



**فرمان رسول**  
تلاوت سے بیان کیا کہ ہم اس کی خدمت میں حاضر ہوئے تو ان کی بروئی پکائے والا ان کے پاس ہی کھڑا تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کھڑے میں نہیں جاتا کہ نبی ﷺ نے کبھی پتل روٹی (چپاتی) رکھی۔ وہ یہاں تک کہ آپ اللہ سے جا ملے اور نہ ہی کہہ سکتے تھے کہ میں بھی مسلم بنی ہوئی کبریٰ رکھی۔  
(کنگڈا، حدیث نمبر 5421)  
**Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited**

**Ashrafi welcomes KSA's humanitarian drive**

Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday welcomed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for the announcement of countrywide humanitarian campaign to help the flood affected people in Pakistan.



**'Sindh still in danger,' says Sherry Rehman**

Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman warned about the worsening situation in Sindh and appraised that River Indus at Kotri Barrage is in high flood with an in-flow of more than 600,000 cusecs of flood water, posing a serious threat to the surrounding regions. She further highlighted that rain forecasts have predicted monsoon stretching into September all over the country and lower Sindh will also received rainfall which could prove detrimental to the relief and rescue operations in the area

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**KSA launches campaign for Pak flood victims**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia launched on Monday public national campaign to support the flood victims in Pakistan. This was announced by General Supervisor of the King Salman's Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeeah. He said the campaign comes in support of the humanitarian efforts and delivery assistance being carried out by the Kingdom ever since the start of the natural disaster. The General Supervisor said that KSRelief is the body authorized to collect donations directed to send abroad. There is strict oversight by the center to ensure that the aid reaches the designated countries of the world.

**Imran's response in contempt case 'unsatisfactory': ECP**

**Our Correspondent**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday termed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan's response in the ECP's contempt case as "unsatisfactory". In the response submitted by Barrister Gohar and Faisal Chaudhry Advocate, it has been said that Imran Khan did not insult the Election Commission, adding that Imran Khan only expressed concerns about the role of the Election Commission in his statements. The Election Commission has no authority to hear the cases, nor can the Secretary of the Election Commission send notices, and the ECP's notice is a violation of the Constitution, so it should be withdrawn, it further stated.

**Pak-Canada ties**

The Canadian Minister for International Development, Mr Harjit Singh Sajjan calls on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday.



Photo: PID

**Disastrous Floods**

**Canada supports Pakistan in mitigating impacts of floods**

**PM Shehbaz underlines int'l community's vital support to overcome flood losses**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Canadian Minister for International Development, Harjit Singh Sajjan, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Monday. The Prime Minister thanked Singh for his visit during such trying times when Pakistan was battling the effects of devastating floods, that caused extensive damage and suffering. The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for Canadian solidarity and assistance for rescue and relief efforts. The Prime Minister also expressed his appreciation to the Canadian Government for assistance in projects relating to women's economic empowerment,

**PM terms climate change as potent challenge**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that climate change has emerged as one of the most potent challenges facing the world. The Prime Minister made these remarks while talking to Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union who called on him in Islamabad on Monday. Prime Minister said that the massive economic damage on top of the economic crisis had undermined Pakistan's capacity to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. He asked the international community to step forward and help Pakistan deal with this calamity of epic proportions. The Prime Minister asked the Inter-Parliamentary Union to play its role in raising awareness about the horrors of climate change and help mobilize global support for the developing countries facing the climate crisis due to global warming.

Pakistan to help mitigate disastrous impacts of these floods and climate change. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has underscored that the scale and magnitude of losses in the recent floods were too big to be borne by Pakistan alone and said that the international community's support was of vital importance. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Ambassador of the French Republic to Pakistan Nicolas Galey who called on him. The prime minister highlighted the extensive devastation caused by the recent floods across Pakistan and the government's response to address the dire situation.

**Mariyum terms IK 'dangerous' due to selfishness**

**Info Minister requests media, masses to focus attention on flood victims**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Mariyum Aurangzeb on Monday while taking a jibe on PTI chairman Imran Khan said that he was dangerous due to his arrogance and selfishness. In a statement, she said that Imran Khan did not feel any shame for abusing an institution, its head or a judge and she pointed out that the courts should know that Imran Khan has no regrets and no remorse. A person who was an embodiment of cowardice, selfishness and arrogance was dangerous, she remarked. "He is a fascist and shameless person who openly tells lies, and he is even trying to politicize the floods", she said. The minister requested the media and the general public to focus their attention on the flood victims instead of the selfish people like Imran. "The victims are currently suffering from the difficulties caused by flood, the nation and the media should focus on helping them", she maintained. The minister said that this sick mentality also politicized issue of flour supply to flood victims. Imran Khan wanted to spread chaos by playing with the emotions of the flood victims, she said adding that Imran Khan wanted to stop aid of flood victims for his dirty politics. The minister said that the PTI chairman sometimes tried to stop the IMF programme, sometimes he made clumsy attempts to stop aid to the flood victims. APP

**NEPRA okays Rs4.34 per unit FCA charges for July**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Monday approved Rs 4.34 per unit increase in power tariff for July for distribution companies (Discos), excluding K-Electric, under the monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) mechanism. The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) had sought Rs 4.69 per unit increase in the power tariff for the said period. After holding a public hearing on the CPPA's petition on August 31, NEPRA approved Rs 4.34 per unit increase on account of the FCA for July, said a notification. The FCA for June was charged as Rs 9.90 per unit



which was only for one month. The FCA for July would be charged in billing month of September, which was Rs 5.56 per unit lower than June. It would be applicable to all consumers of Discos, except life line and K-Electric. It would also not be applicable to vehicle charging stations. The impact of FCA was calculated as around Rs 59 billion which would be recovered from the consumers.

**Tracking aid flow**

**Govt starts digital flood dashboard**

**Portal provides information to public on aid being received and distributed among flood victims**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The government launched on Monday the "Digital Flood Dashboard" of the National Flood Response Coordination Center (NFRCC), in a bid to ensure transparency in the relief and rehabilitation efforts in flood-hit areas. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said while speaking to the ceremony that this portal has been rolled out as per the special directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said that the general public and development partners will be able to get information about the flood relief aid and funds being received from home and abroad and its distribution. "Pakistan faces an unprecedented calamity which has affected 33 million people across Pakistan," the minister said. He further stated that the damage caused by the



floods is being assessed on a daily basis with the cooperation of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the United Nations and the provincial governments. The final estimates of damage will be available only after water recedes from all parts of Sindh and Balochistan provinces, he added. Iqbal also asked the public to step forward to help flood victims, reminding them of the valiant way the nation faced calamities in the past. He expressed the confidence that it will cope with the current one in the same spirit. The digital portal is estab-

**Entrepreneurs urged to invest in flood-hit Pakistan**

**Spokesman Report**

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, has called on Pakistani-American entrepreneurs to focus on investing in flood-ravaged Pakistan's education sector during the rehabilitation phase after waters recede. "The flood situation in Pakistan would be a big setback for our students who already suffered during COVID pandemic days", he said while briefing the entrepreneurs about the havoc wrought by floods triggered by climate change that was threatening nations across the world. The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, estimates the monsoon rains and ensuing flooding have damaged or destroyed at least 18,000 schools across the country, depriving millions of children of access to education. It says hospitals and other infrastructure on which children rely for essential services have been put out of commission.

**No economic stability without political stability: Imran**

**Can talk to govt if it is ready for fresh elections, says PTI chief**

ISLAMABAD: PTI chief and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday said that he was willing to hold a dialogue with the incumbent government if it was ready to hold fresh elections. He made these remarks in an interview with journalist Kamran Khan on Dunya News. Responding to a question regarding holding talks with the government, Imran said: "The country is facing extraordinary circumstances [...] in this time we need to think about what decisions to take." He said that his life and death were in Pakistan, hence, his interest was in the country's improvement. "I'm always ready to talk if they want to talk about free and fair elections." Talking about the army chief's appointment, the PTI chief stressed that it should be done on merit, highlighting that meritocracy was important for any successful institution or nation. "The army chief is a very important position and should be chosen on merit [...] But Zardari and Nawaz are not qualified for merit. Their priority isn't merit, but saving their money," he claimed. Here, journalist Kamran repeatedly asked Imran if he would accept the extension of the army chief. However, dodging the questions, the PTI chief said: "Hold fresh elections. If they [the



coalition government] wins, they can choose their own army chief." Imran said that he had warned the "powers that be" of an economic "tailspin" in the aftermath of political instability following his ouster as he expressed fears of Pakistan approaching a "default-like situation". Answering a question regarding the precarious economic conditions in the country, the PTI chief said that economic stability in the country won't arrive before political stability. The only way out of this situation was fresh elections, he pointed out, recalling that before the no-confidence move he and former finance minister Shaoukat Tarin had warned the establishment that

the "fragile economic recovery would go into a tailspin" which could not be handled by the incumbent government came to power. And, he said, the government failed to stabilise the economy because of which the markets panicked. "Pakistan is going toward a serious default which is why I keep saying that we need fresh elections," Imran reiterated. He said that the economic fallout of the floods will come in winter. "Tell me [...] Do they have a solution? Exports are falling, loans are rising, remittances are falling [...] your capacity to give loans is shrinking and at the same time, IMF (International Monetary Fund) is saying power bills will become more expensive." The PTI chief then went on to ask: "Those who brought these people after removing our government, I want to ask [...] were they thinking of Pakistan? Everyone knows the history of these two families." And such a situation calls for all the Pakistanis to be troubled, he said, cautioning that the situation was "getting out of hand". Imran also slammed the government for its "fascism", saying that the atrocities on PTI in the last few months had no example. "They even blocked the telecast of our telethon yesterday. They threatened cable operators and then stopped them from showing [it]." Agencies



## Rains wreak havoc

KARACHI: Commuters waded through accumulated rain water after heavy rain at Aiwan-e-Sadar road, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

*President confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz (M) on Malaysia's royal navy chief*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Monday conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Reza bin Mohd Sany, Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy in recognition of his illustrious services to promote bilateral relations between the navies of Pakistan and Malaysia, in a special investiture ceremony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Reza, who earned a master's degree of science in Defence and Strategic Studies from the National Defence University, Islamabad, was conferred the award for his prominent role in promoting and strengthening defence relations between both brotherly countries, particularly in the naval and maritime domain and for being a sincere and close friend of Pakistan.

Later, the President while talking to Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Reza bin Mohd Sany, who called on him after the investiture ceremony, said that Pakistan greatly valued its mutually rewarding brotherly bilateral relations with Malaysia in all sectors, including defence and urged to further deepen the existing cooperation in defence sector.

President confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz (M) on Malaysia's royal navy chief

He emphasized the need for further strengthening the ties between the navies of the two countries to ensure the safety and security of maritime trade and protect the interests of the two countries in their respective naval jurisdictions.

IS Pak-China partnership

# CPEC: 27 projects of \$19b completed

*CPEC has transformed Pakistan's socio economic landscape*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Some 27 projects worth of \$19 billion have so far been completed under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) while 63 more projects with the investment of \$35.2 billion are scheduled to be completed by 2030.

According to a report titled "Overview of Pakistan's Power Sector and its Future Outlook" issued by the China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CSAIL), 27 projects are under implementation stages with the investment of \$7.7 billion that are scheduled to be completed by 2025.

Some 36 more projects are in pipeline with the approximate investment of \$27.5 billion which would be completed 2030.

According to details in Energy sector,

11 projects with an investment of \$12 billion have so far been completed while four projects with investment of \$6 billion are under the implementation process and are expected to be completed by 2025.

Similarly seven more projects worth of \$7.4 billion are in the pipeline and are expected to be completed by 2030.

The report highlighted that in infrastructure sector, seven projects with an investment of \$6.7 billion have been completed while six more projects of \$0.9 billion would be completed in 2025 and 12 projects of \$10.4 billion are expected to be completed by 2030.

Likewise, in Gwadar, three projects of \$200 million have so far been completed while two projects of \$230 million would be completed in 2025 and two more projects of \$150 million are sched-

uled to be completed by the year 2030.

The report added that four out of nine identified Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would be completed by 2025 with an investment of \$500 million while the rest five SEZs would be completed by 2030 with investment of \$1 billion.

Some six socio economic projects have so far been completed with investment of \$10 million while 11 projects of \$90 million would be completed by 2025 and 10 projects of \$900 million would be completed by 2030.

