



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے قیدی بن سیدھے بیان کیا، کہا ہم سے ابوحنیفہ نے بیان کیا، ان سے منصور نے، ان سے ابوہریرہ نے اور ان سے ابو موسیٰ اشعری رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ جو کسے کو کھانا کھاؤ اور مریش کی عیادت یعنی مزاج پر ہی کرو اور قیدی کو چھڑاؤ۔ (بخاری: حدیث نمبر 5649)

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## Nation proud of martyrs, Pak Army: Sana

Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah said patriotic Pakistanis were proud of their martyrs and "the one who make fun of them is not only their enemy and of Pakistan armed forces and martyrs, but also of the country". The minister alleged that an "egoistic" Imran Niazi was damaging the Constitution, and the dignity of Pakistan Army and its martyrs through his "politics of chaos and anarchy".



## PTI violating sanctity of Defence Day: Marriyum

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that those spitting in the sky were now violating the sanctity of Defence Day with their failed and anti-army agenda. She said that Jawans were proud of their leadership. Taking a jibe at PTI Chairman Imran Khan, she said that the Army Jawans laughed at a person who has made arrangements for his own humiliation and who preferred his own interest over the interest of the country.

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## IHC disposes of contempt of court plea against Fawad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday disposed of a contempt of court plea against senior PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry over his anti-judiciary remarks.

IHC's Justice Babar Sattar disposed of the plea, declaring it inadmissible.

A transcript of multiple statements of Fawad against the judiciary was attached along with the petition filed by lawyer Saleemullah Khan.

The petition stated that Chaudhry had made derogatory statements against additional sessions judge Zeba Chaudhry and in his statement, the PTI leader said that Imran Khan can't be given punishment in a contempt of court case as he is a popular leader.

The petitioner further pleaded with the court to initiate a contempt of court proceeding against Chaudhry.

At the outset of the hearing, the petitioner's lawyer said he would like to read the transcript of the statement in question.

"Fawad said that penalisation of Imran Khan is not possible as he is a popular leader. His statement is not against a judge only but the entire judiciary, including the chief justice of Pakistan," he said, moving the court to take a contempt of court action against Fawad.

At this, the court inquired what kind of contempt of court action can be taken against Fawad. Responding to the query, the lawyer said that criminal contempt action should be taken.

However, Justice Sattar remarked that the case the lawyer is referring to is already under trial by a larger bench.

"Political statements don't constitute contempt of court. Nothing else will be there to do if [the court] keeps taking actions on such statements," the justice said. Agencies

## Tribute to Martyrs

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif laid floral wreath to pay tribute to martyrs in the 1965 war at Pakistan Monument in Islamabad on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Reviewing Flood Situation

# Govt to increase amount of flood relief assistance

PM says relief assistance amount is being distributed through BISP

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to increase the net amount of flood relief assistance program for flood-affected families to 70 billion rupees from initial assessment of 28 billion rupees.

This was announced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while chairing a meeting of federal cabinet in Islamabad on Tuesday. He said the increase has been made keeping in view the gravity of the situation due to floods.

The Prime Minister said a separate grant of 15 billion rupees has also been made for Sindh, 10 billion rupees each for Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and three billion rupees for the flood affected people of Gilgit-Baltistan.

The Prime Minister said the

### PM pays tribute to 1965 war heroes

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday laid a wreath at the Martyrs Monument at Shakarparian to pay tribute to the heroes of 1965 war with India. The prime minister also offered fateha for the souls of martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sovereignty of the homeland. Speaking to media on the occasion, he said 57 years ago, the country's armed forces had thwarted the designs of an enemy four times bigger than it. He paid tribute to the martyrs including Maj Aziz Bhatti, Major Shabbir Sharif, Squadron Leader Sarfaraz Rafiqi, Major Muhammad Ziauddin Uppal and several others who put their lives on the line to defend the motherland against the Indian aggression.

relief assistance amount is being distributed through Benazir Income Support Program which has disbursed about 20 billion rupees so far.

He said one million rupees is being given to the family of each deceased person in the floods.

Shehbaz Sharif said friendly countries are contributing generously for relief of the flood victims

initial assistance from 1.5 million to 15 million pounds.

The Prime Minister lauded the joint efforts of all Ministries, federal and provincial governments and institutions engaged in flood relief activities.

Moreover, the Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned to ensure the effective enforcement of the zoning regulations regarding the utilization of land at river bed to avert the recurrence of destruction as took place in Swat consequent to floods.

The PM expressed his concern over the destruction in Swat caused by human negligence due to the construction of hotels on the river bed. He asked the authorities concerned to avoid politicking on such matters for the protection of human lives.

## US supports Pakistan to mitigate sufferings of flood victims

Army Chief thanked the United States for its support

RAWALPINDI: The United States has pledged to support Pakistan to mitigate the sufferings of the people in wake of the floods in the country.

The offer was made during a meeting of the visiting Congressional delegation of the United States with the Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

They also pledged to play their role in enhancing cooperation with Pakistan at different levels.

The delegation comprising Sheila Jackson Lee, Thomas Suozzi and Alexander Green expressed grief over the devastation caused by ongoing floods in Pakistan and extended condolence to the families of the victims.

They also discussed matters of mutual interests, regional security situation and bilateral



cooperation in various fields. The visiting dignitaries appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional stability.

Speaking on the occasion, the Army Chief thanked the United States for its support and reiterated that assistance from our global partners is vital in rescue and rehabilitation of the flood victims. APP

## For natural disasters

# Pakistan needs enhanced financing: ADB

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan urgently needs to enhance the current disaster risk finance approach as risk retention mechanisms are insufficient to cover the losses associated with even the most frequent of flood and earthquake events, Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report on Tuesday.

The report titled "Narrowing the Disaster Risk Protection Gap in Central Asia" said the private insurance solutions for the natural disasters' risks have achieved only minimal market penetration.

"These challenges are compounded by a challenging external financing context at the sovereign level, making it difficult to access debt quickly and

cheaply after a disaster, and low levels of financial inclusion that exacerbate the vulnerability to disaster events of many in Pakistan", it added. Previous disaster events illustrate the challenges that Pakistan faces, for example, floods in 2010 and 2015 caused an estimated PRs32.6 billion (\$326 million) losses to farmers in Punjab.

To support the affected farmers, the Government of Pakistan provided Rs6.7 billion (\$67 million)—amounting to only 18.5% of the required amount, the report added. There would appear to be a need to increase the coverage and depth of the existing risk retention instruments for high frequency events, through enhanced functioning of the national and provincial disaster management funds.

## Opponents trying to create PTI's rift with army: Imran

PESHAWAR: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan said on Tuesday that the opponents were trying to create a rift between the country's biggest political party, the army and the judiciary and their propaganda cell is hatching propaganda.

Addressing a rally in Peshawar on Tuesday, he said that he held his first rally in Peshawar after his government was overthrown through conspiracy and the people of the city had never let him down.

The PTI chairman said that an organised propaganda campaign is being run against him.

The former PM said that floods have wreaked havoc in Sindh, Balochistan, DG Khan, Rajanpur, Dera Ismail Khan, and Almighty Allah has put us to a great test.

"I want to explain to the youth the real freedom and the meaning of the word, adding that we are not able to fly because of the shackles."

Imran Khan went on to say that the green passport cannot be respected in the presence of thieves.



The ex-PM said, "Under any circumstances, thieves cannot be allowed to appoint the next army chief, adding that the thieves - Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari - cannot be allowed to pick the new army chief."

Launching a tirade against the incumbent ruler, Imran Khan said, Shehbaz

Sharif would have brought his stolen money back to the country if he was an honorable PM, adding that the gang of thieves have realized that they cannot defeat me. "The three stooges will be defeated whenever the election would be held and they are now conspiring to somehow disqualify me." Agencies

## IHC sets aside Pemra order banning IK's live speeches

### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday nullified the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority's (Pemra) order to ban the live telecast of PTI Chairman Imran Khan's speeches.

IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah issued three-page written order on ex-prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's plea challenging the Pemra ban against his live speeches.

In a written judgment, the court observed that counsel, who appeared on behalf of PEMRA, was not able to satisfy the Court that a blanket prohibition order could be passed under section 27 of the PEMRA Ordinance.

The judgment further reads: "if media channels 'fail to implement directions regarding delaying mechanism, then PEMRA will be expected to proceed against such delinquent licencees in accordance with the law."

## Addressing energy crises

# Iran offers completion of gas pipeline project with Pakistan

Ambassador Hosseini says Iran was willing to further strengthen mutual trade cooperation; completion of energy projects

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Ali Hosseini on Tuesday offered his government's support to complete Iran-Pakistan (IP) Gas Pipeline project and hinted to extend cooperation in other fields of mutual interest.

Ambassador Hosseini said Iran was willing to further strengthen mutual trade cooperation; completion of energy projects, especially the IP gas pipeline; progress in the establishment of border markets; finalization of a free trade agreement, and collaboration on major ports and security areas.

He said there were no sanctions on the export of gas from Iran and Pakistan could take full benefit of it to fulfill its energy needs. The IP gas pipeline was a key project in that regard and both the countries realized its importance.

The gas pipeline project was being deliberated by the technical committee, he said, adding its completion would also open new avenues for mutual cooperation between the two countries.

The ambassador said Iran was already exporting 100 megawatts of electricity to Pakistan for meeting the power needs (of its bordering areas) and it would be increased in future.



He said work was also going on another project to provide electricity to Pakistan. Both the countries had taken initial steps in that regard.

Ambassador Hosseini identified opportunities for investors of both countries in various trade sectors, particularly the industrial zones.

Highlighting the role of both countries in regional economic and trade integration, he said and North-South and East-West corridors would not only connect Pakistan to Iran, but also help the former's trade and economic integration with Central Asia, Europe, Middle East and Russia.

He said the two countries were

making joint efforts to achieve the target of enhancing their mutual trade to \$5 billion.

He said both Pakistan and Iran were geographically very important countries and their mutual cooperation was of utmost importance to make it useful for their geo-economic interests.

The ambassador said the two countries could find ways for mutual economic partnership and trade. There was possibility of opening a banking channel in the near future, he added.

He said barter trade between the two countries could be promoted as "we have the example of mutual trade in rice and meat". APP



## Strategic relationship

ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of Qatar called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif.



Photo: Online

**IHC dismisses PTI's plea seeking acceptance of MNA in one go**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday dismissed a PTI plea seeking the acceptance of the party's members of the National Assembly in one go.

IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case filed by the PTI challenging the acceptance of resignations of 11 MNAs and not accepting a "piece-meal" resignation of all 123 lawmakers.

The IHC CJ declared former NA deputy speaker Qasim Suri's resignation acceptance order void and ordered every MNA to appear before the NA speaker in person to get their resignation accepted.

IHC CJ Minallah also rejected PTI lawyer Faisal Chaudhry's plea to take up the case with a larger bench.

Two days after PTI Chairman Imran Khan was ousted as the prime minister — through a no-confidence motion moved by the then-opposition — all PTI MNAs resigned en masse on April 11.

Suri — who was performing his duties as the acting NA speaker after Asad Qaiser resigned as the speaker — had accepted all the resignations on April 15.

However, once Raja Pervez Ashraf was appointed as the speaker, he decided to building meteorological labs with our Pakistani partners, Zhuge, CEO of ZOGLOB, a professional Chinese manufacturer specialized in instruments for atmosphere and environment, told China Economic Net (CEN).

The quantity and quality of meteorological equipment in China top the world. For customers in South and Southeast Asia, Chinese meteorological equipment is more cost-effective compared with similar products with the same

**Qatar lauds govt efforts**

## Pakistan ready to train Qatar's armed forces: Asif

*Defence Minister highly appreciates the contribution of Qatar in the flood relief efforts*

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Qatar Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani on Tuesday called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif and highly praised the efforts of the new government.

In a meeting held here, the ambassador expressed that Qatar had every confidence that the government would deliver and were ready to cooperate with it.

The Minister for Defence welcomed the dignity and conveyed that Pakistan attached great value to its relations with Qatar. "Qatar is an important country for us and has a key role to play in the region. Our relations with Qatar are very smooth governed by mutual respect and cooperation," Khawaja said. The minister said that both sides need to work closely to further extend their cooperation beyond the economic domain to defence, military

exercises and training of personals and joint ventures. "Our military institutions are open for Qatari Armed Forces to avail maximum training facilities." The Minister highly appreciated the contribution of Qatar in the flood relief efforts.

**National strategy in offing to cope floods after effects**

The visiting dignitary acknowledged the existing scope and scale of cooperation in the field of defence between the two countries and desired to undertake the joint ventures in the respective field on progressive basis.

