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UAE launches *initiative to* assist Pak flood victims

Safar 14, Sunday, September 11, 2022



😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation UAE, Ministry of Community Development UAE and Emirates Red Crescent in coordination with the Embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi and Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai have launched a volunteering initiative to collect donations for the flood affectees in Pakistan. This volunteering initi-

ative was launched today simultaneously at following locations across the UAE. 1. Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC), Abu Dhabi. 2. Dubai Exhibition Center, Expo City Dubai. 3. Expo Center, Sharjah

Charge d'Affaires, Imtiaz Feroz Gondal along with Dr. Hamdan Mussallam Al Mazrouei, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Emirates Red Crescent and Sultan Mohammed Al Shamsi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and UN Secretary General H.E Antonio Guterres loving and infant born in the

Solution Devastating Floods

Showing affection

UN chief renews fund appeal for Pakistan

Pakistan needs massive financial support to overcome post-flood challenges, says Antonio Guterres

Pakistan needs to be prepared for heavy rains cycles: COAS

General Qamar Javed Bajwa spends time with flood victims in flung areas of interior Sindh

DADU: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited far flung areas of interior Sindh in Dadu district.

According to the ISPR, the Army Chief spent time with flood affected people in relief and medical camps.

COAS directed the formation for providing 5000 tents to flood affected people of Dadu and surrounding areas. He also interacted with troops busy in rescue and relief activities

Later, COAS was flown for aerial reconnaissance of flood affected areas of Dadu, Khairpur Nathan Shah, Johi, Meher and Manchar Lake.

lake and Hamal lake, which have around hundred kilometre distance between them, have been merged.

The Army Chief said rescue work in other parts of the country has ended except Dadu. He expressed hope that people from Sindh will also come forward their brothers

and sisters. He said international community is also helping Pakistan generously.

General Qamar Javed Bajwa said Pakistan needs to be prepared for heavy rains cycles. He said army engineering corps has been assigned the task to prepare

IHC restores 11 suspended PTI members

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Ali, Fakhar Zaman Khan, High Court (IHC) has restored Jamil Ahmed Khan, Muhamthe parliamentary membership mad Akram Cheema, Abdul Shakoor Shad and Shandana

Later, talking to media in a plan to cope with such situ-Dadu, General Qamar Javed ation in future. He stressed on Bajwa said Dadu is the most the need to develop drainage affected area. He said Manchar system. APP

participated in the launch of this campaign in Abu Dhabi.

More than 30,000 boxes were donated today. Each box consists of food and hygiene kits to support a family of 5 for a whole month.

Cd'A thanked the people and Government of the UAE for their continuous support in this difficult time. He also appreciated the work being done by the Emirates Red Crescent for the flood affectees in Pakistan.

SUKKUR: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday urged the international community to support flood-hit Pakistan as the country needed massive financial help to overcome post-flood crises.

"It is not a matter of generosity, but a matter of justice," he said reiterating the UN's commitment, strong support and solidarity with the flood-affected populace of Pakistan.

Guterres said that huge damages and losses were caused to human lives and properties. The UN absolutely supported

Spokesman Report Govt fully cognizant of flood victims' sufferings: PM

LARKANA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the federal government was fully cognizant of the sufferings and problems of the flood affectees and reassured that the federal and provincial governments would fully assist and support them in this hour of distress. Talking to flood affectees along with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the prime minister said that an amount of Rs70 billion allocated by the federal government was being disbursed among each flood-affected family under Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

the Pakistani nation and requestsave its nation.

He stressed that the internaed the well-resourced nations to tional community must realize support the country massively, so the serious impacts of greenhouse that it could face the future chal- emissions as nature was striking lenges of climatic changes and back in the form of natural calamities

had accelerated the climatic changes and the nations having larger greenhouse emissions footprints must understand these issues, he added.

According to the scientific estimates, the UN secretary-general emphasized that now, it was a time to reduce greenhouse emissions.

He said it was also a fact that they were living in a climatic changing era and have to make efforts to rebuild communities and to enable the countries to resist and face the future disasters that could be wrought by the natural calamities.

of 11 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members.

On July 19, National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf had accepted the resignations of 11 PTI MNAs, including former human rights minister Shireen Mazari, ex-interior minister Ijaz Ahmed Shah, ex-state minister for parliamentary affairs Ali Muhammad Khan and ex-state minister for information and broadcasting Farrukh Habib under Article

64 (1) of the Constitution. The other PTI lawmakers whose resignations were accepted included Fazal Muhammad Khan, Shaukat

Gulzar Khan. Mazari and Shandana were elected on the reserved seats for women from Puniab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, respectively. Later on July 29, the ECP issued notifications regarding the acceptance of the resignations of these eleven MPAs and announced by-elections on the vacant seats.

The PTI had subsequently challenged before the Islamabad High Court the ECP's decision and announced by-elections against nine general seats from which incumbents had resigned. APP

Defamation case Court fines on IK for seeking adjournment

Court accepted Khan's counsel's request; adjourned hearing till Sept 24

ISLAMABAD: A session court Saturday fined former prime minister and PTI chief Imran Khan for seeking an adjournment of the hearing in the Rs10 billion defamation case filed against Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.

Additional Sessions Judge Adnan Khan imposed a fine of Rs5.000 on the PTI chief for seeking an adjournment in the hearing due to his involvement in the ongoing relief operation for the flood victims in Sindh.

The PML-N leader's lawyer Advocate Ali Shah Geelani appeared before the court during the hearing, but his cross-examination of Khan's statement had to be postponed.

The court accepted Khan's counsel's request to adjourn the hearing, after which the hearing was adjourned till September 24.

Khan had filed the defamation suit against Khawaja he alleged that the PTI Asif in 2012 for recovery of supremo had lost a massive Rs10 billion as the latter had amount of funds donat-



at a press conference levelled ed to his cancer hospital in allegations about misappro-"real estate gambling". Khan priation of and money launtermed the allegations "false dering through the Shaukat and defamatory" Earlier this year, the Khanum Memorial Trust

(SKMT) funds. Islamabad High Court In his lawsuit, the former accepted Khawaja Asif's prime minister had referred petition challenging the to the defence minister's decision to disallow the press conference from right to cross-examine then August 1, 2012, in which prime minister Imran Khan with reference to the defamation case against him. Agencies

IT exports to be enhanced: Minister

😂 🛛 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Minister for Information Technology (MoIT), Syed Amin Ul Haq said the IT exports of the country had grown during his tenure and the target had also been set to increase its exports in next few years.

He was addressing the Launching Ceremony of International IT Project 'Begin IT" here at local hotel on Saturday.

A target of \$5 billion IT exports has been set for the next year, while the same will be increased to \$15 billion in the next few years besides, a plan had been devised to increase IT exports, he said.

The minister said MoIT made efforts to improve the connectivity and ensure broadband facility in far flung areas.

The smart phone manufacturing have been started in Pakistan and development of cheap smart phones was being ensured, he added.

The government will extend any kind of support to IT sector for its development and promotion, he maintained.

lf economy to decline Nation will hold establishment responsible: Imran

PTI chief tells nation to wait for his call

GUJRANWALA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday said that the nation will hold the establishment responsible if the country's economy continues to decline.

Addressing a public rally in Gujranwala, the former PM said that the Secretary General of the United Nations (UNSG) has come to visit the flood-affected areas, and Shehbaz Sharif assured him that he would spend money honestly while the majority of his federal cabinet members are on bail. They keep money outside the country and beg from others, Imran added.

"80,000 Pakistanis were sacrificed in American war which was imposed on us. Such rulers bow before foreign countries, and they will do whatever orders they get from outside. That is why Pakistan is independent in its decision," the former PM said.

While reacting to the contempt of court case, Imran Khan said Shahbaz Gill was not a terrorist but he was treated and tortured like a terrorist that is why he reacted.

"The court of Chief Justice Athar Minallah has made very good decisions, I will accept whatever decision the court makes," the PTI chairman said.



"The imported government is rapidly taking the country down, I know you are neutral, but if the country's economy continues to decline like this, the nation will hold you responsible. If nothing is done, the economy will be destroyed, and the national security will be directly affected if this happens," Imran said.

The PTI chairman addressed his party's Insaf Student Federation (ISF) and the youth in general, and said he would need them both in the light of 'things I am going to say ahead".

"The thing I am preparing this nation for ... I would need the youth of this nation a lot for Haqeeqi Azadi (actual freedom)," he said.

Imran Khan directed his party leaders to mobilise workers at the local level and urged his supporters to await his call to steer the country out of the quagmire. "Mobilise party workers in every district and wait for my final call. We have to free Pakistan from these thieves," he said while issuing directives to district organisations and added that the only way out of this crisis was to conduct clean and transparent general elections.

The former prime minister once again warned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that his government would not be able to stop the sea of people when they will gather in Islamabad from all four provinces. Agencies



World Heritage Site

UN Secretary General H.E Antonio Guterres visiting Mohenjo Daro, Larkana on Saturday.



FTO briefs businessmen about `Instant *Fustice*' initiative

PESHAWAR: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Dr. Asif Mehmood Jah has said that due to confidence of general masses and tax payers, the performance of FTO is improving with each passing day.

He expressed these views while speaking to a delegation of businessmen led by Vice President Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) and Media Coordinator FTO, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi.

The meeting was arranged regarding awareness of business community about the FTO's initiative of `Instant Justice at Your Doorstep'.

FTO Dr. Asif Mehmood apprised businessmen that ev did not wait for 60 day time period of responding to application, but take forthwith action with focus of resolving the issues in days or weeks. APP

S Unprecedented floods

Floods caused damages worth \$18b says Miftah

Finance Minister urges business community to donate in PM Relief Fund for flood-victims

😂 Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Finance Minister Miftah Ismail could not hold his tears while talking about the devastations caused by heavy rainfall and floods in the country. The floods have caused over \$18 billion damages, he said.

Miftah Ismail has urged the business community to come forward and donate in Prime Minister Relief Fund for the rehabilitation of flood victims. He said every single penny of donations will be spent directly for the flood affectees in a transparent manner. The Finance Minister said he country has witnessed unprecedented PTI government, they took the challenge destruction due to floods in every sector heads on, he added. including agriculture, livestock and infrastructure and everyone has to play his role for the noble cause.

day the Finance Minister said that Pakistan staring in the face of a default when the PML-N government took charge. But, rather than running away like the

Pakistan needs at least 10 cities like Sialkot to increase its exports and curb trade deficit



is a circular debt of Rs2500 billion on electric authorities while Rs1500 billion on Gas companies, he added.

The Finance Minister admitted that electricity bills have skyrocketed but they are selling units cheaper than Germany and France. Per unit cost of electricity in the country was Rs69, and the demand of electricity rises by 1000 MW with 1 degree rise in temperature, he added.

He said that 10 percent of total electricity is lost in line losses as bill collection from Punjab is 80%. The government has given a subsidy of Rs660 billion on Petrol and diesel, he added. Miftah said that their government just abolished subsidies on petroleum prodprice, he added.

Sold security **Masood forewarns** world about perils of climate change

😂 Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has alerted international community about the serious perils of erratic climate change that were threatening the nations across the globe.

He was briefing American and international media persons about the flood situation in Pakistan at the National Press Club in Washington DC.

He said that the recent flood and the massive devastation in Pakistan is an exhibit for the devastations of climate change. He said this phenomenon is going to grow whether it is Pakistan or any other countries in South Asia or the world.

The Ambassador said that though international media was extensively showing heart-wrenching visuals of the affected areas vet it has only captured "a fraction of the calamity what we are facing in Pakistan."

He said that while it was a collective responsibility to reduce emissions, the international community must think of ways and means for compensation to those bearing the brunt of climate change despite making negligible contribution towards global warming.

mitigation and adaptation to preparedness and resilience.

While sharing harrowing details of the devastation caused by the flood that has submerged one third of the country, he informed the participants that over 1400 lives have been lost in Pakistan. More than 13,000 have been injured. A population of 33 million has been affected by flooding. He said around 6.6 million people needed immediate assistance. Nearly 800,000 farm cattle have perished.

Crops have been destroyed in an area as big as 5.5 million acres that includes all sorts of crops including rice, wheat, corn and sugarcane. Over 7000 kilometers long roads have been washed away with 246 bridges destroyed.

