South Major General Muhammad Munir Officer along with Sector Commander South and Deputy Commissioner Tank Hameedullah Khattak conducted an aerial survey of all the flood affected areas of Tank.

During this time, he learned about the flood disasters and relief operations, On the occasion of his visit to

Garah Baloch, IGFC South met the flood victims

Commanding Officer of Pakistan Army and DPO Waqar Ahmed were also present on this occasion.

He distributed rations and tents to the victims, During the meeting with the flood victims, IGFC South Major General Muhammad Munir Officer said, that in this hour of grief, the soldiers and officers of the Pakistan Army and FC South are with the flood victims and will not leave the flood victims alone under any circumstances.

The Pakistan Army District Administration Tank and other relevant agencies will continue to provide assistance to the flood victims, utilizing all available resources

In order to ensure timely assistance to affected families. He said that practical measures are being taken together with the district administration to speed up the relief work of the flood victims, the role of the media in the relief activities is also important.

By identifying which, the administration and security agencies are getting a lot of help in relief work.

Arranging goods

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army personnel arranging goods donation from people in flood relief camp alongside Murree Road in front of Allama Iqbal Park in the city.



Photo: Online

MUSLIM Institute organizes seminar

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: MUSLIM Institute organized a seminar on "Diamond Jubilee of Pakistan and Pakistan's Relations with Central Asian States".

Dewan of Junagadh and Chairman MUSLIM Institute Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhen Kistafin, Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Shamsahad Ahmed, Department of History and Pakistan Studies, Punjab University Lahore Professor Dr. Mahboob Hussain participated in the seminar.

On this occasion, the speakers felicitated the entire Pakistani nation on the completion of 75 years of Pakistan's independence. While addressing, the speakers specially highlighted Pakistan's special relations with Central Asian states. The speakers said that trade and in many other important issues can be boosted with mutual cooperation in these central asian countries. Central Asian states can be included in CPEC under China's One Build One Road project, which will not only benefit Pakistan but also boost the



trade of these countries. Peace is indispensable for the promotion of trade, all countries should make joint efforts to restore peace. Speakers said that there is a historical relationship between Pakistan and Central Asian states.

Based on this historical relationship, the vision of the founder of Pakistan was that geographically, Pakistan's face is towards Central Asia and its back is towards India. The way of development and economic prosperity of Pakistan opens from this. The speakers also emphasized that Pakistan and Central Asian countries have a large youth population. This potential can be further enhanced by promoting public

relations and people to people contact.

All countries should work together to promote tourism and cultural heritage. In this regard, an easy visa process should be ensured so that tourists do not face any difficulty in traveling to other countries. Exchange of students in the academic department and special chairs can be established in universities in this regard. Scholarships can be provided to students in various universities.

The speakers further stated that the region will benefit from improved relations between Central Asian countries. A country's expertise in any field can benefit other countries.

Camps set up in Lahore to support flood victims

LAHORE: The district administration has established camps at various locations in the provincial capital to mobilise philanthropists to arrange for relief items for the flood victims.

On special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali, camps were set up at Shahdra Chowk, Bhatti Chowk, Babu Sabu, Chauburji, Yateem Khana, Thokar Niaz Baig, Sabzazar, Liberty roundabout, Barkat Market, Gajjumatta Stop, Muslim Town, Model Town market, Collage Road, Link Road, Chung, Adda Plot, Bahria Town, Bhatta Chowk, DHA Phase-V and others.

People may deposit essential food items and relief goods at these camps. Clothes, blankets, mattresses, water bottles, tents and other relief material may be deposited there.

A control room has been established in the DC office for monitoring of the camps. People could call the control room on 042-99210630 and What-App number 0307-0002345. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali appealed to masses, philanthropists to come forward and help the rain- and flood-affected people.

LUMS, UoBS students celebrate experiential learning programme

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Last week students, faculty, and staff from LUMS and the University of Baltistan, Skardu (UoBS) celebrated the successful completion of the inaugural session of 'Learning Without Borders: The Baltistan Experience'.

150 students from LUMS, and 150 students from UoBS, came together for a month in Skardu, where they participated in one of five experiential learning programmes. The closing ceremony on the Anchan Campus in Skardu provided an opportunity to share learnings and to commemorate the successful conclusion of this ground-breaking programme.

Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain, Assistant Professor and focal person, UoBS, highlighted the opportunities that



the programme provided. "There is a lot of knowledge and wisdom hidden behind these mountains. As students and faculty, you observed the environment around you, picking up rocks, flowers, going in the water, seeing energy resources - observing them all and embracing this opportunity for learn-

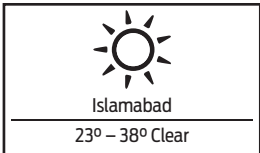
ing," he said.

Representing the LUMS faculty, Dr. Muhammad Tariq, Associate Professor, congratulated students and said, "I can say with full conviction that this dream that we have woven together is the seed you have sown for a new era, new research and new teaching. InshaAllah

we will harvest its fruit together in the coming years."

Dr. Naeem Khan, Vice Chancellor, UoBS, referred to the landmark academic collaboration between both universities. "This partnership will continue and become a model on how to learn together, how to help each other, how to study the environment and learn from our ecology and culture."

Dr. Arshad Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, LUMS, encouraged the graduating cohort to look beyond disciplinary boundaries: "Remember that everything that you have learned is connected. Real education unlocks what we didn't understand before. He also echoed sincere appreciation to everyone involved and looked forward to further strengthening the programme next year."



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:11 am
Zohr 12:09 pm
Asr 4:48 pm
Maghrib 6:39 pm
Isha 8:06 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 116
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 Inquiry 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

BISP distributes over Rs6b among 255,946 families

Control room established at BISP headquarters to ensure smooth payments

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On special Instructions of Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety/ Chairperson BISP Shazia Marri and with special coordination of State Bank of Pakistan BISP's partner banks payment centers are kept open on Sunday (holiday) for the smooth disbursement of payment to flood affectees in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

So far a total amount of Rs.6,434,111,806 has been disbursed among 255,946 flood affected families under this programme. Currently, 38,930 affected families have received Rs.984,007,726 in Balochistan; 154,860 families have received Rs.3,888,417,506 in Sindh; 20,799 families have received Rs. 522,441,500 in KP and 41,357 families have received Rs.1,039,245,074 in Punjab.

The administration of Benazir Income Support Programme has directed the concerned staff who is present at the camp-



sites 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.

Hike

ISLAMABAD: People are busy in buying vegetables from a vendor at Sunday weekly bazaar in Federal Capital. Prices of various vegetables and fruits have massively surged in Punjab and other parts of the province and are expected to increase further in the coming days due to short supply in markets and destruction of the crops by the floods in Balochistan and Sindh.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Indonesian Ambassador offers condolences over floods in Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Tugjo has expressed heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to Pakistani brothers and sisters victims of flooding in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said in a message that unprecedented scale of the flooding in these provinces has clearly demonstrated a devastating impact of climate change. "The international community will work together to assist Pakistani government in extending humanitarian assistance to the victims of this calamity and to address global warming issue for healthier environmental and better future of our next generation."

IIUI president inaugurates new lab

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Hathal bin Homoud Al-Otaibi, President, International Islamic University (IIU) at the Dr. Hamidullah library of the Islamic Research Institute (IRI), inaugurated the newly installed preservation and conservation lab that will process as many as 20 thousand rare manuscripts and books.

The President IIUI was briefed about this fumigation chamber (the aforesaid lab) by Director General IRI Dr. Muhammad Zia ul Haq, while Dr. Nabi Bux Jumani Vice President A&F & Dr. Sajid Mirza, chief Librarian



and senior officials of the institute were also present on the occasion.

Dr. Hathal hailed the efforts of the IRI library officials adding that Dr. Hamidullah

library is one of the precious assets of the university that contains rare legacy and history. On the occasion, IIUI President also inaugurated the International Centre of excellence for Seerah Studies at Dr. Hamidullah library.

Dr. Sajid Mirza in his briefing on the occasion told that the centre has a very rich collection of around 7 thousand precious books on Seerah. The IIUI President hoped that the efforts shall help in promoting research on Seerah and also it would help in bringing the students towards exploring the precious pieces of knowledge available in the library.

Health Corner

More intense allergy seasons could result from climate change

ISLAMABAD: Allergy seasons are likely to become longer and grow more intense as a result of increasing temperatures caused by human-made climate change, according to new research from the University of Michigan.

By the end of this century, pollen emissions could begin 40 days earlier in the spring than we saw between 1995 and 2014. Allergy sufferers could see that season last an additional 19 days before high pollen counts may subside.

In addition, thanks to rising temperatures and increasing CO2 levels, the annual amount of pollen emitted each year could increase up to 200%.

"Pollen-induced respiratory allergies are getting worse with climate change," said Yingxiao Zhang, a U-M graduate student research assistant in climate and space sciences and engineering and first author of the paper in Nature Communications. "Our findings can be a starting point for further investigations into the consequence of climate change on pollen and corresponding health effects."