Meanwhile, APP adds, Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tues-

day said the floods have incurred colossal damage to the country and the government was working to form a national strategy to cope with floods and manage post-flood situation which will be challenging. The Defence Minister said the government would be definitely consulting the institutions concerned to cope with floods and post-flood situation like famine that might cause a tragedy as the country's cropland and agricultural produce was covered under floodwater.

Khawaja said the country was emitting less than one percent green house gas emissions but was on the fifth place among the countries ranked highly vulnerable due to climate change. He said the government would also appeal to the international community to assist the relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims. "But we will have to get our act together to face this situation after the settlement of the flood victims," he insisted.

## Disqualifying Imran, containing his popularity can backfire: Rashid

*Says delaying the elections will cost these people "hungry for power"*

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AML) leader Sheikh Rashid on Tuesday said that disqualifying or containing the popularity of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan can backfire.

Taking to Twitter, the former Interior Minister said that the country is facing a huge political pressure and going towards a closed street.

Sheikh Rashid while lashing out at the Pakistan Democratic Alliance (PDM), said that the PDM has fallen in the sink-hole they made for Imran

Khan. He said that country is facing food shortage, floods and diseases while the "thieves" only wanted to end their cases. He said the current rulers can only pose for pictures in security, they cannot go into the people.

In his another tweet, Rashid went on to say that 15 crore youth have mobile phones in their pockets. A wrong decision by the rulers can turn into public anger.

He also said that delaying the elections will cost these people "hungry for power". News Agencies

## Khalistan Referendum drive reaches Canada

*Voting in Toronto on Sep 18*



ISLAMABAD: After the Khalistan Referendum earlier held in the United Kingdom and some other countries, this political drive has now reached Canada, where voting for the referendum will commence on September 18.

The Khalistan Referendum being organized by the "Sikh for Justice" will be held in Brampton, suburban area of Toronto on September 18.

Even before the referendum, Sikhs in Canada carried out a five-kilometer long car rally and attracted the attention of local people. Over 2,000 vehicles participated in the car rally

carried out in Toronto on Sunday night, media reports said.

Besides a truck rally organized in connection with the referendum, the Khalistan Referendum was advertised through mega billboards.

The Khalistan Referendum started from London on October 31 last year. Voting on the referendum has been held in various cities of the UK as well as in Switzerland and Italy with the participation of 450,000 Sikhs so far.

The Khalistan Referendum in Canada has been dedicated to Harjinder Singh Paria Shaheed. APP

**Gold price continues upward journey**

KARACHI: The gold prices continue to soar in Pakistan as per tola price of the precious yellow increased by Rs3,050 in the domestic market. According to the All-Pakistan Jewellers Manufacturers Association, per tola price of gold soared by Rs3,050 to trade at Rs151,150. Similarly, the price of 10 grams jacked up by Rs615 to Rs129,587. The Pakistani rupee continued to lose its value for the third consecutive session, falling by Rs1.56 against the US dollar in the interbank market. According to data shared by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the local currency closed at Rs221.42 per dollar, showing depreciation of 0.70 per cent.

## Islamabad supports Beijing's efforts for socio-eco uplift

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson on Tuesday said that as a responsible member of the United Nations with strong commitment to multilateralism, Pakistan believed in the principles of the UN Charter including respect for political independence, sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs of states.

The spokesperson in a press release also reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding commitment to advance all human rights universally in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter.



Responding to media queries, regarding the release of Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report on human rights in Xinjiang, China, the spokesperson said that it was Pakistan's consistent position that non-politicization, universality, objectivity, dialogue and constructive engagement should be the main tools to promote universal respect for human rights.

"Pakistan supports

China's efforts for socio-economic development, harmony and peace and stability in Xinjiang. China has succeeded in lifting over 700 million people out of poverty in the last 35 years, thus improving their living conditions and the enjoyment of fundamental human rights," it was added.

The spokesperson said Pakistan appreciated China's constructive engagement with the UN human rights system as well as the OIC General Secretariat, as evidenced by visits of the former High Commissioner for Human Rights and OIC delegation to China.

## Bizenjo slams statement of PTI chief

*Says it is highly inappropriate to drag army leadership into politics*

**Our Correspondent**

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo slammed the statement of Chairman PTI Imran Khan regarding the appointment of the next army chief, saying it is very inappropriate to involve the military leadership in politics.

Taking to Twitter, the chief minister said that the Pakistan Army is the guarantor of the security and safety of this country.

"The attempt to make controversial the constitutionally set procedure of the appointment of the Pakistan Army's chief is not in the interest of the country," said Bizenjo while releasing his statement on social media on September 5. "We cannot allow the country's security to be put at stake in pursuit of political objectives," he added.

On September 4, the PTI chairman said the coalition government wanted to "appoint an army chief of their own choice" therefore it was stalling the elections.

The PTI chairman said that PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and former premier Nawaz Sharif "feared" a strong and patriotic army chief, who could hold them accountable for the looted money they had stashed abroad.

The former prime minister said a new army chief was going to be appointed in November this year. They [Zardari and Nawaz] wanted to appoint a favourite [general] as the next army chief, he said.

Both have committed corruption worth billions, and they wanted to appoint an army chief who could protect them and their corruption, Imran Khan alleged.

The PTI chair alleged that PM Shehbaz, his brother Nawaz, and Zardari had been laundering public money. The two families had been looting the national exchequer for the last 30 years, he said.

The Pakistani Army expressed displeasure over Imran Khan's statement against the military and said it was "aghast" over it.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that the army was "aghast" at the defamatory and uncalled-for statements about the military's senior leadership made by the PTI chairman during a Faisalabad rally.

The military's media wing said that regrettably, an attempt was made to discredit and undermine the senior leadership of the army at a time when the institution was laying lives for the "security and safety of the people every day".

## Chinese firm to establish automatic weather station in Pakistan

*Chinese pioneer industrialists invited to invest in Pakistan's SEZs*

**Spokesman Report**

BEIJING: Chinese meteorological company will set up an automatic weather station and is looking forward to building meteorological labs in Pakistan.

"Currently, we are working on the provision of automatic weather stations (AWS) and technologies. If conditions permit, we are also looking to building meteorological labs with our Pakistani partners, Zhuge, CEO of ZOGLOB, a professional Chinese manufacturer specialized in instruments for atmosphere and environment, told China Economic Net (CEN).

The quantity and quality of meteorological equipment in China top the world. For customers in South and Southeast Asia, Chinese meteorological equipment is more cost-effective compared with similar products with the same

index and precision manufactured in the US and European countries.

"A set of automatic weather station sold at around RMB 300,000 by western countries can be bought at around RMB 200,000 from China," he said, citing the AWS for field environment monitoring displayed during the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) which ended yesterday in Beijing.

"The cost is controlled at RMB 50,000-60,000. Automatic Weather Station is a very economical option for Pakistan compared with the radars and satellites which require long-term, huge investment", Zhuge added.

According to the CEO, Pakistan and China can also collaborate to establish meteorological standards to improve the accuracy of the data acquired by the existing weather stations. Taking a step further, China can provide the

meteorological radars, satellite receivers, etc. to Pakistan to set up a three-dimensional meteorological observation system that covers equipment on the ground, in the sea, in the air and in the space", informed Zhuge.

He further elaborated that meteorological alert is different from weather forecast. The former, which targets the meteorological disasters, requires a whole set of observation devices and equipment.

"In this sense, all countries are a community with a shared future in the face of meteorological disasters, and the future lies in data sharing," he added.

Meanwhile, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir has called upon the Chinese pioneer industrialists to take advantage of the incentives and investment-friendly policies offered by Paki-

stani government for the foreign investment in the special economic zones (SEZs).

The Chinese entrepreneurs could avail incentives offered at Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as well as lease and transfer of land by foreign investors and facilitation for foreign real estate developers, he told participants of a seminar titled 'Summit Forum on China's International Economic Cooperation Going Global' held on sidelines of the 2022 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS).

He remarked that investors could also get advantages of a complete tax holiday for contractors and sub-contractors for 20 years and exemption from customs duty for 40 years on the import of equipment and material for construction and operation of the free zone.

About enhanced bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan, he said the Free

Trade Agreement paved way for Pakistan to promote local products through e-commerce platforms.

"Our products are available for sale on famous Chinese online platforms particularly Jingdong (JD.com)," he added.

Terminating Pakistan's current exports to China just a drop in the ocean, he said that Pakistani exports goods got over 91% market access at zero rates after signing of China-Pakistan FTA.

He informed that efforts were being made to enhance Pakistan's exports to China by sectoral strategies, promotion activities, integrating into Chinese E-commerce giants and promoting efficiency-seeking investment from China.

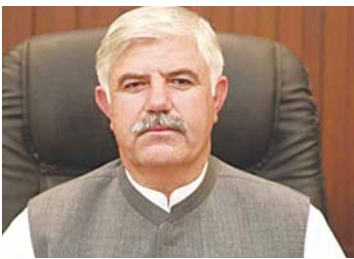
According to experts, the six-day event achieved fruitful results and brought fresh hope to stagnating global economic growth.



# KP CM approves compensation for rehabilitation of destroyed houses

*Mahmood Khan says all the deserving should get their right*

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has approved the provision of cash compensation for rehabilitation of houses that were destroyed in the recent floods adding that repatriation of flood affectees is the first priority of the provincial government.



international donors so that maximum amount can be collected.

The chief minister maintained that all the deserving should get their right and necessary steps should be taken in order to prevent misuse of the funds.

He stated that the provincial govern-

ment is working sincerely to rehabilitate the maximum number of peoples in the shortest possible time adding that the compensation amount has been increased considerably to make sure that the flood affectees are able to return to their normal lives.

The provincial government stands with its people in this hour of need and all available resources will be brought to their rescue, he added.

The CM maintained that the provincial government was well aware of the problems being faced by the flood affectees and the provincial government's helicopter has also been dedicated for relief and rehabilitation oper-

ations since day one.

Currently the helicopter is busy in relief and rehabilitation operations in Lower Kohistan. Besides other relief activities, 6000 kg food items have been provided to flood activities in Ranoliya, Dobair, Kehal and Chawadara areas of Lower Kohistan. Food packages being provided to flood affectees include Wheat Flour, Ghee, Tea, Sugar, Pulses and other food items.

Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, Provincial Ministers Taimur Saleem Jhagra, Kamran Bangash, Chief Secretary Dr. Shehzad Bangash, Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah and other members attended the meeting.

# AJK PM unveils development package for Bagh

Abdul Majeed Tahir

BAGH: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has announced a historic development package worth billions of rupees for Bagh during his visit to the city.



While addressing a mammoth gathering in the city, the PM unveiled a host of packages including 1 billion interest-free loans for the residents of Bagh, establishment of a Veterinary College and Army Public School, providing additional funds to Bagh Development Authority, opening Kashmir University campus in the city, setting up of a DSP office in Hari Gahl, construction of concrete houses for the post 90s Kashmiri refugees and making Rada Bairpani a subdivision and granting Nayabat-status to Mallot and South Bagh.

Addressing the gathering the PM said that the government would leave no stone unturned in securing the rights from the federal government. In case the federal government didn't honour its commitment regarding the release of funds, the PM said that he along with his cabinet would stage a protest sit-in outside the parliament in Islamabad.

Praising the people of Poonch for their courage and bravery, the PM said that the people of the region have always rendered matchless sacrifices for the freedom movement as well as the defense of Pakistan and sent a strong message to the world that no power on the surface of Earth could defeat them.

"We stand shoulder to shoulder with our brethren in the occupied Kashmir in their just struggle for right to self-determination", he said adding that we will never let the freedom movement of Kashmir weaken. Reiterating his commitment to address the problems being faced by the common masses, the

PM said resolving people's problems was his responsibility. Thanking the residents of Bagh for their generous welcome the PM said that he owed a debt of gratitude to the people for the historic reception he received on his visit to the city.

Earlier, the PM was received a rousing reception on his arrival at Bagh, the main highway right from Muzaffarabad to Bagh was decorated with welcome banners. Ministers, office bearers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and government secretaries including Agriculture Minister Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Sardar Tahir Iqbal Khan, Sardar Iftikhar Rasheed and others were part of the PM's cavalcade.

# Ceremony held to pay homage to martyrs

QUETTA: Like the rest of the country, a special ceremony was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office to pay glowing tribute to the martyrs on September 6 Defense Day in Ziarat district on Tuesday.

In the special program, the families of the martyrs were specially invited. Frontier Corps Colonel Kashif, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Samiullah Kakar also participated in the program. Addressing the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Habib Naseer said today was an important day for us, today our forces and people sacrificed their lives and defended our country and destroyed the ambitions of the enemy.

