



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ جس جگہ بھی نماز کا وقت ہو جائے فوراً نماز پڑھ لو۔ تمہارے لیے تمہارے زمین (گنبد) حدیث نمبر 3425

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## Govt to extend financial support to flood victims: Musadiq

Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadiq Malik says government will provide financial assistance to flood victims through BISP. The heavy rain and floods had hit many parts of Pakistan and the government would extend financial support to the people facing natural calamity in their areas. We will import wheat and the private sector has given permission to purchase essential items to fulfill demand of flood affected people.



## PTI fighting against worst media censorship, conspiracies: Fawad

PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry says PTI is fighting against the worst media censorship and conspiracies on the judicial and legal fronts. Resources of billions of dollars are being spent to eliminate PTI Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, but the hearts of the people are not turning away from him (Imran Khan). There will be a war against this fascism. If not, this failure will be a disaster for Pakistan.

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US to provide additional \$30m to Pakistan



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The United States, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Tuesday announced an additional \$30 million in life-saving humanitarian assistance to support people and communities affected by severe flooding in Pakistan. According to a statement released by the US Embassy and Consulates: "Pakistan government has declared the floods a national emergency, with 66 districts declared to be 'calamity hit'."

"In response to the Pakistani government's request for assistance, the United States will prioritize urgently needed food support, safe water, sanitation and hygiene improvements, financial help, and shelter assistance. "This support will save lives and reduce suffering among the most vulnerable affected communities. The United States will continue to monitor the crisis in close coordination with local partners and Pakistani authorities," the statement read. It should be noted that a USAID disaster management specialist arrived in Pakistan on August 29 to assess the impact of the floods and intensify coordination with partners on response efforts.

## Int'l aid

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is addressing the stakeout to launch Pakistan Floods Response Plan 2022 here on Tuesday afternoon.



Photo: PID

# Pakistan, UN jointly launch flood response plan 2022

FM Bilawal urged the world extend full backing to the flash appeal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United Nations (UN) have jointly launched Flood Response Plan 2022 to meet the needs of flood-affected people. Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari urged the international community to give its full backing to the flash appeal to help the people of Pakistan most in need. The foreign minister encouraged the international community to contribute generously towards meeting the funding requirements of this response plan.

He further said the appeal prioritises focused interventions in areas of education, food security, agriculture, health, nutrition, protection, shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene. He said Pakistan also needs assistance with livelihoods and livestock support as well as

relief machinery and equipment. "We urgently need shelter, tents and mosquito nets if they can be arranged," he said, adding: "We will need support for reconstruction and rehabilitation of flood-affected areas."

## Govt, UN aim effective liaison as millions await relief assistance: FM

Referring to the devastation caused by the floods, Bilawal Bhutto said the international community's support and solidarity with Pakistan at this time will go a long way in alleviating the sufferings of flood-affected people. Meanwhile, the United Nations (UN) issued a flash appeal for \$160 million to help

Pakistan cope with catastrophic floods that have killed more than 1,100 people and affected 33 million people. "Pakistan is awash in suffering," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a video message for the

launch of the appeal in Islamabad and Geneva.

He further said: "The Pakistani people are facing a monsoon on steroids - the relentless impact of epochal levels of rain and flooding." He called upon the international community to work together to respond quickly to this colossal crisis. Torrential rain

has triggered flash floods that have crashed down from northern mountains, destroying buildings and bridges, and washing away roads and crops. Pakistan estimates the floods have affected more than 33 million people, or more than 15% of its 220 million population.

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## Pak army pulling out people from Kalam: COAS

Says action must against illegal constructions along rivers in KP

KANJU: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa said on Tuesday that Pakistan Army is evacuating people stranded in Kalam and the road will be reopened within 6 to 7 days. The army chief visited the flood-hit areas of Swat. While talking to journalists at Kanju Cantt Helipad, COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa said that a survey will be conducted for reviewing the losses caused by floods. The survey will be conducted by the district administration, provincial governments and the armed forces.

The army chief said that the natural disaster massively caused damage in Kalam as several bridges and hotels were destroyed. The disastrous situation was also witnessed in the 2010 floods, he added.

COAS Bajwa said that negli-

gence was exhibited by giving permission for construction on the same sites. He said that legal action should be taken against the responsible.

"At this time, the reopening of Kalam road is most important task. I hope that the road will be reopened within 6-7 days. Pakistan Army is taking out people stranded in Kalam. At this time, there is no crisis in Kalam." The army chief said that the country witnessed a positive response on the appeal to get assistance for the flood victims. "Different welfare organisations, political parties and armed forces have established relief centres.

A headquarter is established like the NCCO [National Command and Operation Centre] where the data of the relief items will be compiled.

## PTI failed to implement FPP: Ahsan

Says PML-N launched FPP's 4th fourth phase to curtail floods' impacts

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had failed to implement Flood Protection Programme (FPP) multiplied fold damages in the country. Addressing a press conference, the minister said that in 2013, when the PML-N government took charge, the country had already faced devastated floods in 2010 and it launched the fourth phase of Pakistan FPP to minimize the impacts of such floods. "In May 2017, we got approved the Programme from Council of Common Interest and duly signed by all the provinces and it was agreed that new infrastructure would be built under the programme", the minister said.

The minister said it was also agreed that Rs 177 billion would be spent under the programme and the provinces would contribute half of the amount. However, he said despite completing the final road map to spend Rs 177 billion under the programme, the coming PTI government dumped this programme and not spent a single rupee on it. "If the government spent Rs 177 billion under the programme, the loss would be far less than what we were facing now, he added. Ahsan Iqbal said a big challenge was ahead as 30 million people had been affected from devastating floods and the government had to help them achieve self-reliance, adding that the recent floods and torrential rains had destroyed around 1 million houses.

## Post floods

# Country to face more inflation: Imran

Refuses to apologise in contempt of court case

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said that the inflation in the country will further increase after the catastrophic floods.

Addressing a seminar here, the PTI Chairman said that the inflation in the country continues to increase. Lashing out at the PML-N bigwigs, the former premier said that first PML-N supremo's son and then he himself escaped from the country after giving an affidavit.

Talking about his tenure, Imran claimed that the parliament was not allowed to function and conspiracies were happening against his ousted government. Saying that the case against Shehbaz Sharif was open and shut. Sharing his thoughts over the peak in the cases of Covid-19, Imran said that first, the thought came in his mind that the economy of the country would be devastated, adding that

during this time, PML-N had tried to do politics on this matter. Taking a swipe at former prime minister and PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Imran went on to say that Shahid Khaqan once said that Shehbaz Sharif managed to cope with the challenges posed by dengue in a great way.

Imran Khan took a dig at the bigwigs of both PML-N and PPP, saying that both parties increased loans in the country but did not do long-term planning and they never thought of building dams in the country nor they think both about the challenges posed by climate change. PTI Chairman said that the incumbent government has not taken a single step for the common man. This government has ever thought about what is happening to the common man due to electricity bills, he questioned. The former premier also claimed that the coalition government and its ministers are only concerned about NRO and making money.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan refused to tender an apology in the contempt of court case show-cause notice. It is pertinent to mention that a larger bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on August 23 issued a show-cause notice to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and summoned him in person on August 31, in a contempt of court case pertaining to his threatening remarks about Additional Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry.

Imran Khan's reply was submitted in the Islamabad High Court by Advocate Hamid Khan. In the reply, it was said that "Imran Khan does not believe in suppressing the feelings of the judges, he is ready to withdraw the words if they were inappropriate; the court should examine Imran Khan's speech with context, he always obeys the law and the constitution. The PTI chairman believes in an independent judiciary.

## LHC quashes FACs from power bills

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi Circuit bench on Tuesday quashed fuel adjustment charges from the electricity bills. The LHC Rawalpindi Circuit bench while hearing a plea moved against a collection of fuel adjustment charges from the consumers in the electricity bills struck down fuel adjustment charges. Justice Jawadul Hassan directed WAPDA and NEPRA not to charge tax in the electricity bills of consumers. The LHC judge has also summoned the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) chief on September 15. It may be noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, last week, announced that 17 million of the total power consumers will be exempted from paying the high fuel charges adjustment (FCA) in their electricity bills. In a video address from Qatar, where he is on a two-day trip, the prime minister explained the mechanics behind why FCA was levied and said it had seen a "considerable increase" for July and August's power bills, because of high international oil prices, which was "intolerable" for the common man. APP

# ECC nods 3MMT milling wheat import

Directs to disburse Rs. 25,000 for flood affected household

Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee has approved import of three million metric tons of milling wheat and allowed for maintenance of strategic reserves of wheat at the level of two million metric tons. The ECC, which met in Islamabad on Tuesday with Finance Minister Miftah Ismail in the chair, accorded this approval to ensure wheat availability across the country and to stabilize local wheat prices. The strategic reserves will include a quantity of 0.080 MMT on account of SAARC food bank. Furthermore, the Trading Corporation of Pakistan was directed to arrange a further quantity of 0.8 MMT through government or open tender. It was added that import of 0.8 MMT wheat is allowed to private sector with providing that subsidy shall not be provided for such imports of wheat.

The forum approved disbursement of 25,000 rupees per family in calamity affected districts under



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Miftah Ismail presided over the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet at Finance Division on Tuesday.

Benazir Income Support Programme. The ECC also approved technical supplementary grant of seven million rupees for arrangements and expenditure related to on-site visit of Financial Action Task Force team. It was shared that FATF team comprising 15 members will visit by Friday in order to verify the stance of Pakistan as reported in cyclic reports.

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Tuesday

approved the summary and directed BISP to disburse a total of Rs. 25,000/household in calamity-hit districts for poverty score up to 32. The Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety submitted a summary for emergency cash assistance to affectees of flash floods 2022, said a press release issued here.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail presided over the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee

(ECC) of the cabinet at the finance division, here at the capital. Federal Minister for Industries and Production Syed Murtaza Mahmud, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, Minister of State for Petroleum, Musadik Masood Malik, Coordinator to PM on Commerce and Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal, Coordinator to the PM on economy Bilal Azhar Kayani, federal secretaries and other senior officers attended the meeting.

## Self reliance

A delegation of ICCI called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to handover cheques for Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund. Islamabad Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Contempt case

ECP asks Imran to submit reply by Sept 7

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has given one week time to Imran Khan's counsel to submit reply in contempt of case. According to details, 4 member commission conducted hearing on the case. Imran Khan's counsel argued that he needs more time to submit reply as he still has to go through copy of the accusations.

On this, the election commission granted one week time to Imran Khan and adjourned the hearing till September 7. Earlier, the ECP had issued a contempt of court notice to Imran Khan, Asad Umer and Fawad Chaudhry and ordered them to submit their reply to the notice by August 30.

IMF's loan, not jackpot: Sh Rashid

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AML) leader Sheikh Rashid has slammed the current government for celebrating on getting loan nod from International Monetary Fund (IMF). Taking to Twitter he said that it is a loan from IMF, not a jackpot. He said the return of this loan will be made by the people of Pakistan and while bashing the Ministers of the current government he said that they are celebrating on it.

The former Interior Minister said that after the flash floods in Pakistan, a flood of people will come out in country. While he claimed that September will be a "savagery" month. Criticizing the current government for trading with India, he said that after trading with India, they will reach Israel. "Not only a mediocre man but rich people are struggling when it comes to paying electricity bills," he said.

## IMF plan's revival positive step for Pak economy: PM

Stresses upon making Pakistan self-sufficient through economic reforms

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday declared the revival of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme a positive development for the economy of Pakistan. In a statement, he said restoration of the IMF programme ended the risk of economic default of Pakistan. "Thanks to Allah, Pakistan emerged successfully out of a difficult economic challenge," he said, adding the IMF programme was a phase and the destination of Pakistan was economic self-sufficiency. The PM said the restoration of the IMF programme would bring economic stability to the country.

He praised Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail and his team for the revival of the financial programme. Shehbaz Sharif prayed to Allah Almighty to make the IMF programme the last one for Pakistan so that the country should never need it again. He said he was hopeful of the blessing of Allah Almighty that like the last government of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, the present government would also say goodbye to the IMF.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister

said that the IMF programme offered a pathway to re-orient Pakistan's economy and underlined that they would have to work hard to become self-sufficient. "Revival of IMF program, though critical to our economy, is not an end in itself. It offers a pathway to reorient our economy. We will have to work hard to make it self-sufficient. Pakistan must break out of economic straitjacket, which is only possible through structural reforms," the

PM lauds UAE, EU & Turkiye for humanitarian aid

prime minister posted in tweet.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday made a telephone call to President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed. He briefed the UAE President on the latest floods situation in Pakistan, which has affected around 33 million people, killed close to 1162 and injured 3354 people. The Prime Minister once again expressed

his deep gratitude for the timely humanitarian assistance and support provided by the United Arab Emirates, and lauded the work being carried out by the Emirates Red Crescent and Khalifa bin Zayed Foundation in flood-hit areas.

UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed expressed firm solidarity with the people of Pakistan in tackling the natural calamity and offered all possible assistance to the affectees in this difficult time.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday received a telephone call from Charles Michel, President of the European Council. The President of European Council offered his condolences on the loss of precious lives and material damage as a result of devastating floods in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister thanked the EU President for his expression of solidarity and appreciated the EU's support of 2.15 million Euros for flood affectees in Pakistan. Briefing the EU President on the widespread destruction caused across Pakistan due to unprecedented rainfall, the Prime Minister said that the floods have caused extensive loss of human lives, livelihoods, livestock, crops, property and infrastructure.

## CM Elahi, PTI chief discuss floods' situation

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and former federal minister Chaudhry Moonis Elahi on Tuesday called on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan to brief the provincial government to provide relief to the people affected by the catastrophic flood. In a meeting held in Islamabad, Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi briefed Imran Khan about the rehabilitation plan for the flood-stricken people. In the meeting, the issues of mutual interest, political situation and measures taken for the rehabilitation of flood victims were discussed.

Both Pervaiz Elahi and Moonis Elahi commended PTI Chairman on the most successful telethon held yesterday for the relief and rehabilitation of flood-affected people. CM Elahi said that he salutes the nation and especially the spirit of Paki-



stanis living abroad. Saying that the nation responded to the voice of Imran Khan, CM Elahi said that the accumulation of billions of rupees on the appeal of the former premier proves that the people have unwavering faith in his [Imran] leadership. Considering the success of the PTI Chairman as the victory of Pakistan, Elahi went on to say that under the leadership of Imran Khan, the Punjab government is determined to resettle the flood-stricken people as soon as possible.

## Govt decides to import vegetables from Iran, Afghanistan

Qamar says all effort to be made to stabilize onions, tomatoes prices

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Commerce on Tuesday decided to import onions and tomatoes from Afghanistan and Iran to control soaring prices in the country. Commerce Minister Naveed Qamar took the decision while chairing a meeting at Federal Ministry of Commerce. The Minister also reviewed availability of tomatoes and onions in the country. The development took place at the moment when recent torrential rains and flooding have affected the production of vegetables.

The session decided to facilitate import of onions and tomatoes from Afghanistan and Iran to meet the demand of these vegetables across the country. Tgeparticipants said

that the country would face shortage of onions and tomatoes in the next three months. They stated that the meeting was informed in a briefing. The participants said, "Current flooding has damaged crops and a shortage and hike in prices is expected." "Import of tomatoes and onions will help in availability and stabilization of prices of these vegetables in the country," the meeting told. The meeting decided that the Ministry of Commerce will work with the national food security ministry and the FBR.

The session also decided to get relief in levies and duties on import of tomatoes and onions from the Economic Coordination Committee of the federal cabinet. Qamar had

earlier urged for immediate steps for availability of tomatoes and onions to consumers and stabilization of the soaring prices of these commodities. The price of onions and tomatoes has touched Rs 300 per KG due to shortage of supply in the market owing to recent floods.

Federal Minister for Commerce Naveed Qamar said that immediate steps would be taken to ensure the availability of tomatoes and onions to the consumer, while all possible efforts would be made to stabilize their prices. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Naveed Qamar to assess availability of tomatoes and onion in the country, said a press release issued here. APP

## Trade with India 'under consideration': Miftah

LAHORE: Federal Finance Minister Miftah Ismail on Tuesday said that trade with India is under consideration, saying at this time tomatoes and onions should be imported from the neighboring country. In a special conversation with a private news channel, the federal finance minister said that at least by going to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the country is saved from bankruptcy, saying that the prices of goods have increased due to flash floods, Miftah said that the coalition government has saved the common man from default.

"Now we will reduce inflation in the country as the tough decisions have been taken by PM Shehbaz Sharif, claimed Miftah. The finance minister challenged the PTI leadership to show the agreement to get cheap oil from Russia. Sharing his

thoughts over Shaukat Tarin's alleged audio leak, Miftah said that with the audio tape, Tarin's lies have been exposed, adding that the PTI leadership has made the country a 'joke.' "I was surprised that even after the tape surfaced, Taimur Jhagra and Asad Umar held a press conference", added the finance minister.

Miftah Ismail said that writing the letter was a conspiracy against the interest of Pakistan. The finance minister further said that Imran Khan should tell how much money came through the telethon, saying that he should give this money to Chhipa Welfare Association or Saylani Trust.

Miftah said that he will take the matter of trade with India to PM Shehbaz, as it will take at least four days to take a decision regarding this matter. Agencies

## Rs 1.8

Rupee gains against US dollar

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee jumped by Rs1.80 against the US dollar in the inter-bank market after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) revived the much-awaited bailout programme. According to the data shared by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the Pakistani rupee closed at Rs220.12 after gaining Rs1.80 against the US dollar, up 0.82 percent. The rupee's recovery comes after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the seventh and eighth reviews of Pakistan's Extended Fund Facility Programme (EFF).

The rupee, which was consistently losing ground in previous sessions, gained Rs1.80 against the greenback and closed at Rs220.12. In open market US dollar lost Rs6 and was being traded around Rs224. Earlier, the International Monetary Fund board approved the seventh and eighth reviews of Pakistan's bailout program, allowing for a release of about \$1.1 billion.

The IMF agreed to extend the programmer by a year and increase the total funding by 720 million that will bring the total access under the EFF to about US\$6.5 billion. The Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program was initially for 36 months and worth \$6 billion at the time of its approval in 2019. It had stalled since earlier this year as Islamabad struggled to meet targets set by the lender.

PTI chief moves IHC for dismissal of terrorism case

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has moved Islamabad High Court (IHC) for the dismissal of terrorism case registered for allegedly threatening a female judge and police officials. According to details, the former premier has filed a petition in Islamabad High Court (IHC) for the dismissal of terrorism case in a case where he is charged under terrorism law for a 'threatening speech'. IG Islamabad, DIG, SHO and female magistrate were made respondents in the petition. In the petition, Imran Khan noted that he has served as prime minister of the country and was the captain of Pakistan team that won the World Cup. "Efforts were made to establish peace in the country while US withdrawal from Afghanistan was ensured," the former premier said, adding that the PTI-led government took measures to cope with economic issues amid the coronavirus pandemic. He pointed out that the government had registered a terrorism case against him on a statement about IGP, DIG and a female magistrate. Imran Khan further said that he had asked for legal action against the three personalities, urging that the terrorism case against him should be declared illegal. It is pertinent to mention here that the PTI Chairman Imran Khan had obtained bail from the ATC in a case where he is charged under terrorism law for a threatening speech against a female judge and Islamabad police officials. APP

## Chinese leadership shows solidarity with flood victims

SpoX says Beijing dispatches cargo airplane full of humanitarian supplies to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang have expressed their complete solidarity with the government and people of Pakistan over the human and financial losses in the recent floods that devastated huge parts of Pakistan. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong conveyed these special messages to President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif from the Chinese leadership. The Chinese leadership expressed their grief over the losses.

China had announced an assistance grant of RMB100 million (Yuan), besides the dispatch of 25,000 tents and other assistance items. The first batch of the relief aid containing 300 tents would be arriving Karachi today. The Chinese ambassador would hand over these articles to the Pakistani authorities. President Xi, in a message to President Dr Arif Alvi, observed

that severe floods had occurred recently in Pakistan, causing heavy casualties and serious property losses.

President Xi, on behalf of the Chinese government and people, and in his own name, expressed deep condolences over the victims and sincere sympathy to the bereaved families, the injured and the people in the affected areas. The Chinese envoy had apprised the Government of Pakistan of the decision of the Chinese leadership about the relief support. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressed gratitude to the Chinese leadership and said that the Chinese leadership and the people of China had always supported the people of Pakistan with their generosity.

"This flood is like no other in terms of its intensity & spread. China has been there for us at the most difficult times & we greatly value its

support," the prime minister posted a tweet. He also conveyed his good wishes to the Chinese leadership. Chinese Air Force has dispatched Y20 cargo airplane to deliver humanitarian supplies including 3000 tents to Pakistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said on Tuesday.

"This morning, Chinese Air Force dispatched Y20 cargo airplane to deliver humanitarian supplies including 3000 tents to Pakistan. The supplies are expected to arrive in Karachi airport in Pakistan at 4.00 pm," he said during his regular briefing here at the International Press Center (IPC). He said, after Pakistan was hit by the flooding, China had been feeling for the security of the people in the affected areas in Pakistan, adding, "We feel for the difficulties facing Pakistan." Zhao Lijian said, President Xi Jinping had already sent a message to President. APP

## Rs 300,000

Amb Nong hands over cheque for flood-hit people

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Nong Rong on Tuesday handed over \$300,000 emergency cash assistance to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society to help flood disaster-affected people. Addressing the donation ceremony, the Chinese Ambassador said that Pakistan is now facing a severe flood disaster, which caused many casualties and heavy economic losses. "We share the agony of those people who are caught in difficulties and troubles because of the flood. I am sure through our joint efforts, we will overcome the difficulties" he said. He said, Chinese President Xi Jinping, the other day had sent his message of sympathy over the flood disaster to the Pakistani President Arif Alvi, expressing that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners with a long tradition of mutual assistance, and China will continue to help and assist Pakistan's relief work. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang also gave his Message of Sympathy to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the same day, the Ambassador added.



# UAE sends relief aid to flood victims in Pakistan

*The purpose of UAE aid is to increase international peace development and stability*

**Our Correspondent**

KARACHI: One day after the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed pledged relief aid to Pakistan, Tuesday the UAE has begun operating an air bridge to transport humanitarian aid to those affected by the monsoon flooding in Pakistan.

Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, the UAE's ambassador to Pakistan, said the first Emirati relief aid plane flew on Monday morning to Pakistan and will be followed by several more in the coming days to provide support. Relief aid includes 3,000 tonnes of food, shelter materials, humanitarian needs and medical parcels. The UAE's Ministry of Defense, represented by the Joint Operations Command, is overseeing



ing the delivery of relief aid from the Emirates.

The death toll has reached 1,061 since June, the National Disaster

Management Authority (NDMA) said on Monday, with 28 more people having died in the past 24 hours. The crisis has forced the government to

declare a state of emergency, mobilize the army for relief efforts and call for international assistance.

Earlier UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, telephoned PM Shehbaz Sharif and assured his all-out support in relief and rehabilitation for flood affectees. He also emphasized the UAE's solidarity with government and people of Pakistan and offered all possible assistance to the Pakistan to tackle this natural calamity.

The purpose of UAE aid is to increase international peace development and stability, while guaranteeing improvements in the living standards of individuals regardless of their religion, language, identity, and race. UAE Aid is continually provided to ensure the establishment of an effective better living for the humanity.

## GB cabinet to donate one-month salary for flood victims

GILGIT: The Cabinet of Gilgit-Baltistan announced to donate their one-month salary for the flood relief programs.

According to details, the GB cabinet members announced to donate their one-month salary for flood relief programs, while the government would also contribute a 5 day salary of chief secretary and the inspector general GB; a three-day salary of grade 19-20 officers, and a day salary of grade 16-18 of government employees (except health and education sector) using it for flood relief programs. APP

## KDA engineers save Mahandri from due flood

KAGHAN: Mahandri Bazar was saved from the expected major disaster by changing the direction of the mountain stream which caused destruction in Mahandri and Manoor Bela valleys of Mansehra.

According to the details, following the directives of the provincial government Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) engineers and technical staff started the operation to restore the previous direction of the rain drain with heavy machinery and changed the direction of the water to its original route and saved the residential area and Bazar of Mahandri from the expected threat of flash flood.

Public Representative Mushtaq Khan Swati, Babu Ashraf, Haji Rashid, Haji Khaqan Khan credited the KDA for timely action in mitigating the possibility of any kind of danger in the coming days.

Last week's flash flood, swept away 14 precious human lives, 17 vehicles, dozens of shops and a bridge, the heavy stones and mud that came along with the flash in the drain turned the direction of the drain towards the residential area of Mahandri Bazar.

On the other side, the residents of Manoor valley still await for help after the destruction of the only connecting bridge between the valley and several villages of the area during the last week's heavy downpour and flash flood.

Due to the non-availability of the mobile network and the destruction of the only connecting road, Manoor valley's communication with Balakot and Mansehra was cut off. People also facing shortage of rations, medicines and other necessities of life demanding the KP government to take immediate measures to rehabilitate the flood victims. APP

## No flood danger in Hyderabad: DC

**Our Correspondent**

HYDERABAD: The Deputy Commissioner Fuad Ghaffar Soomro has dismissed the fears of possible floods in Hyderabad district and said that the situation was under control. According to official statement, Soomro said that there was no danger of floods in Hyderabad at present. The DC said that all the protective embankments of River Indus were strong and the Irrigation department staff was monitoring the protective Bunds around the clock.

## Floodwater overturns bus carrying 40 in Dadu

DADU: Strong flash floods overturned a bus carrying more than 40 passengers near the Indus Highway, Mehar Bypass, rescue officials said Tuesday, as the catastrophe continues to wreak havoc across the country.