U-M researchers developed a predictive model that examines 15 of the most common pollen types and how their production will be impacted by projected changes in temperatures and precipitation. They combined climate data along with socioeconomic scenarios, correlating their modeling with the data from 1995 through 2014. They then used their model to predict pollen emissions for the last two decades of the 21st century.

Allergies symptoms run the gamut from the mildly irritating, such as watery eyes, sneezing or rashes, to more serious conditions, such as difficulty breathing or anaphylaxis. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, 30% of adults and 40% of children suffer from allergies in the U.S.

The grasses, weeds and trees that produce pollen are affected by climate change. Increased temperatures cause them to activate earlier than their historical norms. Hotter temperatures can also increase the amount of pollen produced.

Allison Steiner, U-M professor of climate and space sciences and engineering, said the modeling developed by her team could eventually allow for allergy season predictions targeted to different geographical regions.

"We're hoping to include our pollen emissions model within a national air quality forecasting system to provide improved and climate-sensitive forecasts to the public," she said. Courtesy Science Daily



Pakistan to receive more aid from UAE: Marriyum



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said fifteen more plane loads of relief goods from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would arrive in Pakistan in the coming days.

She, in a series of tweets, said the first consignment of relief goods from the UAE would arrive at Nur Khan Airbase on Sunday.

Marriyum said the first consignment from UAE for flood affectees is being sent on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's appeal to the UAE authorities in the wake of severe flood in the country. The relief goods included tents, food, medicine and other items, she added.

Book Muta-e-Aziz launched at PAC



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The launch of the book "Muta-e-Aziz" by Prof. Dr. Aziz Ahmed Hashmi, head of National Anthem Foundation, was held in Punjab Arts Council.

The event was presided over by Vice Chancellor of Jamia Al Karam International University Hazrat Pir Dr. Muhammad Abul Hasan Shah Sahib Al Azhari. Former Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Law and former judge of Lahore High Court Akhtar Hasan Malik participated in the event as a special guest. Former Ameer Al-Bahr Admiral Abdulaziz Mirza attended the book launch as a guest of honour. Ayesha Masood performed the duties of host in the ceremony.

The ceremony started with the national anthem, in which the elite of Anjuman Faiz-e-Salam gave a salute. The host of the event Major General (retd) Waqar Ahmad Khan thanked the guests and the participants for attending the book launching ceremony. The President of the event, Dr. Muhammad Abul Hasan Shah Sahib Al-Azhari, while addressing the audience and dignitaries, urged them to study Muta Aziz and urged the young generation not to think of Muta Aziz as just a book. Rather, they should be guided by the thoughts and observations of Professor Aziz Ahmed Hashmi. If they do so, there will be progress towards the establishment of a righteous society. Professor Dr. Aziz Ahmad Khan expressed his views and said that the students and the new generation should try to understand the objectives of the national anthem and ensure its implementation.

So that a virtuous society can be formed. Renowned journalist Dr. Zahid Chaghatai described Muta Aziz as the best role model in Urdu communication. Renowned poet Naseem Sahar presented a written essay while Akbar Khan Niazi described Muta Aziz as a source of guidance for the new generation. Prominent writer Qayyum Tahir called Muta Uzair a masterpiece as the best example of smoothness and fluency.

Chaudhry Muhammad Ashraf, Dr. Riaz Ahmed, Raja Muhammad Amin, Professor Inam Muhammad, Brigadier (Rtd) Khalid Mehmood, Anjum Hafeez Qureshi, Imran Qureshi, Nusrat Yab Khan, Abrar Ahmed Khan and other speakers paid tribute to Aziz Ahmed Khan. Saying that at the age of 78, Professor Aziz Ahmed Hashmi has written a book in which he has presented his memories in a very beautiful way from his childhood, youth and then entering old age. A large number of people from the twin cities participated in the event.

Dr. Mukhtar aims to promote national harmony & research culture at HEIs

Amjad Mehmood

ISLAMABAD: The restoration of research culture, revision of programs' curriculum as per global standards and market needs, special focus on national harmony through education, uplifting of quality standards, and appropriate funding for the education sector are my core goals to accomplish, says Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed while addressing the audience in a meet and greet ceremony organized by renowned lawyer Advocate Muhammad Abdul Rafah at Islamabad Club.

He said education is key to success and a way forward of development to attain glory in every field likewise in the developed nations of the world. He emphasized that our institutions should assess the core challenges to higher education in Pakistan and give special focus to struggling areas for real-time improvement.

He assured his unconditional support to HEIs in every initiative for betterment. Dr. Mukhtar said, he is thankful to Allah almighty for giving him another opportunity to serve the nation and to the academic community for sending good wishes from all over Pakistan on his appointment. He said history is full of contributions



and discoveries of Muslim scholars which are being explored in contemporary modern sciences and our young students with no doubts abilities can achieve the same pinnacle.

Earlier, by starting the formal proceedings of the ceremony Advocate Abdul Rafah shared a brief record of Dr. Mukhtar's achievements in his first tenure as Chairman of HEC. He said his every policy and action was lauded publically and his pleasing personality kept elated to HEL, students, government institutions, and his opponents as well. He secured the highest-ever funding from the government for education and introduced multiple student-centric schemes at the national level. He said the academicians, students, and universities have tied high hopes from his re-appointment

as Chairman HEC for the restoration of his tested and successful policies.

During the ceremony in his speech, Rector Comsats, Islamabad Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal shared his best wishes for Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and said that HEC needs to extend its full support to HEIs for the improvement of research and development culture in higher education. In his speech, Sahibzada Sajid ur Rehman, Head, Seerat-un-Nabi chair at Allama Iqbal Open University said, the establishment of the 'Seerat Chair' in HEIs was a great step taken by Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and he expects that HEC would ensure that HEIs follow the model of the maiden Seerat chair established at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad.

He said the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) are available

as a guidebook to achieving success in every walk of life. Renowned columnist, Khurshed Nadeem, while applauding the government's decision to re-appoint Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed as Chairman HEC, said that his first tenure was non-controversial and successful too and he expects a similar performance from him in his second tenure. He said today our society is in dire need to give special focus on social sciences to build national harmony and character of graduates so they bring positivity to society. He expressed his concerns about ever-growing trends of polarization in Pakistani society.

Amongst the other dignitaries from various government and private sectors, the ceremony was also attended by Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar, Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court, Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman, Vice Chancellor Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Chairman Council for Islamic Ideology, Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Project Management Unit Head/ Senior Advisor at AIOU, Mohammad Rafique Tahir, Mr. Zulfiqar Cheema, former Inspector General of Motorway Police, Dr. Nisar Cheema, Member of National Assembly, Air Commodore (r) Muhammad Saleem, Registrar, Mohi-Ud-Din Islamic University and senior lawyer advocate Sajjad Afzal Cheema.

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Terrorism: A threat to peace



Analysis

Raja Furqan Ahmed

such as Tiberius and Caligula used banishment, expropriation of property and execution as a means to discourage opposition to their rule.

Terrorism against the enemy has often viewed as a religious act and suicidal person will get the reward in heaven.

The history of modern terrorism began with the French revolution. The term terrorism was also coined during the Reign of Terror, the period of the French Revolution from September 1793 to July 1794, during which the Revolutionary Government directed violence and harsh measures against citizens suspected of being enemies of the Revolution. This was also the birth of State-Sponsored Terrorism. In-state sponsored terrorism, the major goal is to eliminate the opposition and consolidate the power.

Late 19th century, terror was adopted in Western Europe, Russia, and the United States by adherents of anarchism, who believed that the best way to effect revolutionary political and

social change was to assassinate persons in positions of power. From 1865 to 1905 a number of kings, presidents, prime ministers, and other state officials were killed by anarchists' guns or bombs just like Lincoln assassination.

Terrorism also became a tool of communication and propaganda. The most common causes or roots of terrorism include civilizations or culture clashes, globalization, religious conflict. More personal or individual-based reasons for terrorism are frustration, deprivation, negative identity, narcissistic rage, and moral disengagement.

At the end of the 20th century, religious-based terrorism became more influential and popular. Due to the advance globalization, the new techniques and tools were developed such as economic terrorism, which destroys the industry and agriculture system. In the 21st century, the most prominent groups are al-Qaeda, the Taliban and ISIL.

Terrorism is a special type

of violence and Asymmetrical warfare. Asymmetric warfare is between the opposing forces which differ greatly in military power and that typically involves the use of unconventional weapons and tactics (such as those associated with guerrilla warfare and terrorist attacks). Guerrilla warfare, occurring between lightly armed partisans and a conventional army, is an example of asymmetrical warfare. Terrorist tactics, such as hijackings and suicide bombings, are also considered to be asymmetrical, both because they tend to involve a smaller, weaker group attacking a stronger one. As a weaker group unexpectedly surprise the stronger group.

There are mostly two types of terrorism, Domestic and International terrorism. Domestic terrorism includes those particular groups which are working within the state without foreign involvement but due to the globalization domestic terrorism activities are backed by the foreign interest. Example of Domestic terrorism is

the Baloch Liberation Army. The BLA is operating mainly in Balochistan, the largest province of Pakistan where it carries out attacks against the Pakistan Armed Forces, civilians and foreign nationals. Afghan Taliban also comes in the category of domestic terrorism because they are fighting against the Afghan government and invaders and their activities are mostly inside the state. The other type is

International terrorism, which involves groups whose terrorist activities are foreign-based or directed by countries or groups outside the State. Example of International terrorism is the 9/11 attacks which were conducted by Al-Qaeda members in the USA.