The Ambassador said that as large as 5.5 million acres of cropland has been destroyed resulting in a looming food security crisis. He said "WFP and other international organizations must come forward and give necessary support to the people of Pakistan so that we can maintain our food security.

The Ambassador thanked the US government, Congress, US philanthropic and charity organizations and most importantly Pak-American community for their generous Masood Khan suggested that we contributions towards relief and should make quick transition from rescue activities.

Death Anniversary **President pays rich** tribute to Quaid-e-Azam

For his vision, unwavering commitment, untiring hardwork and charismatic leadership to win separate homeland for Muslims

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: On the 74th Death Anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, President Dr Arif Alvi paid rich tribute to our founding father for his vision, unwavering commitment, untiring hardwork and charismatic leadership ity and fraternity of man-these are to win a separate homeland for the all the basic points of our religion, Muslims of sub-continent. In his message on this occasion, fought for Pakistan because there was he said on this day, we also remem- a danger of denial of these human ber Quaid for his struggle, for giving rights in this sub-continent. How us a country, and pledge to focus on can we gel into one nation was also his advice for infusing Unity, Faith and spelled out by Quaid-e-Azam.

Discipline in our ranks and files. Allama Iqbal, the poet and philosopher of the East, dreamt a separate homeland for Muslims of India and Quaid -e-Azam turned the dream into reality. Our Quaid, in one of his address, outlined the purpose of making Pakistan.

He said that brotherhood, equalculture and civilization. And we

Addressing a press conference on Satur-

Miftah said that Pakistan needs at least 10 cities like Sialkot to increase its exports ucts, the previous government was selland curb the trade deficit. The circular ing Rs80 cheaper diesel than its buying debt has been increasing since 2010, there

China airlifts over 5k tents for flood victims in Pakistan: Haque

efforts and dispatched around 5,000 tents for flood-stricken people, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said.

China has so far airlifted urgently-need flood relief supplies consistwith members of Pakistan community at Pakistan Embassy, Beijing.

BEIJING: China has pledged to announced a relief package of RMB especially tomato, onion to Pakistan provide urgently-needed supplies 400 million while the Chinese provinincluding 25,000 tents to assist Paki- cial governments and institutions also stan government in its flood relief announced donations for badly affected people in Pakistan.

Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan embassy Beijing and Pakistani Consulates in different cities of China launched fund raining campaign. The Chinese and Pakistani people had ing 5,000 tents by its military cargo deposited over RMB 12 million in planes, he said during an interaction the relief fund in first eight days of the campaign.

He said that to help overcome any He informed that soon after floods shortage of food items, China would in Pakistan, the Chinese government soon dispatch 200 tons of vegetables

via Karakorum Highway

"We will enhance our flood management capacity with the cooperation of China to minimize human and material losses during floods," he added.

Terming China an all-weather friend and true brother, he said, "We will seek long-term support from China for rehabilitation of our people after the end of rescue and relief phase."

He also called upon the community to assist in the government relief and rehabilitation efforts for the flood-stricken brethren and sisters in Pakistan, APP

CM Elahi vows to continue steps for flood affectees

Pakistani US business delegation meets Chief Minister Punjab

the flood-affected areas.

😂 Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister will have to be taken in order to cope Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi Saturday said that the provincial government would continue taking every possible step for rehabilitation of the flood victims.

During a meeting with Provincial Minister Munib Sultan Cheema and Parliamentarian Amir Sultan Cheema at CMO, the chief minister said that Pakistan got severely affected due to climate change as heavy rains played

havoc at a massive scale. He highlighted that unusual steps

up with the unexpected climatic

conditions. He apprised that whatev-

er humanly possible was done to carry

out the rescue and relief operation in

The financial aid amount for the

heirs of the deceased due to floods had

been increased from Rs8lac to Rs10lac

adding that financial aid will also be

given to the owners of the destroyed

houses and a significant increase had

been made in the financial aid for them as well. The CM resolved to ensure early settlement of the flood affectees from the amount being collected in the 'CM Relief Fund'. He also vowed to launch the construction and repair work of the roads on a priority basis in the flood-hit areas. Meanwhile, a delegation, led by Pakistani American businessman and leader of the Democratic Party Tahir Javed met Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi and discussed a plan for the rehabilitation of the flood affectees and their settlement.

ll UN chief visits Pakistan

UNSG applauds efforts of GoP for addressing post flood issues

Antonio Guterres calls for substantial support from world to overcome challenges posed by climate-induced floods in Pakistan

😂 🛛 Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) Antonio Guterres visited Pakistan on 9-10 September 2022 to show solidarity with the people of Pakistan, braving a colossal climate-induced natural disaster caused by unprecedented rains and floods across the country. The two-day visit comprised high-level meetings, briefings, interactions with displaced people, first responders, UN country representatives, civil society and media.

The UNSG called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Several members of the Federal Cabinet joined the meeting. The PM expressed his gratitude for the Secretary-General's personal attention to the situation arising from the floods and greatly appreciated his visit and concern for the affected people. The PM informed the

lenges posed by the flash floods, including the provision of Rs.35 billion cash relief through Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), rescue and relief operations, and delivery of humanitarian assistance in coordination with all national stakeholders and with support of international partners. While appreciating the UNSG's video message for the UN Flash Appeal, the PM highlighted that with less than 1% of global carbon emission Pakistan is facing brunt of natural calamities in the form of heat waves, glacial outbursts, droughts, torrential rains and unprecedented monsoons. The PM called for urgent mitigation and adaptation efforts in addition to mobilizing support for recovering and rebuilding from such extreme climate events.

The UNSG said that countries like Pakistan, who have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming, do not deserve this. He UNSG about the efforts of the Government added, "I know how volunteers, civil servants, of Pakistan in addressing the daunting chal- army, NGOs have been working together in



a remarkable way to mitigate the suffering of Pakistani people". The UNSG stated, "My voice is at the service of the Government and people

of Pakistan. I have seen the enormous generosity of Pakistanis in protecting and assisting

more than 6 million Afghan refugees and helping each other in previous calamities such as during the earthquake and floods. My admiration for this country is limitless". He assured that the UN would do everything in its capacity to help the people of Pakistan. The UNSG appealed to the international community to provide massive support to Pakistan for not only relief assistance but also for rehabilitation and climate resilient reconstruction. He emphasized that it was not just a matter of solidarity but a matter of justice, as countries like Pakistan who have not contributed to climate change are amongst the frontline countries impacted by climate change.

The UNSG was briefed on the overall ground situation, humanitarian activities and coordination amongst national and international stakeholders at the National Flood Response and Coordination Centre

(NFRCC). The PM and the UNSG also had a joint presser.

The UNSG held delegation level talks with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, followed by a joint press stakeout. A broad range of issues related to the recent floods and climate change came under discussion. The FM noted that one-third of the country was inundated, around 33 million people affected across the country, over 1300 lives lost including more than 400 children, nearly 800,000 livestock perished, more than 1.7 million houses and 6000 km of roads have been destroyed or damaged. The Foreign Minister said that though the people impacted by the floods have made no contribution to the climate change, they were suffering the most due to it, and therefore, it was the shared responsibility of the international community to do its utmost to assist the millions of affectees to return to normal lives and livelihoods in a sustainable manner.

National

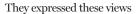
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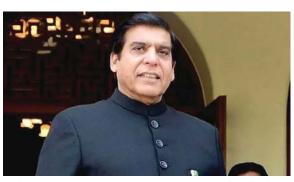
NA Speaker urges nation to follow teachings of Quaid-e-Azam

The Spokesman

All political parties urged to work collectively for betterment of country

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani while paying homage to the father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, have said that Muhammad Ali Jinnah remained steadfast in all difficulties, and his tireless efforts resulted in to the creation of this beautiful homeland.





They expressed these views in their separate messages on the occasion of 74th death Speaker Zahid Akram Durra-

anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam ni said that the establishment Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The speaker said that the

country could be set on the path of progress and prosperity only by following the guiding principles of the Quaid-e-Azam, "Unity, Faith and Discipline." He urged all political parties to set aside their differences and work collectively for the betterment of the country. On this occasion, Deputy

of a state under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam was a unique event in the history of the world. He further said that the

Quaid-e-Azam single-handedly fought with the British and the Hindus and won the country by his strong arguments. He said that we could lead this country on the path of development only by following the guidelines of Quaid-e-Azam.

AJK President seeks America's pro-active role to end bloodshed in IIOJK

😂 🛛 Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the United States should support the Kashmiris' right to self-determination so that they could decide their future in line with their wishes and aspirations.

He expressed these views while talking to the Political Consul Bradley Parker and Political Officer Robert Keane of the American Embassy who called him here on Friday. The AJK president while briefing the delegation about the worsening political and human rights situation in the held territory said that there has been immense increase in the incidents of state sponsored terrorism and human rights violations in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. been a major cause and consequence mir and resolve the Kashmir issue.



Stressing the need for early resolu- of rights violations in the region. tion of the Kashmir dispute, he said settle the lingering dispute that has ties against India in Occupied Kash-

He said that the US should use its that the US has an important role to influence to stop the ongoing atroci-

Scientists come up with novel biological control of Parthenium weed

腾 🛛 Mian Rashid Asghar

both rural and urban landscapes in the um, from the weed's native range of invasive weeds. He said that the coun- allowed scientists to investigate a range country. Parthenium is highly-inva- Central America. Listronosive due to its prolific seed production, tus is a nocturnal weevil flower production within four weeks that lays its eggs primarily of germination, tolerance to varying in the flowers of partheniclimatic conditions, and the production of allelochemicals that affect the growth of nearby plants, said Prof. Dr. Igrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) at an international seminar at UAF. UAF in collaboration with CABI **Regional Bioscience Centre Pakistan** organized an international seminar on International Seminar on Biological Control of Parthenium hysterophorus in Pakistan using stem boring weevil (Listronotus setosipennis). the scientists to come up with novel ideas and solutions to cater the challenges of agriculture along with awareness/outreach activities to disseminate the findings and outcome of research

to the farming community. Dr. Philip Weyl, Weed Biocontrol FAISALABAD: Parthenium is a highly Specialist from CABI Switzerland destructive weed, crossing continents during his talk said that Listronoand, the weed is spreading rapidly in tus is a natural enemy of partheni-

linked to poverty alleviation. Chairman Entomology UAF Prof Dr Sohail Ahmad highlighted the importance of research needed around the its capabilities to manage parthenibiocontrol of parthenium and other um weed. The new quarantine facility

this purpose, CABI's established a new quarantine laboratory at its Rawalpindi centre in Pakistan to enhance

Zeb Bangash's an Ode Saaf Hawa is out now



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Zeb Bangash announced the release of an anthem, titled SaafHawa (clean air), linked to the UN Breathe Life campaign On International Clean Air Day,

The anthem is an ode to clean air and aims to reach out to South Asian audiences who live in some of the dirtiest cities in the world. The song is rendered beautifully in Zeb's melodic voice. Mir Ali Hussain has penned the poetry and award-winning music director Shantanu Moitra has composed and produced the track. Well renowned Arab violinist Layth Sidiq is also featured on the track.

This song has been created to drive an effort for awareness and eradication of conditions leading to the massive environmental pollution the world is struggling with today!

South Asia is home to 39 of the world's 42 most polluted cities, making it the epicentre of the global air pollution crisis. 33 of these 39 cities are in India, three in Pakistan, two in Bangladesh, and one in Nepal. The UN estimates that over 9 million lives are lost globally each year, with over 1.5 million lost in South Asia alone. According to recent research, COVID 19 mortality rates are 15-20% higher in areas with the highest levels of PM2.5 air pollution. The same air is affecting the Gulf region. Furthermore, given the devastation caused by the floods and the global challenge of climate change, ensuring collective solidarity and accountability in efforts to make our air clean and breathable is critical. Given the importance of clean air and how polluted it is, we will only face severe consequences and a world in which our children will struggle to live and breathe.

"With the disastrous floods in my country, clearly climate change presents a future of consequences to be borne by our children. Saafhawa© is a heartfelt ode to Clean Air written and rendered as a love song. I am extremely happy that I could be the voice for Saafhawa," stated Zeb.

Air Quality Asia (AQA) commissioned an anthem featuring a human voice because of the positive response to vocal music in South Asia. With this song, AQA launched a clean air movement in collaboration with the United Nations Campaign: Breathe Life. The main goal is to inspire the South Asian public to collaborate across borders and countries to achieve clean air as they are the sole brunt bearers of pollution happening all over the world whilst contributing the lowest to carbon emissions.