The officials said that three out of the 40 people were swept away in the floods, while the remaining were fortunately saved by onsite rescue teams. The passenger bus was heading towards Larkana, they added. The Mehar Indus Highway is currently inundated after floods hit the area, while both of the highway's tracks have been closed for traffic. More than 40 villages in Mehar's Mangwani Union Council have submerged. Pakistan is coping with catastrophic floods that have killed more than 1,100 people, destroyed infrastructure and crops, and affected 33 million people. Agencies

## Helicopters rescue stranded from valleys

SAIDU SHARIF: Up to 200,000 people are stranded in remote Pakistan valleys after the unrelenting floods of the past week — with helicopters the only way of reaching them. Unprecedented rain in the Swat Valley turned rivers into raging torrents that washed away roads and bridges, cutting off tourists and residents from nearby towns, even as the water receded. Army and government helicopter missions have rescued hundreds of panicked tourists and locals — some urgently needing medical help. "It feels like I have got a second life," said tourist Yasmin Akram, a diabetic who was airlifted to Saidu Sharif's airfield from the Kalam valley with her 12-year-old daughter and husband.

The traffic police officer watched in despair as the hotel they fled in the middle of the night was swallowed by the Swat river, taking with it a young boy. "I witnessed this all with my own eyes," she said. "Since then I haven't slept." Her husband, dazed from exhaustion, said he ran out of medication for his kidney condition after Kalam was cut off.

## Deprivation

HYDERABAD: Children stand around an NGO's worker for receiving milk packets at flood affectees relief camp established at a government college in Qasimabad, in the city. As many as 30 villages submerged in the Province in Pakistan after flash floods from Balochistan entered the province, taking the total number of drowned villages in the hilly region to 50.



Photo: Online

## Raising Kashmir issue

# AJK President for early resolution of Kashmir dispute

*Barrister Sultan says we salute the martyrs of IIOJK who have laid down their precious lives for the noble cause*

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry Tuesday said after seeking independence our efforts were mainly focused on highlighting Kashmir issue globally and sensitizing the world about early resolution of the dispute.

The president made these assertions while addressing a function at Cadet College, Chhatar-Class in the State metropolis. He said, "Our forefathers' valorous struggle and sacrifices have led to the independence of Azad Kashmir".

"Now we shall continue our efforts to highlight the issue of Kashmir at the international level and expose Indian brutalities in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) where people have been reeling under

the brutal repression of over a half-million troops deployed in the length and breadth of the territory.

Hailing the sacrifices of Kashmiri people, the president said, "We salute the martyrs of IIOJK who have laid down their precious lives for the noble cause".

Reiterating the government's all out support to Kashmir struggle, he said, "The struggle will continue at all fronts until the independence of the Occupied Kashmir". Referring to his efforts to ensure quality education in Azad Kashmir, he said, "I inaugurated the first-ever cadet college of Azad Kashmir, at Palandri, in 1999".

He said that the second cadet college started working in 2018. Citing the

fast-spreading network of colleges and universities in Azad Kashmir the president said, "Now I am chancellor of 5 universities stretching all across the liberated territory".

Promoting quality of education at all levels, he said, was first and foremost priority. President Barrister Sultan termed the performance of the cadets as exemplary and congratulated the board on the excellent result last year.

"These are the educational institutions from which the architects of the future will emerge", he said. He also assured the principal that the problems faced by the Cadet College would be addressed on priority basis. The president also announced a grant of a bus to solve the cadet's transport problem.

## Governor dispatches six trucks carrying relief goods to flood-hit areas

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Tuesday dispatched six truckloads of relief goods to flood-hit areas of the Southern Punjab from the Governor's House here.

The relief goods have been sent with the help of philanthropists and the Red Crescent Punjab.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said rehabilitation of the flood affectees and providing them with relief items is the top priority at the moment.

He said the Federal government, Pakistan Army, institutions, district administration of especially flood-hit areas and the private sector are working together and making synergised efforts to provide relief to the people in distress.

Balighur Rehman said it is commendable that the government as well as philanthropists and welfare organizations are stepping up to help the flood victims, adding that the role of media is also important in this regard.

The Governor Punjab said the relief goods sent to help the flood victims is a clear message for him that the entire nation stands with its suffering brothers and sisters in this difficult time. He reiterated that the government will not sit down and relax till the complete rehabilitation of the flood victims.

He said that coordinated efforts are needed to help the flood victims. He said, "Each and every one of us should contribute to the flood relief fund of the government according to one's capacity so that the government can systematically ensure the assistance to the flood victims." Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said the entire country has been affected by the floods. He said that everyone should come forward to help the flood victims.

He appreciated the efforts of the business community and Red Crescent Punjab in providing relief goods to the flood victims. Agencies

# Eight killed in rain-related incidents during last 24 hours

PESHAWAR: At least eight people were killed and three others injured due to rain and flood-related incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last 24 hours.

According to Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), relief operations were ongoing in flood-affected districts and all available resources were being utilized to provide relief to the flood affectees.

PDMA spokesman said that 116 relief camps had been established for flood victims throughout the province. 77 camps were established in Nowshera district in which 25000 people were staying, food and other basic facilities were being provided to them.

11 camps had been estab-

lished in Dera Ismail Khan in which basic needs were being provided to 25000 people, while the district administration had established 17 relief camps in Charsadda and seven in Dir Upper, two each in Malakand and Mansehra.

According to Director General PDMA Sharif Hussain, relief operations were ongoing in the flood-affected districts and provincial government was making all-out efforts to provide relief to the flood victims.

A flood emergency and response center had been established in Abbottabad district, in which all the government agencies will be present round the clock to provide relief to the flood victims.

Relief camps had been

set up at different places in Mansehra, in which the flood victims were being provided food and drink items and essential equipment.

Three people, including two Bulgarian women, have been rescued in a rescue operation by the district administration in Upper Kohistan.

In Lower Kohistan, 600 packages had been delivered to the affected families by helicopter in various villages. 178 people were rescued and shifted to safe places by helicopter in Dir Upper, 14 in Chitral Upper and 210 in Dir Upper.

Medical assistance had been provided to 6,149 people. 10,660 food packages had been provided to different people. NFI kits had been distributed among 10 fami-

lies during the last 24 hours in these areas.

On the instructions of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan, PDMA released an additional amount of Rs 220 million to 11 flood-affected districts.

According to DG PDMA Sharif Hussain, Rs 30 million had been released for Kohistan Lower and Tank each, Rs 20 million for Nowshera and Chitral each, while Rs 1.5 million had been released for Shangla district, Rs 10 million for Buner district, and Rs 20 million for Dir Upper.

Similarly, Rs10 million for Malakand, Rs 2 million for Swat district, Rs2.5 million for Lakki Marwat and Rs2 million had been released for Dir Lower.



Islamabad

23° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr .....4:13 am  
Zohr .....12:09pm  
Asr .....4:46 pm  
Maghrib .....6:36 pm  
Isha .....8:03 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad .....9222596  
Rawalpindi .....9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316  
Wapda Islamabad .....9217579-80  
Sui Gas Complaint .....119, 9272249  
Wasa Water Tank  
Rawalpindi .....0331-5022125

**Police arrest seven for possessing illegal weapons**

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the directives of City Police Officer conducted raids in different areas and netted seven accused for possessing illegal weapons.

According to a police spokesman, Ratta Amral police held Umar Fayyaz and Muhammad Ehtesham and recovered two 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession.

Bani, Civil Lines, Rawat and New Town police arrested Gulraiz, Sharif, Irfan, Rehman Yousaf and Muhammad Hussain for having four 30 bore pistols and ammunition.

Separate cases have been arrested against all the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Waseem Riaz Khan said that strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against lawbreakers. APP

**President urges traders to contribute to flood relief efforts**

*Dr Arif Alvi emphasises the need to invest in the human resources of the country*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday urged the business community, especially the small traders and industries, to contribute generously to the flood relief efforts and support the flood-affected countrymen.

The president, addressing the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICST&SI) Achievement Awards distribution ceremony, also urged the business community to adopt the latest Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools to expand their businesses and bring value addition to their products.

He asked the businessmen to explore new markets to expand exports and overcome the current economic

difficulties being faced by the country.

The president emphasised the need to invest in the human resources of the country, saying that upskilling our youth bulge and women population in different sectors of the economy, especially the IT sector, could help Pakistan achieve fast-paced growth in the short term.

He said that Pakistan should focus on the development of a knowledge-based economy and equipping its enormous human resources with soft and latest technical skills to put the country on a path of progress.

He advised the business community to base their business and trade upon ethical values of honesty, integrity, responsibility, quality, trust and respect and customer satisfaction to maintain

their position in the market in a sustained manner.

President Alvi said that new markets could be captured by maintaining the quality of goods and services to gain the trust, confidence and loyalty of customers and fulfilling their corporate social responsibilities.

He called upon the chambers of commerce to motivate their members to organize trade fairs and exhibitions of their products and services in the country as well as abroad, besides using online marketing facilities to substantially increase their customer base and expand their businesses.

Highlighting the importance of exports in bridging the current account deficit, he said that the country needed to bring about a paradigm shift in the pace of its economic

progress.

Therefore, he called upon the chambers of commerce and industry to further consolidate their efforts to increase their production without compromising the quality, promoting tax culture, and expanding their memberships to bring more businesses in their purview.

The president highlighted that the decision-makers should take timely decisions through a consultative process to increase country's productivity and to remain competitive in the local and international markets.

He called upon the members of the business community to market their products internationally while maintaining globally accepted ethical values, environmental, hygiene, health and safety standards.

**High-Prices**

ISLAMABAD: People are busy in purchasing vegetables at Weekly "Tuesday Bazar" near Peshawar Morr, in Federal Capital. As owing to the flood that wreaked havoc in various parts of the country, the prices of vegetables particularly onions and potatoes, have increased manifold in country.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**Diamond Jubilee of the Independence of Pakistan held at Manchester**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD/MANCHES- TER: On the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Independence of Pakistan, the prominent Mazhabi scholar and senior journalist Allama Azeemji and Imam Masjid Sahibzada Ahmed Waqar Baig Qadri organized a solemn ceremony at the Qadaria Jilania Islamic Center. Among them Consul General Tariq Wazir - Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester Yasmin Dar - Member of Parliament Afzal Khan Lord Wajid Khan - Mayor Bari Councilor Shahina Haroon Mayor Bolton Councilor Akhtar Zaman - Ustad Saifdar - Chaudhry Naseer Sahiwal - Shahbaz Sarwar Chaudhry Ghulamul Rasool Shehzade - Britain, Europe,



Pakistan's prominent religious scholar, Maulana Shahjahan Madani and others participated.

Naat Maqbool was performed by Qari Javed, a prominent religious figure of Greater Manchester. Consul General Tariq Wazir congratulated the community on Pakistan Day and said that at that time Pakistan All the overseas Pakistanis should help

the people affected by the flood in this time of sorrow. But for those who have been displaced in Pakistan, we should help them from every platform. Full help should be given Mayor Bolton Councilor Akhtar Zaman congratulated the people on Pakistan Day and said that in this hour of sorrow our heart is with the flood victims and we should help them in a full way Lord

Wajid in the hall.

The people in the hall were very impressed by the speech of Maulana Shahjahan Madani, an international religious figure, who appealed to the people present to help the flood-affected people in Pakistan. Allama Azim Ji and Maulana Sahibzada Waqar Baig, the host of the appeal, firstly thanked all the guests for coming to today's Independence Day program.

Lord Mayor of Manchester Yasmin Qureshi also offered help for the flood victims Mazabi scholar Allama Azeem ji offered special prayers for those who died in the flood. Prominent social entrepreneur Ustad Saifdar brought the usual Independence Day cake which was cut by all the

**Health Corner**

*Early Hypertension, Diabetes: Early Glaucoma*

ISLAMABAD: The earlier individuals develop Type 2 diabetes or hypertension in life, the earlier they are likely to develop primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG), the leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide, researchers from UT Southwestern reported in a recent study. The findings, published in Clinical Ophthalmology, could lead to better screening protocols for POAG, which accounts for up to 90% of all cases of glaucoma.

"Currently, we lack the tools to cure glaucoma, but with enough advanced notice, we can preserve patients' vision. Early detection of glaucoma is the key to better control of intraocular pressure and preventing blindness," said study leader Karanjit Kooner, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at UTSW.

Tens of millions of people have POAG around the globe. Because this disease has few symptoms in its earliest stages, Dr. Kooner explained, patients are frequently diagnosed in its later stages when vision has already been permanently damaged. Although researchers have identified several risk factors for POAG -- including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, migraines, and obstructive sleep apnea -- how they might influence the onset of POAG is not well understood.

To answer this question, Dr. Kooner and his colleagues collected data from the medical records of 389 POAG patients, all seen by Dr. Kooner between June 2019 and December 2019 at the UTSW Eye Clinic. Using statistical modeling, the researchers found no connection between migraines and/or obstructive sleep apnea and the age of POAG onset. However, the researchers found that the age of Type 2 diabetes and/or hypertension diagnosis was significantly linked with the onset of POAG -- the earlier patients presented with either or both of these conditions, the earlier they tended to develop POAG.