The only solution to minimize terrorism is that the state should take the responsibility for not creating terrorist groups for their short-range goals.

The writer is a freelance journalist based in Islamabad, Pakistan. He tweets @furqan-rajai1122.

Solidarity with Flood Victims

As the monsoon rains wreak havoc in different parts of the country. Following heavy torrential rains and flash floods in different parts of the country, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, departments of Federal Government have taken a leading role in the rescue and relief operations. The federal government is providing the much-needed humanitarian assistance including food and non-food items to thousands of flood victims.

Besides provincial departments and Rescue 1122, officials of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Highway Authority (NHA), troops of Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force and Frontier Corps, on Sunday, expedited rescue and rehabilitation operations in the flood hit areas of the country including KP and worst affected Balochistan.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a fresh flood update on Sunday said that the troops were busy in rescue and relief efforts apart from providing medical care and opening up communication infrastructure. While monitoring closely, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said federal government is working with Balochistan government to provide immediate relief to the flood affected people in the province. The PM after visiting the flood-hit areas of Balochistan to oversee the ongoing relief work and express solidarity with the flood affected people. The Prime Minister said the ongoing relief work will be further accelerated. He said about three hundred people, including 124 from Balochistan, have lost their lives in the floods. He said although there is no compensation for human life, however, the federal government is paying one million rupees to every household of the deceased. The Prime Minister said he has also ordered increase in financial assistance for those whose houses have damaged in the floods.

The PM said these are certainly challenging times for the flood affected people but the government will not leave any stone unturned to provide them relief and ensure their rehabilitation. Keeping in view the current situation in flood affected areas, apart from the government initiatives, there is a dire need to work collectively to support the flood victims. Every year, the country faces heavy rains and floods.

The term, Terrorism is defined as the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political or religious purpose. Terrorism is not legally defined in all jurisdictions, however, the statutes that do exist, generally share some common elements. Terrorism involves the use or threat of violence and seeks to create fear, not just within the direct victims but among a wide audience.

Terror has been practised by state and also non-state actors throughout history. During a Roman Emperors in 14-37 AD



Iraq gets deeper and deeper into a political quagmire

Hafed Al-Ghwel

Ten months ago, Iraq was on the verge of pulling off a remarkable, albeit improbable, feat after the conclusion of national parliamentary elections. Most Iraqis were skeptical of the tired promises, delivered with the usual populist grandeur typical of a country adrift in chaos and with an absentee leadership. However, the October 2021 vote offered the last, best chance for a hopelessly battered Iraq to break a nearly two-year political stalemate that was hampering efforts to deliver improved public services, new jobs and much-needed reforms.

After the election, two broad coalitions formed, guided less than in the past by sectarian, or even class-related, differences in visions for post-2019 Iraqi politics, the economy and society at large. Instead, a tripartite gathering of Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds emerged, seeking a majoritarian government that could free Iraq from nearly two decades of ineffectual politicking and gridlock.

On the other hand, however, a loose coalition of Iran-backed Shiite groups sought to reinforce the politicking by insisting on the traditional "tafaufiq" — a sort of "broad" consensus governance that came to define (and cripple) Iraqi politics after the ill-fated US-led invasion 19 years ago.

The two sides have jostled, face-to-face and within the judiciary, for months seeking ways to undermine each other and prevent their opponents from cobbling together an acceptable base from which to advance the political process.

On the other hand, the tripartite coalition disintegrated after members of the Sadrist bloc in parliament abruptly resigned, only to be replaced by political rivals angling to fast-track a stalled political process. After all, if the Sadrists were to try to outmaneuver parliament from the outside, or manacle its work through "peaceful revolutions," it would be before and during government formation. Any later moves would force a now incumbent government to deploy the security forces against the Sadrists. The latter would have likely summoned the power of the state to suppress the opposition, justifying the use of force as necessary for enacting change from within a seemingly broken political system.

Of course, the Sadrists dismiss these concerns as mere suppositions by a gilded elite beholden to

foreign agendas, which necessitate calls for more drastic expressions of public furor. Patience is wearing thin among rival factions. They hint at taking up arms when dialogue fails. There have already been assassination attempts and attacks on the offices of key political figures, underscoring the razor's edge Iraq is walking ahead of a possible plunge into a maelstrom that would make the horrors of Daesh's emergence pale in comparison.

The current political crisis is easily the longest in almost two decades since the 2003 invasion. Worse yet, now that there is a conspicuous lack of a common "enemy" or cause — such as the "defeat" of Daesh or the end of Kurdish secessionist ambitions — the bulk of Iraq's maladies are coming from within, where politics have become the purview of proxies, guided by brinkmanship and not a lot of substance.

Last year's elections may have elevated the Sadrists and afforded them some political heft, but their ability to defy expectations and pick up a sizable number of seats in parliament did not usher in a period of promised change, nor liberation from a heavy-handed Tehran and a strangely indifferent US.

In turn, a peculiar multipolar system has emerged among a mostly leaderless, feuding Shiite assemblage that includes both the Sadrists and the expansive Coordination Framework, featuring an alliance led by former Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki. Having failed to threaten or beguile fellow Shiites into falling in line behind him, Al-Sadr has since resorted to outlandish actions such as demanding the country's Supreme Judiciary Council dissolve the parliament.

These latest efforts came to naught but did not dissuade staunch Sadrist supporters from protesting outside the Supreme Judiciary Council in an effort to pressure the court into issuing a favorable ruling next week in an unrelated lawsuit seeking dissolution.

The chief concern among many keen observers is that escalating tensions, against the backdrop of Iraq's extreme socioeconomic and political challenges, might lead to Iraqis fighting among themselves for completely different reasons. Everyone in Iraq is armed, whether members of paramilitaries or civilians, and so the possibility of further escalations and a heightened potential for violence demand the utmost prudence — not a stubborn reversion to the impracticable and incendiary.

Simply shutting the Sadrists out will not work

either, even if their ultimate goal is to rewrite the Iraqi constitution and social contract. Despite multiple calls for this, and many changes in Iraq since 2003, the political will or capital to amend the flawed constitution simply does not exist. In addition, the US, Iran, Turkey and some other enterprising external actors would not accept such a drastic change in the status quo, since the persistent dysfunction more or less prevents other forces from seeking to dominate Iraqi dynamics, while leaving enough space to exert some influence.

As a result, the inadvertent imbalances of power created by the constitution are unlikely to be addressed in the short-to-medium term, despite fueling the squabbling not only with the Sadrists but also among the Coordination Framework's multiple factions.

In addition, Sunnis and Kurds are particularly squeamish about any talk of fiddling with the constitution — after all, talk of reforms is all well and good but public outbursts or "spontaneous, peaceful resolutions," could lead to a systemic breakdown and intra-Shiite armed conflict that would disproportionately affect minorities.

Looking ahead, it will not be easy to break this deadlock given the wide gulf between the visions of the Coordination Framework and the Sadrists for an ideal political system for Iraq. Nearly two decades of endemic corruption, backroom deal-making and the apportioning of benefits has only served the interests of a connected and well-to-do political elite, including Al-Sadr himself. Meanwhile the rest of Iraq has languished despite having the fourth-largest proven oil reserves in the world.

The Sadrist plan, which demands swift, radical political change, might appeal to a desperate Iraqi public but its suspicious lack of coherence or clarity has left more questions than answers, which the mercurial cleric has yet to provide. (Courtesy: Arab News)

Hafed Al-Ghwel is a non-resident senior fellow with the Foreign Policy Institute at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. He is also a senior adviser at the international economic consultancy Maxwell Stamp and the geopolitical risk advisory firm Oxford Analytica, a member of the Strategic Advisory Solutions International Group in Washington, and a former adviser to the board of the World Bank Group.

What can private sector do to tackle water security challenges?

Aamer Sheikh

Water is not only a critical component of our food system, but a fundamental human right. It is also an essential resource for the growth and prosperity of communities worldwide. For Saudi Arabia — the eighth most at-risk country in terms of water stress according to the Washington-based World Resources Institute's 2019 Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas — it is a particular concern.

The Kingdom has limited non-renewable groundwater reserves, which are being rapidly depleted. Due to arid climate conditions, renewable water is extremely scarce. Additionally, the high demand for water in the agricultural sector is exacerbating water scarcity and placing incredible pressure on food security in the Kingdom.

Climate change further exacerbates the problem by disrupting weather patterns, leading to severe weather events, unstable water availability, increased water scarcity and polluted water supplies. All of these can drastically affect the quantity and quality of water.

In line with Saudi Vision 2030, the government has made considerable strides in addressing water security and sustainable agriculture, working to reduce daily per capita consumption from 263 liters to 150 liters by 2030, among other aggressive goals.

Water security is no longer a distant challenge. It is an urgent one that demands collective action. The role of the private sector in this endeavor is indispensable.