Chief Secretary visits Plandri Cadet College



MUZAFFARABAD: AJK Chief Secretary Usman Chachar visited Plandri Cadet College.

During the visit chief secretary was briefed by principal cadet college while secretary finance, secretary Higher education and commissioner poonch division were also present on the occasion.

Govt urged to facilitate business community



Sour Correspondent

WANA: A protest was held in front of the District Press Club Wana regarding the difficulties faced by the business community at the Pak-Afghan border Angoor Adda in the tribal district of South Waziristan Wana, and a rally was also taken out to the Press Club through Wana Bazar.

The business community appealed to corps commander Peshawar, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and IGFC South KP to take immediate notice regarding the difficulties faced at Angoor Adda border and to give all the powers related to tax on Pak-Afghan border to the customs authorities to be handed over.

um where newly hatched larvae tunnel into the stem and continue to feed, eventually exiting at the base of the stem to pupate in the soil. Several larvae feeding in the stem can kill parthenium rosettes and mature plants.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Anas Sarwar Qureshi called for innovative approaches to address the issue of the agricultural sector. He said that excessive usage of chemicals Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan stressed on on crops was creating health and environmental hazards. He said that adoption of latest scientific trends was the need of the hour to cope with agricultural challenges at national level. He said the agriculture sector was directly



try faced the catastrophe due to heavy floods in which we have lost the vast range of agriculture. He said that the university had mapped out a comprehensive plan to rehabilitate the sector.

Abdul Rehman from CABI highlights that keeping in view the destructive impacts of parthenium weed, CABI initiated a biological control programme in Pakistan in 2017. For

of biological control options including the stem boring weevil Listronotus setosipennis. The quarantine facility compliments the comprehensive national action plan, launched in October with a focus on research, development and communication, by adding greater capacity for scientists to investigate the potential for existing and new biological controls prior to release in the field.

Dr. Ijaz Ashraf from UAF shared the plates on an awareness campaign for the control of Parthenium hysterophorus in Pakistan and updated that university students were on front foot to sensitize stakeholders and communities on negative impacts of parthenium. He vowed that such awareness-raising interventions around invasive species management and other agricultural challenges will be continued in close collaboration with CABL

Jirga demands shifting of offices to S Waziristan

腾 🛚 By Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In the tribal district of South Waziristan Wana, a "Loyya Jirga"/ Grand Jirga was arranged regarding the transfer of all line departments from Tank District to their own district South Waziristan under the shadow of Pakistan People's Party in Wana.

Local leaders of all political parties in "Loya Jirga"/Grand Jirga newly elected VC, NC chairmen, councillors, social workers and people belonging to different communities participated.

People's Party President Amanullah, Imran Mukhlis, ANP Muhammad Ayaz, Malik Musa Jan, Malik Gul Muhammad, Malik Dilawar Khan and Tehsil Chairman Maulana Muhammad Saleh Wazir addressed the "Loya Jirga"/Grand Jirga.

District President Aman Ullah said that case number 6057_2019 is pending in the Peshawar High Court, therefore, all the offices of South Waziristan should be shifted from District Tank to Wana.

All the speakers on this occasion said that the erstwhile FATA was known as Landless Land for the past 70 years, where the black laws of the British era, the Frontier Crimes Regulation, were in force.

Under which the people of erstwhile FATA did not have the right to appeal, argument and lawyer, while for the past several decades, this backward region



has become engulfed in international conspiracies and terrorism.

Majority of the population of Ex FATA had to be IDPs & TDPs in 2018 expressing the aspirations of the people of erstwhile Ex FATA, their long-standing desire was merged into Pakhtunkhwa through the 25th Amendment Constitution and given not only the right to appeal, counsel, lawyer and argument.

Rather, a notification was also issued to shift the offices of FATA from the planned areas to the newly merged districts But the district administration

of South Waziristan is still reluctant to implement this notification.

They said that the tribal district of South Waziristan is one of the unfortunate district, whose judiciary including all the line departments is located in another district of Tank, 120 km away from the district of South Waziristan.

All the offices and courts of South Waziristan district are not located in their district, not only causing financial loss to the people, but also the precious lives are exposed to hostility while going to appear in the court.

South Waziristan district contributes billions of rupees annually to the national exchequer in taxes

The tribal district of South Waziristan is spread over 6619 square kilometers, the population of Jaski consists of 674065 people, while the district has 8 tehsils and 3 sub-divisions.

District South Waziristan has 97 village councils including 15 neighborhood councils and 82 village councils. Annually 8500 tons of natural fruit pointes apple is produced from different mountains of the district, while 64500 tons of apples are produced, South Waziristan district produces 70 thousand tons of different types of vegetables.

All the political parties participating in the "Loya Jirga"/ Grand Jirga presented a unanimous demand that all the offices of district South Waziristan should be transferred from District Tank to South Waziristan.

All the offices of Wana sub-division. Ladha sub-division and Sarvekai sub-division should be transferred to the respective divisions of District Tank.

Judicial complex should be transferred from Tank district to South Waziristan district, tehsil building should be established in every tehsil.

The speakers gave a deadline of two months and said that if the provincial government does not shift the district offices from Tank, we will be forced to protest strongly.

India violating int'l law in IIOJ&K: Altaf Bhat

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat in a statement released here in Islamabad showed agony against Indian cruel and illegal move to shift Kashmiri political prisoners from IIOJK to far-off areas of India.

Chairman Bhat added that 150 more Kashmiri detainees in IIOJK have been shifted to jails in UP, Harvana & Delhi, while Int'l laws prevent the Modi regime to shift detainees to jails that are far off their residences & families. But Modi regime is doing so to hurt the families, emotionally & financially,

Altaf Ahmed Bhat added that Kashmiri political prisoners are being victimized with the sole purpose of defeating the freedom struggle, Hurriyat leadership including Massarat Alam Bhat, Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Zaffar Akbar Bhat, Asiya Andrabi, Dr Qasim Faktoo, Fehmeeda Sofi, Nahida Nasreen, Peer Saifullah, Ayaz Akbar, Altaf Fantosh etc are being languished in jails.

Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat added that from January 2022 to June 2022, more than 140 persons, including five young boys, were martyred by Indian troops in the occupied territory. Indian troops, involved in gross human rights violations and other crimes, have arrested over 854 youth and injured 104 people during fake CASO's in IIOJ&K.

While to suppress the voice, Indian occupation forces harass Media and Journalists time and again, moreover illegal detentions of five journalists including Asif Sultan, Fahad Shah, Manan Gulzar, Sajad Gul and Adil Farooq and prominent human rights defenders, including Khurram Pervaiz and Muhammad Ahsan Untoo is yet another move to stop them from exposing real face of Indian occupation administration.

Chairman JKSM also welcomed United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres who has reached Pakistan on two day visit to seek the world's generous support for the country devastated by catastrophic floods and highlight the urgency to deal with the climate change crisis.

Large area of Balochistan badly affected by rains, floods: CM

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on Saturday said that a large area of Balochistan has been severely affected by the recent monsoon rains and floods, millions of people have been displaced along with loss of life and property.

He said that the provincial government was utilizing all available resources to deal with the effects of this natural calamity, but the recovery and reconstruction process would require a long time and hefty funds.

He expressed these views during the briefing given to Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and United Nations Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres regarding the overall flood situation on the occasion of their visit to Jafarabad district.

Acting Governor Balochistan Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Ministers Provincial Minister Muhammad Khan Lehri, Senator Ms. Sana Jamali and Member of National Assembly Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi were also present on this occasion. Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo said that educational and medical institutions, road networks, dams and drainage schemes have been severely damaged by the flood and children and women were the most affected

He said that solving the health problems faced by children and women was our first priority and we hoped that the international organizations and the United Nations would also support us for rehabilitation of flood victims.





Islamabad 23º – 38º Clear

SERVICES

namaz	i imings	
Fajr	4:23 am	
Zohr	12:05 pm	
Asr	4:35 pm	
Maghrib	6:22 pm	
Isha	7:46 pm	
EMEDGENCV		

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15 Bomb Disposal 15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/1122 & 16 Islamabad . Emergency Ambulance 1122 & & Rescue Services 4451122 Motorway Police9266044 Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

9222596 Islamabad 9270601-20 Rawalpindi

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	
PIA Cargo	
Railway Inquiry	
Railway Exchange	
WASA Rawalpindi	
САА	

HOSPITALS

CMH	
MH	
MH	
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	
RGH	9290301-
Holy Family	9290322-
PIMS	9261170-7
Polyclinic	9218300-0
Shifa International	

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

PhD scholars to defend research dissertations ISLAMABAD: Adna Shahzad a PhD Scholar of Islamic Studies Department of HITEC University Taxila, will defend his research dissertation on Tuesday September 13, 2022, at 11:00 AM in IQBAL Auditorium of the University. The research has been supervised by Dr Farhad Ullah. Defence is open to all interested individuals can attend the open defence and be seated by 10:45 AM. Meanwhile, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Computing and Technology Iqra University, Islamabad Campus H-9, Shakirullah Shah Registration No. 12336 will defend his Ph.D. dissertation titled "Secure Data Dissemination in Mashups through Trusted Computing and Multiagent System" on Monday 12th September, 2022 at 02:00pm. Shakirullah Shah has completed his Ph.D. dissertation under supervision of Dr. Abdul Hameed.

COMSTECH organizes training on managing STPs

Importance of STPs and role in socio-economic development highlighted

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH in collaboration with the Pardis Technology Park, Iran and ICCBS Technology Park and Technology Incubation Center, Pakistan organized an international training workshop on managing science and technology parks at COMSTECH.

The inaugural session of this two-day workshop was addressed by Director General for International Affairs & Public Relations of Pardis Technology Park, Amin Reza Khaleghian. He stressed the need of the establishment and optimum management of science and technology parks in OIC member states. He talked about the programs and activities of the Pardis Technology Park.

The Coordinator General COMS-TECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants and said that the science and technology parks are part, and parcel, of knowledge economy ecosystem. He said STPs play a central role in fostering linkages between the academic institutions and industries. Prof. Choudhary said that science and



institutions since 1951 and contributed this process of harnessing the innovative in economic development of many countries, including USA, UK, China, France, and Germany.

He said that the OIC countries are increasingly realizing the importance of science and technology parks, and we see many success stories in countries like Turkey, Iran, Malaysia, Egypt, and now in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Pakistan, and several central Asian member states.

Prof. Choudhary informed that a large majority of OIC member states, especialtechnology parks are indeed time tested ly in Africa, are still lagging behind in

potential of their youth though such initiatives. COMSTECH, with partner institutions, has launched major initiatives to help in strengthening of S&T parks, including establishment of Inter-Islamic Network on Science and Technology Parks, based in Iran.

The Pro-Rector for Research, Innovation & Commercialization, NUST addressed the session and highlighted the importance of the science and technology parks and their role in the socio-economic development of economies.

Under-construction

ISLAMABAD: Labourers are busy in construction of Islamabad/Inter-Junction Principal Road with the help of heavy machinery at Mandi Mor.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashi

Health

Eating eggs can boost heart health

ISLAMABAD: Researchers have shown how moderate egg consumption can increase the amount of heart-healthy metabolites in the blood, publishing their results today in eLife.

The findings suggest that eating up to one egg per day may help lower the risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

Eggs are a rich source of dietary cholesterol, but they also contain a variety of essential nutrients. There is conflicting evidence as to whether egg consumption is beneficial or harmful to heart health.

A 2018 study published in the journal Heart, which included approximately half a million adults in China, found that those who ate eggs daily (about one egg per day) had a substantially lower risk of heart disease and stroke than those who ate eggs less frequently*.

Now, to better understand this relationship, the authors of this work have carried out a population-based study exploring how egg consumption affects markers of cardiovascular health in the blood.

'Few studies have looked at the role that plasma cholesterol metabolism plays in the association between egg consumption and the risk of cardiovascular diseases, so we wanted to help address this gap," explains first author Lang Pan, MSc at the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Peking University, Beijing, China.

Pan and the team selected 4,778 participants from the China Kadoorie Biobank, of whom 3,401 had a cardiovascular disease and 1,377 did not. They used a technique called targeted nuclear magnetic resonance to measure 225 metabolites in plasma samples taken from the participants' blood. Of these metabo-



lites, they identified 24 that were associated with self-reported levels of egg consumption.

