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Politicians' fault pushed Army chief to intervene in economic affairs: Chaudhry Shujaat

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League - Quaid (PML-Q) senior leader Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Monday

Pak-IMF agreement said that all politicians are responsible for current political turmoil, and fault of politicians pushed the Army

the country has been suffering for a year. All the politicians are responsible for the deterioration of the country's economy, the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former prime minister Imran Khan is talking against the institutions. "The head of Muslim League-Q said that why did the army chief have to intervene? It is the fault of the politicians that pushed the army chief to intervene in economic affairs," he said. Commenting on the developments that took place in Punjab, Shujaat said "Everything is fine and everything will remain fine."



while reacting to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa's recent contact with the Biden administration regarding the

chief to intervene in economic affairs. Addressing a press conference flanked by PML-Q leader Tariq Bashir Cheema, Shujaat said that

Pakistan values its relations with the Netherlands: COAS

RAWALPINDI: Ambassador of Netherlands to Pakistan Wouter Plomp paid a farewell call on Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Rawalpindi on Monday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed. The Army Chief said Pakistan values its relations with the Netherlands and earnestly looks forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interests. He thanked the ambassador for his services and appreciated his contribution in fostering strong ties between the two countries.

On the occasion, the Ambassador appreciated Pak-

Wouter Plomp paid a farewell call on Chief of Army Staff General Qamar



istan's role for regional stability and ensured to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels. Ambassador of Netherlands to Pakistan

Javed Bajwa in Rawalpindi on Monday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed.

PM in Balochistan to review relief activities in flood affected areas.

PM orders provision of financial assistance to Balochistan flood victims within 24hrs

QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has directed for immediate disbursement of financial assistance to those who lost their family members in rains and floods in Balochistan. Speaking at the briefing by National Disaster Management Authority in Quetta on Monday, he said the government

has increased the amount of financial assistance for partially and fully damaged houses to five hundred thousand rupees. The Prime Minister appreciated the efforts of National Highway Authority during relief and rehabilitation activities besides opening of communication infrastructure. He directed



concerned officials to increase medical camps in flood affected areas so that people timely get medical facilities. The Prime Minister said heavy monsoon rains have badly affected infrastructure in the province besides human losses. He said that Federal and Provincial Governments are committed to complete rehabilitation

of every affected family. Earlier, Prime Minister arrived in Balochistan on a day-long visit to oversee relief operations in the flood-affected areas of the province. Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz briefed the prime minister regarding the relief and rescue activities while on board the flight to Quetta.

ECP to announce verdict over PTI foreign funding case tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will announce the verdict over the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prohibited funding case tomorrow (Tuesday). Sources privy to the matter said the verdict will be announced tomorrow at 10am. The ECP has issued the cause list for the judgment of the prohibited funding case. It merits mention here ECP had reserved the verdict over PTI foreign funding case on June 21. The foreign funding case against the PTI had been pending for the last

eight years. ECP to announce verdict over PTI foreign funding case tomorrow. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will announce the verdict over the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prohibited funding case tomorrow (Tuesday). Sources privy to the matter said the verdict will be announced tomorrow at 10am. The ECP has issued the cause list for the judgment of the prohibited funding case. It merits mention here ECP had reserved the verdict over PTI foreign funding case on June 21.

Restaurant portion collapses at the Karachi's Do Darya

KARACHI: An "abandoned" restaurant's portion collapsed and fell into the sea at the metropolis' famous spot Do Darya, police said Monday after heavy rains lashed the city. The official statement came after videos circulating on social media showed that the deck near the sea had collapsed, with people seemingly trying to rescue the ones who had fallen down. But Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) South Asad Raza said that no loss of life has been reported, while the police were informed that the restaurant has been "abandoned" for the last 12 years.

Imran Khan announces 'peaceful protest' outside ECP on Thursday

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairperson and former prime minister Imran Khan Monday announced to hold a peaceful protest outside of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday, demanding Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja's resignation. Addressing the members at the PTI's national council meeting in the federal capital, the former prime minister demanded that the election commission refrains from conducting the next general elections under any circumstances. The party chairperson said that he will hold elections within his party after the general elections to ensure meritocracy. Khan said that he will work on the party's ideology as members are still not familiar with it. "I realised in these

four months that our party members do not know about its ideology," he said. Khan went on to say that the PTI

with the PML-N and PPP Khan said that there was no concept of merit within these parties and this is why



chose its leaders through the Insaf Students Federation (ISF) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by holding elections within the federation. "We are going to follow the same electoral process as that of ISF to choose leaders based on merit," said the former PM. Comparing

these parties have reduced in size instead of growing. The former prime minister said that he wanted electronic voting machines (EVMs) for free and fair elections but the chief election commissioner (CEC) tried every way possible to sabotage it.