Dr. Kooner noted that both Type 2 diabetes and hypertension are diseases that affect blood vessels of both the optic nerve and retina, thus potentially causing changes that predispose patients to POAG, another condition with a vascular root. If these connections hold up in future research, he said, Type 2 diabetes and hypertension could be added to the list of factors that can trigger POAG screening -- including a family history of POAG, elevated intraocular pressure, and Black race -- and lead to earlier diagnosis of POAG, preserving patients' vision and quality of life. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

*Ph.D. Scholar to defend his dissertation on Sep 2*

ISLAMABAD: Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Computing and Technology Iqra University, Islamabad Campus H-9, Saqib Majeed Registration No. 23874 will defend his Ph.D. dissertation titled "Energy Efficient and Optimal Drone Deployment for AD HOC Microcellular Networks" on Friday 2nd September 2022 at 10:00 am. Saqib has completed his Ph.D. dissertation under the supervision of Dr. Adnan Sohail. PR

*Junkyards sealed for flouting dengue's SOP*

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration continued actions against violations of dengue's standard operating procedures (SOPs) and sealed three junkyards in the area of Bhara Kahu. Assistant Commissioner (AC) Secretariat Aneel Saeed following directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon raided various dengue larva breeding sites on Col Aman Ullah Road, Kiyani Road, Murree Road and Nai Abadi. The sites were pointed out by the entomologist and dengue monitoring teams. The AC after sealing the premises of scrap stores shifted its owners to the relevant police station for further legal actions, whereas others were issued warning as per law. Talking to media, he said a massive crackdown underway to contain spread of dengue and multiple cases in different areas were registered against the violators. A number of people were also booked for flouting SOPs. He said peoples' cooperation was very important to control dengue, adding that a community mobilization campaign in progress to raise awareness about dengue. Meanwhile, Aneel Saeed conducted price checking of essential commodities, inspected unauthorised use of polythene bags in fruit/vegetable, milk shops, general stores, cash & carry, chicken shops in different areas of Bhara Kahu (Col Aman Ullah Road, Kiyani Road, Nai Abadi) and Bari Imam. Violators were censured as per law. APP

*Over 0.4m children administered anti-polio drops in Islamabad*

ISLAMABAD: Over 400,000 children under the age of five years were administered anti-polio drops during the week-long drive, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon said on Tuesday. Talking to the media, after chairing an anti-polio drive post meeting here, he said the role of vaccination teams was commendable which put their utmost efforts to administer anti-polio drops to each child in the Federal capital. He appreciated all the assistant commissioners and magistrates monitoring activities of vaccination teams, particularly in those areas where confirmed and refusal cases had been reported. The DC said tally sheets, fingerprints of the children and performance of teams were checked throughout the drive on a daily basis. The campaign was launched from house to house, through bus stands, toll plazas, markets and schools. Security was also ensured to the teams under the supervision of assistant commissioners and magistrates. Memon expressed his gratitude to the parents and guardians for extending full cooperation to the anti-polio teams by administering anti-polio drops to their children. Eradicating polio is a national cause, said DC and underscored the need for integrated efforts to make the Capital polio-free. Among others, the meeting was attended by additional deputy commissioners, assistant commissioners, magistrates and representatives from the World Health Organization, district health department, UNICEF and other concerned agencies. Agencies



ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador Donald Blome meeting with Zafar Bakhtawari Chairman Pakistan Cultural Forum at a dinner in Islamabad.

**UAE envoy expresses sympathies with flood victims**

**UAE's humanitarian assistance for the flood affected people of Pakistan**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, UAE Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan said "I would like to extend my condolences to the Government and brotherly people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the victims of recent devastating floods across the country, and express my sympathy with the families of the victims wishing speedy recovery for the injured."

In implementation of the directives of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, an air bridge of humanitarian aid has been established for Pakistan, to transport relief aid, shelter materials and humanitarian needs for those affected by torrential rains and floods in Pakistan.

This assistance includes tons of food and health packages, various shelter materials, as well as urgent relief materials, with the aim of contributing in efforts to relieve the affected population and providing the necessary needs in such circumstances, especially for vulnerable groups of women and children.

First Emirati relief aid plane was landed in Islamabad on Sunday, carrying various food and shelter aid, to be followed by a number of other aid planes over the coming days to provide support to mitigate the repercussions caused by the recent floods and torrential rains in Pakistan.

These assistance programs confirms the depth and strength of the relations between our two brotherly countries, and that the UAE has contributed over the past decades in alleviating the many humanitarian crises that Pakistan witnessed, especially those related to natural disasters, the UAE humanitarian support extends a helping hand to all affected communities around the world, based on the global humanitarian role of the UAE, whose principles were established by its founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed, may Allah bless his soul.

The importance of humanitarian support for the affected regions in Sindh, Baluchistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which was directed by the leadership of the UAE is based on a specific priority by providing relief to people and facilitating their



lives, in accordance with the approach and principles of the UAE leadership in human development for needy people.

Although, the constant downturn since 15 June is hampering relief efforts in flood hit areas, but our charitable organization such as UAE Red Crescent, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation and other charitable organizations are working closely with the Pakistani relevant authorities to

provide rescue and relief assistance aid to the victims of devastating floods and monsoon that caused the colossal loss, and successfully distributing vital food packages, shelter and medical supplies among the affected peoples in Sindh, Baluchistan, South Punjab and KPK provinces, a Mobile clinic is also treating people in flood hit areas of Sindh province.

A commitment to the humanitarian orientation by the UAE is considered an authentic and consistent approach of its foreign policy since the era of our founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, being strengthened and developed during the era of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, and today, we are witnessing it as an rooted approach of the thought of the leader of our march, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE.

"I reiterate the UAE's firm commitment to support our brotherly people of Pakistan in the difficult times, and our readiness to provide every possible assistance in coordination and partnership of the Pakistani authorities," he added.

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# Ukrainian war & implications for Türkiye, Azerbaijan

**Dmitry V. Shlapen-tokh**

Russia's war with Ukraine was Vladimir Putin's gamble, which created a severe economic problem for Russia. Yet at the same time, it has provided great opportunities for some countries to take advantage of the situation. Türkiye and allied Azerbaijan are among them. Taking advantage of the emerging vacuum, they could send an increasing amount of gas to Europe and increase their influence. The recent agreement between Azerbaijan and the EU to increase gas deliveries shall be seen in this context. Azerbaijan could be both a supplier of the gas and an intermediary for sending gas from other countries of Central Asia to the West. The fate of Azerbaijan was deeply connected with Türkiye, not only because the gas lines would go through Turkish territory but also because Türkiye had emerged as a significant geopolitical partner.

In tandem with Türkiye, Azerbaijan had engaged in a plan to send gas to Europe early on.

In 2009, Türkiye and several other states signed an agree-

ment to send gas to Europe. Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan emerged as major suppliers. The proposed gas line was called Nabucco, after Giuseppe Verdi's famous opera. Moscow was alarmed, and in 2010, Russian president Dmitry Medvedev, visited Baku and proposed that Azerbaijan increase the selling of Azeri gas to Gazprom, Russia's major gas company. Russia did not need Azeri gas. Still, the Kremlin assumed that Azerbaijan would not have enough gas for Nabucco in case of a deal.

It looked like the plan had worked, and Nabucco was soon scrapped. At the same time, Moscow sent a solid message to Turkmenistan, which had entertained a plan to send gas to the West through the Trans-Caspian gas line. Here, Azerbaijan played an essential role as an intermediary. Moscow warned Ashgabat that it would not let this happen and was ready to use force to stop the project. The fact that Russia was engaged in war with Georgia in 2008 signals that Moscow did not engage in idle threats. This, however, did not deter Azerbaijan from engaging in a new project.

Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) was designed to move through Türkiye and thus be protected from potential Russian incursion. It finally joined Trans-Adriatic Pipe-

line (TAP), which became operational by 2020, sending gas to Europe.

At that time, Russia sent massive amounts of gas through North Stream I and Ukraine. Despite many problems, it looked like North Stream II was about to be finished. Still, Moscow was concerned with Azeri gas and implicitly provoked a war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In August 2020, on the eve of the second Karabakh War, Russia's Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu visited Baku. Undoubtedly, the potential war with Armenia, formally a member of Russia's major military alliance, was discussed. If Shoigu had stated firmly that Russia would engage in a war in the case of Azerbaijan's conflict with Armenia, Baku would be unlikely to encounter Armenia. Indeed, Russia's military rating was quite high, and even some Western observers regard Russian military prowess as second in the world. Still, Shoigu sent the implicit message that Moscow would not engage.

The reason for this implicit abandonment of Armenia was not just Yerevan's flirtation with the West, which undoubtedly irritated Moscow, but also the belief that a prolonged war in the Caucasus would either damage the gas lines or at least

show to Europe that gas lines from Azerbaijan were not a reliable source, and this would rekindle Europe's passion for North Stream I, and speed up authorization of North Stream II. Thus, the Kremlin regarded Azeri gas as a potential problem and hoped for destabilization in the North Caucasian region. Still, despite the Kremlin's expectations, Azerbaijan won with Türkiye's direct support. There was no damage to the gas lines, and Europe's appetite for Azeri gas was not diminished. With the start of the Ukrainian war, Azerbaijan and Türkiye gained even more significance for Europe.

Russians and Westerners were convinced that a war with Ukraine would be similar to that with Georgia. Still, the war went awry and transformed into a protracted standoff. Worst of all, the EU, or at least most European countries, dramatically reduced their Russian gas consumption. At the beginning of Brussels' actions, the Kremlin protested. Still, later, the Kremlin declined gas deliveries, even more, assuming that this would lead to a serious economic and social crisis. While the repercussions of the severe gas shortage in Europe remain to be seen, it goes without saying that the vacuum created new opportunities for Azerbaijan and Türkiye

behind it to increase the delivery of Azeri gas to Europe dramatically. Azerbaijan would not be able to operate without Türkiye's support, which counterbalanced hostile Armenia, Russia and Iran.

Russia's conflict with Ukraine led to increasing fear among countries of the former USSR, which could well be on Russia's list for future military ventures. Kazakhstan is among them. The Kremlin folk have often stated that the northern part of the country was Russian Siberia and should be returned to Russia. Kazakh elite takes this statement seriously and has engaged in an increasing relationship with many countries that could counterbalance Russia and Türkiye. Russia's isolation also has brought tangible economic benefits to Ankara. Russian business people could invest, and Russian tourists visit. Finally, Turkish Airlines became practically the only way for many Russians to fly outside Russia. Thus, Türkiye also benefits economically as a result of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine while maintaining a relationship with Russia and the West.

*The writer is an associate professor of history at Indiana University South Bend. Courtesy AA*

## Syed Ali Gilani will never die

History testifies that nobody died who influenced human thoughts and whose life was dedicated to some cause and who sacrificed for freedom, therefore personalities like Syed Ali Gilani do not die and they just disappear physically but their thoughts remain with the human mind. Gilani dedicated his life and even his death to telling everybody that freedom cannot be compromised or traded off. Gilani embraced martyrdom under Indian Police custody on September 1, 2021, at his residence in Hyderpora, Srinagar.

He was kept under continued house arrest for over a decade by Indian forces but they failed to snatch the thought of Freedom and resistance away from him. A frail-body Gilani was strongest than over a million personnel of Indian occupation forces therefore he remained a symbol of fear for Indian forces even after his physical death who had forcibly taken away the dead body of Syed Ali Gilani for burial at Hyderpora graveyard under heavy military siege at night in violation of the last will of the veteran leader.

The life of Syed Ali Gilani started with the struggle for free land for his people and he spent several years in different Indian jails for opposing Indian rule in the occupied territory. He was subjected to physical and mental torture during his imprisonment but never bowed down to the occupation forces till his last breath. Syed Ali Gilani made a "significant contribution to the Kashmiris' struggle for their right to self-determination and suffered lifelong persecution at the hands of India. Gilani had foretold what the future beholds for Kashmir in many of his revolutionary and visionary speeches.

He had said when demography will be changed in favor of Hindus in Kashmir like in Jammu then India may concede to a plebiscite in the territory. It is feared that the Modi regime may accept the plebiscite once its settler plan is accomplished. Syed Ali Gilani had drawn the conclusion from the past events that Hindus would never accept Muslims as an entity in India and a majority population in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

There is a need to introduce the life and death of Syed Ali Gilani to young generations for informing them that Freedom has no other option to trade-off. Gilani was born on September 29 1929 and he is regarded as the father of the Kashmiri indigenous freedom movement. Gilani's long and precarious journey for the legitimate cause of Kashmiris started well before his formal political career which started from the platform of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in 1952. He soon rose to become district chief of the Kupwara and Baramulla districts.

Gilani spent more than twelve years of his life in jail, he was first arrested in 1962 on the charges of raising the Kashmir issue. Gilani initially struggled for his cause through mainstream politics but later on realized that the government of India had never been sincere in the resolution of the Kashmir issue. He staunchly opposed the enactment of the Indian draconian law of Public Safety Act (PSA) and openly challenged then Chief Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah when he introduced the stringent Public Safety Act in the region. The act, termed lawless by Amnesty International, was brought to be used against timber smugglers. However, it was later modified to imprison political voices. Under the law, anyone could be imprisoned for up to two years without trial.