Their analyses showed that individuals who ate a moderate amount of eggs had higher levels of a protein in their blood called apolipoprotein A1- a building-block of high-density lipoprotein (HDL), also known as 'good lipoprotein'. These individuals especially had more large HDL molecules in their blood, which help clear cholesterol from the blood vessels and thereby protect against blockages that can lead to heart attacks and stroke.

The researchers further identified 14 metabolites that are linked to heart disease. They found that participants who ate fewer eggs had lower levels of beneficial metabolites and higher levels of harmful ones in their blood, compared to those who ate eggs more regularly.

Together, our results provide a potential explanation for how eating a moderate amount of eggs can help protect against heart disease," says author Canqing Yu, Associate Professor at the Department of Epide-miology and Biostatistics, Peking University. "More studies are needed to verify the causal roles that lipid metabolites play in the association between egg consumption and the risk of cardiovascular disease." (Courtesy Science Daily)

IIUI leadership firm to raise standards

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaobi, President, International Islamic University (IIU) has reiterated his resolve that university leadership will not leave any stone unturned to bring the name and fame of the university to the top level

Dr. Hathal Homoud said that every effort is being made to properly execute strategic plan keeping in view the proper utilization of physical resources and human resources. He said that many departments have been aligned with their mandate properly and Dawah Academy is one of them Dawah Academy's role is being maximized from just a training body to research and higher education. The Academy will offer Higher level programmes in addition to training. He elaborated that excess staff, in each dept and institute including Dawah Academy and other constituent units is being rationalised and rightsized keeping in view the quantum and scope of the work.



Yerzhan Kistafin

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin met Dr. Qibla Ayaz, the Chairman of the IRP Council of Islamic Ideology.

The interlocutors discussed the bilateral agenda, as well as the upcoming Congress of

held on September 14-15, 2022 in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

The Pakistani politician traditionally takes an active part in this forum. In his opinion, this dialogue platform is extremely important both for our region and for the entire world community in the context of contributing to the Leaders of World and Tradi- development and strengthentional Religions, which will be ing of interfaith dialogue.



Dr Shahzad Khan

😂 🛛 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Diabetes' Centre was visited by CEO of a leading pharmaceutical, Dr Shahzad Khan, in Islamabad.

On arrival, he was given a warm welcome by the management Dr Shahzad Khan met Chairman, The Diabetes' Centre, Dr Asjad Hameed

and was taken on a round of the hospital wherein he was briefed about different operations of TDC

Dr Shahzad Khan, lauded efforts being made by The Diabetes' Centre in combating Diabetes'. Later, Chairman TDC presented a shield to the visiting guest and thanked him for coming over.

RDA inaugurates project to set up RO plant

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on Saturday inaugurated a project to set up Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant to supply clean drinking water to the citizens.

According to RDA spokesman, the RO plant would be set up in collaboration with a non-government organization (NGO) Saylani Welfare International Trust.

Chairman RDA Tariq Mehmood Murtaza and Director General of RDA Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa inaugurated the project.

RDA officers including Director Admn & Finance, the Director Engineering, Director Estate Management, Director MP&TE, Director Building Control and others besides representatives of Saylani Welfare International Trust were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman said that with the installation of the RO plant, clean drinking water would be provided to employees of RDA, WASA, PHA and other departments while the citizens would also be able to benefit from the plant.

The DG RDA said that the authority was taking solid steps for the welfare of the citizens and its employees. He said the RO plant is a continuation of RDA welfare works and the authority would continue to provide relief to the citizens.

CMG to broadcast annual Mid-Autumn Festival

腾 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: China Media Group (CMG) will be broadcasting the 2022 annual Mid-Autumn Festival during prime time on Saturday, providing a high-tech visual feast through stateof-the-art technologies and spreading the festive cheer among Chinese people across the globe.

county-level city in Suzhou City of east China's Jiangsu Province. Through a combination of ingenuity, art and technology, the grand event will demonstrate China's cultural charm and spectacular landscapes to the audience.

The gala will be available on various China Central Television (CCTV) Rabbit, known as Tu'er Ye, which channels, new media platforms, radio programs, as well as overseas social platforms.

will become the first Chinese ever to spend the Mid-Autumn Festival in China's space station.

The three Chinese astronauts will record an exclusive video for the CMG gala, sending their Mid-Autumn Festival greetings to the Chinese people all around the world.

The gala, featuring a star-stud-Produced by CMG, this year's annu- ded lineup, will stage an assortment al gala will open in Zhangjiagang, a of fantastic performances, including symphony, opera, dances, as well as songs, many of which adapted from Chinese classical poems. Folk art will also be highlighted in the show demonstrating the glamor of traditional Chinese culture, with one song incorporating the element Lord symbolizes health and safety in the culture of ancient Beijing.

Technological effects will be another This year, the astronauts of the highlight of the gala. The stage, inte-Shenzhou-14 crewed space mission, grating outdoor scenes, extended Chen Dong, Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe, reality (XR) views and real scenes of

who are on a six-month stay in orbit, mountains and rivers, will transport the audience to various scenes in the twinkling of an eye.

The gala will be aired in 8K ultra-high-definition (UHD) and 3D audio for the first time, and displayed on over 270 giant UHD screens installed in 70 cities across the country, offering the viewers a fantastic audio and visual feast.

This year's gala has already attracted widespread attention from domestic and overseas media, and many overseas mainstream media have republished relevant reports regarding the event.

This year, CCTV Video News Agency (CCTV+) under CMG will provide live feed of the gala to multiple overseas media outlets in the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Malaysia and other places. The Hong Kong Television Broadcasting Company (TVB), Teledifusao de Macau (TDM), and Macau Cable Television (MCTV) will also



broadcast the show.

For thousands of years, the Mid-Au-

the Chinese lunar calendar, when importance only to the Chinese New tumn Festival has been celebrated on the moon is full. Often known as the Year, it falls on Sept 10 this year.

the 15th day of the eighth month of Mooncake Festival and second in

Editorial/Opinion

Sunday, September 11, 2022

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UNSG's timely visit to Pakistan

he recent flooding in Pakistan has done a great damage to the country. The livestock, crops and infrastructure have been badly affected. It is the time that the international community comes forward to help Pakistan as it struggles to cope with the aftermath of torrential rains that triggered massive floods. The UN Secretary General is on a visit to Pakistan and has appealed for massive global support for Pakistan. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday urged the international community to support flood-hit Pakistan as the country needed massive financial help to overcome post-flood crises.

The UN chief said during his visit to flood hit areas of Sindh and Balochistan, it is not a matter of generosity, but a matter of justice," he said reiterating the UN's commitment, strong support and solidarity with the flood-affected populace of Pakistan. Guterres said that huge damages and losses were caused to human lives and properties. The UN absolutely supported the Pakistani nation and requested the well-resourced nations to support the country massively, so that it could face the future challenges of climatic changes and save its nation. The UNSG stressed that the international community must realize the serious impacts of greenhouse emissions as nature was striking back in the form of natural calamities. We must be hopeful that the world will come forward to support Pakistan and help it out of this difficult time.

The UN Secretary General has rightly pointed out that despite very little contribution in global emissions Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Pakistan also suffered devastating floods in the past that resulted in huge human and material damages. However, international community does not seem concerned that Pakistan and other developing countries are suffering due to their industrial emissions. It is obligation of world community to compensate Pakistan in this disaster. The visit of the UN Secretary General to Pakistan will pave way in awakening the consciousness of world community. It will also help convey the message across the world as UN is the most important supra national body. So far, there is very less aid that has been received by Western countries. Rather, the brotherly Muslim countries like Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and UAE have provided many planeloads of relief supplies for flood victims of Pakistan.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has already served as UN Commissioner for Refugees and spent a lot of time in our country. The UN Secretary General always appreciated the role of Pakistan for hosting a large number of Afghan refugees. He himself admitted that Pakistan has less than 1% contribution in global carbon emissions but unfortunately is among the 10 most vulnerable countries affected by climate change. This year we have witnessed around 587% more rains than predicted. People of Pakistan have been affected by the loss of their homes, their businesses and livelihoods. The UN Secretary General has appealed to the world to support Pakistan and

Tough times ahead for Britain's new PM

Dr. John C. Hulsman

n the spring of 1945, after towering over the American political landscape for a generation, Franklin Delano Roosevelt died suddenly at his retreat in Warm Springs, Georgia. At the time, Vice President Harry Truman was up on Capitol Hill, sharing a customary drink with the Congressional leadership at the end of a hard week (yes, opposing leaders actually socialized with one another in those faraway days).

Abruptly summoned to the White House, Truman ran straight into the president's wife, Eleanor, who told him the news. Shocked into his basic Midwestern decency, Truman asked if there was anything he could do for her. She wisely replied: "No, Harry, is there anything we can do for you? For you are the one in trouble now."

I thought of this historical vignette last week as Liz Truss succeeded the shambolic Boris Johnson as prime minister of the UK. When Britain's period of official mourning for Queen Elizabeth comes to an end and the business of government resumes, rarely will a new polit-

with such a bulging and dangerous in-tray.

Following the semi-criminal failure of Europe and the UK to worry much about their energy policies for the past few decades (indeed, just days before the Ukraine war began, Berlin was still pushing to get the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline operational, which would have preposterously increased its energy dependence on Moscow), knock-on inflation marching in tune with stratospheric energy price rises has been the doleful result – both on the continent and in the UK.

The beast of inflation, now fully loosed from its cage in Britain, sits at an unhealthy 10.1 percent. The specter of stagflation, and a permanent cost-of-living crisis, beckons. Indeed, in political risk terms, if both Europe and the UK do not master (and quickly) the current economic crisis, the grim reality of overall absolute

decline awaits them. Calmly (a blessed relief from Johnson's rollercoaster tenure), Truss has set out a four-pronged strategy for dealing with the calamity. First, her administration intends to freeze average annual household energy prices

ical leader have been confronted for the next two years at $\pounds 2,100$ waning but still profitable North failed, and all Britain will have (\$2,400), including an already agreed-upon energy rebate, with equivalent support for businesses for at least six months. The cost will be a monumental £150 billion. This unprecedented bailout dwarfs the COVID-19 furlough bailout of £69 billion, and will be paid for entirely through new borrowing.

Unlike her Labour Party opponents, Truss refuses to implement a windfall tax on energy companies, on the ground that it would discourage their future investment in further energy projects. This massive spending gamble is designed to allow the Bank of England to more slowly raise interest rates (mitigating the coming recession) and to cap overall inflationary pressures themselves. On her very first day, Truss has wagered the overall success of her premiership on this one, overwhelming economic bet. She is all in.

Second, Truss wants to make sure the UK never again finds itself the prisoner of its energy supply. Fracking, outlawed under the Johnson premiership, will be allowed, in an effort to increase domestic energy production, as will further drilling for oil and natural gas in the to do so, then Brexit will have

Sea fields.

Third, the new prime minister is betting on aggressive growth as the ultimate way out of the crisis. Despite the mammoth new borrowing, Truss is pressing for large tax cuts amounting to $\pounds 30$ billion to free up the animal spirits of British business and extricate the UK from its parlous economic state. She has called upon Jacob Rees-Mogg, the new business and energy secretary, to drastically cut government regulation and further unshackle the British commercial sector

Fourth, with rising Conservative Party star Kemi Badenoch the new trade secretary, Truss will try to bank the winnings from Brexit. I have long been exasperated by both sides of the Brexit debate, locked as they are in their deafening self-regarding theologies. In policy terms, the issue is simple. If, in the medium term, Britain manages to secure free trade deals with the parts of the world that are actually economically growing (India, the US, the Anglosphere countries), then Brexit will have been worth it as the UK looks beyond an economically sclerotic Europe for its economic future. If it does not manage

done is alienate its largest trading partner.

On these monumental policy issues, the Truss leadership will rise or fall. During her inaugural session at Prime Minister's Question Time in the House of Commons, Truss's tone was strikingly different from Johnson's. Gone was the bombast, the showmanship, the sly humor, and the loose relationship to the facts. In their place were sobriety, a low-key confidence, a reassuring calmness. In both cases, the style of the two leaders belies reality. For all his gaudiness, Johnson's actual policy agenda was incredibly boring; he was a vanilla, garden-variety Macmillanite. On the other hand, beneath Truss's dullness lies a radical, updated, Thatcherite policy agenda that will either actually work or obviously fail. In terms of substance, as was true for Truman, stirring days lie ahead.