PAF relief operations continue in flood affected areas of Baluchistan

Islamabad (Soon Times), Pakistan Air Force is actively participating in rescue and relief operations in flood affected areas of Baluchistan. During the operations, PAF helicopter fleet has carried 16,995 pounds of relief goods

to the flood affected areas, which were cut off by roads due to torrential rains spell and flash floods. The relief goods which have been airlifted include flour; ghee, sugar, tea and life saving medicines in the calamity hit

areas. Despite inclement weather conditions throughout the country especially in the flood stricken areas, PAF personnel are working hard to provide humanitarian assistance to flood affecteders. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, has directed the respective branches of PAF to employ maximum efforts towards relief and rescue operations for the flood affected people of Baluchistan.



Pakistan posts 656 COVID-19 infections, one death in last 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan posted 656 fresh COVID-19 cases and one coronavirus-related death was reported in the last 24 hours, the National Institute of Health (NIH) data showed Monday morning. During the last 24 hours, a total of 19,611 tests COVID-19 diagnostic tests were conducted, of which 656 samples came back positive, the institution's data showed. Following the detec-

tion of new cases, the COVID-19 positivity ratio stood at 3.35%, moving slightly up from 3.29%, which was recorded a day earlier. According to NIH's data, 161 COVID-19 patients are being treated in the Intensive Care Units (ICU) across the country at different medical facilities. Pakistanis advised to mask up. With Pakistan logging hundreds of COVID-19 cases every

day, the NIH has advised strict adherence to standard operating procedures (SOPs), including mask wearing and social distancing during Muharram gatherings. Gathering and majalis to remember the Shuhada-e-Karbala (martyrs of Karbala) has started as the country observes the first day of the month of Muharram to mark the beginning of the new Islamic year — which started last Sunday.

Educational institutes reopen in Punjab, Sindh after summer vacations

ISLAMABAD: Educational institutions across Punjab and Sindh are reopened on July 1, Monday after summer vacations. As part of the anti-dengue campaign, special instructions have been given by the government for sanitation and drainage in institutions. Educational institutions across Punjab and Sindh are reopened on July 1, Monday after summer vacations. As part of the anti-dengue campaign, special instructions have been given by the government for sanitation and drainage in educational institutions. On the other hand, due to the rainfall in Karachi, attendance of the students in educational institutes was comparatively less. While in some areas of Sindh, water has not been drained

from the schools so far, due to which the continuity of classes can be affected. Special instructions have been given by the government for sanitation and drainage in institutions. Educational institutions across Punjab and Sindh are reopened on July 1, Monday after summer vacations. As part of the anti-dengue campaign, special instructions have been given by the government for sanitation and drainage in educational institutions. On the other hand, due to the rainfall in

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Death toll from Balochistan floods rises to the 136

QUETTA: The death toll in flood affected districts of Balochistan has risen to 136 while 70 persons have been injured. According to a report released by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority, a total of 13,535 houses were collapsed or partially damaged due to the ongoing heavy rains and floods. Six highways covering 640 kilometers have also been severely affected

in the rains and flood. Meanwhile, large-scale relief and rehabilitation operations are underway in all affected areas of the province. The death toll in flood affected districts of Balochistan has risen to 136 while 70 persons have been injured. According to a report released by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority, a total of 13,535 houses were collapsed or partially damaged

aged due to the ongoing heavy rains and floods. Six highways covering 640 kilometers have also been severely affected in the rains and flood. Meanwhile, large-scale relief and rehabilitation operations are underway in all affected areas of the province. The death toll in flood affected districts of Balochistan has risen to 136 while 70 persons have been injured.

US considers crackdown on memory chip makers in China

WASHINGTON: The United States is considering limiting shipments of American chip-making equipment to memory chip makers in China including Yangtze Memory Technologies Co Ltd (YMT), according to four people familiar with the matter, part of a bid to halt China's semiconductor sector advances and protect US companies. If President Joe Biden's administration proceeds with the move, it could also hurt South Korean memory chip juggernaut Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) and SK Hynix Inc (000660.KS), the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Samsung has two big factories in China while SK Hynix Inc is buying Intel Corp's (INTC.O) NAND flash memory chips manufacturing business in China.