## Climate change & Planet's water balance

**Ashok Swain**

Discussion about the impacts of climate change on the water system is mostly focused on glacier melting or sea level rise but not much on the rivers and lakes that supply a significant share of the freshwater for human use. River and lake systems are going through major changes worldwide due to warming temperatures and shifts in rainfall or snowfall patterns. In some places, water flow in the rivers is becoming increasingly abundant, and in many other places, people and ecosystems are suffering desperately due to the shortage of water supply. While Pakistan is facing a severe flood situation, there are many countries in the Northern Hemisphere, where rivers and lakes have dried up as never before. Due to the lack of rain and increasingly frequent heatwaves, water flows in many major rivers have alarmingly reduced from North America to Europe, from the Middle East to East Asia. The water table of extremely important and historically conflict-prone Colorado has been falling for decades.

It has reached such a level that this summer; the mighty Lake Mead behind the Hoover Dam has almost become a dead pool. More than 40 million people depend on the Rhine River, which is drying up worryingly. The agreement over water transportation on the Rhine was the founding stone for the creation of the European Union. The water levels in that river in some places in Germany have fallen to as low as 32 centimetres, making it almost impossible for the container ships to operate. The so-called "hunger stones" have again surfaced in Germany's Rhine River and the Czech Republic's Elbe River. Italy's Po River has seen many floods recently, but this summer, a 2nd World War

era bomb was found on its riverbed because the water flow has almost dried up. France has been forced to reduce the operation of some of its nuclear power plants because the Rhone and Garonne Rivers' water temperature was too high to be used for plant-cooling purposes.

Drought has also dried up the source of England's Thames River. Many important rivers in Europe, the Danube, Gardiana, and the Loire, also face severe water scarcity. As per the European Drought Observatory, nearly half of Europe is under a drought warning, and this probably has never happened in the last 500 years. China is also witnessing record-breaking drought from terrible heatwaves. The new climate has caused several rivers of the country to dry up, including the Yangtze. The gigantic Yangtze supplies more than 400 million people with drinking water and is crucial to China's burgeoning economy. Its water flows this year have gone down to half of the average of the last five years, mainly due to a 45 per cent decline in rainfall in the basin, creating massive disruption to shipping and a drop in hydropower production.

Sichuan province is highly dependent upon hydropower, but the water table of the reservoirs is fast declining, resulting in the rationing of power supplies to thousands of factories. Falling water levels of the Yangtze River have even brought three 600-year-old Buddhist statues, which were hidden underwater, out in the open. Growing water demand and an increasingly warming planet have not only resulted in the decline of water flow in river systems, but several major freshwater lakes are also drying up. The water bodies of the Aral Sea in Central Asia, Lake Poopó in Bolivia, Lake Chad in Central Africa, and Owens Lake in California have been continuously shrinking, creating a serious ecological crisis in and around these lakes and bringing more challenges to food

production, drinking water supply, trade, and transport.

Shifting precipitation and excessive evaporation have significantly declined the water volumes in rivers and lakes in many parts of the world. The drying up of rivers and lakes has not only adversely affected irrigation, navigation, and industrial production; it has also led to the rising level of pollution as less water in the system fails to dilute even relatively common pollutants. Higher pollution and rising water temperature in rivers and lakes kill fish, plants, and wildlife. The climate crisis has changed the weather pattern, significantly impacting rivers and lakes and the people and ecosystems dependent on them. Moreover, most of these rivers and lakes are transboundary and shared between two or more countries. Formal and informal norms and institutions have been developed among the basin countries from Colorado to the Rhine, from the Danube to the Euphrates-Tigris to the Aral Sea over the water sharing.

However, these existing water sharing mechanisms or basin-based water management institutions are proving inadequate to guide the path of cooperation over freshwater because climate change has brought unprecedented reduction to its availability. While the old water agreements on rivers and lakes are under severe pressure, it is becoming almost impossible to sign new agreements on water sharing. Climate change has already changed the water balance of the planet, and it has significantly altered the river flow in many parts of the world, and it will continue in the future. This year's drying up of rivers and lakes will not remain a one-year event; this phenomenon is likely to repeat more often. Thus, the world must come together to prioritise its fight against climate change.

*The writer is a professor of peace and conflict research at Uppsala University, Sweden. Courtesy Gulf News*

## Abandoning Rohingya to their fate

**Dr. Azeem Ibrahim**

Last week marked five years since the start of the most recent stage of the genocide in Myanmar against the Rohingya. It was on Aug. 25, 2017, that Myanmar's armed forces, the Tatmadaw, began what it described as "clearance operations" in Rohingya villages in Rakhine state. This is a terrible euphemism for vicious activity. Thousands of Rohingya were murdered outright, shot by the Tatmadaw, paramilitaries and racist mobs. Uncountable women were raped and casual violence was widespread. Homes, and entire villages, were burned down, many with their inhabitants inside. The efforts of this campaign of mass violence were concentrated on driving out the Rohingya. Their homes were ransacked and wrecked, their villages burned and they were forced, at the barrel of a gun, to leave.

All the while, much of the democratic world, which had heralded what it thought were liberalizing reforms in Myanmar a short time earlier, struggled to get its bearings. As hundreds of thousands of Rohingya were thrown out of their homes and villages, international organizations such as the UN struggled to keep count of those killed. The interior of Myanmar was kept under strict military control. Whatever news leaked out was patchy and sporadic. But even in this restricted environment, it was very clear what the military was doing and what its intentions were. As summer drew to a close that year in Myanmar, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya were forced to be on the move. Driven out by Tatmadaw forces, they made their way in ragged columns to the country's borders.

We are five years distant from these events but even now they are shocking. This is how genocide is conducted in the modern world: Undeterred and open. The international response to the early phase of the genocide was mixed. Many countries condemned it but few did much that was concrete to oppose it or to punish the perpetrators. Bangladesh took in an

estimated 750,000 Rohingya refugees who flocked to Cox's Bazar, ending up in a refugee camp that is now home to more than a million people. Those people are still there, still unable, half a decade later, to escape the consequences of the events of August 2017. Over the past five years, some countries have stepped up to help the Rohingya and try to bring their attackers to justice.

In the International Court of Justice, Gambia has brought a case against Myanmar for genocide. The case continues and has resulted in a collating of evidence about the crimes committed by the Tatmadaw that can only be welcome. It has helped to keep the call for justice alive and might yet bring the generals and the instigators and perpetrators of the genocide to account. But more work remains to be done. Most obviously, the Rohingya still live in Cox's Bazar in a state of limbo. Refugee populations are never best served by being left as they are; their conditions worsen and the world has a chance to forget about their cause.

There is always a moral necessity to examine these conditions. There is nothing so permanent, in international relations, as the temporary; and it is the moral duty of countries that wish to aid the Rohingya to ensure that temporary indignities are not made to last. In Myanmar itself, political changes have come about in the past five years. Politicians from the National League for Democracy were in government when the genocide was launched and now many of them are in jail. They lied about the genocide or attempted to cover it up but this did not save them from the generals. Now their parties have been forced by repression into new coalitions, alliances of necessity, to fight against the Tatmadaw, which threatens to extend the scope of its violence from Myanmar's ethnic minorities to all forces of opposition. Over the past five years, one might hope that some members of the NLD have learned the foolishness of attempting to compromise with the bringers of genocide. We must hope the rest of the world has learned this lesson too.

*The writer is the director of special initiatives at the Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy in Washington. Courtesy Arab News*

# Eyes on Kherson as Ukraine claims bold move on Russians

*Russian Defense Ministry says its forces stood up well and Ukraine lost hundreds of troops*

KYIV/MOSCOW: Ukraine claimed to have destroyed bridges and ammunition depots and pounded command posts in a surge of fighting in the Russian-occupied south, fueling speculation Tuesday that its long-awaited counteroffensive to try to turn the tide of war was underway. Russia said it repelled the attack and inflicted heavy casualties.

The clashes took place in the country's Kherson region, where Moscow's forces rolled up major gains early in the war. Ukrainian authorities kept the world guessing about their intentions in the latest round of fighting and cautioned against excessive optimism in a conflict that has seen changing fortunes before.

While independent verification of battlefield action has been difficult, Britain's Defense Ministry said in an intelligence report that several Ukrainian brigades had stepped up their artillery fire in front-line sectors across southern Ukraine.

The port city of Kherson is an important economic hub close to the Black Sea and the first major city to fall to the Russians in the war that began six months ago. Ukraine's presidential office reported that "powerful explosions continued during the day and night in the Kherson region. Tough battles are ongoing practically across all" of the area. Ukrainian forces, the office said, destroyed ammunition



depots and all large bridges across the Dnieper River that are vital to bring supplies to Russian troops.

The Ukrainian military also reported destroying a pontoon bridge across the Dnieper that the Russian forces were setting up and hitting a dozen command posts in the region with artillery fire.

Russian state news agency Tass reported five explosions rocked Kherson on Tuesday morning — blasts most likely caused by air defense systems at work.

Amid the talk of a major counteroffensive, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video

address on Monday that one "won't hear specifics from any truly responsible person" about Kyiv's intentions, "because this is war."

The British defense ministry said that the most of Russia's units around Kherson "are likely under-manned and are reliant upon fragile supply lines" while its forces there are undergoing a significant reorganization.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov maintained that its forces stood up well and that Ukraine lost hundreds of troops, tanks and other armored vehicles in Monday's action. His claim could not be independently verified.

Ukrainian independent military analyst Oleh Zhdanov told The Associated Press that "it will be possible to talk about the effectiveness of Ukrainian actions only after large cities are retaken." He added that Ukrainian forces had breached the first and the second lines of defense in the Kherson region several times in the past, "but it didn't bring about results."

"The most important thing is Ukrainian artillery's work on the bridges, which the Russian military can no longer use," Zhdanov said.

The war has ground to a stalemate over the past months with casualties rising and the local population bearing the brunt of the suffering during relentless shelling in the east and the south. Amid fears that the fighting around the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant could lead to a catastrophe, a team of experts from the U.N. atomic energy agency sent out on a mission to visit and safeguard the complex. Ukraine and Russia have accused each other of shelling the area over and over.

Nikopol, a city just across the Dnieper from the plant, again came under a barrage of heavy shelling, local authorities said, with a bus station, stores and a children's library damaged. And the city of Zaporizhzhia, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the plant, was targeted by a Russian missile strike, Ukraine said. Agencies

## Iran calls IAEA's demands 'excessive'

TEHRAN: The spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has described the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) demands as "excessive," saying they cannot be implemented due to the sanctions in place against the Islamic Republic.

"We consider the IAEA's demands excessive, because their implementation is impossible due to sanctions," Behrouz Kamalvandi said on Tuesday.

Kamalvandi elaborated on the current scope of Iran-IAEA ties, saying Tehran's cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog is based on the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA), which, he added, revolves around the agency's inspection of nuclear materials.

Aside from the CSA, he added, countries adhering to the Additional Protocol, have undertaken to give the IAEA access for inspection of their uranium enrichment equipment as well.

The official said Iran used to provide the UN nuclear watchdog with even broader access for inspection as part of the 2015 nuclear deal, which is currently in trouble due to Washington's unilateral exit.

Iran, he said, decided to restrict the scope of its cooperation with the IAEA to the SCA under a law approved by the Iranian Parliament in late 2020, entitled "The Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions."

The law tasked the Iranian administration to take a set of measures to protect national interests, including limiting cooperation with the IAEA, in response to Washington's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal and the European signatories' failure to uphold their contractual commitments to Tehran.

## Solomon Islands bans visits of foreign navy ships



HONIARA: The Solomon Islands has announced a suspension on foreign navy ships entering its waters pending adoption of a new process for approval of port visits, the prime minister's office said in a statement on Tuesday.

"We have requested our partners to give us time to review, and put in place our new processes, before sending further requests for military vessels to enter the country," Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare said in a statement on Tuesday.

"These will universally apply to all visiting naval vessels," he said in a statement emailed to Reuters. The new protocol procedures are reportedly aimed to build national capacity to police the nation's exclusive economic zones.

According to the statement, the move comes as the islands have had "unfortunate experiences of foreign naval vessels entering the country's waters during the course of the year without diplomatic clearance granted", the statement said, without specifying those countries.

Last week, the US Coast Guard vessel, Oliver Henry, was unable to enter the Solomon Islands for a routine port call as its government did not respond to a request for the vessel to refuel and provision. Relations between the islands and the US have been tense since Honiara announced in May that it signed a security pact with China.

In April, a senior US government official had refused to rule out military action against the Islands if it were to allow China to establish a military base in the South Pacific country.

The Solomon Islands government, however, categorically declared that the security agreement did not envisage the construction of military bases, dismissing it as "misinformation promoted by anti-government commentators".

## Venezuela, Colombia take step toward normalizing ties

CARACAS: The governments of Venezuela and Colombia took a step toward normalizing ties when President Nicolás Maduro hosted an event to welcome the newly appointed ambassador from the neighboring country, a post that had been empty since 2019 over a diplomatic impasse.

Colombian Ambassador Armando Benedetti met with Maduro a day after arriving in Venezuela. He was designated to the post by new President Gustavo Petro, who abandoned his conservative predecessor's opposition to Maduro and vowed to re-establish relations with his government.