Dr. John C. Hulsman is the president and managing partner of John C. Hulsman Enterprises, a prominent global political risk consulting firm. He is also a senior columnist for City AM, the newspaper of the City of London. Courtesy: Arab News



is the responsibility of the international community to come forward in this regard.

On the other hand, the government at its end must constitute certain SoPs in order to cope with the challenges of natural disasters. The construction alongside the rivers must be banned. In the era of modern technology, natural disasters like floods and heavy rains can be predicted well in time and with accuracy. PDMA and NDMA must communicate with the local administrations to deal with the floods like challenges in future.

Enthusiasm abounds as GCC, Central Asia launch strategic dialogue

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

he Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers on Wednesday met in Riyadh with their counterparts from Central Asia -Kazakhstan, Kvrgvzstan, Taiikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. After centuries of isolation and estrangement, the Arabian Peninsula and Central Asia are seeking to revive ancient ties and explore new opportunities, economically, politically and culturally.

At the meeting, the ministers inaugurated the GCC-Central Asia Strategic Dialogue, a new arrangement to launch cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, including political and security dialogues, trade and investment cooperation, and cultural engagement. Although the project has been in the making for some time, recent developments have made that reconnection urgent. Supply chain disruptions as a result of COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and the US withdrawal from Afghanistan have made it imperative to speed up the process of reengagement between the two regions.

As part of the new strategic dialogue, the ministers exchanged views on a wide range of regional and international developments, including Afghanistan and combating terrorism, two issues in which the two regions are keenly interested. They agreed to regularly coordinate their positions on existing and emerging issues.

As a landlocked region, Central Asia is in need of secure transportation links, which have frayed recently as a result of COVID-19. As such, the ministers emphasized their commitment to working together to commitment. There also appears to be clear ensure the resiliency of supply chains and determination for this effort to move on a fast

to "bolster global economic recovery efforts. address economic repercussions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic." They expressed interest in transport-transit connectivity as it relates to food, energy and water security. They also called for the development of green energy sources and technologies and for environmental challenges and climate change to be addressed.

To map out the way forward, the ministers endorsed an indicative Joint Action Plan for Strategic Dialogue and Cooperation for the period 2023-2027, including political and security dialogue, economic and investment cooperation, enhancing people-to-people contacts, and developing effective partnerships between business sectors. It was agreed to fast-track the plan and take all necessary measures for its proper implementation at both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

While the new plan is quite ambitious, several countries expressed a desire to augment it by adding new areas of cooperation. That desire reflected the palpable enthusiasm that has prevailed during all the meetings between the two groups since they started discussing the establishment of a regular dialogue. It was agreed to explore those additions over the coming weeks and months and update the plan accordingly.

At Wednesday's meeting, the ministers welcomed Kazakhstan's invitation to host the first GCC-Central Asian Economic Forum, to be held in 2023. They also accepted Uzbekistan's invitation to host the second ministerial meeting of the GCC-Central Asian Strategic Dialogue in Samarkand in 2023.

The aspirations are quite high for the new engagement between the GCC region and Central Asia. There is an obvious political

track. The economic and security challenges the two regions are facing need collaborative efforts. At the same time, the potential benefits of such cooperation could be immense. Combined, the two regions are home to a young population of about 130 million, who are in search of quality education and training. In the two regions, there are countries that are among the world's most resourcerich in conventional energy, especially oil and gas. They also aspire to be leaders in renewable energies.

The GCC and Central Asia could contribute significantly to energy security globally. Their energy cooperation could be one of the quick wins in their new strategic dialogue, starting with policy coordination and the sharing of knowledge and best practices.

The challenges facing such long-distance strategic engagement are, however, equally huge, especially in terms of infrastructure and energy projects. First, there is a need to energize investors in both regions, which requires educating them about the new opportunities and business environment. Second, it is important to explore the possibility of investment triangulation, by bringing third-party investors with the capital and expertise needed for large energy and infrastructure projects, both conventional and renewable. Third, public-private partnership is needed to sustain these efforts. One of the most formidable challenges is addressing Central Asia's need for transport-transit connectivity to other regions, such as the GCC countries.

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg is the GCC assistant secretary-general for political affairs and negotiation, and a columnist for Arab News. The views expressed in this piece are personal and do not necessarily represent GCC views. Courtesy: Arab News

Digital transformation to spur growth

He Shuquan

n July, Shanghai released a blueprint to boost the development of its digital economy during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), setting ambitious goals and also putting forward a series of supporting policies to promote enterprises' digital transformation.

The digital economy has seen unprecedented progress around the world in recent years, especially when it comes to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such progress is promoting profound changes in industrial production, people's way of life, and governance.

In Shanghai, targeted policies have been adopted to boost the development of artificial intelligence, 5G technology, and industrial internet throughout the city over the past few years. Thereby, a large number of high-tech enterprises have emerged and reached new achievements. More investments have also been injected into new infrastructure projects across the city, ensuring a boon for the city's digital economy development. In 2021, the share of digital economy in Shanghai's GDP surpassed 50%, making it a prominent driving force for the city's economic growth. This has enabled the city to establish its one-stop e-governance platform to offer online public services in a more efficient manner, facilitating the development of companies and its citizens.

The rapid progress of Shanghai's digital economy benefits not only local enterprises but also international companies, providing them with more opportunities and access to China's economic hubs, as well as a chance to tap into the world's second-largest economy.

For example, German behemoth Siemens set up the first digital enabling center for intelligent infrastructure in Shanghai in June to expand cooperation on intelligent infrastructure, while Swiss conglomerate ABB Group reached a new agreement with China Telecom and Huawei in July to integrate its cuttingedge three-party communication and automatic distribution network technologies and promote 5G smart power distribution solutions.

Furthermore, a new generation of information and communication technologies is expected to see remarkable progress as cooperation between Chinese and international companies grows. This will ensure an accelerated integration among various industries and thereby boost the digital transformation of enterprises and industries as a whole.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China has attached great importance to the development of the digital economy. According to a report on the global digital economy released last month, the share of the digital economy in China's GDP has increased from 20.9% to 39.8% between 2012 and 2021, making it a key driving force spurring China's economic growth. Moreover, the added value of China's digital economy hit \$7.1 trillion last year, accounting for over 18% of the amount of 47 major countries across the world.

Now second year in its 14th Five-Year Plan period, China's development of the digital economy is expected to be a new boon, aiming to ensure that the added value of core industries accounts for 10% of GDP by 2025, which will ultimately add new impetus to the country's high-quality development.

Against this backdrop, Shanghai has made the digital transformation of industries a long-term priority in order to build the city into a "digital hub" by 2035. More efforts are expected to be made to boost innovation in terms of planning, policies, and core technologies so as to foster a favorable environment for the development of the digital economy. In turn, this will help unleash the growth potential of digital transformation and technological innovations and contribute to Shanghai's economic growth as well as the countrv at large.

He Shuquan is a professor at the School of Economics, Shanghai University. He is also a member of the Fudan University-Jinguang Group Think Tank. Courtesy: China.org.cn

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Sunday, September 11, 2022

International

King Charles vows to follow queen's example as he is proclaimed monarch

Britain has declared a period of mourning until the state funeral for Elizabeth

LONDON: King Charles pledged on Saturday to follow the example of his late mother as he was officially proclaimed as Britain's new monarch on Saturday at a historic ceremony in St James's Palace.

The death of 96-year-old Queen Elizabeth on Thursday after 70 years on the throne set in train long-established and highly choreographed plans for days of national mourning and a state funeral that will be held in just over a week.

Charles, 73, immediately succeeded his mother but an Accession Council met on Saturday to proclaim him as king, with his son and heir William, wife Camilla and Britain's new prime minister, Liz Truss, among those to sign the proclamation.

council, six former prime ministers, bishops and a host of politicians shouted "God Save The King".

"I am deeply aware of this great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of Sovereignty which have now passed to me," Charles said. "In taking up these responsibilities, I shall strive to follow the inspiring example I have been set in upholding constitutional government and to seek

During the formal meeting of the the peace, harmony and prosperity of senior royal palace in the United Kingthe peoples of these islands and of the Commonwealth realms and territories throughout the world.

Later, on the Proclamation Gallery, a balcony above Friary Court of St James's Palace, the Garter King of Arms, David White, accompanied by others in traditional heraldic outfits read out the Principal Proclamation, as trumpets sounded

Watching on at St James's-the most

dom which was built by order of Henry VIII in the 1530s-were a few hundred people allowed into the court, including small children on parents' shoulders, a woman clutching flowers and the elderly on mobility scooters. The proclamation was also set to be read publicly in the other capital cities of the United Kingdom-Edinburgh in Scotland, Belfast in Northern Ireland, and Cardiff in Wales-and at other locations, too.

The death of Elizabeth, Britain's longest-reigning monarch, has drawn outpouring of tributes from at home and around the globe. Landmarks have been used to celebrate her life, with buildings in Europe, America and Africalit up in the red, white and blue of the United Kingdom.

In Britain, people started gathering outside royal palaces in the early hours of Saturday morning, with thousands flocking to Buckingham Palace to pay respects to the queen and Charles-who was proclaimed king at the nearby St James's Palace.

"It's a poignant time in our country's history," design manager Ian Bilboe, 54, said. "(We're) here to be part of that and show respect to the late queen and also to the new king." Charles is king and head of state not only of the United Kingdom but of 14 other realms including Australia, Canada, Jamaica, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Britain has declared a period of mourning until the state funeral for Elizabeth, once described by her grandson Harry as "the nation's grandmother". The date for that has not been announced but it is expected in a little over a week's time.

Gun violence in Sweden could cast shadow over vote



STOCKHOLM: A surge in gun violence and gang crime has emerged as a major issue in what Swedish media have dubbed one of the ugliest election campaigns in history.

"Right at this spot here we had a shooting about this time last year," says Martin Gunér, a police officer in Gottsunda, a 15-minute drive from the mediaeval spires of Uppsala's university city.

Gottsunda is notorious for drug and gun battles, and police have named it one of Sweden's top ten most dangerous neighbourhoods.

Despite being labelled a "no-go

South Sudan declares disaster in flood-affected areas

The Spokesman 5



JUBA: South Sudan's government has declared flood-affected parts of the country as national disaster areas and appealed for assistance.

Friday's appeal came after torrential rains in the Upper Nile and Bahr el-Ghazal regions. Information Minister Michael Makuei Lueth said the floods have displaced thousands of people and claimed hundreds of lives.

Earlier this week, President Salva Kiir appealed to humanitarian partners for help. South Sudan has experienced extreme flooding over the past three years, with more than 800,000 people affected in 2021 alone. Since the beginning of rainy season in May, flooding in parts of the country has forced some health centers to close and stranded populations, leaving them vulnerable to water-borne diseases and snake bites.

UN global congress vows to support terrorism victims

UNITED NATIONS: The first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism concluded Friday at the UN headquarters in New York with a commitment to strengthen support for terrorism victims.

Themed "Advancing the Rights and Needs of Victims of Terrorism," the congress aims to adopt a victim-centric approach to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, said a press release of its organizer, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

More than 600 participants, including close to 100 victims of terrorism from 25 countries across the globe, attended the congress in person.

The congress concluded with the presentation of the chair's summary by Vladimir Voronkov, the under-secretary-general for counter-terrorism. In his remarks, Voronkov reiterated a threepronged approach to promote the rights of victims of terrorism and better support their financial, legal, medical, and psychosocial needs.

The chair's summary also foresees the launch of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Victims of Terrorism Association Network in 2023, which would bring together victims, victims associations and civil society organizations to further the rights of victims and survivors of terrorism. The Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism is a critical first milestone towards strengthened global solidarity in highlighting the support to victims of terrorism.

Strong earthquakes shake part of Indonesia's West Papua



Ukraine breaks through front line in east, nearing key town

KYIV: Western defense officials and analysts on Saturday said they believed Ukraine had punched through Russian front lines south of the country's second-largest city, taking thousands of square miles of territory and threatening to cut off Russian supply lines.