The report said that other sectors such as International Cooperation, Agriculture, Science and Technology and Information Technology are newly added sectors under the mega project of CPEC and are at planning stage for third party participation.

## UN chief returns to US after tour of flood-hit Pakistan

*More than 1,300 lives have been lost, tens of millions of people are now homeless*

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres returned to New York Sunday night after wrapping up his two-day flying visit to flood-ravaged Pakistan where he saw for himself the worst-affected areas and called for urgent financial support to the country.

More than 1,300 lives have been lost, tens of millions of people are now homeless, one-third of this vast country is submerged, and livestock and crops have been wiped out. Moreover, education and learning has been interrupted

for an estimated 3.5 million children, including in at least 61 refugee schools.

"I have seen many humanitarian disasters in the world, but I have never seen climate carnage on this scale. I have simply no words to describe what I have seen today: a flooded area that is three times the total area of my own country, Portugal," the UN chief told reporters in Karachi as he concluded his field visits to Sindh and Balochistan.

While he had been struck by the "unquantifiable depths of human suffering" he had

witnessed, he stressed that he had also seen "great heights of human endurance and heroism - from emergency workers to ordinary people helping their neighbors."

Earlier on Saturday Guterres traveled from Islamabad to Sukkur in Sindh by plane, accompanied by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. His visit ended in Karachi on Saturday evening, where he held a joint press conference with the Foreign Minister at the airport. APP

## 'No idea' whether IK met ex-US diplomat: Fawad

*Says party wants diplomatic relations with United States on "equal footing"*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former information minister Fawad Chaudhry Monday neither accepted nor denied whether party chairman Imran Khan had a meeting with former US diplomat Robin Raphael at his residence.

A day prior, the former prime minister had a meeting with Raphael at his Bani Gala residence in Islamabad, a private TV channel reported.

Speaking during a press conference at the federal capital along with former special assistant to the prime minister Sania Nishtar, Chaudhry said that he did not ask Khan if he met the ex-diplomat or not.

"There is no issue if Robin

Raphael is in Pakistan or visits this country as she has retired and has no links with the US government," he highlighted.

The former minister said that the party wants diplomatic relations with the United States on an equal footing. "We don't want war with America and we acknowledge the Pakistan-US relations," he added.

He went on to say that the PTI will "continue political engagement and transactions with the US government and the embassy," adding that Pakistan-US relation was important for both countries.

Talking about the general elections, the ex-minister alleged that the incumbent government was preparing to kill

Khan and wanted to create an atmosphere of religious hatred, adding that this was the "only government to file blasphemy cases against the opposition."

Chaudhry, while shedding light on the devastation caused by the floods, said that destruction in Balochistan and Sindh was very high as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab's infrastructure was much better than the other two provinces.

Answering a question about the country's economic situation and whether the country would default, Chaudhry said: "The PTI has decided to form an economic committee under the leadership of former finance minister Shaukat Tarin."

## Khar calls for action to combat climate change

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Canada's Minister of International Development Harjit Sajjan called on Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar here on Monday and expressed his deep sympathies for the flood victims and hoped for early rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Appreciating their visit to Pakistan at a critical time, she thanked Sajjan and accompanying members of the delegation for showing solidarity with the flood affectees. She underlined the vast scale of devastation caused by the catastrophic floods which have affected more than 33 million people, destroyed critical infrastructure, and washed away four million acres of crops. She added that the calamity will have a long-term adverse impact on food security, health, and the economy in Pakistan.

The Minister of State stressed that Pakistan, despite contributing less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, was bearing the brunt of climate crisis. She underlined the urgent need for unified and decisive action by the international community to combat climate change and enhance climate financing to build

resilience, especially in vulnerable developing countries. The minister further emphasized that, although the government was engaged in rescue and relief efforts, reconstruction and rehabilitation will require effective mobilization and long-term commitment of resources on part of the international community.

Bilateral relations between Pakistan and Canada were also discussed and both sides expressed satisfaction at growing depth of the ties between both countries. The minister noted that Canada's development projects in Pakistan have contributed towards women empowerment and socio-economic uplift. She expressed the desire for cooperation in the areas of climate change, agriculture, and people-to-people contacts.

Sajjan maintained that Canada was committed towards supporting Pakistan in dealing with aftermath of the floods and its efforts to build climate-resilient structures. Minister Sajjan is leading a Canadian delegation to Pakistan to assess the level of devastation caused by floods. The delegation also includes three Pakistani-origin members of Canadian Parliament namely Iqra Khalid, Salma Zahid and Shafqat Ali.

*Punjab anti-corruption quashes case against Shireen Mazari*

LAHORE: Punjab Anti-Corruption Establishment on Monday quashed a case registered against PTI leader Shireen Mazari for tampering a land record, private tv channel reported on Monday.

Shireen Mazari was blamed for not giving back the lands secured under land reforms after the Federal Land Commission ruled against her. Shireen Mazari approached the high court that a false report was filed against her from her political opponents.

The matter was later moved to the Supreme Court after the high court provided relief to the PTI leader. The Federal Land Commission later accepted anomalies in its previous replies and submitted a second response, paving way for a decision in her favour.

It is pertinent to mention here that on May 21, Anti-corruption Punjab and Islamabad police in a joint action arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) leader and former federal minister Shireen Mazari from outside her house. Agencies

*CJP vows to fully uphold country's constitution*



Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial has pledged apex court's commitment to defend the Constitution in its entirety.

He was speaking at the opening ceremony of New Judicial Year in Islamabad on Monday.

His lordship informed that during the period from 2nd February to 9th September this year, the court has decided 14,943 cases, minimizing the pending cases from 54,134 to 50,265.

The Chief Justice further said that dispensation of swift and economic justice is priority of the apex court and efforts are being made for alternative dispute resolution, which will reduce the pendency of cases in all tiers of courts by around 40 percent in next three years.

## Sino-Pak friendship remains rock solid: Liu Jinsong

*China had made full efforts to help fight the floods in Pakistan*

BEIJING: Director General of the Asian Affairs Department, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Liu Jinsong said that over the past year, China-Pakistan relations withstood tests and the friendship between the two countries remained rock-solid.

"China had made full efforts to help fight the floods in Pakistan. Since June, Pakistan has encountered the most severe flood disaster in decades. It has caused more than 1,000 deaths and affected over 33 million people. Satellite images show that one eighth of Pakistan's land was covered by floods," he said in his speech at recently held online 2nd Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum.

The dry land turned into swamps, where rainstorm and floods washed away bridges and roads, cut off transportation, inundated farmland, destroyed houses, displaced local resi-

dents and put kids out of school, Global Times quoted him as saying.

He said, the Chinese people empathized with the people of Pakistan and share their pain and concern. At the same time, we admire the tenacious character of the Pakistani people who have pulled together for self-relief and quickly begun rebuilding their homes.

Terming China and Pakistan ironclad brothers with a tradition of mutual support and help, he said, "We will never forget that in the aftermath of the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008, Pakistan promptly sent every tent it had to China's affected areas by military planes. For every kindness it receives, China will return many times more."

Liu Jinsong said the Chinese side regarded ironclad brother's difficulties as its own difficulties. As severe floods hit Pakistan, President Xi

Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang sent messages of condolences to President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif respectively.

China has provided 4,000 tents, 50,000 blankets and 50,000 pieces of waterproof tarp under the social and livelihood cooperation framework of the CPEC and all of them were put into use on the frontline against floods, he added.

The director general informed that with the urgent coordination of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), China provided Pakistan with 100 million RMB yuan of emergency humanitarian aid. At the end of August, the first 3,000 tents of a total of 25,000 were flown from Sichuan Province to Pakistan by Chinese military airplanes and put into use.

As the flood situation evolved, CIDCA added

300 million RMB yuan of humanitarian assistance. Other urgent relief supplies such as vegetables and tents are being arranged quickly, he added.

He said, the Chinese people are lending a helping hand as well. Pakistani Embassy's emergency relief account received 1 million yuan of donations within hours after it's opened. A primary school student from Beijing named Luan Mingxuan donated all his pocket money. Chinese civilian teams of rescue volunteers have arrived in Pakistan.

The Chinese companies in Pakistan took the initiative to repair affected roads and bridges. Recently, Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed sympathy over the deaths and injuries caused by the earthquake in Luding County, Sichuan Province. Floods are merciless but human beings are compassionate.

"It is proved once again that China-Pakistan friendship is higher than the mountain, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey. We are convinced that our Pakistani brothers will prevail over the disaster and rebuild their home," he added.

About CPEC, he said, it was providing strong support for Pakistan's economic development and social stability. Not long ago, the Karot plant, the first hydropower project under CPEC, was put into operation after seven years' construction. It has created thousands of local jobs and, with an annual output of 3.2 billion kWh, it now provides affordable clean energy for 5 million families.

It is estimated to reduce 3.5 million tons of carbon emissions every year, which will help Pakistan enhance energy security and transition into a green economy. APP



# Tanveer Ilyas urges overseas Kashmiris to invest in AJK

*Says comprehensive business-friendly system being introduced*

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Urging overseas Kashmiris to take advantage of the investment friendly environment in Azad Kashmir, the Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the government was ready to offer every possible support to investors.

During his meeting with prominent businessman Raja Sakhawat here on Monday the PM said that a comprehensive business-friendly system was being introduced for the promotion of foreign investment in the state so



that investors can move forward with

ease without going through hectic and cumbersome procedures.

While referring to AJK's picturesque landscape the PM said that Azad Kashmir was a beautiful masterpiece of nature, which offers plenty of opportunities to businessmen to invest in tourism and other important sectors including hydel power generation, agriculture and livestock. Appreciating the measures taken by the government to attract foreign investors Raja Sakhawat on behalf of his business group announced to invest in Azad Kashmir.

While welcoming Raja Sakhawat

and his group for the capital investment, the PM said that the government would provide all out support to facilitate investors. Meanwhile, Minister for Housing and Physical Planning Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, President Tehreek-e-Insaf Youth Wing Pakistan Meena Khan Afridi, President Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Kashmir Youth Wing and Special Assistant to Prime Minister Raja Sabeel Riaz and Secretary General Youth Wing and Chairman PDA Sardar Amir Jameel, Barrister Shahzad Hayat and Sardar Rafatullah Baig also held meetings with the prime minister.

## Urwa Hocane starrer Meri Shehzadi all set to release soon

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Urwa Hocane is all set to grace our screens in the upcoming drama, Meri Shehzadi, penned by the renowned writer, well known for Pyaar ke Sadqay, Zanjabeel Asim Shah. The serial is directed by Mere Humsafar's director, Qasim Ali Mureed under the banner of Momina Duraid Production.

The serial is said to have all the glimpses of love, anguish and tragedy. The serial beautifully captures the reminiscence of Lady Diana in of the main characters, Dania (Urwa Hocane) from her growing years to where the tragedy struck in the house of royalty. And this seems effortlessly portrayed by Urwa Hocane.

Meri Shehzadi has introduced us to Urwa Hocane's character, who can be seen as a political leader, a philanthropist, survivor and a princess of hearts. "It's about time that we need to portray strong female figures and Meri Shehzadi is filled with these messages, where the viewers will learn along the way," Urwa added.

It certainly is a breath of fresh air seeing an actress taking such challenging and thought-provoking role in the times where women empowerment is much needed. The serial is set to be on our screens soon on Hum TV.



## Serving humanity

JAMSHORO: Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS) Relief Medical Team have boarded a boat to treat the flood victims in Owais Qarni (RA) village near Manjhand.



Photo: Online

## OPD services resume at DHQ Hospital Wana

**Adam Khan Wazir**



WANA: The Additional Assistant Commissioner Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali along with DSP Wana Iqbal baloch carried out a detailed visit of DHQ Hospital Wana wherein the OPD services were halted due to an issue between the contractor and Quality assurance Engineer of MERF/Medical Emergency resilience Foundation.

Detailed meeting with the Health Manager and Administration of the hospital along with Elders and political alliance held. OPD services were resumed and patients appreciated the Efforts of District Administration in promoting and improving the service delivery in the Hospital.

Detailed security meeting was held along with the health manager and hospital Administration by the Additional AC Wana and DSP Wana to improve security of the hospital and devise pragmatic security planning to avoid any untoward incident in the future. The media personnel, the elders, the patients and hospital administration appreciated the efforts of district administration.