"Today Pakistan has become an invincible country, the enemy can never look at Pakistan with malice, we are proud of our country, we will not hesitate to make any sacrifice to defend our motherland", he said.

He said that we were breathing in a free country because of the sacrifices of our martyrs, we should value these sacrifices and play our role for the development and security of Pakistan so that our country can prosper by leaps and bounds.

# Martyred captain laid to rest



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The funeral prayers of Capt. Abdul Wali Wazir, who was martyred during Intelligence Best Operation (IBO) yesterday in Boyya area of North Waziristan tribal district, was performed in his native village Kari Kot and he was buried with military honours.

However, well-armed military forces saluted the martyred captain on the occasion of burial. Every eye was tearful and the whole atmosphere of wana was mournful. IGFC South Major General Muhammad Munir Officer, DC South Waziristan Amjad Meraj, Commandant SWS Muhammad Owais Shamim, Principal Cadet College Wana, AC Wana Yasir Salman, Additional AC Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali and other senior military officers, civil officers and local police officers attended the funeral prayer.

Apart from this, thousands of local tribal elders, scholars and people from different walks of life participated in the funeral. On this occasion, IGFC South Major General Mohammad Munir Officer, Commandant SWS Mohammad Owais Shamim and DC Amjad Meraj laid flowers on the grave of the martyred Captain and presented flower bouquets.

Remember that martyred Captain Abdul Wali Wazir belonged to a poor family, his father Usman Wazir is working as a gardener in Cadet College Wana.

According to his father, I have three more sons who are mentally ill. According to information, Usman Wazir, father of Martyred Captain Abdul Wali, despite extreme poverty and limited resources, gave good training to his son and paid for his education. Martyred Captain Abdul Wali Wazir was married a month ago.

The people of the village said that he was a good-natured and humble person. The tribal elders said that the martyr's death is life, although the cowardly actions of the terrorists will not demoralize the soldiers of our Pakistan Army.

We stand and will continue to stand side by side with the forces of Pakistan for the restoration of security and peace of our country.

It should be noted that Martyred captain Abdul Wali Wazir studied from APS Kohat and Cadet College Wana and was the first military officer of Wana Cadet College who martyred himself as Captain in 55 Punjab Regiment.

# Ombudsman Office intervenes to release 2.1 mln

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: On the direction of Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan, the Provincial Benevolent Fund Board has paid educational scholarships and marriage grants to the children of 51 complainants with a total value of 20 lakh 98 thousand rupees.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the spokesman said that the action initiated by the ombudsman office on various complaints for the redressal of public issues, the district education authority Bahawalnagar has paid 31,91,171 rupees as employment dues of a late employee to his widow namely Asma Tariq.

Similarly, the primary and secondary health department paid 11,15,904 rupees to Rabia Faisal as employment arrears of her late husband, district education authority Sheikhpura has given 26,37,962 rupees as financial assistance and leave encashment to Muhammad Ashiq while security deposit of 13,24,000 rupees has been returned to Ijaz Farooq by buildings division Hafizabad after the involvement of ombudsman office, the spokesman added.

The spokesman further said that the ombudsman office also mediated to help Ms Shaheen Zahid of Khanewal to eke out employment dues of her late husband worth 25,51,667 rupees from the police department after a gap of two years. In a separate development, another widow plaintiff namely Anaran Bibi has been provided with the financial assistance of 1.6 million rupees by highway division Mianwali.

The plaintiffs have thanked the ombudsman office for its assistance in securing their legal rights, concluded the spokesman.

# Govt providing medical facilities to patients in relief camps: Pechuho

KARACHI: Sindh Health Minister Dr. Ezra Fazal Pechuho on Tuesday said that medical facilities were being provided to 70,000 patients daily in relief camps and over 0.8 million patients have been treated since July.

Addressing a press conference in the Sindh Assembly building, he informed that more than 16,000 cases of malaria have been reported from relief camps besides numerous complaints of diar-

rhea, respiratory and skin disease.

She informed that Health Department has set up mobile units and medical camps in every flood affected district where medicines for treatment of infectious disease were available in sufficient quantity.

Efforts were underway to increase number of doctors in the camps, she said and added that "We are trying our best to shift pregnant women in

the camp to the hospitals and available ambulances were being utilized for this purpose.

The minister added that sick affectees coming to Karachi were being taken to the hospital while ensuring that Health Department's ambulances take every patient to the hospital.

The minister said that the flood has caused irreparable damage to the province as ready crops have been destroyed,

more than 1200 health centres had been flooded, infrastructure has been completely destroyed, irrigation system was in disarray and communication facilities were badly affected.

Efforts are made to monitor relief operations in a transparent manner but access to affected areas is difficult and monitoring is also not easy, she said and stressed that it was time to serve the people above politics.

# Kinnared College: a lighthouse in women education

Afrah Batool Lodhi

Kinnaird College (KC) Lahore is not just a college but it is a symbol of excellence which has produced hundred of thousands quality graduates who have played vital role in their respective fields. Female students all over the country and abroad love to get admission in this prestigious institution. KC is known for its quality education as well Co curricular activities. Kinnared College was established in 1913 by the Zenana Bible and Medical Mission.

In 1919, Presbyterian Mission Church and the Church Mission Society joined a consortium to fund and operate the college. In 1926 it moved to its current campus on the Jail Road, where it grew over the years and by 1939 the college had grown into a 20-acre (81,000 m2) campus. The college is named after Lady Mary Jane Kinnaird co-founder of YWCA and a great philanthropist of her time.

The now university was established at the start of the 20th century when it was housed near Kinnaird High School. In 2002 college was given the status of government Degree Awarding institution and its administration was handed over to Association of Kinnaird College. Board of governors run its administration. Zenana and Bible Medical Mission started college classes at Kinnaird Christian Girls' High School in Lahore. The founders wished to give Punjabi Christian women the opportunity to gain professional qualifications as teachers.

The first principal was Joan MacDonald. From 1913 to 1922 the college was the only women's liberal arts college in the Punjab. In its initial years, college life was designed for the predominantly Christian student body and on graduation many students found employment in the mission school network.

The popularity of missionary schools among non-Christian families, with their emphasis on English language teaching and the chance to study with British and American teachers, led to a demand for the type of graduate teachers produced by the College.

In 1928, Isabella McNair became principal of the College. McNair believed that women's education should be intellectually equal to men's and alumnae encouraged to be active in public life. During the 1930s, admission standards, teacher/pupil ratios, extracurricular activities and a fee schedule set Kinnaird apart as the region's most prestigious women's college.

The demographics had also shifted with a majority of pupils now coming from middle to upper class Hindu families, where an English education from a leading women's college was regarded as an important step in arranging a good marriage. After Partition in 1947, the University of the Punjab Senate decided to replace English with Urdu as the medium of instruction and examination for higher education. Despite this change, Kinnaird continued to offer women higher education in newly created Pakistan and added science courses, typing, nursing and social work to its curriculum. Partition however significantly altered the student body, with Muslims, a minority at Kinnaird before 1947, now becoming a large majority. In 1972, the Pakistani government nationalised all private schools and colleges, including Kinnaird.

In 2002, Kinnaird college was given Charter of Degree Awarding institution and the board of governor was set up to run its administration.

A few notable alumni are Professor Fawzia Afzal-Khan, Zubeida Agha, actresses Kamini Kaushal, Vaneza Ahmad, Jagnu Kazim, Sawera Nadeem, Zainab Qayyum, Irtaza Rubab, ceramist Sheherezade Alam, politicians Bushra Anjum Butt and Gurbinder Kaur Brar,

anchor person Sana Bucha, journalist Gul Bukhari, Drama producer Madeeha Gauhar, acadician Muneza Hashmi, author Farzana Hassan, Bano Qudsia, Nida Jay and Kenza Javed, actress Shamim Hilaly, physicist Tasneem Zehra Husain, Justice Nasira Javed Iqbal, politician Zeb Jaffar, lawyer and activist Asima Jahangir, singers Hadiwa Kiani, Sara Raza, Tahira Sayeed and Musarrat Nazir Sabeen Mahmud, human rights activist, Jugnu Mohsin, journalist, Afia Nathaniel, writer, director, producer, Begum Akhtar Riazuddin, activist, author, Ayesha Sana, actress, host Rubina Saigol, activist, educationalist, Shabnam Shakeel, poet, political scientist Ayesha Siddique, authors Bapsi Sidhwa and Prof. Sara Suleri, Kashmiri Tariq, Shahzadi Umerzadi Tiwana, Anchor Naseem Zehra, journalist, Dr Surriya Shafi Mir, educationist Tasneem Karim aka bunna, Daredevil Shunila Ruth and many others. Well known and respectable educationist headed this prestigious institution.

Joan McDonald was the first principal and then Isabella McNair served as the head of KC for two decades. After the creation of Pakistan Mangat Rai became the principal in 1950.

In 1972 Mira Phailbus took the charge as principal and served next three decades till 2004. Iran Hasan headed the institution for one year before Mira Phailbus took the office for an other term. In 2009 Bernadette Louise Dean appointed as principal. Next year well known educationist Rukhsana David became the head of institution and she is holding the slot up to date. Principal KC Dr Rukhsana David is wonderful leader. International Council of Museums (ICOM) announced the country Chair of ICOM for Pakistan Dr. Rukhsana David as an Ordinary Board Member of ICOM ASPAC (Asia Pacific Regional Alliance).

ICOM recognized the efforts and dedication for the work of Dr. Rukhsana David to promote intangible cultural

heritage and the preservation of material heritage in Pakistan. ICOM Pakistan is the national Committee of ICOM in Pakistan. It is a gateway to the global museum community and the only Pakistan Museum Association with a dedicated international focus. It offers access to 20,000 museums in 172 countries, 32,000 museum colleagues throughout the world and 31 professional committees. Dr David is committed to Strengthening the Potential of Museums in Promoting the Principles of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. KC launched its honors program in 2003, the four year bachelors followed by a dissertation.

An honors degree is available in the following subjects: Biochemistry, Botany, English Literature, English Language and Linguistics, Environmental Science, Statistics, Food and Nutrition, Psychology, Physics, French, Political Science, Law, Media Studies, International Relations, Urdu, Business Administration, Zoology, Geography, Economics, Mathematics, Computer Science and Biotechnology. One and two year master's degrees are available in English Literature, Environmental Science, International Relations, English Language Teaching, Business Administration and Media Studies. KC also offers M.Phil degree in Computer Science, Statistics, Environmental Science, English Literature, International Relations and English Language Teaching. Radio Kinnaird 97.6 FM is a campus radio of Kinnaird College for Women University.

The transmission of this radio channel was started in June 2010. KC also encourages it's students to enhance their skills in different co curricular activities. For this purpose the Students' Council was formed under the Presidency of the Senior Student assisted by the Deputy Senior Student and the Hostel Deputy.

# Bestway donates \$1.0m to help flood affectees

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Bestway Group, the country's leading foreign investor, has announced financial and material support to the people of Pakistan of US\$1.0 Million.

In a statement released by Bestway Group in London, the Group CEO Lord Zameer Choudrey, CBE SI PK said, "On behalf of our founder and Chairman Sir Anwar Pervez, OBE H Pk; let me reassure the people of Pakistan - the Bestway Group stands with them in this hour of unprecedented national tragedy".

"As part of our two-pronged strategy we are actively providing immediate relief; and by working in partnership with local businesses and financial institutions we are putting in place long term sustainable measures so that we can rehabilitate the masses effected by this national tragedy".

In addition, in the United Kingdom Bestway Group has launched a fundraising campaign through the country's largest independent wholesale and retail network, to complement these measures. Lord Choudrey has announced that the Bestway Group will be organising a fundraising dinner on the 23rd of September 2022 at a Central London venue with over 500 people expected to attend.

In Pakistan, Bestway Group subsidiaries, Bestway Cement Limited and United Bank Limited have set up dedicated medical camps; are distributing food parcels, cooked meals and providing vital banking facilities across the flood affected areas.

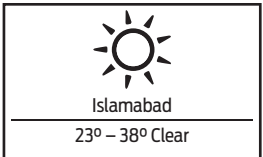


Lord Zameer Choudrey, CBE SI PK

Lord Choudrey acknowledged the contribution of the Group's employees in providing these vital services during these unprecedented times and said "none of this would have been possible without our employees who have played and continue to play a pivotal role in these challenging circumstances and worked tirelessly to ensure we are servicing our local communities. The health and safety of our employees is of paramount importance, and we are providing all necessary facilities and support to ensure that they remain safe and well. I am extremely proud of how they have come together in the face of adversity".