The British Defense Ministry in an online briefing said it believed the Ukrainians had advanced as much as 50 kilometers (30 miles) in the advance south of Kharkiv, northeastern Ukraine.

The advance appears to be around Izyum, long a focus on the Russian front line and the site of heavy artillery Russian supply lines in the and other fighting. The British described Russian forces ere likely taken by surprise



the nearby town of Kupiansk of the 92nd Separate Mechalso appeared to be pressured anized Battalion of Ukraine by Ukrainian forces, and that in front of a building that its loss would greatly affect resembled Kupiansk's city council building, which sits just along the Oskil River.

An image circulated around Izyum as "increasing- on social media Saturday yet acknowledged enter- sive around Kherson in ly isolated." "Russian forces appeared to show Ukrain- ing the city, though it comes southern Ukraine. Analysts amid a several days of apparian soldiers in front of a The sector was only light- main government building ent gains by the Ukrainians taken soldiers from the east ly held and Ukrainian units in Kupiansk, some 73 kilo- south of Kharkiv. A Washinghave captured or surround-meters (45 miles) north of ton-based think tank likewise offering the Ukrainians the ed several towns," the British Izyum. The image showed referenced sweeping Ukrain- opportunity to strike a weakmilitary said. It added that soldiers displaying the flag ian gains on Saturday, esti-



The Institute for the Study of War said in a report that it appeared that "disorganized Russian forces (were) caught in the rapid Ukrainian advance." They cited social media images of apparent Russian prisoners seized in the advance around Izyum and surrounding towns.

The same report said that Ukrainian forces "may collapse Russian positions around Izyum if they sever Russian ground lines of communication" north and south of the town. The fighting in the east comes Ukraine's military has not amid an ongoing offensuggest Russia may have

area

to reinforce around Kherson, ened front line.

detainees from IIOJK to various Indian

jails. They described the shifting of the

Kashmiri prisoners to the Indian jails

as the worst display of victimization to

punish them for opposing India's illegal

On the other hand, in yet anoth-

er act of anti-Muslim bias, the Indian

Supreme Court refused to entertain

a plea seeking the arrest of Bharatiya

Janata Party leader Nupur Sharma over

her derogatory remarks against the Holy

occupation of their homeland.

zone" by Sweden's right-wing media, parents here cycle their toddlers home from preschool, while middleclass families at the local shopping centre load groceries into electric cars and bicycle baskets.

In recent months, some high-profile arrests in the area have helped to calm the violence. However, according to the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention's 2021 report, gun crime in Sweden is increasing faster than anywhere else in Europe. So far this year, 47 people have been killed in shootings across the country, which is more than the entire year of 2021.

"At first they'd shoot just to injure and make people afraid, but now they're shooting to kill," Mr Gunér says. The violence is now spreading beyond troubled suburbs and into other cities: last month, a mother and her five-year-old child were shot at a playground in Eskilstuna's central city, and two people were injured in a shooting at one of Scandinavia's largest shopping malls in Malmö.

As Swedes prepare for Sunday's general election, polls show that crime is one of the top concerns for voters. "[Crime] beats questions relating to the environment and inflation, the economy and the pandemic," says Sten Widmalm, a professor at Uppsala University. "It's affecting ordinary people as well, because some of these shootings have led to innocent bystanders being killed."

JAKARTA: A series of strong inland earthquakes shook Indonesia's easternmost province Saturday, but there were no immediate reports of serious damage or casualties.

The Indonesian Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said at least four land-based earthquakes between 6.2 and 5.5 magnitude were centered about 37 kilometers (23 miles) northwest of Central Mamberamo district of West Papua province at a depth up to 16 kilometers (10 miles).

Those earthquakes posed no danger of triggering a tsunami, said Daryono, who heads the Earthquake and Tsunami Mitigation Division. He said the earthquakes were triggered by a thrust in the Memberamo Anjak fault.

There is no report on the impact of damage," said Daryono, who goes by a single name. The U.S. Geological Survey measured the quakes between 6.1 and 5.9 magnitude at a depth of 19 to 33 kilometers (11.8 to 20.5 miles). Variations in early measurements are common

With a population of around 1.2 million, West Papua is one of Indonesia's least-populous provinces.

Indonesia is a seismically active archipelago of 270 million people that is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis

In February, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake killed at least 25 people and injured more than 460 in West Sumatra province. In January 2021, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake killed more than 100 people and injured nearly 6,500 in West Sulawesi province. A massive quake off the coast of Aceh in 2004 triggered a powerful tsunami that killed around 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

Systematic killing of youth by Indian troops in IIOJK condemned

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, headed by incarcerated senior APHC leader Shabbir Ahmad Shah, has strongly condemned the systematic killing of innocent Kashmiri youth by Indian troops to turn the Muslim majority of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir into a minority.

The DFP in a statement in Srinagar termed the ruthless killing of Kashmiris as part of the Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government's sinister plan to change the demographic composition of IIOJK. It deploted that on one hand, India has let loose its troops to kill innocent Kashmiris while on the other, it has intensified its attempts to disempower the Muslim majority by permanently settling the Indian Hindus and granting voting rights to the non-local labourers and Indian forces' personnel in the territory. The DFP urged the UN and world human rights organizations



state terrorism in IIOJK.

Indian police arrested four innocent vouth. Shakir Akber Goiree, Mohsin Wani, Himayun Shariq and Faizan Ashraf, from a check-post at Gousiabad Chowk in Chinkipora area of Sopore town of Baramulla district. The police dubbed the arrested youth as overground workers of a mujahid organization to justify their illegal detention.

APHC-AJK Meanwhile, the Convener, Mahmood Ahmad Saghar, and General Secretary, Shaikh Abdul Mateen, in a joint statement issued in Islamabad denounced in strong terms the continued killing and arresting of to play their role in stopping the Indian Kashmiri youth and shifting of political Thursday.

Prophet (peace be upon him). Instead, the court asked the petitioner to withdraw the plea. The family of an 8-year-old boy arrested in Barhariya city in Siwan district of the Indian state of Bihar has said that the police are demanding money for his release. The police had arrested the boy, Rizwan Qureshi, along with his grandfather from a local mosque following anti-Muslim violence during a Hindutva rally in the city on

African countries want financing for climate change

have called on wealthy nations to follow through on their aid commitments so that the continent can combat the effects of climate change, for which it has little responsibility.

Two months before Egypt hosts the key COP27 climate summit in Sharm El-Sheikh in November, African ministers made their request in a statement at the conclusion of a three-day session in the Egyptian capital Cairo

The 24 leaders concluded their statement by urging "rich countries to fulfil their pledges in connection to climate and development funding, and deliv-

CAIRO: Twenty African leaders er on their obligations to double adaptation finance, in particular to Africa."

This Monday, former UN chief Ban Ki-moon observed that only 3% of the world's CO2 emissions originate from the African

continent. Despite this, African countries are among those most impacted by climate change, particularly because droughts and floods are getting harsher.

In light of "the disproportionate impact of climate change and environment loss on the African continent," the African leaders claimed that financial assistance was required.

They claimed that Africa not only has a "minimal carbon foot-

print," but also actively participates in absorbing greenhouse gases, particularly in the Congo Basin, which is home to the second-largest tropical rainforest in the world after the Amazon.

According to the communiqué, impoverished nations should be allowed to thrive economically while also receiving greater funding to help them cope with the effects of climate change. It also urged affluent countries to uphold and enhance their climate pledges. In order to protect Africa's growth, the statement emphasized the need to "avoid approaches that induce rapid disinvest-

ments from fossil fuels." At COP27, the role of gas in

the switch to cleaner energy is expected to be a major source of debate. According to climate campaigners, it has to be phased out swiftly and replaced with renewable energy. However, the finance minister of Nigeria, Zainab Ahmed, stated at the Cairo summit that gas was essential for her nation's survival. "We are depriving the population of our countries of the possibilities to accomplish fundamental development if we are not getting properly priced credit to develop gas," she said. The communiqué also recom-

mended that a review of multilateral development banks and



other international financial institutions include a discussion of climate change. It advocated for its negative repercussions.

for the development of a viable sovereign debt hub that would support debt-for-nature swaps and lower capital costs for poor nations.

A major topic at COP27 will be funding to assist less developed nations in reducing their emissions and building their resilience. The industrialized world has long promised to invest \$100 billion year starting in 2020 to support the adaptation efforts of less developed countries. The African Development Bank estimates that between 2020 and 2030, the continent will require up to \$1.6 trillion for internal efforts to slow down climate change and prepare

Economy/Commerce

Sunday, September 11, 2022

PPL assists devastated communities in Sindh



👺 Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has always been in the forefront to provide relief and rehabilitation to severely hit communities during national calamities. The recent monsoon rains followed by river floods has resulted in huge loss of life and displacement in Sindh province.

As part of its ongoing efforts, the company has donated 4000 dry ration bags for severely hit population in four districts of Sindh, around its operational areas.

1000 ration bags, each containing flour (atta), rice, daal moong, sugar, milk and cooking oil, weighing 15 kg, were handed over to District and Assistant Commissioners in Sanghar, Matiari, Kashmore and Sujawal districts by relevant PPL Field Manager and staff for distribution amongst the severely affected communities.

Moreover, 200 ration bags of edible items along with 20 tents were distributed by PPL among flood affected community in union council Ghaibi Dero, District Qambar Shahdadkot, Sindh.

CKD/SKD import decréases 30.96 pc in July 2022



D: The import of complete-

Organizing Expos best way to revive economic activities: Senator

Senator Fawzia Arshad lauds ICCI for organizing such a mega Exhibitions

ISLAMABAD: Senator Fawzia Arshad on Saturday said that organizing Expos are the best ways to revive the business and economic activities.

She expressed these views during her visit to the 3-day "ICCI Pakistan Property, Housing and Construction Expo 22", being held at Pak-China Friendship Centre, said a press release.

She visited various stalls put up for display in the Expo and lauded Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) for organizing such a mega Exhibitions.

She hoped that the Expo would contribute



to stimulating business activities in the housing and construction sector.

Sheikh, Vice President Muhammad Faheem ute to revive the economy. Khan and others were also present at the occasion.

Speaking at the occasion, President, ICCI Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that the main projects. purpose of organizing the Expo was to revive the economy by boosting the housing and construction sector activities.

He said that the construction industry played a vital role in the economic development of a country as it promotes the business of over 70 allied industries.

He hoped that the ICCI Expo would help their high quality products. APP

Senior Vice President Jamshaid Akhtar further boost its business activities and contrib-

A large number of companies from the property, housing and construction sector are participating in the Expo to exhibit their

All allied industries including steel, marble, cement, construction machinery, sanitary ware, electrical work, paints, hardware, ceramic tiles & different items, solar systems, wood flooring, interior design products, kitchen accessories etc. and stakeholders are also participating in the Expo to increase the brand exposure of

Chairman NADRA

opens facilitation

center at RCCI

Eighteen showcases state of the art lifestyle in Dubai



😂 Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Eighteen, a luxurious state of the art lifestyle destination housing development showcased its project at Zameen Expo 2022 in Dubai to exhibitors and visitors from around the world.

A joint venture of Ora Developers, a leading Egyptian developer in partnership with Saif Group and Kohistan Builders (KBD) in Pakistan, Eighteen exhibited its complete product line, including luxurious villas, beautiful apartment complexes, a retail hub, an exclusive Clubhouse, business complex and provided insights into the master plan of the project.

Eighteen aims to innovate and revo-

lutionize the real estate industry of Pakistan, by introducing destination living and bringing high-end, international standards to the local market.

CEO Eighteen, Tarek Hamdy stated 'Eighteen has set out to provide state of the art luxurious lifestyle centered around an 18-hole golf course, offering excellent landscapes interlaced with lush green spaces that combine scenic views with world-class comfort and luxury. Despite the global pandemic that ravaged the corporate world, slowing down processes worldwide - Eighteen persevered and focused on delivering on its promise to its clients."

Through dedication, devotion and vision to life.

unwavering passion, the team of Eighteen marched towards fulfilling their goals and the end of 2022 will be marked with a celebration of achieving excellence and delivering on quality.

The new year will be welcomed with the lifestyle that EIGHTEEN has promised, as people start living in their dream houses

Zameen expo 2022 in Dubai was verv successful for EIGHTEEN as the housing project received an overwhelming response.