## Four terrorists killed in Lakki Marwat operation

**Raja Furqan Ahmed**

LAKKI MARWAT/KARACHI: At least four terrorists of a proscribed group were killed during a joint operation conducted by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and police in Lakki Marwat city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to the details, the agencies conducted the operation in the Takhti Khel town in the jurisdiction of Naurang police station during which militants hiding in the area opened fire on the reading team. The personnel returned the fire, killing four. Meanwhile, a CTD spokesperson informed the press that automatic weapons have been recovered from the slain militants. He further said a few accomplices of the dead managed to escape the scene.

The law enforcement agencies have also launched a search operation in the area to arrest them. On the other hand, Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and a federal agency in a joint operation arrested a terrorist affiliated with a banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) from Metroville, SITE.

According to spokesman, the arrested terrorist identified as Muhammad Shah alias Dung, alias Talha, alias Muhammad Ali, had come to Karachi to constitute his network in the megalopolis. A pistol along with two magazines and 14 rounds were recovered from his possession. The accused was also wanted by CTD Peshawar for his involvement in heinous terrorist activities. He was trained militant and belonged to TTP-Tariq Geedar Group.

## Orange Line steps forward to support flood victims

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: In the spirit of further strengthening brotherly relations between China and Pakistan, a group of 20 employees and volunteers representing the Orange Line Metro Train project stepped forward to distribute life support essentials amongst the flood victims of Jampur, which stands amongst the most devastated cities in the Rajanpur district of South Punjab during the current ongoing floods crisis.

The specially prepared donation packages included ready to eat food items, hygiene products, raw grocery items, and cash support with a combined worth of two million rupees to support those who have been critically affected by the floods.

Heavy torrential rains in the Sulaiman Range caused massive water flooding that led to breaches in the protection dykes of two water channels in district Rajanpur. Floodwaters also breached the protection dyke of Chak Shaheed drain that flooded the surroundings of the village, cutting its 2,500 residents off from the rest of the area. Due to recent monsoon rains, the



areas of Rojhan and Jampur tehsils of district Rajanpur faced severe losses making it difficult for rescue teams to reach the affected areas and forcing millions of people to leave their homes and seek rescue shelter and assistance.

While speaking about it, Li Chen, the CEO of Orange Line Metro Train Lahore said, "The Orange Line Metro Train project is a good example of China and Pakistan's iron-clad friendship which is time tested and timeless. During this natural calamity of unprecedented scale, we firmly stand

with our Pakistani brothers and sisters to support them with their rescue and rehabilitation efforts."

This essential support from Orange Line Metro Train project joins the other ongoing efforts at a crucial time when millions of human lives have been lost, countless families have been displaced, and major infrastructure across many cities has been washed away due to massive floods. It will certainly require joint collaborative efforts by everyone to help recover from this massive crisis and repair the damage it has caused.

## River Indus still runs furious at Kotri

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that the river Indus continues to flow in "High Flood" at Kotri with 650,000 cusecs while all other main rivers of Indus River System (Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej) are flowing in "Normal".

According to daily FFC report on Monday, Tarbela Reservoir has already attained maximum conservation level of 1550.00 feet since August 28, 2022. At present, water level in Mangla Dam is 1192.30 feet against its MCL: 1242 feet (47.44 % storage still left). Chashma Reservoir is also being maintained at 648.60 feet (against MCL: 649.00 feet) since 2nd September 2022.

Present combined live storage of Tarbela, Chashma & Mangla Reservoirs is 9.951 MAF (i.e. 73.93 % of 13.461 MAF). Trough of Western wave earlier over Northeastern Afghanistan today lies over Northern parts of Pakistan while weak seasonal low continues to prevail over Northwestern Balochistan.

## Anti-dengue spray campaign starts in Karachi

KARACHI: Member of Provincial Assembly Ali Sohri along with Administrator Baldia Gharbi Syed Shabia Al Hasan on Monday inaugurated the spray campaign to eradicate dengue and malaria.

Addressing on the occasion, Ali Sohri said the measures being taken to eradicate the public problems in District West are commendable, as all the officers of West Municipality are engaged in solving public problems under the direction of the Administrator and Municipal Commissioner.

On this occasion, the Administrator said that since the start of rainy season, the municipal officers and staff had been engaged day and night in the struggle to eliminate regional problems, with the help of other institutions, regular spraying to eliminate dengue and malaria.

The campaign is being launched, which was launched on Sunday afternoon with limited resources and with the help of other organizations, spraying has been started in all the street neighborhoods of Orangi, Manghopir and Mominabad, with special focus on three zones of West Municipality.

## It'll take long time to cultivate flood-affected land: Salman Aslam

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: President of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Salman Aslam said that the recent rains and floods have caused havoc in Sindh, Baluchistan, millions of people are on the streets, and rehabilitation of the affected people will take more than two to three years, while the agricultural lands in interior Sindh that have been devastated by floods will take a long time to become cultivated again.

Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) had set a target of providing relief to 20 thousand affected families and till now, KATI has sent relief goods to 15 thousand families affected by rains and floods in Sindh and Balochistan. He expressed these views while talking to

the industrialists of Korangi Industrial Area on Monday.

President KATI said that every possible effort is being made to continue this series of aid to the affectedes under the leadership of SM Munir, 5 more aid trucks will be sent from KATI this week for the support of the affected peoples of Sindh and as soon as the cold weather begins in the country, a new crisis begins for flood affected people. He appealed to the humanitarian workers to take immediate measures to protect the flood victims from the cold weather.

Salman Aslam said that KATI distributed one month's food supplies to thousands of families in Balochistan, KATI was the first association to send relief goods to the flood victims, on our leader SM Munir's instructions we do

not leave the affectedes alone in difficult times.

President KATI said that the situation in Sindh is very dire where more than 3 crore people have been badly affected, 50 percent of their cattle have been washed away and one year have also been washed away, Badin, Sehwan, Khairpur, In many areas of Sindh, including Larkana, where people are in dire need of rations, clothes for children and women, medicines and mosquito nets, diseases are spreading rapidly, people have no place to take shelter, their cattle have also died.

KATI provided the affected families with rations, tents and water coolers, mosquito nets, medicines, food items, drinking water, roasted grams and other dry items, slippers, and other essential items for

men, women and children for which KATI relief committee members Junaid Naqi, Noman Aslam and others are continuously serving in the relief camp.

Salman Aslam said that a donation of two crore rupees has been sent from KATI, but a large number of affected people are still forced to live in tents, in a few days more than 100 tents will be handed over to the Rangers, which more than 600 people can take shelter.

Salman Aslam said that water is still accumulated in the flood-affected areas and if the sun does not shine, the land will not dry, if the cold season begins, the water will not dry and the salt in the ground will destroy the agricultural land and its fertility. Then re-soiling of the land has to be done.

## YAP Pakistan partners with Bank Alfalah

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: YAP Pakistan, the region's first financial super app on a mission to revolutionize the digital banking experience in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia has partnered with Bank Alfalah, one of Pakistan's largest commercial banks, to offer customized digital financial products and services for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the country. The two organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding on August 4th, 2022.

Through this collaboration, YAP Pakistan and Bank Alfalah pave the way to create a more financially inclusive ecosystem for customers and businesses by enabling users to access a comprehensive array of digital financial services, including a fully operational business bank account, payroll, reporting, analytics and expense management. YAP customers will also be able to access over-the-counter services at Bank Alfalah's vast network of branches across Pakistan.

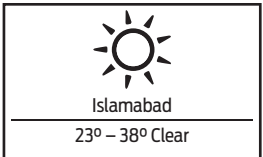
YAP Pakistan, which has successfully secured the In-Principle Approval from the State Bank of Pakistan for an Electronic Money Institute (EMI) License, will equip users with a digital account and an app which will enable users to perform various financial tasks at the touch of a button.

"SMEs have unique needs and are looking for a more seamless approach to banking and we are pleased to partner with Bank Alfalah to create a suite of products and services to support them," said YAP Pakistan CEO Meharyab Niazi, "SMEs contribute to 40% of Pakistan's GDP and 25% in overall exports, which emphasizes the demand for an easier way to manage finances when in the early stages of growing a business."

Bank Alfalah has been on the mission to collaborate with various partners in a bid to increase adoption of digital payments in the industry. The bank's online acceptance business is clearly the market leader with more than 50% market share. Bank Alfalah's Cash Management enables Corporate, Middle Market and SME clients to securely prepare their payment and transfer instructions to the bank in real time. Bank Alfalah was also awarded the Best Transaction Banking Award in 2021.

Bank Alfalah is committed to support Pakistan's growing Fintech startup eco-system. YAP's regional experience with SME's promises to bring innovative payment solutions for this largely unserved market in the country. We look forward to supporting YAP by providing them access to our financial products and jointly developing new ones," said Ms. Mehreen Ahmed, Group Head Retail Banking Group at Bank Alfalah.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:24 am
Zohr	12:04 pm
Asr	4:32 pm
Maghrib	6:19 pm
Isha	7:43 pm

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Bomb Disposal	15
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Motorway Police	9266044
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**Women Police Stations**

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MH	561116
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G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316	
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

*Joint action plan for Capital's security to be formulated*

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General Police (IGP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan and Director General (DG) Pakistan Rangers, Major General Mohammad Gaddafi on Monday decided to formulate a joint action plan to improve security situation in the Federal capital.

Both the officers, in a meeting, discussed various options regarding security in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

They lauded the role of Capital Police and Pakistan Rangers in establishing law and order and maintaining peace in the city and vowed to further improve coordination between the two law enforcement agencies.

*Motorway Police to monitor buses by modern means*

ISLAMABAD: The Motorway police has started a latest system of monitoring the passenger buses on the motorways, as to safeguard the lives of the commuters.

According to the Spokesperson of Motorway police, as per directives of Inspector General National Highway and Motorway Police Khalid Mahmood, the process of directly monitoring by means of trackers, of the buses moving on the highways has begun for the safety of public life and property.

The objective of this was to control over-speeding of passenger vehicles, unloading of passengers at prohibited areas and prevention of violations of other traffic rules.

Through this system, if a driver commits any violation, then an immediate legal action would be taken against him and the bus owners and company will also be informed in this regard.

# BISP distributes over Rs23b among 946,813 families

Control room established at BISP headquarters to ensure smooth payments

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Marri has said that an amount of Rs. 25,000 under Flood Relief Cash Assistance means a lot to the flood affected families who have lost everything.

Despite unusual circumstances, BISP has so far disbursed over 23 billion rupees among 946,813 flood affected families in a short span of time.

She said that it is a matter of honour that the Prime Minister has selected Benazir Income Support Programme for the cash relief disbursement.

The monitoring teams of BISP have been formed to ensure transparency in the cash disbursement process and the concerned officers are visiting the relief centers on a regular basis to monitor the provision of cash assistance, she added.

As of Monday evening, a total amount of Rs. 23,670,325,000 have been disbursed among 946,813 flood affected families



under this programme.

A total of 116,753 affected families have received Rs.2,918,825 in Balochistan; 564,472 families have received Rs.14,111,800,000 in Sindh; 116,962 families have received Rs.2,924,050,000 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 148,626 families have received Rs.3,715,650,000

in Punjab.

Today 22,527 flood affected families received cash assistance from different campsites established in flood hit areas of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. A control room has been established at BISP headquarters to ensure smooth payments.

## Protest

ISLAMABAD: PTI women activists shouting slogans outside ATC court during former PM Imran Khan appearing before the Anti-Terrorism Court in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# PTA, NEPRA sign MoU for collaboration

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for information sharing, cooperation, coordination, and capacity building of professionals in a ceremony held at PTA Headquarters.

Naveed Illahi Sheikh, Director General (Admin. /HR) NEPRA signed the MOU on behalf of NEPRA. Chairman PTA, Major General (R) Amir Azeem Bajwa HI (M), Chairman NEPRA, Tauseef H. Farooqi and senior officers from NEPRA and PTA were present during the signing ceremony.

The areas of collaboration include establishing a coordi-



ination mechanism that would enable smooth working relations for digitalization of networks, specifically in the areas of cyber security, transition towards Smart Grids and Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) programs, provision of Power-to-Community through telecom infrastructure at rural sites, alternate energy solutions, power tariff for telecom sector and knowledge sharing regarding optimum use of future technolo-

gies and other latest developments. The MoU also includes capacity building program on the experience and knowledge available to both organizations and conducting sessions/discussion forums/training on relevant issues and technological advancements.