As part of its ongoing commitments, Bestway Group under the leadership of Lord Choudrey has to-date donated in excess of US\$ 22.0 million to the health and education sectors in Pakistan. During the recent COVID pandemic the Group donated substantial sums to aid the relief activities.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:19 am  
Zohr ..... 12:06 pm  
Asr ..... 4:39 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:27 pm  
Isha ..... 7:52 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Students work put on display at PAC**

**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council put the work of Fashion and Textile designing classes on display to promote the young talent.

Provincial Minister for Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood Akbar was the chief guest of the opening ceremony. While addressing the ceremony Malik Taimoor Masood Akbar said that culture is our identity.

"Because of culture, we are recognized in the world. By the grace of Allah Almighty, Pakistan is culturally rich. Every region of Pakistan has a strong culture in which Punjabi, Sindhi, Balochi, Pathan, Balti and Kashmiri cultures are famous. Pothohar culture is famous all over the world due to Gandhara civilization."

The provincial minister further said that the Punjab government is working day and night for the development of all fields related to art. Approval of the first cultural policy in Punjab province also reflects the government's priorities. Congratulating all the students at the end of the ceremony, Malik Taimoor Masood Akbar also announced the establishment of a permanent art gallery in Rawalpindi soon.

**Japan to provide \$7m emergency grant for Pakistan**

*Japan has already provided tents and plastic sheets as emergency relief goods*

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Hayashi Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, has announced the Government of Japan's plan to provide emergency assistance of USD 7 million to Pakistan, in response to the devastating flooding nationwide.

The epochal levels of rain and flooding have wiped away over a thousand of precious lives, destroying critical infrastructure and disrupting the primary social institutions and livelihoods. Millions of people are left without homes and their hopes and dreams are shattered.

Wada Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, reaffirmed his commitment to support Pakistan; "I would like to assure that the Government of Japan stands ready to support the people of Pakistan."

Given the rapidly rising scale of needs, we consider it critical to extend our best support and stand available to the affected. As part of the "2022 Floods Response Plan", we will extend our assistance, ensuring collective and coordinated actions to



respond to the national emergency". In close partnership with the UN agencies, support will be provided for emergency needs, including health, food and nutrition, water and sanitation, and shelters.

The Government of Japan has already provided tents and plastic sheets as emergency relief goods through JICA, and these items are now being distributed to the people in need.

**Making green**

ISLAMABAD: Workers are busy in weeding grass at Green Belt area alongside Jinnah Avenue, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**MoFEPT signs deal to air K-12 content on TV, digital channels**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT) signed three contracts with Knowledge Platform (leading a consortium of four other education technology vendors — Orenda (Taleemabad), SABAQ (Muse), Learning Pitch, and NearPeer) to make K-12 content available across the country through both television and digital channels.

The initiative builds on the success of Tele School during the coronavirus pandemic, during which educational content (provided by Education technology vendors on

a Pakistan Television Channel sponsored by MoFEPT) was viewed by over 7 million students. The content for the television and digital learning program will be provided by a consortium of ed-tech companies led by Knowledge Platform. For Grades ECE-5, Knowledge Platform, SABAQ (Muse) and Orenda (Taleemabad) will provide content for English, Math, Science, English, and Urdu. For Grades 6-8, Knowledge Platform, Orenda (Taleemabad), and NearPeer will provide content for English, Math, and Science. For Grades 9-12, Knowledge Platform, Learning Pitch, and NearPeer will provide content for Math,



English, Urdu, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, and Pakistan Studies.

The companies will license their content for ECD through K12 to the government, and it will be disseminated via Tele School and

digital channels to facilitate learning for over 50,000,000 students across the country. In addition, the consortia will conduct community engagement pilots and research to improve learning outcomes and establish scalable use

cases. An accelerated learning program will also be made available for out-of-school children who have dropped out after completion of their primary education.

Speaking at the occasion, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary, Additional Secretary MOFEPT said "Utilization of digital content in education sector in Pakistan will provide students of every stratum, the access to additional and useful learning methods which make education expedient. It is also important to mention that use of this content will provide students and institutions in even the most far-flung areas, multiple avenues of knowledge.

**Health Corner**

*Treating cancer without chemo or radiation*

ISLAMABAD: Before a patient can undergo T cell therapy designed to target cancerous tumors, the patient's entire immune system must be destroyed with chemotherapy or radiation. The toxic side effects are well known, including nausea, extreme fatigue and hair loss.

Now a research team, led by UCLA's Anusha Kalbasi, MD, in collaboration with scientists from Stanford and the University of Pennsylvania, has shown that a synthetic IL-9 receptor allows those cancer-fighting T cells to do their work without the need for chemo or radiation. T cells engineered with the synthetic IL-9 receptor, designed in the laboratory of Christopher Garcia, PhD, at Stanford, were potent against tumors in mice, as published Wednesday in Nature.

"When T cells are signaling through the synthetic IL-9 receptor, they gain new functions that help them not only outcompete the existing immune system but also kill cancer cells more efficiently," Kalbasi said. "I have a patient right now struggling through toxic chemotherapy just to wipe out his existing immune system so T cell therapy can have a fighting chance. But with this technology you might give T cell therapy without having to wipe out the immune system beforehand."

Kalbasi, a researcher at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and an assistant professor of radiation oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, began the work while under the mentorship of Antoni Ribas, MD, PhD, a senior investigator on the study. The study was also led by Mikko Siurala, PhD, from the laboratory of Carl June, MD, at Penn, and Leon L. Su, PhD, of the Garcia Lab at Stanford.

"This finding opens a door for us to be able to give T cells a lot like we give a blood transfusion," Ribas said.

Ribas and Garcia collaborated on a paper published in 2018 that focused on the concept that a synthetic version of interleukin-2 (IL-2), a critical T cell growth cytokine, could be used to stimulate T cells engineered with a matching synthetic receptor for the synthetic IL-2. With this system, T cells can be manipulated even after they have been given to a patient, by treating the patient with the synthetic cytokine (which has no effect on other cells in the body). Intrigued by that work, Kalbasi and colleagues were interested in testing modified versions of the synthetic receptor that transmit other cytokine signals from the common-gamma chain family: IL-4, -7, -9 and -21.

"It was clear early on that, among the synthetic common-gamma chain signals, the IL-9 signal was worth investigating," Kalbasi said, adding that unlike other common-gamma chain cytokines, IL-9 signaling is not typically active in naturally occurring T cells. The synthetic IL-9 signal made T cells take on a unique mix of both stem-cell and killer-like qualities that made them more robust in fighting tumors. "In one of our cancer models, we cured over half the mice that were treated with the synthetic IL-9 receptor T cells."

Kalbasi said the therapy proved to be effective in multiple systems. They targeted two types of hard-to-treat cancer models in mice — pancreatic cancer and melanoma — and used T cells targeted to cancer cells through the natural T cell receptor or a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR). "The therapy also worked whether we gave the cytokine to the whole mouse or directly to the tumor. In all cases, T cells engineered with synthetic IL-9 receptor signaling were superior and helped us cure some tumors in mice when we couldn't do it otherwise." (Courtesy Science Daily)



**NUCES-FAST and SS-CASE-IT sign MoU**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (NUCES-FAST) and Sir Syed CASE Institute of Technology (SS-CASE-IT) for a period of five years.

This MOU reflects effort to promote academic collaboration. Its mandate is to support each other in improving the quality and delivery of their graduate (PhD and MS) Programs through students and faculty exchange. This MOU also fortifies the joint efforts in training of their administrative and technical staff, in imparting of recorded lectures of various graduate level courses in Computing, Engineering and Management both Institutions resolve to extend cooperation in admissions and as well as in the realm of IT sector for the development and progress of Pakistan. The Centre for Advanced Research in Engineering (C@RE Pvt Ltd), which is the industrial partner and arm of SS-CASE-IT shall be providing internships to students of NUCES-FAST.



**Kazakhstan is biggest economy in Central Asia: Yerzhan Kistafin**

*Ambassador says cultural and religious values bind Pakistan and Kazakhstan*

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin said that President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is planning to visit Pakistan in the first half of next year.

He addressed media persons at a media briefing regarding last one year's performance of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev government.

While briefing the media about Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's address to the Nation about key reforms, he said on September 1, 2022, his address to the Nation highlighted the socio-economic development of Kazakhstan while also including several vital initiatives regarding the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.

He said President Tokayev announced that Snap presidential elections would be held this



autumn, as a new mandate of the people for the head of state is needed.

Tokayev also recommended limiting the president's term to one term of seven years. Re-election would be prohibited.

Tokayev further called for the elections to the Mazhilis (lower house of Parliament) and Maslikhats (local representa-

tive bodies) to be held in the first half of 2023 if all relevant laws in the follow-up to the constitutional amendments approved in the June 5 national referendum are adopted by the end of 2022. Moreover, the role of Parliament, media, and civil society in Kazakhstan would be strengthened. Commenting on the rule

of law, President Tokayev announced that the independence of the judiciary would be strengthened by systematically reducing administrative and government pressure on the legal system, principally by reforming the Supreme Court and increasing its power over judicial review.

He said this year both countries are also holding inter-governmental joint mission meetings to enhance further bilateral economic and regional cooperation. Moreover, both countries will also collaborate in media exchanges.

The Ambassador said that his country decided to resume direct flights from Kazakhstan to Pakistan in the month of November, 2022.

The flights would be operated from Kazakhstan's city Nur-Sultan and Almaty to Pakistan's major cities, adding that it will help out to bring the communities of both countries closer and



create a better understanding of each other's culture.

This initiative of flights will enhance people-to-people contacts and the exchange of delegations, ultimately bringing both the brotherly countries closer.

He made these remarks while briefing the media about Pakistan and Kazakhstan's relations and major reforms in Kazakhstan introduced by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in his address to the Nation.

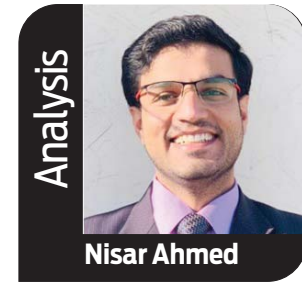
He said that Kazakhstan is the

world's largest landlocked country and the biggest economy in Central Asia; hence, the potential for cooperation and development between both nations is enormous. Age-old cultural and religious values bind Pakistan and Kazakhstan.



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# ‘An Addictive Wedlock: IMF & Pakistan’



**Analysis**  
**Nisar Ahmed**

Not all wedlocks are destined to continue forever, some situations compel us to put a stop to the continuity of an unhealthy relationship. Pakistan entered into a wedlock with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) back in July 1950, when the IMF embraced its membership into the fund. Since then, its dependency on IMF for financial assistance increased every single day and is now a cardinal concern for every decision taken in the policy corridors of Islamabad. Is Pakistan an IMF addict?

Data from the last seven decades shows that Pakistan approached IMF for multiple arrangements including 12 Stand-By Arrangements (SBA), six Extended Fund

Facilities (EFF), three Extended Credit Facilities (ECF) and one Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF). These are the financing tools of IMF; SBA helps in bridging short term financing gaps while the other facilities are extended to rectify long run structural problems in the balance of payment. Last bailout of EFF for about US\$6 billion was approved by the Executive Board of IMF on July 3, 2019 under the regime of cricketer turned politician, Imran Khan. This facility originally aimed at helping Pakistan in addressing its structural financing problems, combating macroeconomic instability amid COVID-19 pandemic and achieving continued growth targets.

The IMF reprimanded Pakistan by stalling this deal after the disbursement of only US\$ 3 billion for not fulfilling its terms and the parties were on a negotiation table for the last few months, and finally with much hesitation, the IMF has finally revived the facility and released the tranche of \$1.2 billion in the first week of September.

In the last week of August, the finance minister, an unflappable champion in locking this deal despite the mali-

icious efforts by the opposition party to undermine the deal, shared glad tidings of aversion of default risk which had been looming since the last few months. Another development that surfaced with the announcement was the increase in aggregate amount of the facility to US\$ 7 billion and extension until the end of June 2023. Accordingly, this will help the cash strapped economy to fill its coffers with the aid from other institutions including World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other friendly countries.

Gratefully, Pakistan escaped from a double bind situation by subordinating itself to harsh terms; under the terms of the deal, it has committed to increase the petroleum development levy to Rs. 50/litre until January 2023. The board also stressed on catching up in power sector reforms, thence the inflationary bomb which is already detonated by the monsoonal deluge is going to bring more trouble for the underprivileged class in the form of higher taxes and early fuel adjustments. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics reported an inflation figure of 27.3% YoY, which is the highest in the last

47 years and the ongoing crises hint at stretching this figure to record high in the coming months. The gravity of the situation is more appalling as prices of essential edible items have surged by more than three times in the past one year with frequent shortages.