At PepsiCo, we work with like-minded companies to tackle water security by doubling down on efforts to conserve and replenish water. As a company that depends on agricultural output from a high water-risk area, we are responsible for continuously looking at how we can better use, reuse and save this precious resource.

By focusing on regenerative agricultural practices at the local level to improve water security, we are building a stronger foundation for our products to help make the entire food system more sustainable. Every day we aim to progress on two fronts: Conserving water by reducing our water use and replenishing the water we use.

We have invested in and activated several initiatives in our plants to increase water efficiency. We will continue to apply our efforts to reduce the water per production unit to 80 percent of current use. To improve water use efficiency in our wider supply chain, we are working with our potato suppliers, local farmers, irrigation consultants and energy solutions partners to apply global best practices in technology and innovation.

In addition, we are working with local farmers to grow potatoes in seasons that require less water, expanding the use of drip irrigation, scheduling watering systems and improving water distribution efficiency. We are shifting to varieties with higher yields, and we are continuously exploring new irrigation technologies.

By 2030, we want to improve water use efficiency in our agricultural supply chain by 40 percent, and by the end of 2023 we want to put 100 percent of the water we use in our Saudi snack plants back into the local watershed annually.

The water crisis needs systemic action at all levels of public- and private-sector decision-making and at the local, regional and global levels to drive positive change for current and future generations.

Working together can reduce our collective carbon footprint, feed a rapidly growing population and provide meaningful economic opportunities for more people. Every small step can significantly impact and positively influence the people in our community and contribute to a bright, and green, future for the Kingdom. (Courtesy: Arab News)

Aamer Sheikh is CEO of PepsiCo Middle East.

U.S. warships transit Taiwan Strait, first since Pelosi visit

Taiwan says its forces were observing but that "the situation was as normal"

WASHINGTON: Two U.S. Navy warships sailed through international waters in the Taiwan Strait on Sunday, the first such operation since a visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi enraged China which regards the island as its territory.



The U.S. Navy, confirming a Reuters report, said cruisers Chancellorsville and Antietam were carrying out the ongoing operation. Such operations usually take eight to 12 hours to complete and are closely monitored by China's military.

In recent years U.S. warships, and on occasion those from allied nations such as Britain and Canada, have routinely sailed through the strait, drawing the ire of China which claims Taiwan against the objections of its democratically elected government.

Pelosi's Taiwan trip in early August infuriated China which saw it as a U.S. attempt to interfere in its internal affairs. China subsequently launched military drills near the island which have since continued.

"These (U.S.) ships transited through

a corridor in the strait that is beyond the territorial sea of any coastal state," the U.S. Navy said.

The operation demonstrates the United States' commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, and the U.S. military flies, sails and operates anywhere international law allows, the navy said. The Chinese military's Eastern Theater Command said it was following the ships and warning them.

"Troops in the theater remain on high alert and are ready to thwart any

provocation at any time," it added in a statement.

Taiwan's defense ministry said the ships were sailing in a southerly direction and that its forces were observing but that "the situation was as normal".

The narrow Taiwan Strait has been a frequent source of military tension since the defeated Republic of China government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war with the communists, who established the People's Republic of China.

Pelosi's visit to Taiwan was followed around a week later by a group of five other U.S. lawmakers, with China's military responding by carrying out more exercises near the island.

Senator Marsha Blackburn, a U.S. lawmaker on the Senate Commerce and Armed Services committees, arrived in Taiwan on Thursday on the third visit by a U.S. dignitary this month, defying pressure from China to halt the trips.

The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has sought to keep tension between Washington and Beijing from boiling over into conflict, reiterating that congressional trips are routine.

The United States has no formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan but is bound by law to provide the island with the means to defend itself.

China has never ruled out using force to bring Taiwan under its control. Taiwan says the People's Republic of China has never ruled the island and so has no claim to it, and that only Taiwan's 23 million people can decide their future.

Cities near Ukrainian nuclear plant shelled

KYIV: Russian rocket and artillery strikes hit areas across the Dnieper River from Europe's largest nuclear power plant, Ukrainian officials said Sunday, as fears persisted that fighting in the vicinity could damage the plant and cause a radiation leak.



Russian forces took control of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant soon after the war began and hold adjacent territory along the left bank of the wide river. Ukraine controls the right bank, including the cities of Nikopol and Marhanets, each of them about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the plant.

Heavy firing during the night left parts of Nikopol without electricity, said Valentyn Reznichenko, governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region. Rocket strikes damaged about a dozen residences in Marhanets, according to Yevhen Yevtushenko, the administration head for the district that includes the city of about 45,000.

The city of Zaporizhzhia, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) upriver from the nuclear plant, also came under fire during the night, wounding two people, city council member Anatoly Kurtev said.

In eastern Ukraine, where Russian and separatist forces are trying to take control, shelling hit the large and strategically significant cities of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk, but no casualties were reported, said Pavlo Kyrylenko, governor of the Donetsk region.

Much of the Donetsk

region is held by Russian and separatist forces. It is one of two Ukrainian regions that Russia has recognized as sovereign states.

Authorities last week began distributing iodine tablets to residents who live near the Zaporizhzhia plant in case of radiation exposure, which can cause health problems. Much of the concern centers on the cooling systems for the plant's nuclear reactors. The systems require power to run, and the plant was temporarily knocked offline Thursday because of what officials said

was fire damage to a transmission line. A cooling system failure could cause a nuclear meltdown.

Russian forces occupied the nuclear plant complex early in the 6-month-old war, but local Ukrainian workers have kept it running. The Ukrainian and Russian governments have repeatedly accused the other of shelling the complex and nearby areas, raising fears of a possible catastrophe.

Periodic shelling has damaged the power station's infrastructure, Ukraine's nuclear power operator, Energoatom, said Saturday. "There are risks of hydrogen leakage and sputtering of radioactive substances, and the fire hazard is high," it said.

The U.N.'s atomic energy agency has tried to work out an agreement 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.

Turkiye accuses Greece of 'hostile action' against jets

ISTANBUL: Turkiye on Sunday alleged fellow NATO member Greece has used a Russian-made air defense system to harass Turkish jets on a reconnaissance mission, calling it a "hostile action."

The incident took place on August 23 when Greece's S-300 missile system deployed on the island of Crete put a lock on Turkish F-16 jets flying at 10,000 feet west of Rhodes, Turkish defense ministry sources said.

That was "incompatible with the spirit of (NATO) alliance" and amounted to "hostile acts" under the NATO rules of engagement, the sources added. "Despite this hostile action, (Turkish) jets completed their planned missions and returned to their base safely."

Turkiye has in recent months complained of what it calls provocative actions by Greece, saying such moves undermine peace efforts. The two uneasy NATO neighbors have long-standing sea and air boundary disputes which lead to near-daily air force patrols and interception missions mostly around Greek islands near Turkiye's coastline.

Athens accuses Ankara of overflying Greek islands. Turkey says Greece is stationing troops on islands in the Aegean Sea in violation of peace treaties signed after World Wars I and II. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan cut off dialogue with Greece after charging that Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis lobbied against US arms sales to his country.

Washington has sanctioned Ankara for taking delivery of an advanced Russian missile defense system in 2019. The purchase saw the United States drop Turkey from the F-35 joint strike fighter program. But Joe Biden's administration has signalled it may be willing to move past the dispute and there have been talks about F-16 purchases.

Turkish defense ministry sources said Greece also had purchased the Russian-made air defense system and accused Western countries, without naming them, of pursuing two-sided policies.

Athens is also eyeing US weaponry in an attempt to bolster its airforce amid tensions with Ankara. In June, Greece formalized a request for US-made F-35 fighter jets.

France's Macron concludes Algeria visit with new pact

ALGIERS: Historic visit, renewed partnership, new and irreversible dynamic of progress, reconciliation, so many reverberating slogans that accompanied the three-day visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to Algeria.

Intended to "rebuild" bilateral relations with Algiers, the visit, which took place from 25 to 27 August, coincided with the 60th anniversary of the end of the war and the proclamation of Algeria's independence in 1962. This strongly emblematic visit aims at dispelling tensions between two nations whose histories are deeply intertwined.

The memorial issue around French colonization (1830-1962) had indeed caused a

serious quarrel between the two countries last autumn. The objective seems to have been achieved. Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and French President Emmanuel Macron sealed the reconciliation between Paris and Algiers on Saturday by signing the Algiers Declaration, which "renews their commitment to inscribe their relations in a dynamic of irreversible progress".

At the signing ceremony, Tebboune addressed his guest in French, gushing over an "excellent and successful visit by his French counterpart to Algeria." It allowed for "a rapprochement which would not have been possible without the personality of President Macron himself," he

argued. The Algerian president also stressed that from now on, the two countries will "be able to work together in many areas outside Algeria and France," explaining that "this merger will allow us to go very far."

Tebboune referred to the high-level meeting that brought together in Algiers on Friday the presidents and security services of both sides, including the army, "for the first time since "the independence of Algeria in 1962." This visit, beyond its symbolic significance, offers to the two countries an opportunity to strengthen their ties in all areas.