Visitors were engaged by the promise of the ultimate lifestyle destination and the way EIGHTEEN is thriving the

😂 Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Chairman National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Tariq Malik inaugurated first-ever NADRA Facilitation Desk for the business community at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(RCCI). Addressing on the occasion Chairman NADRA said that digitization is being done for the convenience of the business class aiming to ensure ease of doing business.

He also informed that NADRA has integrated its platform with 1Link, to administer and evolve an office will also be opened e-payment network in the soon. The Police Service country through Nadra's Center is already functione-Sahulat franchise network. The partnership will enable the more than 17,000 e-Sahulat outlets to perform app and chip machine servicfund transfers, cash-in and cash-out, and public-to-government (P2G), government-to-public (G2P), and public-to-public payments (P2P) payments. A project called Nishan

Pakistan is underway to identify the buyer and seller and bring more transparency in business transactions. he added. Smart mobile app is also being launched, he further added.

He assured that his organization will work with Rawalpindi Chamber to provide more facilities for tax payers and the business community.

President Nadeem Rauf briefed the Chairman NADRA on the ongoing activities of the Chamber. He said that the establishment of Rawalpindi Chamber NADRA facility center is a great success for the Chamber members and the public, and the NADRA passport ing in the chamber Group leader Sohail Altaf said that SMS service, mobile es provided by NADRA to eliminate ID card verification and photocopying in various departments are commendable and should be expanded and awareness should also be given.

ly and semi-knocked down (CKD/SKD) products into the country witnessed a decrease of 30.96 percent during the first month of current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Pakistan imported CKD/SKD products worth \$101.204 million during July 2022 as compared to the imports of \$146.577 million during July 2021, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among the CKD/SKD products, the import of buses, trucks and other heavy vehicles decreased by 17.29 percent from \$33.653 million last year to \$27.

835 million during the period under review while the imports of motor cars also dipped by 36.38 percent from \$106.720 million to \$67.896 million.

Similarly, the import motor cycles witnessed negative growth of 11.78 percent from \$6.204 to \$5.473 million.

On a monthly basis, CKD/SKD imports during July 2022 decreased by 46.30 percent when compared to the imports of \$188.464 million in June 2022.

The import of buses, trucks, other heavy vehicles and motor cars also declined by 38.08 and 50.92 percent respectively.

However, the import motorcycles witnessed an increase of 5.51 percent. APP

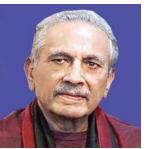


😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Saturday said high inflation rates are affecting almost every aspect of the lives of the majority, including their mental health.

Many have lost hope because of the endless inflation as millions of people belonging to the middle class and thousands of small traders have become poor.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that it has become impossible to maintain an average lifestyle for the majority as the wages of the labourers and the income of the



Many people and small businesspersons are becoming mentally ill, as many necessities have become unaffordable for them.

There is no increase in the compared to inflation, while the people have become insufficient. ing after the agreement with the timely manner is heightening ruptcy.

IMF, which will reduce the GDP the economic crisis.

by at least two percent. He said that because of political instability the economic crisis is intensifying, which is worsening the condition of all Pakistanis except for the elite. The people are currently

considering the economy as the most important problem of the country, but the politicians are considering the corruption allegations as the most important

issue, he observed. The economy is weakening, the rupee is depreciating and unemployment is skyrocketing because of the wrong priorities wages of the common person of those who matter; he said, adding that a lack of bold and economic activities are stagnat- rational policy responses in a not save the country from bank-

The finance minister has reiterated the government's assurance to the public that the crisis will be over in the next 2-3 months. He also contended that the rupee will stabilize against the dollar soon, a claim that was repeatedly ignored by

the market.

Our leaders, rather than taking economically rational and hard decisions for structural reforms and shunning populist measures, are looking up for help from development partners and the people are getting frustrated. The business leader said that if the political manoeuvring continues, even an IMF loan will

Gold price up by Rs.1300 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price Rs.120,242 against its sale at of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs.1300 on Saturday and was sold at Rs.153,000 against its sale at Rs.151,700 the previ-

ous day.

Rs.119,220, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association report-

ten gram silver remained

The price of 10 gram 24 karat also increased by Rs.1,115 and was sold at Rs.131,173 against Rs.

10 gram 22 karat went up to association reported. Agencies

ed. The price of per tola and

constant at Rs.1540 and Rs1320.30 respectively.

The price of gold in international market decreased by \$4 and was sold at \$1717 130,058 whereas that of against its sale at \$1721, the

CSAIL launches report on Pakistan's power industry

ISLAMABAD: China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CSAIL) recently launched a report titled "Overview of Pakistan's Power Sector and its Future Outlook" that summarizes the precious practical and theoretical achievements in the construction of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Power Projects and looks forward to the future development direction of the industry.

The report also analyzes the current situation of Pakistan's Power Sector besides highlighting the achievements of CPEC Power Projects.

The report was jointly prepared by CSAIL with the assistance of relevant think tanks such as Pakistan China Institute (PCI), National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), and other relevant think tanks and dozens of senior experts and scholars from Pakistan's Power Sector.

The report was launched in a ceremony here that was attended by local and international experts and scholars.

The chief guest of the ceremony Minister for Energy (Power Division) Khurram Dastgir Khan, said that since the launch of the CPEC, the related power sector projects are progressing smoothly. In terms of energy, China has launched a series of power projects under the CPEC to help Pakistan meet its residential and industrial electrici-

tv demand.

He said Pakistan's energy shortages have been greatly alleviated. The electricity has always been one of the constraints on Pakistan's development, and China has been able to enhance Pakistan's energy supply capacity not only through the efficient use of various energy resources, but also by helping Pakistan to build various types of power projects.

He said the report is beneficial to deepen the understanding of Pakistani people on the current situation and future development of Pakistan's power sector, as well as the contribution of the CPEC to Pakistan's Power Sector. "People in relevant fields in Pakistan should learn from Chinese personnel and deepen industrial cooperation between the two countries through the construction of projects like the CPEC Projects. China is an important partner of Pakistan in the energy sector, and China's development experience is worth learning for Pakistan.

Chief Representative of CSAIL, Zhang Jun said that Three Gorges Group is committed to provide affordable and clean energy for Pakistan, while investing in Pakistan's power sector, and the Karot Hydropower Project, with a total installed capacity of 720 MW, is a flagship project of the Three Gorges Group in Pakistan.

During the past 7 years of construction of Karot



Project, we have seen engineers, managers and workers from China and Pakistan working together to overcome very serious events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, however, they still achieved the Commercial Operation Date (COD) 54 days ahead of schedule.

Karot Project has provided 1.3 billion units of

clean and cheap electricity to Pakistan's power grid, since it started generating power this summer. The power station has been operating very smoothly, providing effective power security for Pakistan through this hot summer season and playing its role in Pakistan's flood control. As a Chinese engineer, who has witnessed the whole process of investment in this project, he is immensely proud of what the professionals of China and Pakistan have achieved through their joint efforts.

Chairman of PCI, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed termed the report a 'Primer of Pakistan's Power Sector' since it aptly describes the on-ground situation of Power Projects in Pakistan and provides detailed analysis regarding opportunities and challenges in the Power Sector. The report, he said, needs to be widely circulated so that it can contribute to public-private partnerships in the power sector. Moreover, he termed Pakistan's relationship with China deep rooted and multifaceted. The relationship between Pakistan and China, he believed, cannot be seen through the lens of CPEC since this relationship extends beyond it i.e., people-to-people connectivity, economic partnership, and support to each other on their core interests.

Director of the Political Information Office of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Wang Shengjie said that the Power Sector of Pakistan is the most invested section of the CPEC and is a successful example of early harvest, making a special and irreplaceable contribution to solving the power shortages and serving the economic and social development of Pakistan, especially in such difficult times as the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and floods is ongoing. APP

Sports Sunday, September 11, 2022

The Spokesman

Pakistan to take on Sri Lanka in final of Asia Cup

Shahnawaz Dahani has been declared fit to play in the final

DUBAI: Pakistan will lock horns against Sri Lanka in the final of Asia Cup at the Dubai International Stadium today.

Pakistan pacer Shahnawaz Dahani has been declared fit to play in the Asia Cup final on Sunday against Sri Lanka. The pacer missed two Super Four games after sustaining a side-strain before the India clash. However, he is now fit and started practising again. The player practised bowling at full speed at the Dubai International Stadium. Meanwhile, fast bowler Mohammad Wasim Jr is facing fitness problems.

Sri Lanka are poised for an unlikely Asia Cup victory over favourites Pakistan in Sunday's final after a giant-slaying streak through the tournament despite troubles at home.

The island nation had to abandon plans to host the Twenty20 competition due to political unrest and stumbled in their opener to Afghanistan by eight wickets, with nearly 10 overs remaining.

But the five-time champions bounced back to beat Bangladesh, Afghanistan and tournament favourites India, scuttling a hotly anticipated finals showdown between Rohit Sharma's men and archrivals Pakistan.



a dress rehearsal for the Dubai final - and Sri Lanka's fourth straight victory, albeit with Pakistan missing two of their key players

On Sunday they will depend on the spin pairing of Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana, who helped bowl out Pakistan for 121 on Friday in a comfortable five-wicket win.

warned his team of complacency.

"The confidence we have is massive after take Pakistan lightly in the final," Shanaka told reporters. "We know they are a very side to come back strong and we should be ready for that."

Pakistan team have shone through Opener Pathum Nissanka led the the tournament, a curtain-raiser for next batting charge with an unbeaten 55 in a month's T20 World Cup in Australia, Friday's closing Super Four match was clinical show, but skipper Dasun Shanaka avenging an opening game loss to India

and clinching a last-over thriller against Afghanistan.

Fast bowler Naseem Shah and all-rounder Shadab Khan both missed Friday's showdown, but will lengthen Sri Lanka's odds when they return for the final.

Naseem, 19, has kept the edge on Pakistan's bowling attack in the absence of pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi, who missed the tournament due to injury. He also hit two sixes in a dramatic one-wicket win over Afghanistan to seal India's exit.

Batting remains a cause for concern, with skipper Babar Azam managing a tournament best of just 30. Mohammad Rizwan is the only consistent performer with 226 runs in five matches. But coach Saqlain Mushtaq said he had complete faith in his side to deliver despite Azam's "unlucky" run.

"The latest match we won against India, four consecutive wins, but we still don't we chased and batted well," he said. "Things are moving in the right direction and we are confident." Pakistan's latest loss to Sri good side and enough good players in their Lanka might have stalled their momentum, but Saqlain said the team will heed the lessons of Friday's match-up. "I will talk about mistakes in the dressing room, but Sri Lanka will take confidence into the final and Pakistan some learnings and passion," Saqlain said.

Bangladesh beat Pakistan 6-0 in Saff Championship



KARACHI: Pakistan women's football team, playing their first international event after nearly eight years, were beaten 6-0 by Bangladesh in the ongoing Saff Championship.

Pakistan were pushed on defence for most of the match by an aggressive Bangladesh side. For Bangladesh, Monika Chakma scored the first goal in the third minute of the game.

Mosammat Shopna doubled their lead in the 28th minute, while Sabina Khatun then completed her hat-trick with goals in the 31st, 35th and the 59th minute. Ritu Porna Chakma scored the last goal of the one-sided contest in the 77th minute.

Earlier, Pakistan women's team opened their campaign with a 3-0 loss to India. While talking to The Express Tribune a day before the match, team manager Qibtia Jamshaid said the girls were told to not focus on results, but only on giving their best in the tournament.

I have seen their progress, their injuries, their recoveries, and we have told them that we are already proud of them. We just want them to give their 100% and winning is not a condition," Qibtia had said.

She had added that during the championship, one can see India being ahead of the pack as they have developed women's game over the years.

When I look at the region, I see that the girls from all the countries have same built, height and there are lots of similarities, but then many of these teams have been preparing for a lot longer than Pakistan have gotten the opportunity to.

We had a month while other teams have been training for more than a year and they are active. I feel with more time we can defeat India too in the future," she said, adding Pakistan can perform well against Maldives.

She added that she has received messages from across the country by different coaches and clubs saying that the team was better than what they expected. Meanwhile, she said that other nations in Nepal were warm to Pakistan and their performance against India as well. "Other countries have been very supportive knowing that our girls have not played in eight years," she said.