What has caused the IMF to place draconian terms? Internally, it was the Imran led government that had been extra generous by over subsidizing POL products. It was never a wise strategy given the size of dwindling reserves and increasing dependence on foreign products, which not only includes POL products but also medicines and even agricultural products. For 2021, its imports included POL products worth US\$ 19 billion (27%) while the other major imports included electrical equipment of US\$ 6 billion (8%), machinery & steel products of US\$ 10 billion (14%) and pharmaceutical products of US\$ 4 billion (5%). As of August 2022, reserves in the coffers of State Bank of Pakistan and other banks stood at US\$ 15.5 billion (August 2021: US\$27.7 billion) and the ousted government relied heavily on remittances which is not

a reliable source of funding. Externally, increasing global oil prices amid Russia-Ukraine war and surging global commodity prices proved to be a doom loop for Pakistan, warranting assiduous involvement of the IMF in the domestic financial affairs.

Pakistan was never short of crisis, economic crises, political crisis, power crisis and now it is in another stroke of bad luck with the climate catastrophe which is estimated to have a potential impact of US\$ 10 billion, required for the rehabilitation of the flood affected. The Ministry of Finance is considering plans to seek emergency loan to fight the menace.

This time Pakistan narrowly escaped the fate of its Asian neighbor but the rising dependence on foreign loans for its survival entangles it into a debt trap, where it buys new loans to repay loans on dictatorial terms and loses the supremacy of an independent state.

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nisarave>*

## Reviving spirit of 1965 war

The nation observed Defence and Martyrs' Day on 6th September to pay tribute to the martyrs and Ghazis and reaffirm commitment to defend the motherland against all threats. It was on this day in 1965 that the Indian forces crossed international border in the darkness of night to attack Pakistan but the nation foiled nefarious designs of the enemy.

This day reminds us of the great fighting capacity of our brave armed forces to defend the motherland. After partition, India became the arch enemy of Pakistan as it never recognized the new born Muslim nation. They would say that Pakistan will never be able to survive on its own. On 6th September 1965, India launched a full-fledged attack on Pakistan at two fronts, Lahore and Sialkot. Indians planned to capture the city of Lahore and Sialkot. However, Pakistan responded with full force and both our land and air forces gave a befitting response to the enemy to stop its advance. India came with a force that was three or four time bigger than Pakistani armed forces and they were armed with latest weapons acquired from then Soviet Union and other sources. But the valiant Pakistani troops with their determination and support of Allah defeated the enemy and pushed it back. Whole nation stood by their armed forces to repel the Indian attack.

After 7th and 8th September, no Indian plane dared to fly over Pakistan. Our falcons destroyed many Indian planes mid-air. Our navy covered a distance of 200 nautical miles and travelled to Dwarka to bomb Indian naval infrastructure. Indians aimed to capture Lahore and Sialkot and cut the GT Road. But India failed badly in its evil plans. All the wars Pakistan faced were misadventures of India, but each time New Delhi returned with a bloody nose. Pakistan has won a very successful war against terrorism which is an example for the whole world. We must remember the sacrifices of our brave soldiers and officers that they rendered for the defence of the country.

Pakistan's armed forces, law enforcement agencies and civil and military institutions are on the same page to protect Pakistan's security and defeat any misadventure by the enemy. The day of 6th September reminds us that unity among the ranks of Pakistan Army and nation is vital to defeat the nefarious designs of enemy. Pakistan Army always stood for its people in all testing times whether it is a flood, a hurricane or an earthquake. New Delhi is making negative attempts to defame Pakistan through cyber warfare, and there is a need that international media should play its role in this regard. 6th September is the day of making pledge that we will leave no stone unturned to safeguard and defense country's security. There is also a need for implementing golden principles of "Unity, Faith and Discipline" advocated by Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in letter and spirit.

On the other hand, keeping in view the current devastating floods, there is a dire need for reviving the spirit of 1965 war to cope with internal and external threats being faced by the country including the challenges of climate change. In this regard, Pakistan Army is playing pivotal role in an ongoing rescue and relief operation in flood-affected areas of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the affected population is being shifted to medical camps by troops of Pakistan Army where all kinds of facilities are being extended to them. Nation must also stand united in successful completion of rescue and relief phase following deadly rains and floods across the country.



## Truss could make 'Little Britain' even smaller globally

**Christopher Phillips**

After an arduous and protracted two-month leadership contest, Britain finally discovered its new prime minister on Monday. Liz Truss' immediate in-tray will inevitably prioritize domestic issues given the cost-of-living crisis, rising inflation and soaring energy bills. But what of her foreign policy? The former foreign secretary's pronouncements during her leadership campaign do not suggest she will divert much from the approach of her predecessor, Boris Johnson. This is a concern.

Johnson oversaw a shrinking of Britain's global importance and a plummeting in its international reputation, and Truss' campaign pledges imply that she will extend this trend further, making post-Brexit "Little Britain" even smaller globally.

On the one hand, Truss should be praised for vowing to continue one of Johnson's most important and successful foreign policies: Support for Ukraine in its war with Russia. Whether Johnson was as committed to Kiev as he made out, or whether photo-ops with President Volodymyr Zelensky made for useful distractions from his troubles at home, is a moot point.

London's support has been vital to Ukraine and the policy has enabled Britain to exhibit some global clout after Brexit. The same will be true of Truss. She also has a penchant for martial poses and no doubt will be on a plane to Kiev as soon as possible, but this should not detract from the policy's continued importance.

Another positive has been Truss' pledge to increase defense spending to 3 percent of gross domestic product by 2030. However, how she will fund this alongside other promises to slash taxes and provide an energy rescue package remains

unclear. The promise may end up being shelved. But beyond Ukraine and defense spending, most of Truss' foreign policy positions have ranged from underwhelming to downright alarming. She has doubled down on the almost petulant hostility toward the EU that has characterized Britain's relationship with Brussels after Brexit. This included a promise to deliver the Northern Ireland Protocol bill, "in full," which would tear up some of the commitments London agreed to on leaving the EU, breaking international law and risking a trade war with the bloc. Similarly, when asked whether French President Emmanuel Macron, leader of one of Britain's oldest allies, was a friend or foe, she remarked, "the jury's out," raising fears of a more antagonistic relationship to come.

Truss seems committed to continuing and expanding other Johnson-era approaches that damaged Britain's reputation. She said she would keep the aid budget "as it is," sustaining Johnson's cut from the UN-recommended 0.7 percent of national economic output to 0.5 percent. She pledged to "support and extend" the policy of deporting illegal migrants to Rwanda — a move that was slammed by Britain's courts, human rights groups and provoked an international backlash. Truss' Britain looks set to roll back further on environmental pledges.

Her political allies have explored drilling for more gas and oil in the North Sea, and have shown skepticism toward renewable power and the net zero policies of Johnson. With London already facing criticism from France for the raw sewage being pumped onto its beaches, Britain under Truss could quickly become the "dirty man of Europe," with further environmental backsliding.

Finally, some of Truss' domestic policies could negatively affect Britain's standing. On the campaign trail she took a bullish approach

to nationalist parties in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Were this to continue in power, it could accelerate moves toward Scottish independence and a united Ireland.

Such a scenario would make Britain physically smaller, resource weaker and less able to influence international politics. Likewise, her proposed economic policies of tax cuts and limited assistance on the cost-of-living crisis has been criticized by most economists, arguing it will spark further inflation and worsen Britain's economic crisis. Such miserable conditions, especially if catalyzed by government mismanagement, would do Britain's soft power few favors and decrease its global appeal.

Of course, given Truss' reputation as a political shapeshifter — she supported Remain during the Brexit referendum, but has since become an ardent Leaver — it is possible many of these campaign pledges will not translate into policy. To become prime minister, she had to court a very small right-wing constituency, just under 82,000 Conservative party members. But to stay in power after the next election she will need to appeal to a broader, more moderate electorate. That said, British elections are rarely won or lost on foreign policy, which might make Truss feel she has more of a free hand.

Indeed, foreign policy might prove an area she can throw red meat to her right-wing base, upping the rhetoric against Europe and bashing migrants, as a way to distract from possible compromises on energy, taxes and the economy. If that proves to be so, Britain's descent into international triviality will continue apace.

Christopher Phillips is professor of international relations at Queen Mary University of London and author of 'The Battle for Syria' and co-editor of 'What Next for Britain in the Middle East?'

*Courtesy: Arab News*

## Consequences of Grave Mismanagement

**Amna Faiq Ali**

Monsoon floods are wreaking havoc all across the country. Some unofficial stats state that almost 60-65% country is submerged in the water and every 1 in 7 Pakistanis is displaced, staying under the open sky. 116 districts are affected in different intensities, including 66 districts officially declared 'calamity hit' by GOP.

No doubt that the primary reason besides this natural calamity is more than the 700% monsoon rains and Global Warming, but that cannot mitigate the fact that this situation is a ginormous administrative failure as well.

Amongst the core reason behind all the destruction caused by floods in Swat is the encroachments all around the River Swat, which unfortunately couldn't be eliminated, despite all the encroachment operations and efforts to combat erosions in the past couple of years.

In Punjab, the most affected area is Salman Range. The destruction in the area is more than the Super Flood of 2010 despite the intensity of the flood being less than that. The sole reason—Asian Development Bank pointed out several areas in 2013 where there was a dire need to construct flood prevention waterbodies. However, those were approved in 2021 by concerned authorities, and there is still no work on the ground regarding these constructions. In Balochistan, 30 out of 32 districts are severely affected by this flood. Balochistan is always at high risk of Flash Flooding; there was a suggestion presented in 2013 that riverine areas in the way should have the Early Warning System and with that, school buildings should be construct-

ed in a way that not only the people can take shelter in those schools but with that their animals can be kept safe here. But that's another story that all credits to the corruption, schools in Balochistan were the amongst the structures that were destroyed first in the floods of 2022. To date, one cannot find these early warning systems that were recommended 9 years ago.

Urban flooding, for which the better term is "administrative failure", is considered the primary reason behind the flooding in Sindh, but with that, another primary reason is not the construction of a single big dam in the past 4 decades, especially in Islamabad. No dams mean that all of the rainwater fills up the Indus River without any formality. Just a little more rain than usual, and the Indus River starts overflowing which ultimately ends up in flooding of different intensities.

Though Sindh constructed a few smaller dams, those are nothing to deal with the havoc that these floods came bearing. The only possible solution is the construction of flood dams and an effective drainage system in the Riverine areas of Kashmir, Shikarpur, Larkana, Nawabshah etc, and in Southern Sindh from Tandu Muhammad Khan to Badin and Thatha). If possible, build new flood drains and pressure the federal government to build large water storage upstream of Sindh to regulate floods.

After the flood, the next challenge will be a prolonged drought. Pakistan urgently needs large water storage in Potohar basin or Mianwali upstream. The need of the hour is to learn lessons from all the situations and losses and take measures to ensure that at least there isn't any lack from our side to amplify the natural situation otherwise we will continue to watch our own destruction every time.



# Fears grow for Ukraine nuke plant ahead of inspector report

Ukraine says Russian forces shelled residential buildings in Nikopol

KYIV: Fears grew Tuesday for Europe's largest nuclear power plant as shelling around it continued, a day after the facility was again knocked off Ukraine's electricity grid and put in the precarious position of relying on its own power to run safety systems.

Repeated warnings from world leaders that fighting around the Zaporizhzhia plant has put it in an untenable situation that could lead to a nuclear catastrophe have done little to stem the hostilities. Russian-installed officials accused the Ukrainian forces of shelling the city where the plant is located on Tuesday, hours after the Ukrainians said Kremlin forces attacked a city across the river.

Both sides have traded such accusations since Russian troops seized the plant early in the war. With the danger rising, an International Atomic Energy Agency team finally traveled to the plant last week, and inspectors are expected to report what they found to the U.N. Security Council later in the day.

Two inspectors remain at the plant, which is run by Ukrainians workers, and Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak applauded that



decision. "There are Russian troops now who don't understand what's happening, don't assess the risks correctly," Podolyak said. "There is a number of our workers there, who need some kind of protection, people from the international community standing by their side and telling (Russian troops): 'Don't touch these people, let them work.'" But that appears to have done little to lessen the risks. On Monday, the IAEA

reported that the plant's last transmission line was disconnected to allow workers to put out a fire caused by shelling. "The line itself is not damaged, and it will be reconnected once the fire is extinguished," the IAEA said.