In addition to the French colonization matter, the issue of visas had spoiled the bilat-

eral relationship when Paris decided in the autumn of 2021 to halve the number granted to Algeria, deemed not quick enough to readmit its nationals expelled from France.

The two countries agreed to fight illegal immigration while facilitating procedures for "dual nationals, artists, businessmen and politicians who strengthen bilateral relations." A joint French-Algerian commission of historians would be set up to "study" the archives of the colonial period, "without taboos."

In Algiers, not everyone was satisfied by the French president's visit, with many Algerians waiting for a proper apology from Mr. Macron for the colonization.

Gilani was torchbearer of Kashmir freedom movement: GA Gulzar

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, incarcerated All Parties Hurriyat Conference Vice Chairman Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar has said that Iconic leader Syed Ali Gilani was the symbol of resistance and torchbearer of the Kashmir freedom movement.

Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar in a statement from Central Jail, Srinagar, said that on first martyrdom anniversary of Syed Ali Gilani on September 1, Kashmiris will observe strike and will march towards his graveyard in Hyderpora to pay homage to the great leader.

He said that the people of Kashmir would also renew their pledge that the mission of the veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Gilani and other martyrs of the freedom movement will be accomplished at any cost.

He appealed to the people to demonstrate unity and follow the calendar of APHC in letter and spirit. He said the best way to pay tribute to the martyrs is to carry forward their mission. He said teachings, struggle and sacrifice of Syed Ali Gilani is a model for the oppressed Kashmiris to follow.

Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar said that Syed Ali Gilani was kept under house arrest and was deprived of all basic freedoms and facilities which resulted in his martyrdom. Many other leaders like Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai were kept in jail and finally murdered according to a well-conceived plan, he lamented.

He also expressed concern over the plight of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists and said India is conspiring to rot them in jails and assassinate them one by one.

He appealed to the international community to come forward and rescue the Kashmiris from Hindutva terrorism raging in the disputed region.

Meanwhile, APHC AJK chapter leader Muhammad Sultan Butt in a statement in Islamabad paid glowing tributes to Syed Ali Gilani and said that his struggle and sacrifices would always be remembered in history.

He urged the Kashmiris living in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and abroad to hold protest rallies and demonstrations on the martyrdom anniversary of Syed Ali Gilani and draw the attention of the international community towards the plight of enslaved and besieged Kashmiri people.

After unrest

Argentina vice president asks demonstrators to go home

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner asked her supporters to halt a protest while defending their right to demonstrate, after prosecutors requested a 12-year prison sentence for alleged corruption.

After a tense day in which thousands took to the streets to defend her and two were detained in clashes that injured seven police officers, Fernandez de Kirchner gave a brief evening speech on a makeshift stage in front of her house.

"In a democracy, the right to freedom of expression is fundamental," she said. "I want to say thank you and to ask you to go get some rest. It's been a long day."

Prosecutors on Monday accused Fernandez de Kirchner on Monday of defrauding the state and involvement in a scheme to divert public funds while president between 2007 and 2015. The largest demonstration of her supporters took place outside the vice president's home in the elegant Buenos Aires neighborhood of Recoleta, where in the early morning hours police had set up fences in an effort to prevent a large gathering.

Iran reviews U.S. response over nuclear deal proposal

TEHRAN: Tehran's ongoing "precise examination" of the U.S. response to its viewpoints on the European Union (EU) proposed draft agreement on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal will continue at least by the end of Friday, said Iran's Nour News on Sunday.

The news outlet, which is affiliated with the country's Supreme National Security Council, wrote in a post on its Twitter account that the careful review of "the U.S. responses to Iran's modified pivots" regarding the EU's proposal is still going on "at expert levels" in Tehran.

On Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani said the country has received, through the EU, 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, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Kanaani added the U.S. response was submitted to Iran by the EU foreign policy chief and coordinator Josep Borrell, noting that Tehran had started to assess the American side's views carefully and would inform the coordinator of its viewpoints following the completion of its reviews.

African campaigners unveil climate justice torch

NAIROBI: The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), a green lobby based in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, on Sunday launched the climate justice torch (CJT) with the aim of galvanizing local actions geared toward hastening the transition to a low carbon future.

Mithika Mwenda, the executive director of PACJA, said the CJT campaign seeks to rally grassroots communities toward activities that promote green transition in a continent already reeling from a host of climatic shocks.

"The Climate Justice Torch campaign aims to mobilize and galvanize voices of the vulnerable communities while illuminating aspirations of African people who have suffered disproportionately from climate change impacts," Mwenda said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

Launched ahead of the 27th session of the Conference of Parties (COP27) to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Summit slated for Egypt from Nov. 6-18, the torch campaign will raise the visibility of the plight of African communities on the frontline of climate emergencies like droughts, floods, cyclones, and wildfires.

Libya capital remains tense a day after clashes kill over 30

CAIRO: Militias patrolled nearly deserted streets in Libya's capital Sunday, a day after clashes killed over 30 people and ended Tripoli's monthslong stretch of relative calm.

The fighting broke out early Saturday and pitted militias loyal to the Tripoli-based government against other armed groups allied with a rival administration that has for months sought to be seated in the capital.

Residents fear the fighting that capped a monthslong political deadlock could explode into a wider war and a return to the peaks of Libya's long-running conflict.

Libya has plunged into chaos since a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dicta-

tor Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. The oil-rich country has for years been split between rival administrations, each backed by rogue militias and foreign governments.

The current stalemate grew out of the failure to hold elections in December and Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah's refusal to step down. In response, the country's east-based parliament appointed a rival prime minister, Fathy Bashagha, who has for months sought to install his government in Tripoli.

Saturday's fighting centered in the densely populated city center and involved heavy artillery. Hundreds were trapped and hospitals, government and residential buildings were damaged.

The Health Ministry said at

least 32 people were killed and 159 wounded in the clashes. Among the dead was Mustafa Baraka, a comedian known for his social media videos mocking militias and corruption. He was shot reportedly while live-streaming on social media. It was not clear whether he was targeted.

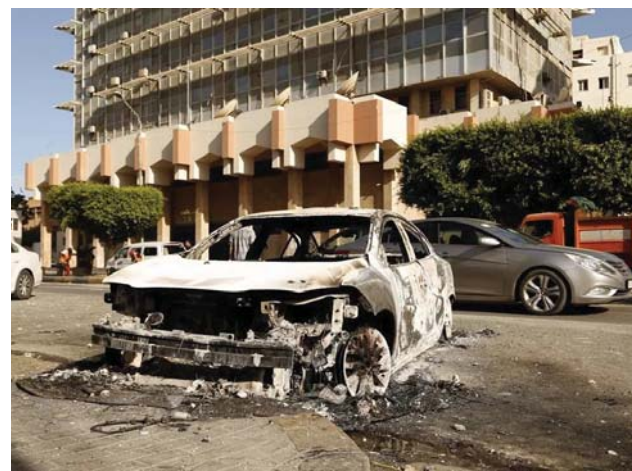
The Associated Press spoke to dozens of residents and witnesses. They recounted horrific scenes of people, including women and children, trapped in their homes, government buildings and hospitals. They also spoke of at least three motionless bodies that remained for hours in the street before an ambulance was able to reach the area. They asked not to be identified for fear of reprisal from the militias.

"We see death before our eyes and in the eyes of our children," said a woman who was trapped along with many families in a residential apartment. "The world should protect those innocent children like they did at the time of Gadhafi."

Militias allied with Tripoli-based Dbeibah were seen roaming the streets in the capital early Sunday. Their rivals were stationed at their positions in the outskirts of the city, according to local media.

Much of the city has suffered nightly power outages. Several businesses were closed Sunday and he state-run National Oil Corp. ordered its employees to work remotely Sunday.

Residents were still weary of potential violence and most stayed



in their homes Sunday. Many rushed to supermarkets when the clashes subsided late Satur-

day to stock up on food and other necessities.

"It could be triggered in a flash.

They (the militias) are uncontrolled," said a Tripoli school teacher who only gave a partial name, Abu Salim. "Our demand is very simple: a normal life."

Dbeibah's government claimed the fighting began when a member of a rival militia fired at a patrol of another militia in Tripoli's Zawiya Street. It said the shots came amid a mobilization of Bashagha-allied groups around the capital. The claim couldn't be independently verified.

Militia clashes are not uncommon in Tripoli. Last month, at least 13 people were killed in militia fighting. In May, Bashagha attempted to install his government in Tripoli, triggering clashes that ended with his withdrawal from the city.

UK includes Pakistan in new trading scheme



ISLAMABAD: President British-Pakistan Friendship Council North West UK Muhammad Arbab Khan Sunday disclosed that the United Kingdom has launched a "Developing Countries Trading Scheme" (DCTS) to be commenced soon. He said the DCTS will provide tariff reduction and simpler terms of trade to 65 countries including Pakistan.

Talking to Chairman UK-Pakistan business Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq here Sunday through zoom, he said the DCTS replaces the UK generalized scheme of preference (GPS), a preferential trading system that provides tariff removal and reduction on various products, said a press release.

He said 94 percent of goods exported from Pakistan will facilitate duty free access to the UK by saving 120 million in tariffs.