Pakistan snooker team training camp from Sept 12

😂 Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Billiards & Snooker Association has finalized Pakistan Snooker Team for participation in the in Asian 6 Red Snooker Championship 2022 and the IBSF 6 Red & Team Snooker Championships 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Ahsan Ramzan, Pakistan#2 & Runner Up National Championship 2021 and Babar Masih Pakistan#3 & Semi Finalist National Championship 2021 are part of the team.

The Asian & World Snooker Championships Training/Practice Camp of Pakistan Snooker Team will be held at Ghouri Shender Snooker Club, 66 PMA Trade Centre Ferozpure Road, Lahore, from 12th September till 19th September 2022.

The Camp will be supervised by M.B. Ghouri, Senior Vice President of Snooker & Billiard Association of Punjab.

Huraira, Haseebullah half-centuries script Northern, Balochistan wins

😂 Spokesman Report

leg of the Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23 kicked off with a scintillating contest between Northern and Sindh as the former on the last ball of the match with a run out.

Balochistan completed a win over Central Punjab in his nine-ball 19 not out

the second match of the day. played a brilliant innings of 86 in Northern's one-run win over Sindh. The openin his 52-ball innings.

Huraira, later na

wicket partnership with last six with Anwar Ali and Nasir Nawaz, who missed MULTAN: The Multan a half-century by only three runs as he was dismissed by Anwar Ali in the 14th over.

Umar Amin played a cameo of 10-ball 21 not out (three fours) to lift his team sealed the thriller by one run to 190 for four. Zeeshan Malik, from the other end, provided his captain the desired support by spankinto the Super Over.

comfortable seven-wicket ing two sixes and a four in Saud Shakeel, the Sindh Mohammad Huraira captain, led his team's reply

with a breezy 43-ball 70 hitting nine fours and a six - and stitched a 60-run parter scored his runs at a quick nership for the third wickpace (strike rate of 165), et with Omair Bin Yousuf Haseebullah's 72 overhaulsmashing 13 fours and a six (20 off 19). Sarfaraz Ahmed ing 170-run target with an provided impetus with his over spare. 13-bal 23 (two fours and a

53-ball knock and provided a brilliant start to the run Danish Aziz at the crease. Anwar Ali was dismissed chase with a 96-run partneron the third ball after hitting ship with Asad Shafiq, who Usman Shinwari for a six on was another batter in the day the previous ball. The equato miss out a half-century by tion finally came down to three runs. Asad made 47 in three off one and it ended 34 (four fours and a six).

with Faraz Ali's run out as Abdul Wahid Bangalzai he looked to complete the played a blinder smashsecond and take his team ing 46 not out at a staggering strike rate of 192 as Central Punjab won only Balochistan closed the chase one of their five matchwith ease.

es in Rawalpindi and must Amad Butt took four wickets for 30 runs when have hoped for a change of fortunes in Multan, but their Central Punjab elected to Multan leg got off with a bat. Shoaib Malik made his demolishing seven-wicket experience count, top-scordefeat to Balochistan with ing with 44 off 30 (four fours). Aamer Yamin was the next best performer in the innings with 37 off 24 (five fours and a six). Central

Referees, will lead the playing control team in the seven T20 Internationals between Pakistan and England played across Karachi and Lahore from 20 September till 2 October.

Aleem Dar, member ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, and Asif Yaqoob, one of the four Pakistan umpires in ICC International Panel of Umpires, the other three being Ahsan Raza, Shozab Raza and Rashid Riaz, will take the on-field duties for the series opener at National Stadium, Karachi. Ahsan Raza and Rashid Riaz will be the third and fourth umpires.

Five umpires will do the on-field umpiring duties in the series. Aleem Dar will stand in four T20Is, Ahsan Raza in three, and Asif Yaqoob, Rashid Riaz and Faisal Afridi will stand in two matches each.

The National Stadium will stage the first four T20Is on 20, 22, 23 and 25 September. The action will move to the Gaddafi Stadi-

Match officials for Pak v Eng T20Is announced

😂 🛛 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Muhammad Javed Malik, member International Panel of ICC Match

player of the match, put six) down the order. a profound 132-run first

Player of Haseebullah struck seven Punjab had made 169 for Sindh required 14 off the fours and three sixes in his nine.

um, Lahore for the last three matches from 28 September.

Alcaraz to face Ruud

defeated Frances Tiafoe in a in 1990. gladiatorial US Open semi-final on Friday, setting up a showdown for the title and world hours. It doesn't matter, you number one ranking against Casper Ruud.

The 19-year-old Spaniard finalist since compatriot Rafael Nadal captured the first of his 22 Slams at the 2005 French Open. Norway's seventh-ranked Ruud earlier defeated Russia's Karen Khachanov 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 to reach his second Grand Slam final.

Tiafoe went down fighting, however, saving three match points and retrieving breaks in both of the last two sets.

"We are in the semi-final of a Grand Slam, we have to give everything we have inside, we have to fight until the last ball," let you guys down. This one realsaid Alcaraz, the youngest US ly hurts."

NEW YORK: Carlos Alcaraz Open finalist since Pete Sampras

"It doesn't matter if vou're fighting for five hours or six have to give everything on court." For Alcaraz, who unleashed 59 winners, it was his third succestriumphed 6-7(6/8), 6-3, 6-1, sive five-setter as he closes in on 6-7 $(\hat{5}/7)$, 6-3 to become the a maiden Slam and becoming youngest men's Grand Slam the youngest ever world number one.

> "It's my first time in a final of a Grand Slam. I can see the number one in the world, but at the same time it's so far away," he added. "I'm going to give everything that I have. I will have to handle the nerves of being in the final of a Grand Slam but obviously I'm really happy." Tiafoe hailed his conqueror. "I

gave everything I had, too good from Carlos tonight," said Tiafoe. "Honestly I came here wanting to win the US Open, I feel like I



Alcaraz saw two break points come and go in the seventh game of the opener before needing to save a set point in the 12th which featured a breathtaking rally that the Spaniard claimed from two seemingly losing positions. The teenager saved three more set points in the tiebreak but Tiafoe converted his fifth when Alcaraz served up his third double fault

of the 64-minute opener. Alcaraz saved a break point in the third game of the second

set, at one stage stretching for a winning point with his back facing Tiafoe to win another memorable rally. His flamboyance was rewarded when he broke for 4-2 on his way to levelling the semi-final thanks to Tiafoe burying a return in the net.

hours and 10 sets in his last two rounds, including a quarter-final which finished at 2:50 a.m. Thursday, to reach the semi-fi-

nal. However, he looked the fresher of the two men when he raced to a double break, 4-0 lead in the third set, allowing Tiafoe just three points.

For good measure, Alcaraz broke the American a third time in the seventh game. World number 26 Tiafoe, who knocked Nadal out of the tournament in the last-16, was hoping to become the first American man in a major final since Andy Roddick at Wimbledon in 2009.

He gamely retrieved two breaks in the fourth set, saved a match point in the 10th game with a nerveless drop shot before claiming the tiebreak to send the clash into a decider. It was an eighth successful tiebreak out of eight for the American.

Alcaraz broke for 2-0 in the Alcaraz had needed nine fifth set only for Tiafoe to again claw his way back to 2-2. The American, however, double-faulted to hand the advantage back in the fifth game.

World Cup final stadium tested with first sellout crowd

DOHA: The \$675 million stadium that Qatar will use for this year's World Cup final was put through its first sellout test Friday with a match between the Egyptian and Saudi champions.

Seventy-two days from the start of the tournament, organisers said the 80,000 capacity Lusail Iconic Stadium was full for the pre-match concert by Egyptian superstar AmrDiab and the game in which Al Hilal beat Egyptians Zamalek on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Lusail was the last stadium to be officially inaugurated and Hassan Al-Thawadi, head of the Qatari organising committee, said it was "an emotional moment".

"It is the culmination of a 13-year journey," he told beIN Sports. The stadium, shaped like a traditional Arabic bowl, is at the heart of a new city being built north of the tiny Gulf state's capital. It will host 10 World Cup matches, including the December 18 final.

No more games are planned before the tournament starts on November 20 however. The game was a test run for security, the border immigration system and the multi-billion dollar driverless train metro that will take the strain, ferrying more than one million fans around Doha during the World Cup.

To take pressure off the main international airport, Qatar this week reopened an old airport that had been kept for use by the ruling family and other VIPs. Hundreds of Saudi and Egyptian fans crossed the Abu Samra frontier in buses, after leaving their cars on the Saudi side. All had to apply for a special fan ID, the Hayya card, that all supporters will need to enter Qatar during the World Cup. The processing system in a tent at Abu Samra was being used for the first time. Qatari authorities are expecting thousands of Saudis to support their national team during the tournament. "We entered with just our passport and the Hayya card," said Muhammad Mujahid, an Egyptian living in Saudi Arabia. "It was simple and well-organised."

Swiatek, Jabeur set for US Open duel

one when she faces history-chasing Ons Jabeur in the US Open's women's final.

Swiatek would become the first woman in six years to win two different Grand Slams in the same recovering from being a set down season if she adds the US Open crown to the French Open title she collected in June.

The rising Polish star underscored her resilience in Thursday's semi-finals, recovering from 4-2 down in the final set to defeat hard-hitting sixth seed Aryna returned to grind out victory. Sabalenka 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

the brink of a first Grand Slam title on a surface other than clay. A two-time champion at Roland

NEW YORK: Iga Swiatek can Garros, Swiatek admitted before result of her work with sports on full display in her only other cement her status as world number the US Open that she found the uniquely raucous atmosphere at Flushing Meadows a challenging environment.

But she has proven her adaptability over the past fortnight, twice to reach the final. Her calmness under pressure rescued her in Thursday's clash with Sabalenka.

Broken three times in the opening set by the dominant Belarusian, she regrouped mentally in an emergency bathroom break and

"When I was younger all I would do in the bathroom between That hard-earned victory left sets after I lost was cry," Swiatek the 21-year-old from Warsaw on revealed later. "But this time I could think about what to change and actually problem solve."

That mental durability is the

over the past two years. "Earlier in my career I felt like my emotions kind of were taking over and I was panicking a little bit when I was osing," Swiatek said.

"I grew up. And the work we've put in with Daria for sure helped. Now it's just easier for me to actually logically think what I can change," she revealed. Part of Swiatek's mental approach has been to embrace her uncertainty with hardcourts.

"I trust myself for sure on clay," she said. "Here I just try to accept maybe that sometimes I'm not going to trust myself. "It's not something negative for me. I find it pretty motivating to try and get better.

Swiatek's preference for clay was

psychologist Daria Abramowicz meeting with Jabeur this season, when she dispatched the Tunisian 6-2, 6-2 in the Italian Open final at Rome. Yet Swiatek and Jabeur head into Saturday's final with a 2-2 record from their four previous encounters.

Jabeur has also inflicted hefty defeats on the Polish top seed in recent seasons, beating her in straight sets at Cincinnati in 2021. "Our matches are always kind of physical and really tight, even though the scores may not

be," Swiatek said of Jabeur. "She's just a tough opponent and fully deserves to be in the final. I think it's going to be a great battle."

Fifth seed Jabeur, meanwhile, has also enjoyed a breakout year, which saw her become the first African woman to reach the



the first woman from Africa to win a Grand Slam title on Saturday.

Jabeur - affectionately known as the "Minister of Happiness" in her homeland - was unable to

Wimbledon final in July before deliver the Wimbledon title, beather campaign in New York. Jabeur en in three sets by Elena Rybakicould make history by becoming na. However, the late-blooming 28-year-old looks more than capable of claiming her maiden Grand Slam on Saturday.

In the semi-finals on Thursday, she demolished the in-form Caroline Garcia in straight sets, using a powerful service game to keep the Frenchwoman on the back foot while cleverly varying her range of shots in a 6-1. 6-3 rout.

Jabeur, however, is under no illusions that Swiatek is likelier to prove a tougher nut to crack. The Pole has not dropped a set in the nine tournament finals she has played since her lone WTA final defeat in Lugano three years ago.

"Iga never loses finals, so it's going to be very tough," Jabeur said. "I know she struggled a little bit with the balls here, but I don't see her struggling much, to be honest with you. She's playing awesome." "It's going to be tough match. Definitely going for my revenge. "I love playing on this surface, and I feel like I know exactly what to do against her."