Maduro and Benedetti met at the Miraflores Palace in the capital, Caracas.

Colombia, for decades the region's strongest ally of the United States, was among dozens of countries that withdrew recognition of Maduro as Venezuela's legitimate leader after his 2018 re-election, which they argued was fraudulent.

Petro, Colombia's first leftist president, and Maduro have expressed willingness to build a new stage of cooperation, including the reopening of border crossing bridges to commercial traffic, the renewal of military collaboration to ease tensions in areas where armed groups operate and the resumption of Colombian consular services in Venezuela.

Venezuela's ambassador to Colombia, Félix Plasencia, also arrived at his post Sunday. Maduro expelled all Colombian diplomats in February 2019. He maintains that former Colombian President Iván Duque for years promoted plans to topple his government.

Neither Maduro nor Benedetti made public statements immediately after their meeting. Benedetti earlier said he would speak with Maduro about a presidential meeting with Petro.

In 2010, when tensions ran high between the countries, a visit by Maduro's mentor and predecessor, the late President Hugo Chávez, to Colombia led to improved relations. Colombia's then-President Juan Manuel Santos even called Chávez his "new best friend."

However, Ronal Rodríguez, a researcher at the Rosario University's Venezuela Observatory, told The Associated Press that a meeting between Petro and Maduro in Colombia today could be more complex.

"There could be protests from the Venezuelan population in Colombia," Rodríguez said. Of the more than 6 million Venezuelans who have left their country as a result of a protracted crisis, about 2 million live in Colombia.

# Taiwan leader tells troops to keep cool amid Chinese threats

PENGHU: Taiwan's president told the self-ruled island's military units Tuesday to keep their cool in the face of daily warplane flights and warship maneuvers by rival China, saying that Taiwan will not allow Beijing to provoke a conflict.

China has kept up military pressure on Taiwan in the weeks following U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei in early August. Beijing initially retaliated with large military drills in the waters and skies near Taiwan. It fired missiles over the island, some of which landed in Japan's economic zone, causing a serious escalation, while also sending

warships and planes toward the island in large numbers.

President Tsai Ing-wen said Taiwan must remain restrained despite the daily pressure from China.

"The more provocative enemy soldiers are, the more stable we need to be. We will not allow those on the opposing banks to manufacture a conflict with an inappropriate excuse," she said during a visit to the navy's station on Penghu, an archipelago of several dozen islands off Taiwan's western coast.

She also inspected a radar squadron, an air defense company, and a navy fleet. At the Magong air base, she was greeted by pilots standing in

front of a Taiwanese-made Indigenous Defense Force fighter jet.

"You are the pride of the Taiwanese people," Tsai said. "When each Taiwanese person sees you in the national military uniform, everyone's hearts are filled with respect and gratitude." China accuses the U.S. and Taiwanese "separatist forces" for creating instability by rejecting Beijing's claim to sovereignty over the island.

"The Taiwan independence forces' attempt to solicit it foreign support, including that of the U.S., for independence is the source of current tensions across the Taiwan Strait," Foreign Ministry

spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily briefing in Beijing. Zhao also criticized the visit of Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Bucaro to Taiwan on Tuesday.

"The Taiwanese ... authority has been using the so-called countries with diplomatic ties for political manipulation. These are nothing but self-deceiving tricks and cannot block the historical trend that China will be fully reunified," he added. Bucaro met with Tsai earlier Tuesday and reaffirmed his country's support of Taiwan. Guatemala is one of Taiwan's 14 remaining diplomatic allies.

## Iraqi protesters withdraw from Baghdad's Green Zone

BAGHDAD: Iraqi protesters have withdrawn from the high-security Green Zone in the capital, Baghdad, after the country's prominent Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called on his followers to end the violence within an hour. Iraqi media said on Tuesday that Sadr's supporters, carrying guns and driving vehicles, began withdrawing from Baghdad's Green Zone, the seat of the Iraq government, following the Shia cleric's plea to halt the protests and deadly clashes in the capital.

Sadr had given Iraqi protesters and his followers "60 minutes" to leave the high-security area, as he extended an apology to the Iraqi people. "It saddens me a lot what happens in Iraq; I apologize to the Iraqi people, the only ones affected by the events," Sadr told reporters.

# 1st Ukraine grain ship for Horn of Africa reaches Djibouti

NAIROBI: The first ship carrying grain from Ukraine for people in the hungry parts of the world has docked at the Horn of Africa port of Djibouti as areas of East Africa are badly affected by deadly drought and conflict.

Food security experts call it a drop in the bucket for the vast needs in the worst-hit Horn countries of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia, the nation where this first shipment is going. But the flow of grain from Ukraine for other hungry parts of the world is expected to continue, with another ship departing Tuesday for Yemen. The U.N. World Food Program has said it is working on multiple ships.

WFP says this first shipment of grain will be shipped overland to northern Ethiopia, where millions of people have been affected by the country's Tigray conflict, which has now flared up again.

How any of the grain will reach Tigray is now in question as humanitarian



ian deliveries by road and air have been suspended amid the fighting that sparked again last week between Tigray forces and Ethiopian ones. But Ethiopia's neighboring Amhara and Afar regions also are expected to benefit.

WFP has said the 23,000 metric tons of grain on the first ship are enough to feed 1.5 million people on full rations for a month. But the U.N. has said 2.4 million in Tigray alone are severely food insecure and that 20 million people across Ethiopia face hunger.

Millions of other people in the Horn of Africa region are going hungry because of drought, and thousands have died. Somalia has been especially hard hit because it sourced at least 90% of its grain from Ukraine and Russia before Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

Millions of tons of food are needed for the Horn of Africa, WFP said. "In Ethiopia alone, three-quarters of everything that we used to distribute originated from Ukraine and Russia," regional director Michael Dunford said.

# Indian troops martyr 3 more youth in IIOJK

SRINAGAR: Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism, on Tuesday, martyred three innocent Kashmiri youth in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The troops martyred the youth during a cordon and search operation in Nagbal area of Shopian district. The operation continued till last reports came in.

Meanwhile, glowing tribute continues to pour for legendary Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Gilani from across the Line of Control and abroad ahead of his first martyrdom anniversary falling on Thursday, September 1.

APHC vice Chairman Ghulam Ahmad Gulzar and General Secretary Molvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League, Jammu and Kashmir Young Men's League, Khawaja Firdous, Muhammad Yousof Naqash, Tawheedul Waheed Butt and other Hurriyat leaders and organizations in their statements issued in Srinagar said Syed Ali Gilani is the name of mission, and the people of Jammu and Kashmir will achieve their cherished goal

of freedom from India by sticking to his mission. The APHC leaders said that the sole objective of Gilani's life was to challenge the illegal occupation of his homeland by oppressor India. The leaders reiterated call for shutdown and a march towards Hyderabad in Srinagar on Thursday.

APHC-AJK leaders Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Altaf Hussain Wani, Shaikh Abdul Mateen, Shameem Shawl, Shaikh Yaqoob, Zahid Ashraf, Imtiaz Wani, Advocate Parvez Ahmad, Haji Muhammad Sultan Butt, Qazi Imran and others while eulogizing the services of the veteran leader in their statements issued in Islamabad, today, said that the deceased's legacy continues to dominate political life in Kashmir. They said that Gilani was a towering personality who spent all his life in advocating the Kashmiris' legitimate right to self-determination.

"Gilani sahib was respected for the refinement of his personality, dedication and unwavering commitment to his mission," they said, adding that he won accolades from people within and outside Kashmir even by his critics and political adversaries.

# Sri Lanka's president says IMF talks nearing successful end

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's president said Tuesday that his bankrupt country's talks with the International Monetary Fund for a rescue package have successfully reached final stages as he presented an amended budget that seeks to tame inflation and hike taxes.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is also the finance minister, said in a speech in Parliament that his government will soon start negotiating debt restructuring with countries that

provide loans to Sri Lanka.

Declaring that Sri Lanka is on the "correct course in the short term for recovery," Wickremesinghe warned the country must prepare for at least 25 years of a national economic policy, starting with the 2023 budget.

An IMF team is visiting Sri Lanka and is expected to end the current round of talks on Wednesday.

Prior to the visit, the IMF said that because Sri Lanka's public debt



is unsustainable, the IMF's executive board will need assurances by Sri Lanka's creditors that debt sustainabil-

ity will be restored before any bailout program begins.

Sri Lanka's total foreign debt exceeds \$51 billion — of which it must repay \$28 billion by 2027. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis with acute months-long shortages of essentials like fuel, medicine, and cooking gas due to a severe foreign currency dearth. Though cooking gas supplies were restored through World Bank support, shortages of fuel, critical medicines and some food

items continue. Wickremesinghe delivered his first budget proposal after he was elected by Parliament in July to cover the remainder of the five-year term of ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Wickremesinghe said that the United Nations along with other international organizations has launched a program to ensure food security. Schools have reopened and universities have resumed classes after long closures, he said. However, long fuel

lines have reappeared after a quota system seemed to have brought them under control over the past weeks.

"I thought things are improving," salesperson Asanka Chandana said. "For several weeks in May and June, we faced severe hardships, but things were getting better over the last two weeks after the introduction of the quota system. Now it looks like the shortage is still there and we are back to the square one."

**Bull & Bears**  
**PSX 100-Share**  
**Index Fluctuation**

**Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index**

Current	Prev. Close
42,195.25	42,504.34
Day's High	Day's Low:
43,052.27	42,106.02
Index Value	Change
5,877,097,226	-309.09
Percentage	Time
-0.73%	30 Aug, 2022 5:00 pm

**Europe: FTSE 100 Index**

Index Value	Change
7,359.30	-68.80
Percentage	Time
-0.93%	30 Aug, 4:26 pm GMT+1

**USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average**

Index Value	Change
31,827.17	-271.82
Percentage	Time
-0.85%	30 Aug, 11:26 am GMT-4

**Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average**

Index Value	Change
28,195.58	+316.62
Percentage	Time
+1.14%	30 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	153.06	154.31
Bahrain Dinar	589.5	594
Canadian Dollar	170.45	171.8
China Yuan	32.09	32.34
Danish Krone	29.79	30.14
Euro	221	224
Hong Kong Dollar	28.25	28.6
Indian Rupee	2.77	2.85
Japanese Yen	1.7	1.75
Kuwaiti Dinar	719.24	724.24
Malaysian Ringgit	49.36	49.81
New Zealand \$	136.48	137.68
Norwegians Krone	22.73	23.03
Omani Riyal	575.71	580.21
Qatari Riyal	60.89	61.39
Saudi Riyal	60	60.5
Singapore Dollar	158.8	160.1
Thai Bhat	6.09	6.19
U.A.E Dirham	62.5	63
UK Pound Sterling	260	263
US Dollar	222	224

**Humanitarian Assistance**

**Canada announces \$5m in response to flooding in Pakistan**

**Spokesman Report**

OTTAWA: Pakistan has experienced heavy monsoon rains and floods since mid-June, causing the deaths of over 1,000 people and affecting the lives of 33 million people across the country. To support the international response to this emergency, the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada, today announced \$5 million in funding for humanitarian assistance.

Canada's support will help scale-up the humanitarian response to provide critical emergency assistance, including food and cash assistance for the most severely affected people. The funding will support the work of trusted and experienced partners on the ground.

The funding announced today is in addition to Canada's existing support provided through the Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund and its contributions to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.

Over the past 3 months, Pakistan has experienced 375.4 mm of rainfall, nearly 3 times higher than the country's average amount. As heavy rains have continued over the past 2 weeks, flooding and landslides have caused massive displacement, damage and devastation.

Canada will continue to work with its partners on the ground to provide food, clean water and essential services. Canada stands with the people of Pakistan as they respond to impacts of the flooding; we Canada continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure it is able to support the emergency response.

"Millions of people are being impacted by the terrible flooding in Pakistan and the world needs to be there to support them. Canada will be there to support the people of Pakistan in the days and weeks ahead as they respond to these devastating floods. This is part of our initial response to support the emergency humanitarian needs, and we will continue to look at ways we can support those affected during these difficult times, said Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada.

**Bolstering economic ties**

**FPCCI, Vietnam keen on promoting bilateral trade**

*The Business Community of Pakistan gives great importance to its relation with Vietnam*

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Vietnam agreed for enhancing the bilateral trade and economic ties to further boost the trade and investment volume between both sides.

Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Pakistan called on President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Vice President FPCCI, Amin Ullah Baig, Chairman Coordination Mirza Abdul Rehman, Vice President SAARC CCI, Senator Haji Ghulam Ali, & others and visited the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Capital Office Islamabad.