He said that bed linen, jeans and other products would save over 250 million and added, UK international trade secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan launched the scheme which would remove the tariffs on over 156 additional products besides simplifying some seasonal tariffs.

Mian Kashif said total trade between two countries stands at 2.9 billion annually. He hoped that volume of trade would swell to new heights after DCTS implementation starts next year.

He emphasised the need to fully explore untapped markets in UK. The UK-Pakistan Business Council will continue to facilitate all foreign investors for help identifying the areas of mutual interest for investment, he concluded. Agencies

Hybrid seeds can only tackle food shortage: Shahzad Malik



ISLAMABAD: Hybrid seeds can only help a lot to tackle food shortage in Pakistan with bumper production which can even be grown on less fertile land in arid areas as well.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers from Layyah led by Muhammad Rashid Bhutta here Sunday, the Chairman United business Group (UBG) in the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Shahzad Ali Malik said in the wake of Russia-Ukraine conflict, wheat prices have risen globally about 60 percent which has brought immeasurable consequences to whole of world.

Wheat imports from Ukraine accounts for nearly 40% of Pakistan's total wheat imports, he said adding that Pakistan also witnessed food inflation upto 40% in July compared to corresponding year.

He said as the staple food crop in Pakistan, wheat is planted in nearly 40 percent of cultivated area and accounts for 70% of total agricultural production but yields are not upto international standard because of the absence of use of best quality seeds and lack of subsidies on essential inputs.

He said sadly, a heat wave swept through South Asia this summer, a "silent death" that affected wheat crops.

He said use of non certified seeds and irrational use of fertilisers are factors responsible for low yields.

Shahzad Ali Malik said Dr Abdul Rashid of Guard Agricultural Research and Services conducted research on hybrid rice on self help basis in 2010 and successfully evolved new variety of hi tech hybrid rice which has brought revolution in agriculture particularly in interior Sindh that enhanced the profitability of rice growers with bumper production.

About custom-made wheat variety, he said there is dire need to work closely with Beijing engineering research centre for developing the best quality pest and disease resistant hybrid wheat seed that will increase yield at least 50% more than our local varieties.

He said in response to the heat wave and climate change in Pakistan, Hybrid wheat seed can continue to grow at a high temperature of 40C.

Shahzad Ali Malik stressed the need for use of modern technologies of cultivation and harvesting with best quality certified seeds and proper ratio of fertilisers besides timely sowing that guarantees good yields.

He said Pakistan is one of the biggest agricultural country in the world which not only meet its needs but also exports substantially to earn foreign exchange. Agencies

BOP to arrange over Rs20b for Punjab Thermal Power Project

PTPL, GoPb, is developing a 1,263MW RLNG-fired power plant to provide clean energy in Pakistan

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A signing ceremony for the award of debt arrangement mandates exceeding PKR 20 billion to The Bank of Punjab (BOP) by Punjab Thermal Power Limited (PTPL) and Energy Department, Government of the Punjab (GoPb), was held here at BOP Head office. The ceremony was attended by Ajmal Bhatti (Secretary Energy, GoPb), Salman Zakaria (CEO, PTPL), Ghazanfar Jillani (Director & Acting, BOP) and Zafar Masud (President & CEO, BOP) along with other senior officials of PTPL and BOP.

PTPL, sponsored by Energy Department, GoPb, is developing a 1,263MW RLNG-fired power plant to provide clean energy in Pakistan with a project outlay of PKR 120 billion. It is one of the largest and most efficient inde-



pendent power producers in Pakistan, which shall help in addressing energy deficit problem of the country at an affordable cost.

The award of debt arrangement mandates is a testament of PTPL and Govt. of the Punjab's trust on the investment banking capabilities of The Bank of Punjab under its new leadership. Salman Zakaria appreciated the role of BOP, which is fast emerging as one of the most active commercial banks in the market, for supporting PTPL in arranging project debt at the time of financial close and extending all possible support till date. Mr. Ajmal Bhatti stressed upon the need for public sector enterprises to work together for betterment of public at large. BOP's President and CEO, Zafar Masud, expressed his keen desire to work with Govt. of the Punjab in arranging financing for projects of national importance.

What next?

Real Estate sector badly affected by rising interest rates

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Owing to the political turmoil of the last few months and the resumption of the IMF program, the current government has increased interest rates to control inflation, making their monetary policing efforts contractionary. With rising interest rates and money flowing to saving accounts schemes, people tend to sell their property and deposit in banks. The massive sell-off results in an overall price decline and investor sentiment for the real estate sector.

The rising rates not only slow down the economy but also creates unemployment as a result. Pakistan has observed two real estate booms in the 21st century. The first boom lasted from 2003 to 2006 and the second from 2013 to 2016. The reason for both real estate booms was the record low

interest rates at 7.5% and 5.75%, respectively.

However, the contractionary model may not bear fruit in the long run. Speaking to Jawad Nayyar, Chief Vision Officer at daoproptech.com, a firm striving to digitize the real estate ecosystem in Pakistan, he commented on the current economic measures, "We cannot deny that billions are currently parked in real estate, however increasing deposits by hiking rates is not the long-term solution. The government should look to digitize this sector as done successfully in countries such as Australia, where PEXA (Property Exchange Australia) maintains a digital national land registry record. This will also help resolve the plethora of property/inheritance litigations, attract significant dollar-denominated real estate investments from overseas Pakistan-

is and discourage the parking of ill-gotten capital in nonproductive assets that do not generate economic activity. This also gives the government-wide transparency to introduce tax reforms to discourage parking money and invest in developmental real estate, which benefits the economy".

With money flowing back to banks, the government can start digitizing all real estate assets and ongoing projects. By bringing developing real estate into the digital framework, monitoring cash movement will be easier for authorities. Also, note that when the real estate market takes a dip, it also affects the 70+ industries associated with this sector; cement, steel, furniture, and masonry, to name a few. Policymakers should note that these industries are also exporting to this nation. Hence a policy revision will be necessary soon.

Sialkot surgical industry best in world: SIMAP Chairman

SIALKOT: Surgical Instruments Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SIMAP) Chairman Waqas Raza said on Sunday that Sialkot surgical industry was the best industry in the world, whose annual export was US\$ 435 million which could be further increased.

Talking to APP, he said that about 95 per cent of surgical instruments were manufactured in Sialkot and all registered companies exporting surgical instruments had also certificates of quality standards

of international organizations. He said that surgical industry of Pakistan globally was enjoying the monopolistic position because no other country could produce surgical instruments in price ranging and quality.

The Pakistani surgical instruments were most economical in the world coupled with unconditional guarantee of finest quality besides world-renewed companies of surgical were entering

into joint ventures with Pakistani companies, he added.

The SIMAP Chairman said that Surgical Association was formed in 1951, it was the first trade body of Pakistan which aimed to resolve the problems of all exporters and manufacturers.

"We have more than 3600 surgical members registered and according to Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) data more than 1800 companies

were exporting surgical instruments all over the world," he added. Waqas Raza said: "Our biggest export of surgical instruments is with America, Europe, United Kingdom and China." He said that two years ago, China was ranked 17th in purchasing surgical instruments from Pakistan.

Surgical City (Special Industrial Zone for Surgical Instruments) was being set up in Sialkot with the objective of promoting surgical instruments industry and increasing exports, he added. Agencies

PTCL Group opens doors of its Medical Centers for flood victims

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) Group has opened the doors of its medical centers for flood affected people in Swat, Dera Ismail Khan, Sukkur, Mirpur Khas, Larkana, Hyderabad, Malir-Karachi and Quetta. The centers will operate to facilitate and treat people injured in flood related accidents or fallen ill due to water-borne diseases.

Heavy rains and flooding

have caused irreparable losses to life and property across the length and breadth of the country, laying waste to large swathes of settlements, bazars, standing crops and urban centers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh. The government of Pakistan has declared emergency across dozens of districts



in all four provinces, prompting emergency response to the floods. Responding to the emergency, PTCL Group in an endeavor to support the disaster struck communities is extending its medical facilities to the communities affected.

Speaking on the initiative, Shoaib Baig, Group Chief People Officer, PTCL & Ufone said: "Being Pakistani companies, PTCL and Ufone feel great responsibility to stand by our people during this hour of great anguish caused by the recent

floods. We are taking all possible measures within our reach to bring some comfort and solace to our distressed brethren."

Besides, working tirelessly to maintain uninterrupted connectivity for continuation of rescue and relief activities, PTCL Group's decision to leverage its physical infrastructure will facilitate the people in the affected areas and share some burden of the stressed public health infrastructure of the country.



ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Industrial Association Zakaria A. Zia, Senior Vice President Mian Waqas Masood, vice president Shahid Cheema, Former Presidents Islamabad Chamber of commerce and industry M. Akram Farid, Khalid Javed, Mian Shaukat Masood, Sheikh Tariq Sadiq, Nasir Khan, Sheikh Aamir Waheed, Ahmed Waheed, Vice President FPCCI Kareem Aziz Malik, Council Member Founder Group Nasir Qureshi, Chaudhry Waheed Ud Din and Shaukat Hayat Khan, Mian Irfan Zafar, Tahir Ayub, Sanaullah Bishmi, Abdul Rehman Khan, Fahad Waheed, Mirza Muhammad Ali, Chaudhry Mukhtiar and others pose for a group photo after the meeting.