Speaking at the occasion, Chairman PTA, said that, PTA is working to ensure that citizens have access to high quality ICT services and benefits from ubiquitous coverage

especially in far flung areas of the country. To maintain better connectivity nationwide, the collaboration with NEPRA is very important for an uninterrupted power supply.

Chairman NEPRA also shed light on the first ever Cyber Security drive focusing on Information Technology and Operation Technology "Power with Security" that has been started under his vision and leadership to protect and safeguard the multi-billion dollar asset of Pakistan's power sector. In addition to that, Chairman NEPRA has placed an immense focus on bringing about a tech revolution in the power sector by initiating work at the regulatory front related to blockchain technology, artificial technology, smart grids, EVs, etc.

# PARC convenes VEC meeting on oilseed crops

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Variety Evaluation Committee meeting on oilseed crops was held in two sessions.

More than 30 candidate varieties/hybrids of canola, mustard and sunflower were selected. Proposals submitted for evaluation during the meeting session, 29 hybrids/varieties of local and imported origin were proposed for commercial cultivation according to their potential ecology.

Out of these, 04 hybrids/varieties are Rapeseed/canola, 17 mustard varieties and 08 hybrids of sunflower. Senior Technical Representative of Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Heads of Provincial Seed Council, Provincial Head of Agriculture and Allied Research, DGNARC and representatives of private seed sector partici-



ated in the meeting.

Chairman of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali has said that according to the instructions and vision of the Prime Minister, the work on alternative oil crops for the export of edible oil is going on rapidly and the successful experiments will lead to a record increase in production. In his opening remarks, Chair-

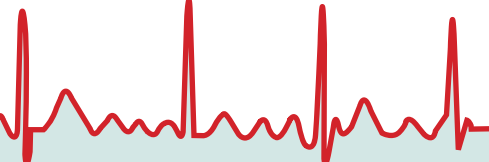
man PARC highlighted the importance of Variety Evaluation Committee and said that this forum ensures high production and availability of variety in the country by recommending different types of hybrids.

He highlighted the importance of seeds of oilseeds and the efforts made to increase the domestic production of various oilseeds to ensure the availability of seeds. In this regard, he appreci-

ated the efforts of PARC and NARS to introduce new types and hybrids of seeds in the country and said that local production of seeds of various species including oilseeds would help the government to import batches on an annual basis.

There will be savings in terms of expenses incurred. Chairman PARC urged the concerned experts and scientists to focus on local production of seeds, especially oilseeds and production of hybrids. He further encouraged the public and private sector working together with PARC to develop the seed sector in Pakistan. Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Member, Plant Sciences Division, PARC, appreciated the role of public and private sector in providing hybrid varieties for oilseeds to farmers, which are helping to improve seed productivity in Pakistan.

**Health Corner**



## Stress accelerates immune aging

ISLAMABAD: Stress — in the form of traumatic events, job strain, everyday stressors and discrimination — accelerates aging of the immune system, potentially increasing a person's risk of cancer, cardiovascular disease and illness from infections such as COVID-19, according to a new USC study.

The research, published June 13 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), could help explain disparities in age-related health, including the unequal toll of the pandemic, and identify possible points for intervention.

"As the world's population of older adults increases, understanding disparities in age-related health is essential. Age-related changes in the immune system play a critical role in declining health," said lead study author Eric Klopack, a postdoctoral scholar in the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. "This study helps clarify mechanisms involved in accelerated immune aging."

As people age, the immune system naturally begins a dramatic downgrade, a condition called immunosenescence. With advanced age, a person's immune profile weakens, and includes too many worn-out white blood cells circulating and too few fresh, "naive" white blood cells ready to take on new invaders.

Immune aging is associated not only with cancer, but with cardiovascular disease, increased risk of pneumonia, reduced efficacy of vaccines and organ system aging.

But what accounts for drastic health differences in same-age adults? USC researchers decided to see if they could tease out a connection between lifetime exposure to stress — a known contributor to poor health — and declining vigor in the immune system.

They queried and cross-referenced enormous data sets from University of Michigan's Health and Retirement Study, a national longitudinal study of the economic, health, marital, family status, and public and private support systems of older Americans.

To calculate exposure to various forms of social stress, the researchers analyzed responses from a national sample of 5,744 adults over the age of 50. They answered a questionnaire designed to assess respondents' experiences with social stress, including stressful life events, chronic stress, everyday discrimination and lifetime discrimination.

Blood samples from the participants were then analyzed through flow cytometry, a lab technique that counts and classifies blood cells as they pass one-by-one in a narrow stream in front of a laser.

As expected, people with higher stress scores had older-seeming immune profiles, with lower percentages of fresh disease fighters and higher percentages of worn-out white blood cells. The association between stressful life events and fewer ready to respond, or naive, T cells remained strong even after controlling for education, smoking, drinking, BMI and race or ethnicity.

Some sources of stress may be impossible to control, but the researchers say there may be a workaround.

T-cells — a critical component of immunity — mature in a gland called the thymus, which sits just in front of and above the heart. As people age, the tissue in their thymus shrinks and is replaced by fatty tissue, resulting in reduced production of immune cells. Past research suggests that this process is accelerated by lifestyle factors like poor diet and low exercise, which are both associated with social stress.

"In this study, after statistically controlling for poor diet and low exercise, the connection between stress and accelerated immune aging wasn't as strong," said Klopack. "What this means is people who experience more stress tend to have poorer diet and exercise habits, partly explaining why they have more accelerated immune aging."

Improving diet and exercise behaviors in older adults may help offset the immune aging associated with stress. Courtesy Science Daily



## Riphah Health Services delegation visits TDC



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A team from Riphah Health Services led by Dr. Umar Awab Khan (Director) visited The Diabetes Centre (TDC) Islamabad. On arrival, guests were given a warm welcome. They met Chairman Dr. Asjad Hameed and CEO Mr. Tahir M. Abbasi. Possibilities of Collaboration were discussed among two entities.

Visiting delegation was given a formal presentation about Hospital and later was taken on round wherein they witnessed state of art Hospital Dr. Umar Awab Khan of Riphah Health Services said partnership with TDC will go a long way in training of doctors/young medical students.

## 36 more infected with dengue in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: As many as 36 more people were infected with the fatal dengue virus in the Rawalpindi district during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 874.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Monday said that, among the new cases, 25 patients had arrived from Pothohar Town urban area, four from Rawalpindi Cantonment, three from Chaklala Cantonment, two from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi and one each arrived from Kahutta and Potohar rural area.

Presently, 178 patients were admitted to three allied hospitals of the city, including 67 to the District Headquarters Hospital, 57 to Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) and 54 to the Holy Family Hospital (HFH).

Dr Sajjad added that out of the total admitted patients, 126 were confirmed cases, and 90 belonged to Rawalpindi. He informed two patients were in critical positions and admitted to BBH and HFH each.

The health officer said a full-scale fumigation drive was underway in different district localities, mainly where dengue larvae had been found. He said the prevailing weather was suitable for breeding dengue larvae and asked the concerned to remove stagnant water in outdoor and household settings to stop mosquitoes from breeding after rain and submerged water.

## PMD forecasts rain

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast mainly hot and dry weather for most plain areas of the country.

However, rain-wind/thundershower is expected in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north Punjab, southeastern Sindh, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. According to the synoptic situation, a westerly wave was affecting upper and central parts of the country. Moist currents were penetrating southern parts of the country.

During the last 24 hours, rain-wind/thundershower occurred in southeastern Sindh, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northeastern Balochistan, south/upper Punjab, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. Hot and humid weather prevailed over other parts of the country.



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# UK PM's 'top team' is alarmingly short on experience

**Andrew Hammond**

**L**iz Truss was expecting a fast-paced first few days in office as UK prime minister, but little could she have anticipated the whirlwind week that has ensued since Monday.

The sad death of Queen Elizabeth on Thursday is a major moment in British history, and Truss now has to speak for the nation in the coming days, alongside the new King Charles.

The monarchy aside, Truss faces a difficult political situation. Internationally, there is the war in Ukraine. The new prime minister has to repair relations with the EU and show the world that Brexit has a coherent purpose, and must somehow forge her ties with the US at a time when the relationship with the president is at its weakest possibly since the end of the Second World War.

Yet, despite the fact that Truss faces some of the biggest policy challenges since 1945, the Cabinet she has appointed is one of the least experienced in modern times. This is bizarre given the scale of the task ahead, with her government's in-tray extraordinary grim economically, financially and socially.

Despite Truss winning the Conservative leadership contest on Monday by a narrower margin than expected, she has shown little willingness to appoint ministers who opposed her, and former Finance Minister Rishi Sunak has not been offered a role — a significant break with precedent. She therefore risks making exactly the same mistake as Boris Johnson in 2019 by favoring too many close allies, and not reaching out to all key wings of the Conservative Party.

Indeed, only two MPs who had publicly declared support for Sunak during the campaign have avoided being sacked and/or made it on to the Truss front-bench. They are the reappointed Secretary for Wales Robert Buckland, who switched to Truss later in the campaign, and the new Attorney General Michael Ellis.

Truss likes to compare herself to Margaret Thatcher, who also faced challenges in 1979, but her appointments are very different. New Finance Minister Kwasi Kwarteng, Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and Home Secretary Suella Braverman have much less political experience than Thatcher's first top team in the late 1970s of Geoffrey Howe, Lord Carrington and Willie Whitelaw. Indeed, Truss is now the only person remaining in government to have served in UK Cabinets for over six years, and the only person to have

(10 Downing Street, Treasury, Foreign Office or Home Office). Moreover, the Cabinet contains no fewer than five other candidates from the recent leadership election — Penny Mordaunt, Nadhim Zahawi, Braverman, Kemi Badenoch and Tom Tugendhat. So Truss argues that this is a Cabinet that will unify the party.

One of her most controversial appointments is Jacob Rees-Mogg as business secretary. He, along with others such as Braverman, has been skeptical of the net zero agenda. Rees-Mogg is vocally in favor of fracking, has expressed concerns about "climate alarmism," and believes that "every drop" of fossil fuel energy should be squeezed from the UK's North Sea.

While Rees-Mogg's appointment has been criticized by green NGOs, there will be some offsets to any big changes in UK climate policy. First off, the new finance minister Kwarteng was the main architect of Johnson's 10-point plan to reach net zero emissions by 2050. Second, pro-net zero MP Graham Stuart has been appointed climate minister under Rees-Mogg and will attend Cabinet. Finally, Johnson has warned Truss that he is ready to defend his climate legacy, and

she knows he is still highly popular with the party grassroots.

Among all the key challenges facing Truss, the most pressing is a major UK energy market intervention, which she outlined on Thursday. This is expected to cost between £100 billion (\$116 billion) and £150 billion over the next 18 months. With this massive extra spending on the horizon, plus significant tax cuts, UK benchmark borrowing costs hit their highest level in more than 11 years on Tuesday, as markets worried that the prime minister's plans to combat the cost-of-living crisis would mean a sharp increase in supply of government debt.

To add a further headache for Truss, a new opinion poll released on Tuesday also shows the opposition Labour Party extending its lead to about 15 percentage points, a seven-point increase on the previous week. So the new prime minister is facing a growing economic and political storm. It is, therefore, inexplicable that the top team she has selected is not more "fit for purpose" to meet these challenges.

*Andrew Hammond is an Associate at LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics. Courtesy: Arab News*

**UK benchmark borrowing costs hit their highest level in more than 11 years on Tuesday, as markets worried that the prime minister's plans to combat the cost-of-living crisis would mean a sharp increase in supply of government debt**

served in David Cameron's final Cabinet in 2016.

Nonetheless, the Cabinet does have significant gender and ethnic diversity. Today is the first time in UK history that no white man occupies any of the four great offices of state

## Asian financial cooperation

**I**n March 2022, emerging East Asia's local-currency bond market was worth \$23.5tn. In 2005, the Asian Development Bank proposed the most ambitious attempt at regional financial co-operation: the Asian Currency Unit. A basket of the Asean+3 currencies, the ACU was devised as an anchor to which countries in the region could tether their own currencies, thereby deterring competitive devaluations and enabling countries in the region to float their currencies collectively against the US dollar. This would enable faster adjustment of current-account imbalances and promote regional trade and financial flows.