In the meantime, the plant's only remaining operational reactor would "generate the power the plant needs for its safety and other functions," the agency said. Mycle Schneider, an inde-

pendent analyst in Canada on nuclear energy, said that means the plant was likely functioning in "island mode," producing electricity just for its own operations.

"Island mode is a very shaky, unstable, and unreliable way to provide continuous power supply to a nuclear plant," Schneider said.

It was just the latest incident that fueled fears of a potential nuclear disaster in a country still haunted by the world's worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl. Experts say the reactors at Zaporizhzhia are designed to withstand natural disasters and even aircraft crashes, but the unpredictable fighting around the plant had repeatedly threatened to disrupt critical cooling systems, raising the risk of a meltdown.

Russian-installed officials in the Zaporizhzhia region on Tuesday accused the Ukrainian forces of shelling Enerhodar, the city where the plant is located, and damaging a power line close to the plant.

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti reported, citing its correspondent on the ground, that the power was off in Enerhodar on Tuesday and sounds of explosions could be heard.

# Russia to buy rockets, artillery shells from North Korea: US

WASHINGTON: The Russian Ministry of Defense is in the process of purchasing millions of rockets and artillery shells from North Korea for its ongoing fight in Ukraine, according to a newly downgraded U.S. intelligence finding.

A U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the intelligence determination, said Monday that the fact Russia is turning to the isolated state of North Korea demonstrates that "the Russian military continues to suffer from severe supply shortages in Ukraine, due in part to export controls and sanctions."

U.S. intelligence officials believe that the Russians could look to purchase additional North Korean military equipment in the future. The intelligence finding was first reported by The New York Times.

The U.S. official did not detail how much weaponry Russia intends to purchase from North Korea. The finding comes after the Biden administration recently confirmed that the Russian military in August took delivery of Iranian-manufactured drones for use on the battlefield in Ukraine.

Russia picked up Mohajer-6 and Shahed-series unmanned aerial vehicles over several days last month as part what the Biden administration says is

likely part of a Russian plan to acquire hundreds of Iranian UAVs for use in Ukraine.

North Korea has sought to tighten relations with Russia as much of Europe and the West has pulled away, blaming the United States for the Ukraine crisis and decrying the West's "hegemonic policy" as justifying military action by Russia in Ukraine to protect itself.

The North Koreans have hinted interest in sending construction workers to help rebuild Russian-occupied territories in the country's east.

North Korea's ambassador to Moscow recently met with envoys from two Russia-backed separatist territories in the Donbas region of Ukraine and expressed optimism about cooperation in the "field of labor migration," citing his country's easing pandemic border controls.

In July, North Korea became the only nation aside from Russia and Syria to recognize the independence of the territories, Donetsk and Luhansk, further aligning with Russia over the conflict in Ukraine.

The North's arms export to Russia would be a violation of U.N. resolutions that ban the country from exporting to or importing weapons from other coun-

tries. Its possible dispatch of laborers to the Russian-held territories in Ukraine would also breach a U.N. resolution that required all member states to repatriate all North Korean workers from their soil by 2019.

There have been suspicions that China and Russia haven't fully enforced U.N. sanctions on North Korea, complicating a U.S.-led attempt to deprive North Korea of its nuclear weapons.

The provocative move by North Korea comes as the Biden administration has become increasingly concerned about stepped-up activity by North Korea in pursuit of nuclear weapons. North Korea has test-fired more than 30 ballistic missiles this year, including its first flights of intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017, as leader Kim Jong Un pushes to advance his nuclear arsenal despite U.S.-led pressure and sanctions.

The U.S. has frequently downgraded and unveiled intelligence findings over the course of the grinding war in Ukraine to highlight plans for Russian misinformation operations or to throw attention on Moscow's difficulties in prosecuting the war. Ukraine's smaller military has put up a stiff resistance against the militarily superior Russian forces.

# UN says part of Somalia will reach famine later this year

MOGADISHU: The United Nations says "famine is at the door" in Somalia with "concrete indications" famine will occur later this year in the southern Bay region. This falls just short of a formal famine declaration as thousands are dying in a historic drought made worse by the effects of the war in Ukraine.

U.N. humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths told reporters he was "shocked to my core these past few days" on a visit to Somalia in which he saw starving babies too weak to cry. More than 850,000 people are in the affected areas, with tens of thousands more arriving in the months to come, according to U.N. experts.

A formal famine declaration is rare and a warning that too little help has come too late. At least 1 million people in Somalia have been displaced by the driest drought in decades, driven by climate change, that also affects the wider Horn of Africa including Ethiopia and Kenya.

Famine is the extreme lack of food and a significant death rate from outright starvation or malnutrition combined with diseases like cholera.

# Typhoon batters S. Korea, preparations minimize casualties

SEOUL: The most powerful typhoon to hit South Korea in years on Tuesday dumped a meter (3 feet) of rain, destroyed roads and fell power lines, but the death toll of three could have been higher if not for proactive evacuations and closures of schools, officials said.



There was also greater public awareness about the storm and its risks. Typhoon Hinnamnor made impact just weeks after heavy rains around the capital Seoul caused flooding that killed at least 14 people.

Government officials had put the nation on high

alert for days as Hinnamnor approached, warning of potentially historic destruction and putting in motion life-saving measures.

After grazing the resort island of Jeju and hitting the mainland near the port city of

Busan, Hinnamnor weakened as it blew into waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

South Korea's weather agency said Hinnamnor was over the open sea 280 kilometers (173 miles) northeast of Ulleung island with winds weakened to 115 kilometers (71 miles) per hour on Tuesday afternoon. It was expected to be downgraded to a tropical cyclone by night as it moves northeast between Russia and the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, the agency said.

However, the damage was still severe in the southern city of Pohang, where two people were found dead and at least seven others were missing after the storm submerged roads and buildings, triggered landslides and flooded a shopping mall.

Cars with smashed windows and trunks open lay scattered

on roads like garbage. An entire two-story pool villa was uprooted from the ground and swept away in flash floods. Troops were deployed to assist with rescue and restoration efforts, moving in armored vehicles rolling through streets that turned into chocolate-colored rivers.

Firefighters navigated flooded neighborhoods in rubber boots, rescuing people and their pets. Merchants scrambled to salvage furniture and other belongings at the famous Guryongpo outdoor market, where workers deployed excavators to clear huge piles of debris.

# Dutch minister resigns after protests over pollution

THE HAGUE: The Dutch agriculture minister has unexpectedly resigned, telling reporters he wasn't the right person for the job following a tumultuous summer of protests by farmers over pollution regulations.

Henk Staghouwer, who held the position for only nine months, announced his decision Monday night. He had just returned from Brussels, where he negotiated an agreement with the European Commission to scrap a Dutch exemption to manure spreading limits.

The Netherlands, along with Denmark, Ireland and the Flanders region of Belgium, had been allowed to exceed caps on how much manure farmers could return to their fields because of the country's comparatively small land area. But Brussels wants to phase out this dispensation because the Dutch are failing to meet EU water quality standards.

The country's lucrative agriculture sector has been in crisis since a 2019 court ruling forced the government to slash emissions of nitrogen oxide and ammonia, which livestock produce. Thousands of farmers have staged protests, blockading cities with tractors and burning hay bales along highways.

A 60-year-old former baker, Staghouwer had been tasked with transitioning the sector away from intensive farming practices and buying out farmers to reduce total emissions.

# Southwest China quake leaves 46 dead, triggers landslides

BEIJING: At least 46 people were reported killed and 16 missing in a 6.8 magnitude earthquake that shook China's southwestern province of Sichuan on Monday, triggering landslides and shaking buildings in the provincial capital of Chengdu, whose 21 million residents are already under a COVID-19 lockdown.

The quake struck a mountainous area in Luding county shortly after noon, the China Earthquake Networks Center said.

Sichuan, which sits on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau where tectonic plates meet, is regularly hit by earthquakes. Two quakes in June killed at least four people.

Power was knocked out and buildings damaged in the historic town of Moxi in the Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Garze, where 29 people were killed. Tents had been erected for more than 50,000 people being moved from homes rendered unsafe by the quake, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Tuesday.

State broadcaster CCTV showed rescue crews pulling a woman who appeared uninjured from a collapsed home in Moxi, where many of the buildings are constructed from a mix of wood and brick. Around 150 people were reported with varying degrees of injuries.

Earlier, authorities had reported 7 deaths in Luding county and 14 more in neighboring Shimian county to the south. Three of the dead were workers at the Hailuoguo Scenic Area, a glacier and forest nature reserve.

Along with the deaths, authorities reported stones and soil falling from mountainsides, causing damage to homes and power interruptions, CCTV said. One landslide blocked a rural highway, leaving it strewn with rocks, the Ministry of Emergency Management said.

Buildings shook in Chengdu, 200 kilometers (125 miles) away from the epicenter. Resident Jiang Danli said she hid under a desk for five minutes in her 31st floor apartment. Many of her neighbors rushed downstairs, wary of aftershocks.

# Putin attends joint military drills with China, others

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday attended sweeping war games in his country's far east involving troops from China and other nations, in a show of military muscle amid the tensions with the West over Moscow's action in Ukraine.

The weeklong exercise that began Thursday is intended to showcase growing defense ties between Russia and China and also demonstrate that Moscow has enough troops and equipment for the massive drills even while its forces are engaged in fighting in Ukraine.

The Russian Defense Ministry said that the Vostok 2022 (East 2022) exercise that runs until Wednesday at seven firing ranges in Russia's Far East and the Sea of Japan involves more than 50,000 troops and over 5,000 weapons units, including 140 aircraft and 60 warships. It engages troops from several ex-Soviet nations, China, India, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua and Syria.

Beijing sent more than 2,000 troops along with more than 300 military vehicles, 21 combat aircraft and three warships to take part in the drills, according to Chinese news reports. As part of the maneuvers, the Russian and Chinese navies in the Sea of Japan practiced joint action to protect sea communications and support for ground forces in coastal areas.

# Israeli forces kill Palestinian in firefight in West Bank

JERUSALEM: Israeli troops killed a Palestinian man during a firefight Tuesday in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The violence erupted after Israel demolished the home of a Palestinian who killed three Israelis in an attack earlier this year.

The military said it demolished an apartment in the West Bank city of Jenin belonging to Raed Hazem, the gunman who opened fire at a Tel Aviv bar in April.

During the operation, the army said "violent disturbances erupted that included stone-throwing, firebombs, hurling of explosives and massive gunfire toward the troops" and that soldiers returned fire.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said a 29-year-old man was killed and 16 others were wounded in the fighting. The Palestinian official news agency, Wafa, identified the man as Mohammad Musa Sabaaneh. It was not immediately clear if he was armed or involved in the clashes.

Israel maintains a policy of demolishing the homes of Palestinian attackers. Israeli officials say the demolitions deter future attacks, while rights groups view it as a form of collective punishment.

Israel has been conducting near-daily arrest raids in the West Bank for months, which were prompted by a spate of deadly attacks against Israelis earlier this year that killed 19 people.

# Liz Truss becomes Britain's new prime minister

LONDON: Liz Truss became U.K. prime minister on Tuesday and immediately confronted the enormous task ahead of her amid increasing pressure to curb soaring prices, ease labor unrest and fix a health care system burdened by long waiting lists and staff shortages.

At the top of her inbox is the energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which threatens to push energy bills to unaffordable levels, shuttering businesses and leaving the nation's poorest people shivering in icy homes this winter.

Truss, who refused to spell out her energy strategy during the two-month campaign to succeed Boris Johnson, now plans to cap energy bills at a cost to taxpayers

of as much as 100 billion pounds (\$116 billion), British news media reported Tuesday. She is expected to unveil her plan on Thursday.

"You must know about the cost of living crisis in England, which is really quite bad at the moment," said Rebecca Macdougall, 55, who works in law enforcement, outside the Houses of Parliament. "She's making promises for that, as she says she's going to deliver, deliver, deliver. But we will see in, hopefully, the next few weeks there'll be some announcements which will help the normal working person."

Truss, 47, took office Tuesday afternoon at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, when Queen Elizabeth II formally asked her to form a new government in a carefully

choreographed ceremony dictated by centuries of tradition. Johnson, who announced his intention to step down two months ago, formally resigned during his own audience with the queen a short time earlier.

It was the first time in the queen's 70-year reign that the handover of power took place at Balmoral, rather than Buckingham Palace in London. The ceremony was moved to Scotland to provide certainty about the schedule, because the 96-year-old queen has experienced problems getting around that have forced palace officials to make decisions about her travel on a day-to-day basis.

Truss became prime minister a day after the ruling Conserva-

tive Party chose her as its leader in an election where the party's 172,000 dues-paying members were the only voters. As party leader, Truss automatically became prime minister without the need for a general election because the Conservatives still have a majority in the House of Commons.