They emphasized increased interaction at the government and private sector levels to boost the trade between Pakistan and Vietnam as there is big untapped potential in many sectors. Qurban Ali, Sajjad Sarwar former Vice Presidents FPCCI, Awais Satti, EC Member, Abid Khan group Leader United Group Islamabad Chamber, Almas Akhtar, Shabana Ajmal, Sabooi Hussain, Rahat jabeen, EC members Rawalpindi Women Chamber were also present on this occasion.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh President of FPCCI has expressed his desire to elevate and expand bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and Vietnam; as there is untapped potential in a number of sectors and that can result in exponential growth in trade. Pakistani Black Paper, pharmaceutical products and lots of other Pakistani products have big market and demand as well in Vietnam. IT & Software, Agriculture, Education, Energy and Culture, are the



sectors in which Pakistan and Vietnam have great opportunity for exchange of the trade. Economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Vietnam can be further enhanced through market research, information sharing and highlighting opportunities in each other country.

He said Vietnam is an important country for Pakistan in ASEAN. The Business Community of Pakistan gives great importance to its relation with Vietnam. Pakistan is a nation of great economic importance in South Asia. Vietnam Investors have to visit Pakistan and avail opportunity in CPEC project for long term trade relations between both the countries. He also emphasized that Vietnam should consider investing in smartphone and computer chips, parts and accessories in Pakistan as Vietnam is one of the most advanced large-scale producers in the sector.

Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Pakistan said that both countries enjoy excellent relations but bilateral trade and investment was much lower than the actual potential for which the government and private sector must play its role. He acknowledged the role of FPCCI in promoting trade and industry and said that Pakistan is a huge consumer market and Vietnam's business community can benefit from this opportunity. Already Vietnam has signed Free Trade Agreement with 38 countries for promoting trade liberalization and enhance trade volume.

He said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor is project of huge potential and there is huge opportunity for investors to investment in mega project. Vietnam has good expertise in producing hydropower and it could cooperate with Pakistan in this field. He said Pakistani phar-

maceutical products, black pepper and many other products have good demand in Vietnamese market. He said Pakistani pharmaceutical products, black pepper and many other products have good demand in Vietnamese market.

Amin Ullah Baig, Vice President, Mirza Abdul Rehman Chairman Coordination FPCCI, Senator Haji Ghulam Ali, Vice President SAARC CCI mentioned meat and meat products, fruits and vegetables, workforce export, culture and tourism, business visits and exhibitions, investments and joint ventures as the potential areas of bilateral cooperation with Vietnam.

He said that Vietnam should open its doors to the Pakistani business and trade community; and, they will create the bridges and linkages on their own with their fellow businessmen in Vietnam and counterpart chambers as well. He mentioned meat and meat products, fruits and vegetables, workforce export, culture and tourism, business visits and exhibitions, investments and joint ventures as the potential areas of bilateral cooperation with Vietnam.

He said Cotton fabrics; accessories for textile, garment & Footwear industries, cotton yarns, Pharmaceuticals products, surgical instruments are Pakistan major exports to Vietnam while we also trade in Tea, Synthetic & Cotton fibers, pepper, iron & steel, fish fillet, rubber Cashew nuts. Pakistan should be seen as an emerging center of trade for landlocked Central Asia, South Asia, fast-developing Western China and the Gulf — any trade among them has to take place through Pakistan. He said trade delegations between two countries should be exchanged frequently.

**2nd Pakistan Exhibition from Nov 18 under auspices of PAEI**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The second Pakistan Exhibition will be held from November 18 to 20 under the auspices of The Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry. The three-day exhibition will be attended by a large number of renowned builders, developers, various business communities associated with allied construction industry from all over the country. This is one of the most important investment exhibitions that will boost Pakistan's economy, Khursh-

eed Barlas said.

The Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry is a leading trade organization in Pakistan that represents and protects the interests of the exhibition and business events industry and the emerging



business environment in Pakistan. To provide the best environment for foreign investment in Pakistan's construction and real estate industry.

In keeping with this trend, the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry is going to organize the Second Pakistan

International Property Exhibition and Convention 2nd Pakistan International Property Exhibition in this regard starting last year, first Pakistan International Property Exhibition then Quetta International

Property Exhibition.

A large number of renowned builders, developers, allied construction industry, bank projects and various business community associated with the tourism industry will participate in the three-day exhibition to be held at Pak-China Friendship Center Islamabad from November 18 to 20. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Muhammad Khurshheed Barlas said that this exhibition will play an important role in the development of the country and is one of the most important exhibitions in terms of investment, which will boost Pakistan's economy, which will create excellent opportunities to get investment from national level to international level.

**SAP shares insights on latest cloud capabilities for business process optimization**



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Enabling the cloud-first mindset to support digital transformation and optimization of businesses in Pakistan, global market leader in digital and technological solutions, SAP, organized an exclusive SAP Cloud Info Day event on the theme of "Innovate First and Move to the Cloud", in Karachi.

The event shed light on how the shift to cloud applications can help businesses transform their way of doing businesses by reducing complexity, optimizing costs, enabling real-time decision-making, and supporting new digital business innovations, reflecting the end-results through great customer experiences.

The session was brought together as a collaborative effort of SAP and its partners including Excellence Delivered (ExD) Private Limited, Abacus Consulting, Tally-Marks Consulting (TMC), and Biofotech Private Limited. The partners presented the vast portfolio of SAP's cloud applications during the session, demonstrating how it can help businesses unlock

new opportunities of growth and innovation for the cloud-first future. Mehryar Entezari, Lead Customer Value Advisor at SAP Signavio and Sabeen Abbas, Enterprise Cloud Architect at SAP MENA, shared latest developments around new capabilities and new use cases of SAP's leading cloud systems to support organizations in scaling up their businesses.

Saqib Ahmad, Managing Director, SAP Pakistan, sharing his thoughts on the occasion, said, "Cloud computing is the future foundation of the digital age and for businesses to keep thriving, cloud-based infrastructures are the key to securing success and taking the lead. In Pakistan, cloud-based digital transformations are picking up pace. With SAP's comprehensive portfolio of cloud systems and applications, we are working closely with both public and private sector to drive large-scale digitalization across the country."

Earlier this year, SAP had announced to leverage cloud computing technology in Pakistan as part of its plans for the year 2022. The Cloud Info Day event was in line with this mission.

**UPaisa expands measures to help flood victims across Pakistan**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: In continuing its support during these challenging times, UPaisa is offering flood relief support to vulnerable communities by enabling its subscribers to make direct donations to a host of organizations participating in relief efforts. UPaisa customers have the freedom to choose from a list of aid organizations which they can access by logging in to the application or by simply dialing USSD \*786\*8#.

Edhi Foundation, Akhuwat, Shifa Foundation, Health and Nutrition Development Society, Rashid Khan Trust, Saylani

Welfare International Trust, Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan, Bait us Salam Welfare Trust, Sundas Foundation, Rizq Trust & Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund are some of the causes that users can donate to. These NGOs will use the funds donated to offer further assistance to the people affected by floods and provide them essential items such as emergency medical supplies, clothes, shelter, food and more.

UPaisa provides its customers with a user-friendly interface that enables donors to transfer funds in just a few taps. Users

no longer have to log onto their computers or look for a collection point to make donations. Without leaving the comfort of their homes subscribers can also make direct donations to assist families affected by the floods.

The easy-to-navigate application will allow subscribers the freedom to make donations from anywhere and anytime. Beyond providing essential connectivity, Pakistani telecom company Ufone 4G together with UPaisa are rallying together and taking swift action in expanding their relief efforts across the flood-affected areas. Their priority is to

ensure the people affected by the floods can stay connected to their friends and family.

Ufone 4G, is a socially responsible Pakistani entity understands the plight of the affected communities and stands ready to assist them. The relief measures through the UPaisa App is not only dedicated to bringing positive change but also serve as a commitment towards enabling customers to continue making donations from a secure and trusted platform. As part of its purpose, UPaisa is providing a platform for all its subscribers to offer humanitarian support to vulnerable communities in Pakistan.

**BankIslami achieves 24% growth in net profit for half year**

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: BankIslami Pakistan Limited (the Bank or 'BankIslami') announced its financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2022.

For half year ended June 2022, the Bank achieved 155% increase in its operating profit before provisions and reported Rs. 4.1 billion as compared to Rs. 1.6 billion in the same period last year. This achievement is predominantly attributable to increase of 56% in net spread earned on the back of rising profit yields on asset portfolio, growth in current account deposits and increase in earning asset base of the Bank. Furthermore, operating profits also got support from increase in other income which grew by 62%, mainly because of growth in fee from

digital channels & trade services, FX income and sale of non-banking assets.

BankIslami's balance sheet remained robust with its Deposit and Net Islamic Financing witnessing year on year (YoY) growth of 22% and 46% respectively; demonstrating the confidence of customers and other stakeholders in the Bank's service levels. Owing to Bank's focused and aggressive strategy towards acquisition of low cost deposits, Current Account (CA) deposits depicted a healthy YoY rise of 31.4% with CA mix in total deposits improving from 38% in Jun'21 to 41% in Jun'22. Funds generated through deposits were deployed towards revenue generating avenues such as financing to Corporate, Consumer, Agri & SME

segments and treasury book. Consequently, in Jun'22, total assets of the Bank grew by 30% vis-à-vis Jun'21.

With the growth in overall Islamic Financing book and recoveries against delinquencies, NPF ratio of the Bank has reduced from 11.5% in Jun'21 to 8.1% in Jun'22; whereas provision coverage ratio (including general provision) also enhanced from 84.2% in Jun'21 to 91.7% in Jun'22.

Operating expenses of the Bank rose by 22.9% which was mainly attributable to abnormal rise in inflation and BankIslami's continuous investment towards human capital and technology to foster growth in business volumes and customer base. Despite an increase in administrative expenses, efficiency ratio of the Bank for the half year ended June 2022

has improved to 57.9% from 76.1% in same period last year.

Provisioning against credit losses of the Bank for the half year ended June 30, 2022 reported at Rs. 1,356 million. Included in provisioning, the Bank has recorded general provision of Rs. 650 million which has enabled the Bank to improve its coverage ratio against existing non-performing financing portfolio, as well as withstand any risk associated with deterioration in the economic outlook. In spite of additional provisioning, the Bank generated Profit after tax (PAT) amounting to Rs. 1,436 million for the half year ended June 2022 i.e. 24% higher from PAT of Rs. 1,162 million generated during half year ended June 2021, Alhamdulillah.

Moving ahead, the Bank will

continue with its strategy to enhance its overall deposit base, particularly CA, through expanding its branch network, offering competitive Shariah compliant products for both retail and corporate segments and growing its trade based clientele with specific focus towards small and medium sized enterprises. Moreover, considering the current macro-economic scenario and rising trend in policy and inflation rates, the Bank is prudently assessing its credit risk profile and will diligently expand its credit exposures based on its sound risk management framework. Additionally, to strengthen its Capital Adequacy and support prospective growth in earning assets, the Bank has also planned further issue of an Additional Tier-1 Sukuk of Rs. 1 billion

# PCB confirms names of six teams, mentors for Pakistan Junior League

Over 140 cricketers from 18 countries express interest in participating in tournament

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board on Tuesday confirmed the names of the six teams and their mentors for the Pakistan Junior League.

The inaugural edition will be played in Lahore from 6-21 October this year and will be produced by the PCB and broadcast live by PTV Sports.

The six sides to take part in this first of its kind U19 domestic cricket tournament, which is primarily aimed to provide opportunities to the talented teenagers to introduce themselves to the world, are: Bahawalpur (Southern Punjab), Gujranwala (Central Punjab), Gwadar (Balochistan), Hyderabad (Sindh), Mardan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Rawalpindi (Northern).

South Africa's Imran Tahir will be the team mentor for Bahawalpur, Pakistan's two-time ICC tournament winner Shoaib Malik will be Gujranwala's mentor, two-time 50-over World Cup winner Vivian Richards will be Gwadar's mentor, two-time ICC T20 World Cup winner Daren Sammy will be the mentor for Hyderabad, 2009 T20 World Cup winner and charismatic Shahid Afridi will be the mentor for Mardan and hard-hit-



ting New Zealander Colin Munro, who has been on Islamabad United's roster since 2020, will be the team mentor for Rawalpindi.

Former Pakistan captain and PCB Hall of Famer Javed Miandad will be the roving umbrella mentor, helping and assisting all the sides.

The PCB also confirmed the player draft for the tournament to be played on a single-league basis will be held in Lahore on 6 September. Details around the draft process will be announced shortly.

Over 140 players from Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, Ireland, Nepal, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia,

Singapore, Scotland, Sri Lanka, West Indies, Zimbabwe and the United Arab Emirates have completed their registrations for the tournament through their respective cricket boards as well as clubs and professional representative submissions.

PCB Chief Executive Faisal Hasnain:

"There is tremendous interest within and outside Pakistan about this league and we have maintained that momentum by today confirming the city names and their mentors. The six cities mirror our domestic cricket structure. This will not only provide talented teenagers with opportunities to showcase their talent to the world, but will also encourage them to play quality cricket in an environment

they have never faced before.

"The Pakistan Junior League dovetails very nicely with the PCB's Development Programme, through which we organise schools, clubs, City Cricket Association, Cricket Association and PCB-organised 50-over and three-day tournaments. As the game's regulatory and governing body in Pakistan, it is our responsibility to attract and create chances for our talented youth so that they not only make a career as a professional cricketer, but also solidify our bench-strength.