Building on the ACU idea, a group of Japanese economists devised a supplementary concept: the Asian Monetary Unit, whose value would reflect a weighted average of East Asian currencies. But, while Asian academics welcomed the proposals as possible first steps toward the creation of a common regional currency, neither the ACU nor the AMU has gained traction among policymakers. Unfortunately, Asian financial co-operation has been losing momentum in recent years for several reasons. First, the need for regional liquidity support has become less urgent. Most of the Asean+3 countries run current-account surpluses most of the time, and the region had accumulated some \$3.7tn in foreign-exchange reserves by the time the global financial crisis erupted in 2008 — a more than six-fold increase from the \$542 billion they held in 1997.

Second, although the Asian bond market has made impressive headway over the past ten years, the development of local-currency bond markets is driven by domestic financial needs rather than regional financial cooperation, and cross-border local currency bonds are rarely issued. In fact, individual countries' financial development has significantly outpaced the development of infrastructure for the cross-border issuance of local-currency bonds. As a result, factors like non-standardised regulations, inadequate market liquidity, and a lack of an effective securities settlement system continue to hinder the development of cross-border issuance of local-currency bonds in the region.

Third, since the Asian financial crisis, most East Asian countries have adopted a managed-floating exchange-rate regime. But none of them has pegged their currencies to a basket of East Asian currencies based on the ACU, largely because they are unwilling to accept constraints on their exchange rates for the sake of exchange-rate stabilisation among regional currencies. More broadly, greater economic and financial co-operation is vital to Asia's long-term prosperity.

The Asian financial crisis had begun. Unable to service their foreign debt, Thailand, Indonesia, and South Korea turned to the International Monetary Fund for support. But the IMF's rescue packages were too little, too late, and came with excessively harsh conditions. East Asia, it increasingly appeared, would be better off saving itself. The region certainly had resources. Though some countries, like Thailand, were running current-account deficits, East Asia as a whole ran an external surplus. On July 2, 1997, the Thai baht collapsed. After waves of speculative attacks, the government had run out of foreign currency and become unable to support its exchange-rate peg to the US dollar. So, it floated the baht, which went into free-fall. A wave of financial and non-financial Thai corporates that had borrowed heavily in dollars filed for bankruptcy.

## Justice recused, justice denied?

**Hamza Azhar Salam**

**T**he Honourable High Courts routinely decry actions of the Executive as "arbitrary and capricious". But what term do we use when multiple judges of an Honourable High Court recuse themselves from a case by simply citing but not disclosing personal reasons?

Earlier this week, Maryam Nawaz again approached the Lahore High Court (LHC) for the return of her passport which she had surrendered before the LHC Deputy Registrar after she had been granted post-arrest bail in the Chaudhary Sugar Mills Limited (CSML) case nearly four years ago after furnishing of surety bonds in the sum of Rs.10 million each from two sureties with the trial court and separately depositing Rs.70 million with the LHC Deputy Registrar.

However, Justice Anwaar-ul-Haq Pannun, a member of the division bench (again) recused himself from hearing the petition for the return of her passport; and following Justice Anwar's recusal, the head of the bench Justice Ali Baqar Najafi sent the file back to the chief justice of the LHC to reconstitute the Bench yet again.

That the record shows that this was the fourth time a judge of LHC (and second time for Justice Anwaar-ul-Haq Pannun)

had recused himself from hearing the case: On 21 April, 2022, when a bench comprising of Justice Shahbaz Rizvi and Justice Anwaar-ul-Haq Pannun was first constituted, Justice Anwaar-ul-Haq Pannun recused himself; then on 26 April, 2022, when another bench comprising of Justice Baqar Najafi and Justice Farooq Haider was constituted, Justice Farooq Haider recused himself. When he was replaced by Justice Asjad Ghural later on the same day, Justice Asjad Ghural also recused himself.

That no reference or any investigation

an accused's right to travel abroad unlike other special laws such as Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997; that the accused has already furnished more than adequate surety and separately deposited Rs. 70 million; that it is settled law that mere registration of a case or institution of criminal proceedings does not automatically imply that the accused should be disallowed to move outside Pakistan; that there may not be any apprehension of abscondance in view of the track record of the petitioner who notwithstanding a conviction in her absence in 2018, voluntarily came back to Pakistan to surrender to the process of law while leaving behind her ailing mother on her death bed — are apparently all pleas that do not merit a hearing.

The bench will of course be reconstituted. But if the composition is based on political leanings and the junior judge may once again recuse himself without explanation and essentially deny relief without actually passing an order, what good is it?

It is worth remembering that high profile cases are test cases. They illuminate and exemplify the workings of the justice system and their outcomes become the yardstick to measure the fairness of our Courts. The Honourable Courts currently appear to be failing this test and their sanctity is being called into question; and if this charade needlessly continues, it will undoubtedly drag the Honourable Courts into disrepute.



## 'Networking of Mosques': Addressing natural calamities

**W**hen disasters strike, addressing immediate needs is paramount. But disaster giving cannot end there. Supporting strategic, long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts can help strengthen communities and position them to better withstand future disasters. In Pakistan where many NGOs and philanthropist organizations are contributing so hard, there role of mosques cannot be neglected.

Ramatul-lil-Alameen Mosque located in F8/4 Islamabad is working in this aspect to bring a new role of mosques to contribute in flood relief fund. Initially they started a unique movement of '2 kg Rice' . The Movement '2kg Rice' "was a great start to impetus public to take a step towards funding the affectees .People not only contributed rice but also brought as much as they could for flood sufferers.

Mosque "Ramatul-lil-Alameen "is working on humanitarian basis to transport the aid and has set up a team to collect the fund and aid. Team of Mosque is directly in contact to the heads of local mosques situated in flood drown areas. The floods that has destroyed buildings, leaving millions of people homeless and thousands dead. Such network of mosques is providing emergency shelters, food packs and cash grants. Mosque "Ramatul-lil-Alameen "is also providing wedding packages to the people in distress by collecting clothes and necessities of marriage arrangements.

Members of the mosque have divided themselves in affected areas through the chain of mosque, helping villagers whose homes have been swept away. The network of local mosques to other local mosques in other city is such a remarkable way of communicating and giving helping hand to sufferers. The best thing of this networking lies in immediate contact and approach to the affectees .The local head of Mosque know the deserving families within their area, this help to identify the most needy families .

Identification of needy families assist the givers to provide the aid .The network of mosques is on the front lines this year, providing humanitarian aid from the very beginning. Their dedicated workers are working tirelessly rescuing people and providing them with ration packs, warm cooked meals, shelters, and clean drinking water to survive. They are also carrying out medical camps, providing medical assistance to those affected and injured. They are providing aid to the deserving families. They are voluntary helping flood survivors to rebuild their lives after disasters by providing immediate support. Networking of mosque for social welfare during flood proved that in addition to being a place of prayer, the mosque can provide educational, political welfare, and conflict resolution services in times of dispute and distress.

The most encouraging aspect of this networking is, it is being conducted without any discrimination of sect, religion and belief. We suggest to the governments that role of social welfare of mosque should be expanded and the vital role of Imam must be acknowledged in our community. We believe that the mosque and Imam can work together with the social workers and government organizations to supply the aid and social aid and help at the time of utmost emergency. Mosque networking approach will help bridge the gap between government and local religious mosque community. Ramatul-lil-Alameen Mosque has widen the ways to provide a new dimension to the working of mosque towards the welfare of society .It must be appreciated and acknowledged at Government and official level.



Analysis

Marium Rauf



# Ukraine keeps up momentum, claims it reached Russian border

Russia continues shelling Nikopol across the Dnieper

KHARKIV: Ukraine claimed Monday that it took several more villages, pushing Russian forces right back to the northeastern border, part of a lightning counteroffensive that forced Moscow to withdraw troops from some areas in recent days.

After months of little discernible movement on the battlefield, Kyiv's sudden momentum has lifted Ukrainian morale and provoked outrage in Russia and even some rare public criticism of President Vladimir Putin's war. As Ukrainian flags began to flutter over one city emerging from Russian occupation, a local leader alleged the Kremlin's troops had committed atrocities against civilians there similar to those in other places seized by Moscow.

"In some areas of the front, our defenders reached the state border with the Russian Federation," said Oleh Synchubov, the governor of the northeastern Kharkiv region. Over the weekend, a resident of recently-liberated Zaliznychne, a small town near the eastern frontline, told Sky News of the quick withdrawal.



pulled out in haste.

"The Russians were here in the morning. Then at noon, they suddenly started shouting wildly and began to run away, charging off in tanks and armored vehicles," Dmytro Hrushchenko, a resident of recently-liberated Zaliznychne, a small town near the eastern frontline, told Sky News of the quick withdrawal.

It was not yet clear if the Ukrainian blitz could signal a turning point in the

war — though some analysts suggested it might be while also cautioning there would likely be fighting for months more. Momentum has switched back and forth before. Still, the mood was jubilant across the country.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said Monday that its troops had liberated more than 20 settlements within the past day. In recent days, Kyiv's forces have captured territory at least the size of Great-

er London, according to the British Defense Ministry. In Kharkiv, authorities hailed some return to normalcy, noting that power and water had been restored to about 80% of the region's population following Russian attacks on infrastructure that knocked out electricity in many places across Ukraine.

"You are heroes!!!" wrote Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov early in the morning on Telegram, referring to those restoring utilities in Ukraine's second-biggest city. "Thanks to everyone who did everything possible on this most difficult night for Kharkiv to normalize the life of the city as soon as possible." The buoyant mood was also captured by a defiant President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on social media late Sunday.

"Do you still think you can intimidate, break us, force us to make concessions?" Zelenskyy asked. "Cold, hunger, darkness and thirst for us are not as scary and deadly as your 'friendship' and brotherhood." In the end, he exclaimed: "We will be with gas, lights, water and food ... and WITH-OUT you!"

# Australian PM defends ban on Parliament due to royal's death

CANBERRA: Australia's prime minister on Monday defended an obscure and longstanding protocol that bars the nation's parliament from sitting for 15 days following a British monarch's death.

Lawmakers will reconvene on Sept. 23 to debate a condolence motion for Queen Elizabeth II, the earliest date that the protocol allows, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said.

While presenting himself as a traditionalist, Albanese wants an Australian president to replace the British monarch as the nation's head of state. But he has brushed off questions about creating an Australian republic since the queen's death.

Most advocates for and against a republic are avoiding saying anything that might be seen as seeking advantage from the



death of a widely respected monarch. Britain apparently doesn't have a comparable protocol and King Charles III, monarch of both Britain and Australia, will address the British Parliament this week.

Because the last British monarch died in 1952, few knew of the Australian protocol. Only two kings had died between then and when Parliament first sat in 1901.

Asked who was behind the protocol, Albanese replied it

had "been in place for a long period of time." "There is something to be said for a prime minister who follows tradition, who follows protocols and who follows order," Albanese told reporters. "That is something that I have done to define my prime ministership — respect for those traditions."

Parliamentary debate in Australia often degenerates into heated and unedifying personal abuse, particularly during Question Time,

when lawmakers interrogate ministers about issues of the day.

"The idea that we could be debating Question Time as usual, that we could be having the engagement as if it was business as usual is, I believe, not correct," Albanese said.

While the opposition has accepted the new parliamentary schedule, senior opposition Sen. Simon Birmingham expected the protocol would be reviewed.

"The custom and tradition here is appropriate for us to follow on this occasion. No doubt people will look carefully at these traditions in the future and assess how they carry forward," Birmingham told Australian Broadcasting Corp. Anne Twomey, a Sydney University constitutional lawyer, said the protocol was not binding on the government.

# Haiti leader urges calm, requests help in nation's crisis

PORT-AU-PRINCE: Prime Minister Ariel Henry asked Monday for international help in fighting gang violence in Haiti and pledged yet again to work toward holding elections as he marked the anniversary of being sworn into office following the president's assassination.

The speech broadcast shortly after midnight followed a string of demonstrations across the country to protest worsening conditions, including gang violence, a severe lack of fuel and soaring inflation. Henry promised that fuel would soon be available on a regular basis and he rejected accusations he is trying to hold onto power.

"That is not true," he said, adding that the country should go into "electoral mode" before the end of the year — a vow he has made repeatedly since taking office last September. However he has not moved to appoint an electoral council to oversee a vote and U.S. officials have said it will take that body six months to organize a vote.

Haiti currently has only 10 elected officials — all members of the Senate — since it failed to hold legislative elections in October 2019 at a time of polit-



ical gridlock and massive protests.

President Jovenel Moïse had been ruling by decree for more than a year before was assassinated in July 2021. Henry renewed appeals for international support to strengthen the police, fight corruption and improve the economy.