But as a national leader selected by less than 0.5% of British adults, Truss is under pressure to show quick results.

Ed Davey, leader of the opposition Liberal Democrats, on Tuesday called for an early election in October — something that Truss and the Conservative Party are highly unlikely to do since the Tories are slumping in the polls. "I've listened to Liz Truss



during the Tory leadership (campaign) and I was looking for a plan to help people with their skyrocketing energy bills,

with the NHS crisis and so on, and I heard no plan at all," he told the BBC. "Given people are really worried, given people are losing

sleep over their energy bills, businesses aren't investing because of the crisis, I think that's really wrong."

Johnson took note of the strains facing Britain as he left the prime minister's official residence at No. 10 Downing Street for the last time, saying his policies had left the government with the economic strength to help people weather the energy crisis.

Always colorful, he thinly disguised his bitterness at being forced out. "I am like one of those booster rockets that has fulfilled its function," Johnson said. "I will now be gently re-entering the atmosphere and splashing down invisibly in some remote and obscure corner of the Pacific."



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
41,860.36	41,859.30	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
41,927.05	41,684.01	
Index Value	Change	
2,725,563,367	+1.06	
Percentage	Time	
+0%	6 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,300.44	+13.01	
Percentage	Time	
+0.18%	6 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
31,400.35	+81.91	
Percentage	Time	
+0.26%	6 Sept, 11:43 am GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
27,626.51	+6.90	
Percentage	Time	
+0.025%	6 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	149.18	150.43
Bahrain Dinar	583.23	587.73
Canadian Dollar	166.94	168.29
China Yuan	31.63	31.88
Danish Krone	29.29	29.64
Euro	230	232.5
Hong Kong Dollar	27.94	28.29
Indian Rupee	2.75	2.83
Japanese Yen	1.6	1.65
Kuwaiti Dinar	710.68	715.68
Malaysian Ringgit	49.02	49.47
New Zealand \$	133.71	134.91
Norwegians Krone	22.02	22.32
Omani Riyal	569.47	573.97
Qatari Riyal	60.25	60.75
Saudi Riyal	61.5	62.5
Singapore Dollar	156.19	157.49
Swedish Korona	20.31	20.61
Swiss Franc	223.78	225.53
Thai Bhat	6.09	6.19
U.A.E Dirham	63	65
UK Pound Sterling	268	271.5
US Dollar	231	233.5

**Energy Sector Coop**

# Xingchu Century ready to provide Pakistan with better energy services

*Xingchu Century President Mr. Guo Jun holds meeting with Minister of Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal*

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Executive Director and President of Xingchu Century Technology Co., Ltd. (Parent Company of Zonergy Solar Development Pakistan) Guo Jun, and Xu Hongchang, Vice President of Xingchu Century, along with company senior delegates in Pakistan met with Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Minister of Planning and Development of Pakistan and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee, and conducted in-depth exchanges on Xingchu Century's development in Pakistan.

During meeting, Mr. Guo had a candid and sincere exchange on related work with Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Minister of Planning and Development of Pakistan and Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission, in a cordial and pleasant atmosphere. Mr. Guo reported on the company's development history, market layout, performance highlights, etc., and said

that Xingchu Century will take root in the Pakistani market and provide Pakistan with better energy services. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary appreciated Xingchu Century's positive contribution to Pakistan's green energy development, and hoped Xingchu Century would continue to take root in Pakistan and contribute more to Pakistan's social and economic development.

Pakistan going through difficult phase of Energy crisis. Such Cooperation with World renowned Leading renewable Energy solutions provider will be a good omen for this country to overcome the shortfall with the help of Green and environmentally friendly energy solutions.

Zonergy Solar Development Pakistan is first Solar IPP contributing 300MW into national grid. Company is seeking Government support to extend Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park to 900MW installed capacity to bring an end to worst energy crisis.



## AZPROMO delegation to visit Pakistan for trade promotion: Khazar Farhadov

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan lauded Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for taking a business delegation to Azerbaijan through the first direct launched between Islamabad and Baku and this becoming a pioneer of this initiative as the visit was very successful in improving business linkages between the private sectors of both countries.

He said that a delegation of the Export and Investment Promotion Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AZPROMO) was expected to visit Pakistan to conduct market research and explore opportunities for promoting trade relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. He said this while interacting with the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

The envoy said that Azerbai-



jan and Pakistan were enjoying cordial relations and strengthening economic cooperation should be the key focus of both countries to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. He said that close cooperation of Pakistan with Azerbaijan would open up avenues for Pakistan to improve trade with Central Asian countries.

He shared the proposal of setting up a joint working group that would listen to the issues and hurdles being faced by the business community in promoting bilateral trade and propose measures to address them for further

increasing bilateral ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. He said that both countries have good potential to enhance cooperation in many sectors including banking, IT, energy, tourism, agriculture and SMEs. He assured that the Embassy of Azerbaijan would provide all possible facilitation to the business community of Pakistan in promoting trade with his country.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the existing level of bilateral trade between Paki-

stan and Azerbaijan was quite low given the actual potential of both countries and stressed that strong efforts from both sides were needed to improve it. He welcomed the news of the expected visit of the AZPROMO delegation to Pakistan and stressed for regular exchange of trade delegations to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

He said that Pakistan was producing high quality marble products and establishing a marble warehouse in Baku was important to increase exports of marble products to Azerbaijan.

He said that many Pakistani products including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, surgical instruments, sports goods, cutlery, electrical appliances, textile & leather products, furniture, home-made crafts, food and fruits products, engineering & consumer goods and rice could find a good market in Azerbaijan and emphasized that Azerbaijan should import these products from Pakistan.

## JS Bank wins 'Most Innovative SME Bank'

*At 8th Global Business Outlook Awards*

**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: JS Bank, one of the fastest-growing banks in Pakistan has once again been recognised for its success in the international banking world by winning the 'Most Innovative SME Bank' at the 8th Annual Global Business Outlook Awards. The Global Business Outlook Awards seeks and rewards excellence in businesses around the world, and sectors.

This award showcases JS Bank's increasing recognition in the international financial space and its determination to expand SME financing in Pakistan and make a grass root impact in the lives of Pakistanis.

Under its umbrella, the

Bank offers a supportive hand to thousands of motivated, young individuals and encourages them to explore self-employment opportunities. Some of its offerings include, the SME Asaan Finance (SAAF) scheme, which provides financing opportunities for small and mid-sized businesses across Pakistan. Another major contributor is JS Khud Mukhtar, which provides convenient solutions for women entrepreneurs for financial independence. As part of this scheme, the Bank has already disbursed 100 loans amounting to over 125 Million until 2022, with the majority of the women being from lower-income rural households.

## Zong announces social contract in response to floods

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: In response to one of the worst humanitarian disasters to hit the country in past few years, Zong 4G has announced a new social contract, dedicated to providing relief to flood affectees and helping rebuild Pakistan. With a three-point agenda, the company has laid out its strategy to help rebuild Pakistan—#ZongStandsByPakistan

Fully realizing its role as the leader in converged communications, Zong 4G has designed a strategy to ensure that people have unhindered access to

services to stay connected with their loved ones during this catastrophic event and to provide on-ground support and care both in the short-term and long-term.

"As a socially responsible company, Zong 4G understands the needs of the affectees and knows it's a long journey ahead of us to build our vision of Digital Pakistan.

We are committed to ensuring, that through partnerships we deliver to the communities and we will continue our efforts in ensuring that Zong 4G unites and connects Pakistan during these challenging times.

**Food security**

## Record hike in flour price termed alarming

*Atif Ikram Sheikh says Pakistan on the verge of a serious flour crisis*

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh Tuesday said the country is currently suffering from an economic, political, climatic, public health and law and order crisis.

In these dire circumstances, the price of flour has reached the highest level in the country's history, which is tantamount to punishing the people suffering from poverty and runaway inflation, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that



the price of flour has reached one hundred and thirty rupees per kg in different cities, which is unjustified and beyond the reach of the poor. Immediate steps should be

taken to deal with this problem otherwise the situation will go out of control, he warned.

While talking to the business community, the business leader said that unrest may spread across the country if the price of flour continues to rise and administrative measures were avoided.

He said that despite the fertile land and the best canal system in the world, we see a wheat crisis every year. The reasons behind the crisis are hoarding, profiteering, reduction in cultivated area, the rising cost of fertilizers, seeds, diesel and other commodities and

substandard seeds creating difficulties for farmers and consumers overburdened by the highest inflation in nearly five decades.

The country could face severe flour shortage if the current situation remains unaddressed, he warned. He said that per acre production of wheat in Pakistan is 15% less than neighbouring India and 20% less than the world average.

In order to ensure food security amid a growing population, an annual increase of at least three percent in wheat production per acre is necessary.

# PPL provides financial support Rs70m to flood victims

**Our Correspondent**

KARACHI: As a frontline national E&P company, Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has yet again risen to the occasion at the time of national flood emergency, to provide much-needed assistance to disaster-hit communities across the country.

PPL's Board of Directors has so far approved Rs. 70 million for the relief and rehabilitation of the affected local communities in the recent floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan.

Recently, donation cheques of Rs. 15 million each were presented by GMCS Syed Mahmood Ul Hassan to Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash along with Director General, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shareef Hussain and Director General, PDMA, Punjab Faisal Fareed in Peshawar and Lahore on September 5 and 6, respectively.

Further, Rs. 15 million has been approved for Sindh, whereby relief goods, including ration bags and



Pic 1 Caption: GMCS PPL Syed Mahmood Ul Hassan (second left) presents the donation cheque of Rs. 15 million for flood affectees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) to Chief Secretary KPK Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash on September 5 at the Chief Secretary's office in Peshawar



Pic 2 Caption: GMCS PPL Syed Mahmood Ul Hassan (left) presents the donation cheque of Rs. 15 million for flood affectees in Punjab to Director General, Provincial Disaster Management Authority, Punjab Faisal Fareed in Lahore.

## IT Companies donate Rs15m for flood relief to Alkhidmat Foundation



**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) and Alkhidmat Foundation have joined hands to help alleviate the miseries of the flood-affected in these times of crises of unprecedented proportions. P@SHA member companies have collectively donated Rs15 million to Alkhidmat Foundation and more contributions are on their way. As a responsible association determined to contribute to prosperity of Pakistan, P@SHA initiated the relief drill to help fellow Pakistanis in need.

Alkhidmat Foundation will ensure delivery of aid & sustenance goods on the ground in a transparent, meticulous and diligent manner. These goods include water-proof tents; linen sheets; clean drinking water; dry eatables, e.g. ready-to-eat black channa, dates & biscuits; packaged milk & juices; formula milk powder for children of various ages; stitched or ready-to-wear clothes; plastic shoes; hygiene products; raw food items such as rice, flour and lentils for people stuck in homes due to flooding outside; medical supplies for elderly, sick, mothers & children and dry fodder for the cattle as well.

Chairman Badar Khushnood said that "P@SHA issued an appeal two weeks back to its member companies to donate generously and contribute actively in this need of the hour; which has rendered millions of families displaced as one-third of Pakistan is drowned due to the floods and have lost shelter.

ents, have been directly dispatched to disaster-hit communities of the province. Earlier, an amount of Rs. 25 million was handed over to PDMA, Balochistan for flood affectees of the province.

Recent rain and flash floods have affected all provinces of the country with the human death toll rising

each day along with massive displacement of individuals due to this natural calamity. It has also severely damaged the infrastructure. PPL's financial assistance is aimed at supporting relevant local civil administrations who are taking necessary measures to provide relief to citizens, besides provision of essential goods and shelter.

PPL has always taken the lead in supplementing the government's efforts by providing immediate relief, medical assistance and rehabilitation of victims of emergencies. The company has generously supported local communities and area administrations through funds, medical camps and rehabilitation facilities during

previous earthquakes and floods. In view of its on-going efforts to enhance quality of life for deserving population in the country, PPL has received the leading Corporate Philanthropy Award from Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy for 16 years, as the largest corporate giver in terms of volume of donations.



# Babar, Rizwan, Suryakumar battle for top spot T20I batting rankings

Rizwan is the top run-scorer in the Asia Cup so far with 192 runs

ISLAMABAD: Mohammad Rizwan, Babar Azam and Suryakumar Yadav are battling for the top spot in the latest ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings set to be released on Wednesday.

The Asian giants are battling it out in the Asia Cup in UAE, but there's another tussle going on in the batting rankings with Babar Azam, Suryakumar Yadav and Mohammad Rizwan in a close tussle for the No.1 spot in the T20I batting rankings. Pakistan will take on Afghanistan in the Asia Cup.