"Instead of selling team rights, the PCB has made a strategic decision to take complete ownership of the inaugural edition. This gives us the chance to present to the world and to all our valued commercial partners that this is an event that has high value, context and is here to stay.

"While the process for the sale of other commercial inventory is ongoing and we remain confident of attracting high-quality sponsors, I want to thank all the investors who expressed their interest in procuring team naming rights. We will continue the discussions with them after the completion of the tournament, with a future aim of building a long-term relationship."

## South Africa make eight changes for second Wallabies Test

SYDNEY: South Africa rang the changes on Tuesday in their search for a desperately needed win against Australia, with eight new players named in the starting team, partly due to injuries.

The Springboks head into the clash on Saturday in Sydney after back-to-back defeats, a 35-23 loss to the All Blacks at home before crashing 25-17 against the Wallabies in Adelaide. It left the world champions bottom of the four-team Rugby Championship with three games to play and in dire need of a victory to keep their hopes alive.

"We selected a team we thought would be best for this match given that we have several players out with injuries and with an eye on

how we want to play," said coach Jacques Nienaber, whose team have failed to win on Australian soil since 2013.

"We let ourselves down in the last two games and we are determined to rectify that this week and change our fortunes in Australia. We'll prepare as well as possible this week to stay in the hunt for the title." Four of the changes are injury-enforced with Handre Pollard, Lukhanyo Am and Pieter-Steph du Toit all out with knee problems, while Elton Jantjies has hurt his hand.

It means Damian Willemse will move from fullback to flyhalf, Jesse Kriel slots in at centre and Franco Mostert was included in the loose trio.

Talented young back Canan Moodie will make his Springbok debut on the right wing in a positional switch with Warrick Gelant, who moves to the bench.

The experienced Willie le Roux takes Willemse's place at fullback in his 77th Test, with the other backline change at scrumhalf, where Jaden Hendrikse replaces Faf de Klerk who was axed from the 23.

Prop Steven Kitshoff and hooker Malcolm Marx earn starts in a new-look front row with Frans Malherbe while Jasper Wiese takes over at No.8 from veteran Duane Vermeulen, who is among the replacements.

The changes forced a reshuffle of the front row on the bench, with Deon Fourie

the replacement hooker, and Ox Nche and Trevor Nyakane providing cover at prop.

Cobus Reinach is the replacement scrumhalf while the experienced Frans Steyn offers options at flyhalf and centre.

South Africa (15-1): Willie le Roux; Canan Moodie, Jesse Kriel, Damian de Allende, Makazole Mapimpi; Damian Willemse, Jaden Hendrikse; Jasper Wiese, Franco Mostert, Siya Kolisi (capt); Lood de Jager, Eben Etzebeth; Frans Malherbe, Malcolm Marx, Steven Kitshoff. Replacements:

Deon Fourie, Ox Nche, Trevor Nyakane, Kwagga Smith, Duane Vermeulen, Cobus Reinach, Frans Steyn, Warrick Gelant.

## Sindh's Anwar Ali charged for showing dissent

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Sindh all-rounder Anwar Ali has been fined 25 per cent of his match fee for a level 1 offence for showing dissent at an umpire's decision.

The incident occurred in the opening match of the Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23 when Anwar, in the seventh over of the second innings, showed dissent when his delivery was deemed wide overhead.

Anwar was found to have violated Article 2.8 of the PCB Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel.

On-field umpires Rashid Riaz and Nasir Hussain, third umpire Saqib Khan and fourth umpire Imtiaz Iqbal levelled the charges, and Anwar, who pleaded guilty, accepted the sanction proposed by Nadeem Arshad. Sindh beat Southern Punjab by 42 runs.



## Wawrinka admits retirement getting closer

NEW YORK: Former US Open winner Stan Wawrinka hinted that he was getting closer to hanging up his racket after being forced to retire mid-match during his opening round contest at the hardcourt major against French lucky loser Corentin Moutet.

Wawrinka, 37, had twice called the trainer on court to tend to his finger and was trailing 6-4 7-6(7) when he signalled he could no longer continue against Moutet, who managed to make the main draw despite losing in the qualifying stage. It was the sixth straight defeat for the three-time major champion, who lifted his last Grand Slam trophy at Flushing Meadows in 2016.

"I'm getting closer to the end. That's for sure. It's a reality," Wawrinka told reporters. "I was injured for more than a year. It took me a while to feel much better physically and tennis-wise. I still love the game and want to compete a bit longer before stopping."

Wawrinka returned to the tennis circuit in March after over a year on the



sidelines following two surgeries on his left foot. But he has failed to reprise his old form and suffered a slew of first round exits at tournaments. But the Swiss is not giving up hope, yet.

"For me as much as I enjoy and love what I'm doing, I want to keep going a little bit for sure," Wawrinka added. "Will

need to have some result too, because you cannot just keep being on tour and losing.

"But I see that I'm playing and feeling better. Even if I'm not winning yet, I know I will be back winning matches soon. That's for sure. I will never be able to play as well as I did in my career,

because I'm getting older, but I believe that I still have some good and big results in me, and that's why I keep gonna fight a little bit."

Dominic Thiem, the 2020 US Open champion, is another player who has been forced to spend a long time on the sidelines and the Austrian also suffered an early exit on Monday against Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta. Thiem, who reached the Australian Open final in 2020 and the title rounds at Roland Garros in 2018 and 2019, injured his wrist in June 2021 and came back to the Tour in March.

The 28-year-old, a former world number three, is currently ranked 211th and needed a wildcard to play at Flushing Meadows, where he won his maiden major title on his previous visit. "I think that it was not bad at all," Thiem said. "A lot of good things to take from this match. I think everybody who thought that I was the favourite today was far away from reality."

## Ticket prices for Pakistan v England T20I series announced

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced ticket prices for the seven-match T20I series between Pakistan and England to be played in Karachi from 20-25 September and 28 September to 2 October in Lahore.

Tickets will be available online on Wednesday at 1000 PST at <https://pcb.bookme.pk/>. Payments can be made using Easypaisa/Jazzcash/creditcard/Nift options, while helpline number is 03137786888.

Ticket prices for the Karachi matches have been fixed from PKR1,500 to PKR250. The PCB has already announced gate proceeds from the first T20I will be donated to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund 2022.

Likewise, affordable prices have been fixed for the Lahore T20Is, which now range from PKR3,000 to PKR500. When Australia played a T20I here on 5 April, ticket prices ranged from PKR4,000 to PKR500.

Usman Waheed, Director - Commercial: "England is visiting Pakistan for the first time in 17 years and these matches will be a build-up to October's ICC Men's T20 World Cup. To ensure maximum fans can attend these matches and watch live some of the best shortest format cricketers from either side, we have decided to make the tickets affordable, ensuring families also turn up in big numbers to support cricket and both the sides.

"The first T20I also presents an opportunity to all the Karachi cricket spectators and fans to play their part in supporting all those affected by the catastrophe caused by the monsoon rainfall and floods. They can do this by purchasing tickets and helping the PCB to donate a substantial amount in the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund. Cricket unites our nation and this is a time to demonstrate that we stand together in these difficult and challenging times."

## Big gains for Ireland stars in Women's ODI Player Rankings

DUBAI: Ireland stars were the biggest gainers in the latest update of the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings after their comprehensive showing against Netherlands.

Ireland were in sizzling form during their tour of Netherlands, completing a 3-0 clean sweep in the ODI series. Many of their stars were in a rich vein of form with the bat and the ball, leading to them being ably rewarded in the rankings update.

In the batting charts, a recent addition to the ICC 100% Cricket Superstars, Gaby Lewis, was amongst the biggest movers. Lewis gained 6 positions, to move up to No.27. She scored 15 in the second ODI and a brilliant 92 in the third contest.

Laura Delany also gained 15 positions to climb to No.34 after chipping in with some big scores. Her scores in the second and the third ODIs were 109 and 47, prompting her move up the charts.

Opener Leah Paul also gained 36 spots, to break into the top 50, now jointly tied with Shemaine Campbelle at No.49. She notched up a brilliant 137 in the second ODI and followed that up with 27 in the third match. Amy Hunter's 53\* in the third match helped her gain 25 spots to move up to No.56.

In the bowling charts, Cara Murray's 5/39 in the second match and 1/53 in the third helped her gain 12 spots, to rise to No.60. Georgina Dempsey was at her economical best in the second and third matches, registering figures of 1/10 and 1/23 respectively. This helped her gain 23 spots to move up to No.64.

Laura Delany was also a big gainer, with performances of 1/17 and 3/26 in the second and third matches helping her climb 17 spots to No.66. Leah Paul also shot up 9 positions to No.71, after scalping 2 wickets in the third ODI.

Delany and Paul were also big movers in the all-rounder rankings. Delany moved up 15 spots to joint No.28, while Paul gained 25 spots to joint No.36.

Dempsey (19 spots to No.55) and Murray (10 spots to joint No.70) were the other big gainers in the all-rounders' charts.

## Wu Yibing makes history for China at US Open

NEW YORK: Wu Yibing on Monday became the first Chinese man in 63 years to win a singles match at a Grand Slam when he knocked 31st seed Nikoloz Basilashvili out of the US Open.

Wu, 22, triumphed 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 in the opening round, firing nine aces in his 31 winners past his Georgian opponent.

Mei Fu Chi, at Wimbledon in 1959, was the last Chinese man to win a match at the majors. Wu, ranked 174 and who came through qualifying, is also the first Chinese man to win a US Open singles match since Cheng Guy in 1935. "It's happy and exciting but still more matches to come," Wu told aptour.com.

"The third set, I don't know if he was hurting or something, I just tried to make all the balls and tried to stay in the game, not thinking about winning or losing. "That's why I guess I didn't show much emotions. I feel pretty calm."

Wu was the 2017 junior champion in New York but his professional career has been dogged by injuries and he was sidelined completely from March 2019 until January 2022. He was ranked a lowly 1,869 in March but has now won 14 successive matches.

Wu next faces Portuguese qualifier Nuno Borges who defeated US wildcard Ben Shelton 7-6(8/6), 3-6, 7-6 (5/7), 6-7 (8/10), 6-3. Zhang Zhizhen squandered a golden opportunity to join Wu in the next round when he saw seven match points slip away in a five-set loss to Tim van Rijthoven of the Netherlands.

## National T20 Cup

# Irfan Niazi's epic 31-ball 57 in vain

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23 was off to a sparkling start on Tuesday with match two between Central Punjab and Balochistan going down the wire and the former coming out victorious on the last ball.

Irfan Khan Niazi's epic 31-ball 57 not out went in vain as Central Punjab fell just two runs short of the 187-run target.

In the first match of the day at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Sindh's Sarfaraz Ahmed and bowlers inspired their side to a commanding win over Southern Punjab.

Central Punjab fall agonisingly short despite Irfan's late blitz. All-rounder Irfan Khan Niazi, a product of the Pakistan Cricket Board's age-group programme, led Central

Punjab's fightback and had his side in touching distance of the win with four needed off the last ball after the last over began with 19 remaining.

He had arrived at the crease with 127 required off 64 with established players in Ahmed Shehzad (17 off 19) and Abdullah Shafique (15 off 18), and former U19 captain Qasim Akram (13 off nine) back in the pavilion, and added 61 with Tayyab Tahir (51 off 33) and 41 with Faheem Ashraf (18 off eight).

It was the stand between Tayyab - who struck seven fours and a six - and Irfan that proved to be pivotal as they scored 61 at 9.38 runs per over, before Faheem and Irfan added 41 at a blistering 15 runs per over. Irfan, who shared the player of the match award with Abdul Wahid Bangalzai, smashed three sixes and as many fours.

Balochistan's Wahid and Shan

Masood hammered 54 each to help Balochistan post a towering 186 for four after their captain Yasir Shah elected to bat. The two had come together in the fourth over with 36 on board following the dismissals of Haseebullah and Asad Shafiq on back-to-back deliveries.

Asad and Haseebullah promised a good start as the two kept the run rate hovering around 10 an over. Asad, especially, looked in solid touch as he hit 23 runs (five fours) at a strike rate of over 191.

Wahid and Shan added 111 runs together at over eight runs per over, blasting 13 boundaries between them. Wahid, who scored at over 138, sent four deliveries flying above the boundary rope and dispatched three off the 39 he faced for fours, while Shan, who scored at exactly 150, struck six fours in his 36-ball knock.



Ahmed Daniyal took all four off 32 by player of the match Sarfaraz Ahmed and a dominant show with

the ball saw Sindh defeat Balochistan comprehensively in the tournament opener.

Southern Punjab opted to chase after winning the toss and kept Sindh's scoring rate in check with wickets at regular intervals as Sindh exhausted all their batters and managed 147 with two balls spare.

Openers Sharjeel Khan (24 off 19) and Saim Ayub (30 off 20) added 38 runs together before the former was undone by leg-spinner Ali Majid.

Wicketkeeper-batter Sarfaraz walked in the middle with three wickets down for 73 in the 10th over and made his experience count. He cracked six fours and scored at a strike rate of 131. Over the course of his innings, Sarfaraz batted with the tail and was his side's last wicket to fall when he was caught off Sameen Gul, who returned the innings' best figures of three for 24.