He also condemned the violence of recent protests, but acknowledged that multiple crises are hitting Haiti and many people are living in abject poverty. "The country has a lot of problems," he said. "I am calling on everyone to stay calm. The government is working with

what it has."

Gang-related violence and kidnappings have spiked and a growing number of Haitians are fleeing the country, with dozens dying in recent months in the sinking of rickety, overloaded smuggling boats.

Meanwhile, attempts to try those arrested in the assassination of Moïse have been stalled by the resignation of four judges appointed to oversee the investigation, with some saying they feared for their lives.

More than 40 people have been arrested in Haiti, including high-ranking police officers and a group of former Colombian soldiers. At least two of three suspects detained outside Haiti were extradited to the U.S., where they face charges including conspiring to commit murder or kidnapping outside the United States.

Henry himself has come under suspicion. Last year he fired a chief prosecutor who had asked a judge to charge him. The prosecutor had asked the prime minister to explain why he spoke twice with a key suspect in the assassination just hours after the killing. Henry has denied any involvement.

# UN nuclear chief pushes for deal on nuke plant safety zone

BERLIN: The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said Monday that he has started consultations with Ukraine and Russia on his call for a "nuclear safety and security protection zone" around the Zaporizhzhia power plant, and the two sides appear to be interested.

Rafael Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, made his proposal last week after leading a team of inspectors to the nuclear plant, Europe's biggest with six reactors, but gave few details at the time.

"What we need here really is Ukraine and Russia to agree on a very simple principle of not attacking, or not shelling, at the plant," Grossi told reporters at the agency's Vienna headquarters. The IAEA has not assigned blame for recent shelling, for which Ukraine and Russia have blamed each other. The plant has been occupied by Russian forces but operated by its Ukrainian employees since early in the war.

Pressed on whether his proposal includes demilitarization, Grossi said: "Basically, it's a commitment that no military action will include or will imply aiming ... at the plant, or a radius that could be affecting its normal operation."

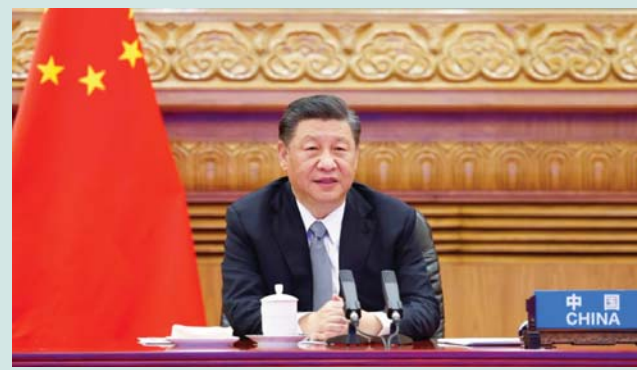
Grossi said of the two sides that he has "seen signs that they are interested in this agreement." He added that technical details are being explored, including the radius that an accord would apply to and how IAEA experts would work. Two IAEA experts remain at the plant after the rest of Grossi's team returned home.

"What I see ... is two sides that are engaging with us, but that are asking questions, lots of questions," he added. He said that "we try to keep it simple, we try to keep it practical, because we need it as soon as possible."

The Zaporizhzhia plant was reconnected to Ukraine's electricity grid at the weekend, allowing engineers to shut down its last operational reactor in an attempt to avoid disaster as fighting rages in the area.

The plant had lost its outside source of power after all its power lines were disconnected because of shelling. It operated in "island mode" for several days, generating electricity for crucial cooling systems from its only remaining operational reactor. That's considered an unstable way of operating a nuclear plant.

# Chinese president to attend SCO summit



BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the city of Samarkand, and pay state visits to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan from Sept. 14 to 16, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced Monday.

Spokesperson Hua Chunying said that Xi will pay the visits at the invitation of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

# Brazil's Bolsonaro hopes land titles will lure rural votes



SAO PAULO: Antônio Luis Durão is a member of a small minority in Brazil: He's an undecided voter with mere weeks until presidential elections.

Had the vote taken place a year ago, the 61-year-old fruit farmer would have supported Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the leftist former president who governed between 2003 and 2010. During that period, da Silva's government granted Durão some rights to farm a 26-hectare (64-acre) piece of land in Porangatu in the heartland state of Goiás.

But last month, Durão finally received a title for that same plot, giving him full ownership — with the right to sell — though after 10 years. It also will allow him to apply for a loan from a state-run bank, and he hopes to finance a tractor. He's also considering rewarding incumbent Jair Bolsonaro with his vote.

"I got in here during the Lula years, and I'm grateful, but there was nothing in place. I think this document will make things better for me now," he told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "One gave me access 14 years ago, and the other is opening my path to the future."

Durão's grant is part of the president's Title Brazil program, which aims to give ownership rights to some 340,000 people who now live on lands that are either state owned or were privately held but unused. The far-right leader, who is trailing in the polls, is also hoping it will help boost his odds of reelection.

# South Sudan declares disaster in flood-affected areas

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.

# Indian troops martyr one Kashmiri youth in IIOJK



SRINAGAR: In occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred one Kashmiri youth in south Kashmir's Shopian district, on Monday.

The troops martyred the youth during a cordon and search operation in Heff Shirmal area of the district.

The killing triggered a spontaneous protest demonstration by the locals in the area. As the news about the killing spread, people came out of their houses and raised slogans against India and its brutal forces. The troops opened fire on the protesters. Clashes were going on between the forces' personnel and the Indian troops till last reports came in.

A senior police officer confirmed that the troops resorted to the unprovoked firing on the protesters. Meanwhile, an Indian army trooper was also injured on the occasion at Heff Shirmal in Shopian district on Monday.

# Ethiopia's Tigray forces say willing to enter peace process

NAIROBI: The Tigray forces battling Ethiopian troops say they're willing to abide by an immediate cessation of hostilities and participate in a peace process led by the African Union, a significant shift to which Ethiopia's government has not yet responded.

The conflict in northern Ethiopia's Tigray region has killed an estimated tens of thousands of people and left millions without basic services for well over a year after fighting erupted in late 2020.

The Tigray authorities' statement Sunday night came after new pressure by the United

States and others following the renewal of fighting last month that shattered months of relative calm. Witnesses have described heavy fighting along the region's borders.

The Tigray authorities had criticized AU mediation efforts under special envoy Olesegun Obasanjo, and their new statement makes clear they expect "mutually acceptable mediators" along with international observers and experts to guide the process.

The Ethiopian government has said it was ready for talks anywhere at any time and without preconditions. Tigray author-

ities had demanded the resumption of basic services and the removal of hostile forces from neighboring Eritrea, among other things.

The recent fighting has triggered new diplomatic activity behind the scenes. The U.S. has played a leading role in mediating between the two sides, according to two diplomatic sources in Addis Ababa, who also said talks were expected in Djibouti. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The U.S., AU, United Nations and European Union welcomed the Tigray authorities' new state-

ment, and the U.S. called on Eritrea and unnamed "others" to stop fueling the conflict.

The AU statement notably referred to the "regional government of Tigray," while Ethiopia's government last year designated the Tigray authorities and their forces as a terrorist organization. The EU statement by foreign policy chief Josep Borrell also referred to the regional government and said "this opportunity should be seized by all. Now."

The renewed fighting has again cut off deliveries to Tigray of humanitarian aid, which had revived in a limited way during the lull in fighting earlier this



year. Aid deliveries also have been suspended to parts of the neighboring Amhara region affected by the fighting.

An aid worker told The Associated Press on Friday there has been heavy fighting on "seven or eight fronts" along Tigray's borders. A second aid worker said Eritrean troops had shelled the Tigray towns of Adigrat and Sheraro and had launched attacks against Tigray forces' positions in several places.

The second aid worker said several thousand people displaced by the fighting around Sheraro arrived in the city of Shire last week. They also said a bridge linking Shire to the Amhara region has been destroyed. The bridge was blown up last year and later repaired.



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

**Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index**

Current	Prev. Close
41,862.29	41,948.16
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,137.80	41,812.93
Index Value	Change
4,619,095,422	-85.87
Percentage	Time
-0.2%	12 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm

**Europe: FTSE 100 Index**

Index Value	Change
7,473.03	+121.96
Percentage	Time
+1.66%	12 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

**USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average**

Index Value	Change
32,316.35	+164.64
Percentage	Time
+0.51%	12 Sept, 11:57 am GMT-4

**Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average**

Index Value	Change
28,542.11	+327.36
Percentage	Time
+1.16%	12 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	153.78	155.03
Bahrain Dinar	599.66	604.16
Canadian Dollar	173.25	174.6
China Yuan	32.57	32.82
Danish Krone	30.46	30.81
Euro	235	237.5
Hong Kong Dollar	28.73	29.08
Indian Rupee	2.83	2.91
Japanese Yen	1.6	1.65
Kuwaiti Dinar	729.68	734.68
Malaysian Ringgit	50.12	50.57
New Zealand \$	137.88	139.08
Norwegians Krone	22.81	23.11
Omani Riyal	585.57	590.07
Qatari Riyal	61.94	62.44
Saudi Riyal	61.4	62.3
Singapore Dollar	161.27	162.57
Swedish Korona	21.21	21.51
Swiss Franc	235.12	236.87
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	62.20	63.10
UK Pound Sterling	271	275
US Dollar	234	236

# Rickety rupee-dollar parity must be addressed: President FPCCI

*Says all contractual obligations of manufacturers and commercial importers enter into an uncertain zone*

**Our Correspondent**

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has emphasized that the government and the State Bank of Pakistan should immediately take cognizance of the fact the Pak Rupee has entered into a yet another depreciation cycle; and, there is no end in the sight for the falling spree to end as it has fallen for the seventh consecutive session as of Monday.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained that all contractual obligations of manufacturers and commercial importers enter into an uncertain zone when the currency starts to lose value. He apprised that the rupee has lost 4 percent value in just five sessions of the last week alone. He wondered that why the government is adamant on taking no action over this clearly anti-people, anti-business, anti-exports and anti-growth phenomenon.



FPCCI Chief apprised that the differential between inter-bank and open market has widened to PKR. 8 - 10 due to the speculative trading, rumors of further rupee depreciation and week implementation of policy tools by SBP.

FPCCI President highlighted that the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan was all hopeful that rupee value will be stabilized after the deal with the IMF on extended finance facility (EFF) is sealed and the

combined tranche of 7th & 8th review, i.e. \$1.17 billion is disbursed. However, despite the said disbursement, the rupee has not yet been stabilized.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh added that economists have a consensus that real effective exchange rate (REER) of the dollar against the rupee is less than PKR. 200 for a dollar; and, for all practical reasons, the current depreciation cycle is the direct result of speculative trading, lack of regulatory oversight and mismanagement of the forex market.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has reiterated the earlier demand of FPCCI that if the government and the central bank of the country fail to reign in the ever-falling rupee yet again, the country needs to revert to a fixed exchange rate regime instead of the current free-floating exchange rate mechanism.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh maintained that it is an open secret that the commercial banks are also involved in the speculative trading of dollar and making windfall profits. He has demanded stricter controls over the commercial banks by SBP and it should swing into action immediately.

FPCCI President highlighted that the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan was all hopeful that rupee value will be stabilized after the deal with the IMF on extended finance facility (EFF) is sealed and the

## Poor drowning in tsunami of inflation, says Atif Ikram

*Fuel prices, electricity bills and house rent are nightmares for people*

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Monday said the poor are drowning in the tsunami of inflation due to multiple problems.

It has become difficult for people to buy food and get medical treatment as rising fuel prices, electricity bills and house rents are draining their resources, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the government is focused on floods and the economy while the profiteers are taking full advantage of the situation.

He said that the rupee is also weakening on a daily basis due to which imports are becoming more expensive, while the authorities concerned seem to be helpless in this regard.

He noted that everything which is



imported is becoming more expensive as the rupee is losing its value as inflation has already hit a 49-year high due to the higher cost of fuel and electricity. It may rise even higher as the country begins to fix flood-re-

lated losses.

Electricity rates for the public have increased by over a hundred percent and electricity bills have become a nightmare for millions of people and the recent measures are pushing millions of people below the poverty line.

Sheikh noted that the number of jobless people may rise by an additional 3 million by June 2023 because of the floods and the post-flood disruptions in food supply chains will aggravate shortages of cereals, meat and milk due to damaged crops and lost livestock, keeping food inflation high hitting the masses badly.