Babar has continued to hold onto the top spot despite pressure from teammate Rizwan and India's Yadav until last week. But a string of low scores from Babar, and half-centuries from Rizwan and Suryakumar in the past week could see a shuffle at the top of the rankings this week when the ICC releases the Player Rankings on Wednesday.

Rizwan is the top run-scorer in the Asia Cup so far with 192 runs, including two fifties in three matches.

The Pakistan opener hit fifties against Hong Kong and India, and also made 43 in the first game against India in the tournament. Yadav, on the other hand, slammed a sensational 26-ball



68\* against Hong Kong. Babar hasn't had a great run in the tournament with scores of 10, 9 and 14 in the three matches so far.

Currently, Babar sits on top of the

batting rankings with 810 rating points. Rizwan with 796 points and Yadav with 792 points follow close on his heels.

Yadav had come close to taking the top spot during India's ODIs against

West Indies. He was the leading run-scorer during the series with 135 runs, but the decision to rest him for the final match meant he missed out on the chance to overtake Babar.

# More than 250 local players in contention for 66 PJJL spots

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: More than 250 local and around 175 foreign players between 16 and 19 years of age will be available for selection for six teams in the player draft of the inaugural edition of the Pakistan Junior League. The draft will take place on Thursday, 8 September in Lahore.

The local players list includes the players who took part in the two PCB organised national U19 one-day and three-day tournaments in the ongoing season. Players who were selected for their respective Cricket Association team for the two premier national U19 competitions are eligible for the draft even if they didn't play any match.

Additionally, a total of 17 players from the PJJL social media video campaign have



been invited to the NHPC in Lahore for age verification and trials. The players selected amongst the 17 will be added to the draft list.

A total of 250-odd players will compete for 66 spots

(11 in each of the six sides) for Bahawalpur, Gujranwala, Gwadar, Hyderabad, Mardan and Rawalpindi teams for PJJL 2022. The foreign players will vie for 24 spots (four in each of the

six sides). The age cut-off for tournament eligibility is 1 September 2003.

The players have been divided into three categories - Elite, Premier and X-factor. The Elite category includes high-profile players who have either already appeared for their national U19 team or have made an impact at the domestic level (age-group cricket) organised by an ICC Full Member cricket board.

Premier includes players who have significant age-group cricket experience or have been part of pathway cricket for their boards or regions. X-factor includes Associate Member board players as well as promising local talent.

Amongst the foreign players, 105 are from ICC Full Member boards and more than 70 are from Associate Members.

# Bavuma back to lead South Africa at T20 World Cup

JOHANNESBURG: Temba Bavuma will captain South Africa at the International Cricket Council's T20 World Cup in Australia in October after recovering from an elbow injury.

Bavuma was injured during a T20 international in India in June and was forced to miss South Africa's multi-format tour of England which ends next week. He made a return to action during a low-key T20 tournament currently being played in Namibia.

The squad announced by Cricket South Africa selection convener Victor Mpitsang on Tuesday includes explosive batsman Tristan Stubbs, 22, who hit eight sixes in scoring 72 off 28 balls against England in his first international innings in Bristol in July.

"He's young, he's exciting and he's fearless and he plays the brand of cricket that (coach) Mark Boucher wants the team to play," said Mpitsang.

There was no place, though, for Dewald Brevis, 19, who set a run-scoring record in the Under-19 World Cup in the West Indies in January. Brevis, nicknamed "Baby AB" for his similarities to retired star AB de Villiers, has been signed up by T20 franchises in India, the Caribbean and South Africa—but has yet to play a first-class or List A match.

# 'I don't know when I'll be back,' says Nadal

NEW YORK: Rafael Nadal admitted Monday that he wasn't sure when he will return to action after Frances Tiafoe condemned him to his earliest US Open exit since 2016.

Four-time US champion Nadal, bidding for a 23rd Grand Slam title, lost 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the last-16 to 26th-ranked Tiafoe.

The American's free-swinging performance conjured up 18 aces and 49 winners which flew past a sluggish Nadal on Arthur Ashe Stadium. For Australian and French Open champion Nadal, it was a first Grand Slam loss of 2022 after an abdominal strain forced him to forfeit his Wimbledon semi-final. The defeat ended a run of 16 successive Slams where the Spaniard had made at least the quarter-finals.

"I need to go back. I need to fix things. I don't know when I'm going to come back," Nadal told a press conference. "I'm going to try to be ready mentally. When I feel that I will be ready to compete again, I will be there." Nadal has endured a rollercoast-



er year.

His two Slam titles have taken him one clear of Novak Djokovic but his physical frailties have also returned to haunt him. Nadal suffered a stress fracture of the ribs in March before requiring daily pain-killing injections in his left foot to see him through to a 14th French Open title in June. Then

his bid for a third Wimbledon crown was shattered by an abdominal injury.

Nadal is due to become a father for the first time in the coming weeks, a factor which will factor heavily into his future on-court plans. "Now I have to go home, I have more important things than tennis to attend to," he said. "Decisions will be

made based on how everything goes in my personal life, which comes before my professional life."

He added: "It's been a bit difficult for a few months but I want to finish the year with something very important that is my first child." Nadal is scheduled to return to action at the Laver Cup in London from September 23. He has already qualified for the ATP Tour Finals in Turin to be staged in November.

Despite his doubts over his future plans, Nadal told Spanish media that he won't rule out playing again this year. "I will do a mini pre-season to finish the year in Europe with good feelings and that is what we are going to try. There is a tournament ahead if everything else goes well," he said.

Tiafoe is Nadal's junior by 12 years and on Monday, the Spaniard admitted that age is becoming a factor. "I was not able to push him back. Tennis is a sport of position a lot of times," he added. "If not, you need to be very, very quick and very young. I am not in that moment anymore."

# Balochistan, Northern fined for maintaining slow over rate



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI, 6 SEPTEMBER 2022: Balochistan and Northern have been fined PKR10,000 for maintaining slow over rate during their Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23 match at the Pindi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Both teams were one over short of their target after taking into account time allowances and, as such, were charged under Article 2.22 of the PCB Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which deals with the minimum over-rate offences.

Yasir Shah and Umer Amin, captains of Balochistan and Northern, accepted the sanctions proposed by match referee Mohammad Anees. The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Faisal Afridi and Aalay Haider, third umpire Saqib Khan and fourth umpire Nasir Hussain.

Balochistan won the by 19 runs.

# Real can defend Champions League title: Ancelotti

MADRID: Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti is optimistic about the Spanish club's chances of winning back-to-back Champions League titles even though bookmakers have not picked them among the top-four favourites.

"It's not a surprise for me not being the odds-on favorite, I think it's a good sign," Ancelotti told a news conference in Glasgow on the eve of Tuesday's opening Group F game against Celtic.

"I think that last year we had even less probability in the statistics to win it. And we have an improved team this season. What happened last year will happen again. We are going to compete until the end and, hopefully, we will compete in the final."

Last season, Real Madrid were considered to be the underdogs during their knockout round matches against Paris St Germain, Chelsea and Manchester City as well as in the final showdown with Liverpool but they went on to win a record-extending 14th European Cup title. "In this competition, Real Madrid have always been respected. The history of the club is part of the history of this competition," Ancelotti said.

"We start with enthusiasm, as always, but you never know what is going to happen. We have to think about the group-stage first, win it and then see what happens after the (break in November and December for the) World Cup." Ancelotti said that he will probably rotate his squad more often to keep players fresh with Champions League and La Liga matches overloading the schedule.

The Italian said he was concerned about how the players will cope with the packed schedule once they return from the World Cup in Qatar that kicks off on Nov 20. "Until the World Cup I believe we won't have problems because the players are prepared and motivated. They want to get to the World Cup in good condition," Ancelotti said.

"The question is how the players will return after the World Cup. We just don't know because it is a unique situation." Real Madrid are grouped together with Leipzig, Shakhtar and Celtic in Champions League Group F.

# Pakistan beat West Indies by 23 runs

BRISBANE: Pakistan beat West Indies in their opening match of the Over 60s World Cup being played in Brisbane, Australia.

According to a communique here on Tuesday, the triumph against West Indies Masters marked the beginning of Pakistan Veteran's World Cup campaign.

West Indies after winning the toss decided to put Pakistan into batting first.

Pakistan Over 60s team accumulated a total of 216 runs, before were all-out in the penultimate over of the innings. Tahir Rashid was top scorer with an impressive innings of 58. He alongside Saghir Abbas added 84 runs for the fifth wicket stand. Babar Ali Basharat & Muhammad Ashraf Pakhali also chipped in with steady knocks of 37 and 36 respectively. Hafiz Mohammed was the pick of the bowlers from the Caribbean brigade, bagging 4 wickets for 23 runs in his spell of six overs.

Early strikes from the Pakistani bowlers jolted the West Indian chase. A good line and length from almost every bowler further pegged back the West Indian batting lineup as they remained behind the chase for most part of their innings.

Only Richard Sieuchan offered some resistance with a half-century to his name.

Ultimately, West Indies managed 193 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in the assigned 45 overs, giving Pakistan Veterans a victory by 23 runs. Tahir Rashid was nominated as 'Player of the Match' for his invaluable contribution with the bat.

New Zealand are regarded as the toughest opponents for Pakistan and beat South Africa by 106 runs the previous day in another match.

In another match in Pool B, the Rest of the World team got the better of USA, winning the match by a huge margin of 112 runs.

# After four losses, Central Punjab record first win

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Qasim Akram's Central Punjab finally opened their account in the Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23 with an 11-run win over Sindh, thanks to Shoaib Malik's all-round performance, at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Aamir Jamal's exceptional performances with bat and ball - 47 not out off 17 and three for 27 - sealed a thriller for Northern as they beat Southern Punjab by five runs.

Experienced all-rounder Shoaib Malik blasted 54 not out off 33 (four fours and two sixes) to lift Central Punjab to 188 for five and then got the crucial wicket of dangerous-looking Saim Ayub in his one for 16 off two overs in Central Punjab's 11-run triumph over Sindh.

Shoaib and Irfan Khan Niazi, who scored a blazing 33 not out off 14 hitting four sixes, added 64 runs in the last 29 balls to help Central Punjab post a towering score.

Central Punjab were dealt serious blows in the first and third over as Sohail Khan accounted for openers Abdullah Shafique and Mohammad Akhlag, but a solid 67-run partnership between Mohammad Faizan and Tayyab Tahir rescued the side from a collapse.

Faizan was instrumental in the attacking partnership with his brilliant 55 at a staggering strike rate of 229. He struck four sixes and six fours in his 24-ball knock before falling to leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed, who also dismissed Central Punjab captain Qasim Akram.

Tayyab, the top-scorer in the

tournament, made 33 off 28, hitting two fours and a six.

Sarfraz Ahmed top-scored in the match with an unbeaten 62, compiled at a strike rate of 168, but the lack of support from the other end allowed Central Punjab to earn their first win after four defeats.

Sindh looked on track of scaling down the target but the dismissal of Saim in the seventh over altered the course of the match. Sindh, at the time of Saim's wicket were cruising at 62 off just 6.3 overs. Saad Khan was bowled by Usama Mir in the next over and in the 15th over he sent Omair Bin Yousuf (37 off 29) and Danish Aziz back to the pavilion as Sindh slipped to 122 for five.

Usama finished with three for 34. All-rounder Aamir Jamal was the star for Northern as his brilliance with bat and ball won

Northern a thriller against Southern Punjab by five runs. Aamir's swashbuckling 47 not out off 17 - studded with four sixes and five fours - lifted Northern to 187 for eight after his captain Umar Amin, who stroked a half-century, elected to bat.

Northern were in a spot of bother with openers Zeeshan Malik and Hasan Nawaz dismissed in the first two overs, but a 51-run partnership for the third wicket between Nasir Nawaz (13 off 17) and Umar (52 off 42) rescued the innings and provided a platform to Mubasir Khan (34 off 18) and Aamir to go berserk in the latter half.

When it came to defending the total, Aamer, later named player of the match, with the dismissals of Zain Abbas, Sharoon Siraj and Zeeshan Ashraf across his eight deliveries derailed Southern



Punjab's innings despite a promising beginning after Zain (81 off 46) and Mohammad Shehzad (28 off 24) added 111 runs for the first wicket.

Zain's 81 was studded with six sixes and as many fours, while Muhammad Imran, with 12-ball 24, provided Southern Punjab fans a glimpse of hope, but was

dismissed by Zaman Khan in the 18th over. Zaman, like Aamir, also took three wickets, while experienced all-rounder Sohail Tanvir took two wickets for 39.