Jazz pledge Rs1 billion towards flood relief efforts

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, jointly with its digital financial services JazzCash and sister concern Mobilink Microfinance Bank, has pledged PKR 1 billion towards flood relief efforts through much needed emergency supplies and more significantly in kind telecom services. The support will include short to mid-term initiatives extending over 12 months.

As part of this immediate rollout, Jazz will work closely with NGOs and the government for distribution of emergency supplies including shelter, food items, and medical supplies. The relief response also facilitates Jazz customers to direct their charitable donations via SMS and JazzCash.

Jazz employees will also be voluntarily contributing to the nationwide relief effort.

Aamir Ibrahim, CEO, Jazz said, "During this unprecedented time, while our thoughts and prayers are with the flood-affected, we are also committed to ensure connectivity to aid relief efforts and extend

a helping hand to our fellow citizens in terms of emergency supplies. For us it's an obligation to respond to Pakistan's time of need and we will go all the way in restoring the lives of those affected."

Since connectivity is a lifeline during any crisis, a significant part of the support will be focused on continuing zero-rated and subsidized services for access to emergency care, rescue helplines.



Seminar held on 'Online Business for Beginners'

SIALKOT: Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) organized an inclusive seminar on "Online Business for Beginners".

Chairman SCCI Departmental Committee on SMEs Fizan Akbar gave a brief presentation on the benefits of working with Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM)/Original Design Manufacturing (ODM) and the importance of product

knowledge in adherence to new business development.

During the session, representatives from 'Computer Xperts' also gave a detailed presentation on the growing export business worldwide with alibaba.com.

Chairperson Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) Shabina Gilani and SCCI Executive Committee Members also attended the session. Agencies

U Microfinance Bank receives global recognition

With three prestigious Asian Banking & Finance Awards, 2022

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: U Microfinance Bank (U Bank), Pakistan's fastest growing microfinance bank, has added another victory to its long list of achievements by bagging three internationally recognized awards by Asian Banking & Finance (ABF) Awards, 2022. For its performance in 2021-2022, U Microfinance Bank has won the Asian Banking & Finance Wholesale Banking Award 2022 for Domestic Initiative of the Year - Pakistan, and the Asian Banking & Finance Retail Banking Award 2022 for Microfinance Bank of the Year - Pakistan (from the Domestic Retail Bank entry) and Islamic Banking Initiative of the Year -

Pakistan. These accolades pay tribute to U Microfinance Bank's tireless endeavors over the past seven years towards increasing financial inclusion in the country and serving the unbanked population. Establishing itself as the fastest growing microfinance bank in the industry, U Bank is expanding its network this year by an additional 100 branches nationwide, warranting it to be awarded as the Microfinance Bank of the Year, 2022 - Pakistan by ABF. U Bank is also one of the microfinance banks in Pakistan to introduce Islamic banking services providing its clients with tailor-made, Shariah-compliant solutions for their financing needs, for which U Bank has won the award for Islamic

Initiative of the Year - Pakistan. Broadening it avenues, U Bank has successfully issued its first ever Social Impact Bond, to be used to finance loans for renewable energy, private schooling, low cost housing, and Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs), primarily in rural Pakistan. This innovative social initiative was widely applauded by ABF, for which U Bank has been awarded with the Asian Banking & Finance Wholesale Banking Award 2022 for Domestic Initiative of the Year - Pakistan. Upon receiving global appreciation, U Microfinance Bank's President & CEO, Kabeer Naqvi, expressed his gratitude and stated, "The three prestigious ABF awards rewarded to U Bank bears testa-

ment to our efforts over the past year in achieving improved financial inclusion for the masses, and it gives us great honor to have received this recognition. At U Bank, we take pride in being a mission-driven, customer-centric banking institution aimed at providing the best experiences for our wide spectrum of customers. Keeping this in mind, and despite economic instability in the country, we have incorporated six canvases into our core business model - significantly expanding our unique and innovative banking services-categorized as Rural Retail Banking, Urban Retail Banking, Islamic Banking, Digital Banking, Corporate Banking, and Corporate Finance & Investment Banking.

These award wins give us renewed enthusiasm to continue to improve, innovate, and deliver out-of-the-box solutions that can help financially empower the underprivileged parts of Pakistan."

The Asian Banking & Finance Retail Banking and Wholesale Banking Awards celebrate Asia's banking leaders and highlight deserving banking candidates on their innovative product strategies to create a larger impact. U Microfinance Bank has previously received the ABF Retail Banking Award for Rural/Cooperative Bank of the Year - Pakistan in 2021 and the ABF Corporate & Investment Banking Award for Microfinance Syndication Deal of the Year - Pakistan in 2020.

Pak vs Ind

Pandya guides India to win over Pakistan in Asia Cup

Mohammad Rizwan attempted to set pace for Pakistan with his 43

DUBAI: In a final over nail-biter, India defeated Pakistan by five wickets in a Asia Cup Twenty20 international here on Sunday.

Chasing 148 for win, Ravindra Jadeja, who hit 35, and Pandya put on a key fifth-wicket stand of 52 as India reached their target with two balls to spare in Dubai.

Pace bowlers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Pandya shared seven wickets to set up victory for India in their opening match of the six-nation tournament after they bowled out Pakistan for 147. Mohammad Rizwan attempted to set the pace for Pakistan with his 43 after early wickets, but the Indian bowlers kept coming back at a packed Dubai International Stadium.

Kumar set the tone for India's dominance as he dismissed skipper Babar Azam for 10 in the second over and returned figures of 4-26. Pandya rattled Pakistan's middle-order with his three wickets. India elected to field first and Kumar nearly trapped Rizwan lbw with



the second ball, but the wicketkeeper-batsman successfully reviewed the decision.

The in-form Azam began with a boundary in the first over but his stay was short-lived as Kumar had him caught at

short fine-leg off a short ball.

Rizwan attempted to rebuild the innings with the left-handed Fakhar Zaman as the two struck a few boundaries between them. Pace bowler Avesh Khan responded after getting hit for a six and four by Rizwan, inducing a faint edge behind from Fakhar (10) to bring alive the Indian crowd.

Indian fielders did not appeal and only celebrated after Fakhar walked off much to the surprise of his partner.

Rizwan then got going with Iftikhar Ahmed in a 45-run stand that was broken by Pandya with a bouncer that saw Iftikhar caught behind for 28. Pandya struck again to deny Rizwan his fifty and soon got another to further restrict Pakistan.

Rizwan was the top scorer with 43 and Iftikhar chipped in with 28, although it was number 11 batsman Shahnawaz Dahani who drew the biggest cheers, thanks to his cameo of 16 runs off just six balls laced with two much-needed sixes.

Wahaj Riaz-inspired Sindh Blues win National U19 Championship

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Sindh Blues are the winners of the National U19 Championship.

They thrashed Sindh Whites by a mammoth 288 runs in the final, played at the UBL Sports Complex, Karachi. They now have the bragging rights of being the red-ball U19 champions for the 2022-23 season and have also pocketed PKR1.5million.

Blues completed the win on the fourth and final day of the match as they dismissed Whites' last five batters in just 53 runs and bowled out the latter for mere 217 in their pursuit of 506.

Shahwaiz Yasir, who was unbeaten on 50, could add only one more run to his score, before Naveed Ahmed Khan sent him back to the pavilion. Naveed was one of the two bowlers – the other



being Afnan Khan – in the innings to pick three wickets. Aftab Ibrahim and Ziaullah dismissed two batters each.

Syed Tayyab Hussain, not out on 22 when the play resumed, was the only Whites player to show resistance as he scored a half-century before he was stumped off Ziaullah. Tayyab hit five fours in his 151-ball 53.

That Blues were able to set such a huge total for Whites was because of brilliant bowling performances from their bowlers and captain Wahaj Riaz's sound batsmanship. Wahaj made 72 and 116 in the match and his second innings century rescued Blues from a batting collapse. Wahaj was declared player of the final.

His teammate Afnan

Khan, with 228 runs and 22 wickets, was named player of the tournament, while the award was best batter also went to Blues as Habibullah, the centurion in the final of the first innings, was awarded the trophy for scoring 448 runs. Sindh Whites' Haseeb-Ur-Rehman (38 wickets) and Ghulam Ashraf bagged best bowler and best wicketkeeper trophy.

PCB to donate gate proceeds from 1st T20I to Flood Relief Fund

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced that gate earnings from the first T20I against England will be donated to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund 2022.

The match will be played on 20 September at the National Stadium in Karachi and will begin at 7:30pm (local time).

The PCB has urged cricket fans and followers to purchase tickets in big numbers once they are made available online for sale next week to show unity with all those affected by the calamity,

help with rehabilitation of the affected population and support the local and federal governments in their relief and rescue operations.

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja: "We at the PCB express our grief and sorrow for all those affected by the extreme monsoon rainfall and floods, which has resulted in havoc and devastation beyond imagination, killing over 1,000 and leaving around a million homeless. As cricket unites our proud nation, we stand firmly with the victims and all those involved in the flood relief and rescue operations.