He said that the idea of coexistence is no longer applicable in the country's politics and politics of conflict is being prioritized over everything else, creating new and serious challenges for the struggling economy.

## Hunger is on rise in country

*Leaders care more about their interests, says Mian Zahid Hussain*

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said hunger is increasing in the country due to skyrocketing inflation.

It is impossible for the government to achieve the target of zero hunger by 2030 as little has been done in this direction, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that last year's estimates suggest that sixty percent of the population cannot get enough food while 44 percent of children below the age of five are malnourished.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that water and agriculture have been neglected for decades as all the governments have remained focused on cheap popularity which has triggered serious food security issues.



He said that the government imports wheat etc. for masses and other agricultural items for the industrial sector worth seventeen billion dollars or Rs4000 billion but neglects the local agriculture sector which can turn around if such a massive amount was earmarked for agricultural development.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that almost

33 million people have been deprived of land, crops, livestock and savings and their rehabilitation will be a challenge while a lack of water can also disturb the farming communities.

The business leader noted that country's export industry is very small and dependent on agriculture which should be given importance and their issues should be resolved.

He said that despite record destruction in the country's history, the nation remains divided and bitterness rules the political scene.

The problems of the masses and challenges faced by the economy are not on the preference list of some misguided politicians and they are bent on creating anarchy in the country.

He said that oil prices in the international market are falling to touch the lowest ebb in the last seven months which if continued will reduce the oil import bill and current account deficit enabling the government to provide some relief to the masses.

## Catastrophic flooding areas require assistance from Real Estate, Construction Industry

**Shazia Gulzar**

It barely took four hours for floodwaters to fully inundate Jalal Hussain's\* little village near ancient Ranipur town in Pakistan's southern Sindh province, where hundreds of houses, livestock, and crops were wiped away last week.

Jalal Hussain\* from Dur Mohammad Langrija Goth, like hundreds of thousands of other displaced Pakistanis, is temporarily accommodated at a government school-turned-shelter camp in Karachi. The agony he endured remains seared in his memory.

"It was midnight when the floodwaters struck our village. I was already awake, expecting something untoward as it had continuously been raining for the last 30 hours," Jalal Hussain\*, a father of four, told a news reporter. He is still living in a camp with his family.

"Watch here, this house. It simply disappeared; it is simply not there anymore. When the flood came, the water jumped more than two meters above the wall of the courtyard and I lost everything," Zahida\*, another victim of flood in Nawan Kili KPK and a 65-year-old widow, lives in a temporary tent. "What is left? Look there," she says.

Showing the remnants of the old kitchen, where she used to have all her kitchen utensils. "There, this is everything I have now. Two small machines. Everything else the water has stolen from me."

These are the real-life stories of people suffering the aftermath of recent floods. Their agony still persists while you are



reading this.

In Pakistan some 33 million people have been affected and at least 1,314 lost their lives including 458 children. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), as of 4th September, more than 1,300 people have died and more than 12,700 have been injured.

More than 33 million affected, most of them are from Sindh and Balochistan. Estimates suggest that the floods have caused at least \$10bn of damage.

The number of damaged and destroyed houses in Pakistan has tripled with

around 950,000 houses impacted as of 27 August. AAA Associates, a well-known company in the Twin Cities, is setting an example among other companies who are assisting and providing aid to the affected. Real estate & construction industry are major industries in Pakistan. They are valued at more than \$4 billion, a significant portion of Pakistan's GDP and perhaps the only sector that is thriving.

These statistics are terrifying and it will take a long time to rehabilitate these victims. Not only have their houses been damaged, but so have their businesses. The infrastructure of Balochistan, Sindh, South Punjab, and KPK has been completely decimated.

Help from other countries is on its way, but now is the moment for our own industries to step up. In such a time of misery, the real estate sector must come forward and support these afflicted. It is a responsibility to rehabilitate them. AAA Associates has set relief camps in Sindh and Punjab and striving to help those in need.

It is time for a collective effort and we must all help as much as we can. We owe our success to this country, and our countrymen. We need to realize people like Jalal Hussain\* and Zahida\* are our responsibility and we cannot progress if we leave them behind.

**Property Show**

## Zameen.com brings together Pakistani real estate players in Dubai

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Huge crowds gathered at the fourth edition of the Pakistan Property Show over the weekend at the World Trade Centre in Dubai to explore major investment opportunities in the Pakistan property market.

Over 60 exhibitors showcased more than 200 of the best and most trustworthy major property developments in Pakistan. A record breaking 20,000 people attended the two-day event which was organized by Zameen.com, Pakistan's largest real estate enterprise.

The annual event targets around 4 million overseas Pakistanis in the Gulf region and those interested in real estate projects across Pakistan's major cities.

Important dignitaries graced the event, including Director General of the Dubai Land Department H.E. Sultan Butti Bin Mejren, and prominent journalists from Pakistan. Zameen.com's CEO Mr. Zeeshan Ali Khan, Country Head Mr. Ahmed Bhatti, EMPG and

members of Zameen's senior management.

During the event, H.E. Sultan Butti Bin Mejren, Director General of the Dubai Land Department stated: "It was a great honour to inaugurate the Pakistan Property Show. Dubai is proud of its cultural and religious diversity, particularly the large community of Pakistani expats that have helped the emirate establish a hub for business, real estate development, and tourism. Zameen.com is a pioneer in organizing such interactive events in the Gulf region."

Commenting on the huge success of the Property Show, Zeeshan Ali Khan, CEO of Zameen.com said: "Once again, the Pakistan Property Show in Dubai was a huge success. Over 20,000 attendees demonstrate strong interest in finding the right investment opportunity in Pakistan's property market. In Dubai, we have brought over 60 exhibitors offering the cream of investment opportunities available on the very ripe Pakistani real estate market at the moment."

## APTMA delegation visiting Tanzania to source cotton

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by the Patron-in-Chief Dr Gohar Ejaz, and senior members Mr Fawad Mukhtar and Mr Anwaar Ghani have left for Tanzania, for sourcing Cotton for Pakistan to fulfil future requirements of cotton in the wake of the destruction caused by the flood in the cotton-growing areas.

Pakistan has been hit by the worst floods in its history, affecting 33 million people and an estimated cost of more than \$10 billion of infrastructural damage -

the floods have also affected the Cotton crop severely. The current estimates of Cotton losses are 3.5 million bales which are 36% of the crop that was expected this year and the loss is valued at US\$1.5 billion.

Pakistan has to arrange this Cotton at the lowest cost possible on an emergency basis for the sector to continue meeting the export orders. Any delay / non-delivery of export orders will further worsen our 'Balance of Payments' which is already under extreme pressure and the industry will lose hard-earned international clients.

## SECP registers 2,362 new companies in Aug

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,362 new companies in August 2022, raising the total number of registered companies to 176,329. This shows an increase of 16% as compared to corresponding period last year. Total capitalization (paid-up-capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies for the current month stood at Rs4.9 billion.

Foreign investment has been reported in 70 new companies. These companies have foreign investors from China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Germany, Hong Kong, Iran, Korea South, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka,

Syria, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, UK, Ukraine, the US, Vietnam and Yemen.

In August, about 59 percent companies were registered as private limited companies, while 38 percent were registered as single member companies. Three percent were registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, foreign companies and limited liability partnership (LLP). About 99.8 percent companies were registered online, while 94 foreign users were registered from overseas.

The real estate development & construction sector took the lead with incorporation of 418, trading with 318, information technology with 307, services with 234, tourism with 97, food & beverages with 91, e-commerce with 84, education with 78.

*BOP at frontline of flood relief activities*



**Staff Reporter**

LAHORE: The Bank of Punjab (BOP) is a market leader in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); spearheading numerous social and public welfare initiatives. As a testament to BOP's efforts, Asia money - a prestigious international organization has awarded BOP "Best Bank for CSR in Pakistan" award for the Year 2022.

The recent devastating rains and flash floods have inundated vast areas across Pakistan. BOP is once again at the forefront to carrying out flood relief activities. The Bank contributed Rupees 10 million to the Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund and has been actively collecting relief funds by opening maximum number of channels for customers, including branches, ATMs, Mobile App & Internet Banking, Raast, local and international credit cards, foreign inward remittances through banking channels/exchange companies and Roshan Samajji Khidmat (RDA). BOP has also been reaching out to its own customers through SMS messages on a daily basis for the cause of collecting donations in CM Punjab, Baluchistan, and Prime Minister's flood relief accounts and over Rs. 2 billion have been collected hitherto.

We at BOP solemnly believe that while we're doing our bit in raising the required funding but it's not merely the funding that would help us in overcoming this destruction alone, it's each and every citizen in the country who have to be actively involved in the rebuilding and rehabilitation of our flood victim brothers and sisters. In this vein and it's yet another manifestation of unyielding commitment to public service, an employee volunteering program - BOP Madadgar - has been rolled-out which has been initiated to give our employees an opportunity to participate in uplifting society and doing good for the public at large. The staff signing up for BOP Madadgar will be provided paid time off to carry out volunteer CSR work along with the necessary resources.



# England hammer South Africa in 3rd Test to win series

South Africa are still second on World Test Championship 2021-23 standings

LONDON: England thrashed South Africa by nine wickets in the third and deciding Test at the Oval on Monday, completing a 2-1 series win in just over two days of action.

The home side, who resumed on 97-0, needed just 5.3 more overs to reach a victory target of 130.

Zak Crawley was 69 not out and Ollie Pope 11 not out. England have now won six of their seven Tests under their new leadership pairing of captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, having managed just one victory in their previous 17 matches when former skipper Joe Root was in charge.

Defeat means South Africa have suffered their first Test series loss since Dean Elgar took over as captain last year.

Despite the loss, South Africa are still second on the World Test Championship 2021-23 Standings with a point percentage of 60 but the gap between them and the rest of the chasing pack in Sri Lanka (53.33%), India (52.08%),



Pakistan (51.85%) and West Indies (50%) is now diminishing. Australia sit comfortably on top with 70%.

England, who not too long ago were languishing at the bottom of the standings, continue their rise in the WTC23 table. They maintain their stranglehold of the seventh spot with 38.59% and are

starting to build some distance from New Zealand (25.93%) and Bangladesh (13.33%).

It wasn't until the third day of the Test match that there was some action on the field – the first day was washed out due to rain and the second day was suspended due to the passing of Queen

Elizabeth II.

However, all it took was six sessions and 25-odd minutes for England to get a result in the match. The pacers led the way for the hosts in the first innings where South Africa were knocked over for 118. Ollie Robinson secured his fifth five-for in Tests and was well supported by Stuart Broad's four-wicket haul.

It looked like England were on course to obtaining a huge first innings lead but South Africa fought back well through Marco Jansen (5/35) and Kagiso Rabada (4/81) to restrict the lead to just 40.

The Proteas looked a lot more assured in their second innings before the wicket of Dean Elgar triggered a massive collapse. South Africa, who at one point were 70/1, were bowled out for just 169.

Chasing 130, Zak Crawley got England off to a flier with a 36-ball fifty and put the hosts on the verge of wrapping up the Test in two days before bad light forced for early stumps to be called on day four with the home side just 33 runs away from a win.

# Pakistan oust Australia to reach final against New Zealand

KARACHI: Pakistan beat hot favourites Australia in a last over, last wicket thriller to enter the final of the Over60s World Cup being played in Brisbane, Australia.

Chasing a challenging total of 216 Pakistan were at one stage cruising to victory at 89/1 in the 18th over and then at 161-3 in the 33rd over. But after a mixture of bad luck and accurate Australian bowling, Pakistan slumped to 9 down with 18 still to get and less than 5 overs left.

But last man Yaqoob not just gave solid support to the limping but persevering Tahir Rasheed, he also hit the winning boundary with just two balls left to send the Pakistanis into rapture as they all invaded the field followed by celebrations and shouts of "Pakistan Zindabad" filling the air at



the picturesque John Blank Oval, said a communique here.

Earlier, Pakistan had won the toss and opted to field with captain Fawad strategizing that they could chase better. Peter Jensen & Eric Higgins had a mammoth stand of 134 runs for the second wicket after Australia lost their first wicket on 30 runs.

Peter Jensen made a valuable contribution of 91 runs. Eric Higgins was equally good with his innings of 71. Australia finished their innings on 216-6.

Mark Trafford-Walker and Peter Judd lead the Australian resurgence with two wickets each. The Wicketkeeper batsman Tahir Rashid however kept fighting with Muhammad Yaqoob who hit a decisive 4 when Pakistan needed four runs of the last three balls. Tahir Rashid remained unbeaten on 41 off 62 balls.

Muhammad Aslam was nominated as 'Player of the match'. Pakistan Over60s team will play the final against New Zealand on September 14. The Kiwis managed to beat Canada by three wickets in the second Semi-final.

In other position matches played today, Wales defeated USA by 8 wickets. South Africa won its encounter against Zimbabwe by 7 wickets. India remained victorious against Rest of the World team by 1 wicket.

# Real Madrid brush Mallorca aside to return top



MADRID: Vinicius Junior scored for the fifth game running as Real Madrid came from behind to beat Real Mallorca 4-1 in La Liga on Sunday and extend their perfect start to the season.

Mallorca grabbed a surprise lead through Vedat Muriqi on 34 minutes but Federico Valverde levelled for the hosts in first-half stoppage time after a brilliant solo run.

Vinicius put Real ahead with 18 minutes to play before late goals from Rodrygo and Antonio Rudiger rounded out a fifth successive league win as Carlo Ancelotti's side moved back above Barcelona at the top. "Vini is a special player, for the way he plays and for his character," said Ancelotti. "He has extraordinary quality."

"The match was very difficult for several reasons. There was the heat, the fact we conceded from a set-piece... All that was a bit predictable, but we finally managed to turn things around and win the game." Madrid were without injured forward Karim Benzema, the favourite for next month's Ballon d'Or, sidelined by a thigh injury sustained in the midweek Champions League win over Celtic.

"The team was able to overcome the absence of Karim. It's an important confidence boost," said Ancelotti. "(But) we hope to get him back as soon as possible." Madrid fell behind when Muriqi headed in a free-kick at the far post.

Valverde swung the momentum back in Madrid's favour though, running from deep inside his own half and firing into the top corner from just outside the area. Rodrygo shrugged off three defenders to set up Vinicius to make it 2-1, and the former struck a minute from time after again weaving through the defence before producing another excellent finish.

Rudiger volleyed in from Toni Kroos' free-kick in injury time for his first Madrid goal since joining from Chelsea on a free transfer in the close season. The victory left Real on 15 points with five wins from five matches, two ahead of Barcelona, who dispatched Cadiz 4-0 on Saturday.

Rodri scored the only goal as Real Betis defeated Villarreal 1-0 to climb to third, with Unai Emery's side conceding for the first time this season.

Athletic Bilbao are up to fifth following a 4-1 victory at second-bottom Elche, while Getafe earned their first win after beating Real Sociedad 2-1.

# KRL upsets Pak White in flood relief football match

PESHAWAR: One goal each by right winger Junaid, strikers Iftikhar and Arsalan helped KRL to a 3-0 victory against Pakistan White in the Fundraising Football match for flood affected victims played in front of hundreds of thousands of spectators at Tehsil Landikotal Football ground on Monday.

Commandant Khyber Rifles Col. Noman Ul Haq, Wing Commander Lt. Col. Amir Iqbal, Senior Vice President Insaf Sports and Culture Wing and former international footballer Shahid Khan Shinwari, President Khyber Sports Club Miraj Uddin, District Sports Officer Khyber Ayub Khan, Deputy Director Operation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Jamshed Baloch, elder of the areas including Malik Masal Khan and other important personalities were present.

Stars studded KRL team

including international players Zia Us Salam (goal-keeper), Izhar Ullah Khan, Waqar Baloch, Arsalan Ali, Rajab Ali, Zaid Umar and Junaid Ahmad played excellently and kept the Pakistan White team under tremendous pressure in the 90-minute battle.

The mixed team of international players and players from the Landikotal, an area producing international football, played a very attacking game in the first half by making some excellent inroads but overall KRL dominated the match. KRL took the lead through Junaid Ahmed in the 8th minute through a field goal.

The players of Pakistan White including international Atiq Shinwari, Muneer, Alamgir, Asad Wazir played well and got some good goal-fetching moves but due to excellent goal-keeping by

star goal-keeper Zia Us Salam of KRL they were failed to score any goal.

KRL took the two goal lead when center striker Iftikhar netted a fine goal through a well-combined move made by Junaid Ahmed in the dying moments of the first-session. At 2-0, KRL kept up pressure and made some good moves but Pakistan White did not allow them due to pack defence.

At half-time KRL was leading by 2-0. It was the second session in which KRL put in more pressure through Muhammad Shahid, Mazdaq Wahla, Muhammad Asad and Shawali Khan and succeeded in taking 3-0 lead when Arsalan Ali scored a beautiful goal through head-in-conversion. It was a good cross ball of Waqar Baloch which was nicely headed in by Arsalan to make it 3-0. Ikram Ullah, Zahid and

Abdur Rehman supervised the match while Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah acted as match commissioner.

Talking to media men Shahid Khan thanked Commandant Khyber Rifles Col. Nouman Ul Haq, Col. Amir, Chairman KRL Tahir Ikram, Manager Muhammad Ayaz Butt, officials, players, Mihraj Uddin, Haji Masal Khan, Haji Noor Alam Khan, Khyber Sports Club and people of Khyber District for generously contributing in the Flood Relief Match organized for fundraising.

He said that the tribal, especially Khyber Landikotal, have a lot of talent in terms of sports, which gave birth to many international players, but unfortunately the players are still deprived of sports facilities, which is proof of the government's failure in providing facilities to tribal youth.

# Verstappen wins Italian Grand Prix to close in on F1 title

MONZA: Max Verstappen won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix on Sunday to leave himself in touching distance of his second straight Formula One title.

Championship leader Verstappen claimed his first win at Monza and his fifth GP in a row after fighting from seventh on the grid to finish Charles Leclerc on another difficult day for Ferrari.

The race ended with jeers from the crowd and Ferrari frustration as the drivers had to finish the final six laps with the safety car after Daniel Ricciardo lost his engine and ended up at the side of the track.

However Red Bull's Verstappen is 116 points ahead of Leclerc in the drivers' standings and can

retain his crown in Singapore next month after winning his 11th race of the season, one he largely controlled despite being hit with a grid penalty on Friday.

"It was unfortunate, everyone wants to finish under a green flag, but unfortunately we were short of laps," Verstappen told reporters.

"But I had new softs so I wasn't too worried." The massed ranks of red in the stands loudly voiced their disapproval when the cars came over the line as they were denied the chance to see their man Leclerc try to overtake dominant Verstappen, who was also booed on the podium by Italian supporters.

"The end was frustrating, I wish could have had a bit of

racing at the end, unfortunately we were second because of what happened before," said Leclerc.

The Monegasque lost out to Verstappen despite starting on pole but said after the race it had been "a positive weekend overall" despite Ferrari's plan of changing from soft to medium tyres during an early virtual safety car backfiring.

"I think we all had the doubt, I think if I hadn't done it Max would have done it," said Leclerc. "It was a bit unfortunate because in the middle of the pit lane we have the virtual safety car ending so we didn't have any of the benefit of stopping at that moment and from that moment we were on the back foot."

George Russell of Mercedes

rounded off the podium, while Leclerc's teammate Carlos Sainz surged from 18th on the starting grid to fourth.

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton also raced from the back of the Mercedes to finish an impressive fifth while a delighted Nyck de Vries scored points on his F1 debut by finishing ninth as a stand-in for Williams' Alex Albon.

Hamilton later told Sky Sport Italia that the finish "brought back memories" of last season's controversial climax in Abu Dhabi, where Verstappen snatched the title on the final lap of the campaign. "That is the rule that it should be, right? So only one time, in the history of the sport that they haven't done



the rule," said Hamilton.

Leclerc started on pole and held off an early overtake attempt from Russell to keep first place while Verstappen was already bursting through to second by lap five. Verstappen took the

# Haniya Minhas bags three honors at Little Mo Internationals



ISLAMABAD: Haniya Minhas, Pakistan's 12-year-old tennis prodigy, has emerged victorious in the Girl's 12 and under singles, doubles and Mixed doubles at the recently concluded Little Mo Internationals in New York.

In the Girl's singles, Haniya defeated Juliana Castellanos Trujillo in straight sets 6-1, 6-1. She then teamed up with Juliana for the Girl's 12 doubles, where they beat Nella Glowacka and Janita Files with a score of 8-3 in the final. Thomas O'Neill and Haniya teamed up for the Mixed doubles defeating Ishaan Yadlapalli and Elizabeth Sabaev with a score of 8-5 in the final. "These trophies mean a lot and I want to continue playing to the best of my abilities," said Haniya.

The "Little Mo" Tournaments are important launching tournaments for rising stars. Little Mo is named after Maureen Connolly, the winner of nine major singles titles and the first woman to win a Grand Slam. She is also the only player in history to win a title without losing a set at all four major championships and was a leading player in her time.

Expressing his delight at this achievement, Abdul Razak Dawood, founder of the BARD Foundation, which has sponsored Haniya since she was nine years old, said, "Haniya's enthusiasm, passion, and discipline will one day make her a world-class tennis player. I'm delighted at this young talent. Pakistan has a star in the making." Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation is currently sponsoring Haniya's training at the IMG academy in Bradenton, Florida, USA. The Foundation's mission is to support the development of young talented Pakistanis, in any field of endeavour, allowing them to fulfil their dreams and leave their mark.

Haniya has won a total of 8 gold medals, 1 silver, and 1 bronze in eight months, making her the highest-ranked tennis player from Pakistan in the Asian Tennis Championships, in the 14 years and under-age category, for both boys and girls. In 2021, Haniya also won a Bronze at the IMG Future-Stars in Greece.

# Saqlain backs Babar, Rizwan

DUBAI: Pakistan head coach Saqlain Mushtaq has backed captain Babar Azam and opener Muhammad Rizwan after loss to Sri Lanka in Asia Cup 2022 final played in Dubai.

Saqlain Mushtaq has rejected all concerns about Babar Azam's form and has not found anything wrong with opener Muhammad Rizwan. Babar scored only 68 runs in six innings and his form would be a concern ahead of the 20-overs World Cup in Australia beginning next month.

Babar followed by Rizwan, the team mate, is the second ranked Twenty20 (T20) batsman in the world. Saqlain is of the view that the way Babar was returned to the pavilion is just unlucky. "Babar is one of the top batters in T20I and ODIs," says Saqlain, pointing out that it's just a bad luck.

He adds that the way he training and playing is amazing. The former Test spinner also defends Babar, saying that his approach of playing is different and that is not wrong.

Talking about opening combination, Saqlain has rejected the suggestions of a left-right opening combination of Fakhar Zaman with either Babar or Rizwan. "It sends a wrong message that you don't trust them," says the head coach, adding they must be given time.

# Inzamam, Shoaib urge to work on team combination

ISLAMABAD: Former cricket greats-Inzamam-ul-Haq and Shoaib Akhtar feel Pakistan badly need to work on their team combination to form a strong side for the ICC T20I World Cup, taking place in Australia from October 16 to November 13.

"I think we need some changes (in the national team). We've some other players, who put up standout performance in the National T20 Cup and Pakistan Super League (PSL). I feel we need to give them a chance," former captain Inzamam said in a YouTube video.

According to Inzamam, it is not necessary that an opener cannot be tried for another batting position. "There is nothing wrong in it (trying an opener for another place). Other teams are doing that. "Before the World Cup we'll be playing seven T20s against England and we'll have to look for our combination in that series. Head coach Saqlain Mushtaq, captain Babar Azam and chief selector Muhammad Wasim will have to sit together to define the team combination for the World Cup."

The conditions in T20 World Cup will be different and it will be difficult to perform in the event without a proper combination. "England are set to tour Pakistan for an action-packed seven-match T20I series ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. The series begins on September 20 in Karachi, where the two sides will play the first four games before the action heads to Lahore for the last three T20Is."

change from his softs to mediums and rejoined the fray just behind Leclerc with the same compound in which his Ferrari rival had already driven around the track 13 times. That tyre wear made the difference when Leclerc handed Verstappen the win by pitting again to go back to softs seven laps later.

Daniel Ricciardo's race ended with six laps remaining and with his car stuck beside the track that allowed everyone to pit knowing a safety car would come out. What they didn't know was that the car would remain on the track until the end of the race, meaning Verstappen strolled over the line for a victory which would likely have come regardless.

Verstappen pitted on lap 26 to