"As a responsible and caring organisation, the

PCB has always stood with its fans and public in tough, challenging and testing times. In this regard, we have decided to donate gate proceeds from the first T20I against England next month to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund.

"I encourage all spectators to participate in this initiative by purchasing tickets for the first T20I and turning up in big numbers so that we as a cricket family can donate a substantial amount to the fund and show solidarity with those affected by the catastrophe.

"We have already sent trucks full of food, medicines and other commodities

to the affected areas and will continue to support our nation and rescue operational teams in any way we can. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the people of Pakistan."

England will play seven T20Is on their first tour of Pakistan in 17 years. Karachi will stage matches on 20, 22, 23 and 25 September, while Lahore will be the venue for the remaining three matches on 28 and 30 September, and 2 October. England will return in late November for three Tests, which will be played in Rawalpindi (1-5 December), Multan (9-13 December) and Karachi (17-21 December).

Fernandes sinks Saints as Man Utd maintain revival

SOUTHAMPTON: Manchester United maintained their revival as Bruno Fernandes clinched a hard-fought 1-0 win at Southampton.

Erik ten Hag's side sat bottom of the Premier League after losing their opening two games against Brighton and Brentford. But United have recovered from that embarrassing start to secure successive league victories for the first time since February.

Fernandes netted with a composed strike early in the second half and the Portugal midfielder's first goal this season lifted United into sixth place ahead of the rest of the weekend's matches. Ten Hag named the same starting line-up that defeated Liverpool 2-1 on Monday, meaning unsettled star Cristiano Ronaldo and club captain Harry Maguire were both on the bench.

Ronaldo, keen to leave Old

Trafford before the transfer window closes on September 1, was largely anonymous when he came on for the last 20 minutes. Casemiro helped United close out the win as the Brazil midfielder made his debut in a 10-minute substitute appearance following his move from Real Madrid. United were some way short of the intensity and quality that inspired their win against Liverpool.

But they showed the grit so badly lacking in the first two games as they kept Southampton at bay after Fernandes' goal. Ten Hag will be pleased that Raphael Varane and Lisandro Martinez stood firm at centre-back, rewarding his decision to keep Maguire on the sidelines.

It took an incredible combination of superb goalkeeping and last-ditch defending to stop United taking the lead midway through the first-half.



When Southampton failed to clear a cross, Gavin Bazunu had to scramble to block Anthony Elanga's shot at the far post. In the ensuing melee, Christian Eriksen looked certain to score but Kyle Walker-Peters blocked his shot on the line before Fernandes saw his goal-bound strike repelled by Armel Bella-Kotchap.

Bella-Kotchap should have made United pay for those misses when a corner fell to the Saints defender, but he somehow contrived to shoot high into the stands from close-range. Che Adams couldn't generate enough power to beat David De Gea after making a perfectly-timed run behind the flat-footed United defence.

Scott McTominay's drive tested Bazunu early in the second half, while Bella-Kotchap made a superb tackle to stop Elanga as he prepared to shoot after bursting through on goal.

Although United were never dominant, they conjured an impressive move to break the deadlock in the 55th minute. A flurry of passes scythed through the Southampton midfield and Diogo Dalot curled a cross towards Fernandes, who guided a fine volley past Bazunu from just inside the area.

Southampton pushed for an equaliser but they were frustrated when a strong penalty appeal was rejected by VAR after McTominay handled as he challenged Adams for a high ball. De Gea preserved United's slender lead with a reflex save from Joe Aribo's close-range header, with Walker-Peters nodding the rebound over.

National Sports Policy to be finalized: Mazari

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari said on Sunday that the Federal government would work in conjunction with all stakeholders to finalise the new National Sports Policy.

"The new Sports Policy is aimed at promoting and improving standard of sports in the country and for that input from all stakeholders is a must. Hence, we will take them on board before giving it a final shape," Mazari told APP.

The former IPC Minister Dr Fehmi-da Mirza time and again had vowed to introduce the new Sports Policy but it never got materialized, as Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) and National Sports Federations were not on the same page. But Mazari said he had taken charge of the office to put things on track.

"I'm here to deliver. I want an inclusive sports policy that has ownership and involvement of all the stakeholders. I have asked Secretary IPC to keep everyone on board for that. No one should complain that their input was not taken while formulating the policy rather they should feel honoured that they have a say in the overall development and promotion of sports in the country," he said.

The minister believed that the more input the National Sports Federations, sports associations, POA and other stakeholders would give, the better the policy would be.

3rd RMTA Tennis League from Sept 3

KARACHI: Reza Mirza Tennis Academy (RMTA) under the auspices of Karachi Tennis Association will organize 3rd RMTA Tennis League at RMTA Tennis Academy from September 3, 2022.

As many as 8 Karachi's Top men players, 4 Boys Under 15 and 4 girls under 15 are invited to take part in the league which shall be played on weekends till October last week, said a news release on Sunday.

Muhammad Khalid Rehmani will be the Referee of League. Reza Mirza Tennis Academy is sponsoring this event to engage top Karachi players and offer best possible level of competition every week.



LAHORE: CEO Lahore Qalandars Atif Rana and PDP Class of 2022 at PMCC (PUBG Mobile Campus Challenge) as a part of promoting ESports in Pakistan along with President and Management of Pakistan Olympic Association.

Axelsen clinches second world title



TOKYO: Denmark's Viktor Axelsen won his second badminton world title on Sunday, beating Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn 21-5, 21-16 in the final in Tokyo.

World number one Axelsen has lost only one singles match this season and was too much for 21-year-old rising star Vitidsarn, who was blown away in the first game. Axelsen, who won Olympic gold last year, also claimed the world title in Glasgow in 2017.

The 28-year-old Dane has been in imperious form this week in Tokyo, reaching the final without losing a single game. He took control right from the start against a shell-shocked Vitidsarn and clinched the first game with a commanding smash.

Vitidsarn made more of a contest of the second game but it was still not enough to stop Axelsen, who raised both arms and lay on his back after Vitidsarn's final shot went long. The win gave Axelsen his sixth title of the season.

World number 17 Vitidsarn was playing in his first world championships final, having knocked out Singapore's defending champion Loh Kean Yew in the quarter-finals. Vitidsarn, a three-time junior world champion, was bidding to become Thailand's first-ever senior men's singles world champion.

Milan maintain perfect start to season



MILAN: AC Milan continued their unbeaten start to their Serie A title defence with a 2-0 win over Bologna on Saturday as Tammy Abraham earned Roma a 1-1 draw at Juventus on Paulo Dybala's return to his old stomping ground.

Champions Milan eased to a routine win at the San Siro with goals either side of half-time from Rafael Leao and Olivier Giroud to go top on goal difference.

Stefano Pioli's side took full advantage of Inter Milan's loss at Lazio on Friday night to move a point above their local rivals. "We're more concentrated and have more self-belief than in the past, we played with a real commitment to attacking and defending as a unit," Pioli told Sky Sport Italia.

"I'm happy with our performance but I know we can still get better." Milan are one of four teams locked on seven points, with Roma, Lazio and Torino – 2-1 winners over promoted Cremonese.

Leao gave the hosts the lead in front of over 60,000 fans with his first goal of the season, the Portugal winger fortunate to see his duffed shot squirm past Lukasz Skorupski in the 21st minute after good play by debutant Charles De Ketelaere.

The 23-year-old Leao, who has been linked with Chelsea, should have added to Milan's lead before the break, missing a one-on-one with Skorupski in first half stoppage time. However, he set up Giroud's opening strike of the campaign in the 58th minute with a perfectly clipped pass which the France international guided home with a beautifully-placed volleyed finish.

Nicola Sansone smashed the upright 10 minutes later for Bologna who are hovering above the drop zone with a single point. Andrea Pinamonti scored his first goal for Sassuolo after moving from Inter, rolling home following a defensive mix-up to give his new team a 2-2 draw at Spezia.

Tunisia defeat Puerto Rico



WARSAW: Tunisia men's volleyball team started the FIVB Men's World Championship 2022 with a victory as coach Giacobbe Antonio's side beat Puerto Rico 3-0 in Katowice, Poland.

Puerto Rico delivered five aces, four more than the opponent, but it was not enough to stop Tunisia who took the victory 25-19, 25-17, 25-20. Hamza Nagga delivered a match-high 15 points for Tunisia as he was faultless in 14 attacks, adding one point by a block. Pelegrin Vargas and Jonathan Rodriguez scored eight points each for Puerto Rico.

Antonio's team gained 10 points with good blocks. However, they controlled the game mainly due to the unforced errors—25 in overall—by the Puerto Ricans.

Tunisia scored the opening three points before Puerto Rico reduced the gap at the first technical break with 8-7 for Tunisia on a scoreboard. Then the team from Africa found the right track to win the first set by 25-19.

Also on Saturday, Serbia beat Ukraine 28-26, 25-21, 25-20. Uros Kovacevic and Marko Ivovic led the side coached by Igor Kolakovic to the triumph with 11 points each. Oleh Plotnytsky earned 17 for Ukraine.