Alibaba shares extend losses on US delisting fear

HONG KONG: Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba led technology stocks lower in Hong Kong on Monday after US authorities put it on a watchlist that could see it delisted in New York if it does not comply with disclosure orders. The market heavyweight sank more than five percent in early trade, pushing it to its lowest level since May and dragging the Hang Seng Tech Index with it. The US securities watchdog on Friday said it added the Chinese firm to a list of more than 250 others that could be booted from Wall Street -- where it listed in 2014 -- if strict auditing requirements were not met for three consecutive years. The announcement comes as tensions between Washington and Beijing are dragged lower by a range of issues including technology, human rights and Taiwan. It also follows a report last week that founder Jack Ma plans to give up control of Ant Group as part of a strategy to appease Chinese regulators and revive the digital payments unit's initial public offering. The firm has come under intense pressure from a crackdown on the tech sector by Chinese authorities for more than a year, sending its share price plunging about 70 percent from its record high in late 2020. It was hit with a record \$2.75 billion fine in April 2021 for anti-competitive practices.

Indonesia opens temporary access to PayPal after blocking sparks backlash

JAKARTA: Indonesia temporarily opened access to online payment firm PayPal (PYPL.O) to allow users to access their money, a senior official said on Sunday, after the country's blocking of some online services and games sparked an outcry. The Indonesian communication ministry on Saturday blocked PayPal, search engine website Yahoo, and several gaming services due to failures to meet a deadline under licensing rules. Registration is required under rules released in late November 2020 and will give authorities broad powers to compel platforms to disclose data of certain users and take down content deemed unlawful or that "disturbs public order". Semuel Abrijanti Pangarpanan, a senior official at Indonesia's Communications Ministry, told an online briefing on Sunday the government is opening access to PayPal for five working days. "Hopefully that is enough time for users to migrate, get their money and find other services," he said, adding that there had been no communication yet from PayPal. On Saturday, thousands of comments criticising the government's blockade of unregistered digital services flooded an Instagram post by the Communication Ministry. Many messages said the government's move was hurting Indonesia's online gaming industry and freelance workers who use PayPal. PayPal and video gaming company Valve Corporation did not immediately respond to Reuters emails seeking comment.

Rescue 1122 will remain on high alert during Muharram: Shah



Sargodha (Soon Times), Punjab Emergency Service Department Rescue 1122 Sargodha will be on high alert

during Muharram. District Emergency Officer Mazhar said, all the A and B category majlis and processions in the district and all the thesils will be provided complete rescue cover. In this regard, 519 rescuers, 39 motorbikes, 29 ambulances, 5 fire vehicles and 2 rescue vehicles will perform duty along with Muharram processions. Along with this, 8 rescue posts have been established which will provide rescue services to the victims in any untoward situation.

Continue regular visits to the dengue hotspots: DC

Mianwali (Soon Times), Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Umair has issued instructions to the heads of municipal institutions and other government departments to keep the implementation of dengue control action plan in the district fully stable and coordinated. He has said, the performance of the surveillance system against dengue should be made at par with the dengue SOPs prescribed by the Punjab government so that there is no possibility of breeding of dengue larvae anywhere in the district. He issued

these instructions while presiding over a meeting of the



District Emergency Response Committee. He directed district and thesil level officers of all government departments to continue regular visits to dengue hotspots.

Indoor and outdoor surveillance teams should demonstrate professionalism. Chief Executive Officer District Health Authority Dr. Ameer Ahmed Khan assured him that his directive would be followed.

Govt. should remove sales tax from electricity bills: Farid

Okara (Soon Times), Deputy Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Pak-

due to inflation, the life of the businessman and the poor man

people have been put in trouble by imposing additional sales tax on electricity bills. Government should remove sales tax from electricity bills immediately. He expressed these views during a meeting with Salim Goga, Senior Vice President of Jamaat-e-Islami Youth. Farid Paracha said, the rulers should solve the problems of the people. Today, Pakistan stands alone in the world due to the wrong policies of the government.



istan Farid Paracha has said, has become miserable. Poor

Cleanliness campaign launched to improve drainage system

Minchinabad (Soon Times), A few days ago, it was brought to the attention of the administration from the platform of Etihad Press Club that the sewerage and drainage system from the front area and around the city of Minchinabad has been completely disabled and blocked. The district administration and the deputy commissioner of Bahawalnagar district immediately took notice and ordered action. Assistant Commissioner Minchinabad Tehsil Ahmed

Javed Cheema Sahib and Tehsil Municipal Officer Syed Rashid Ghaznavi Sahib have started cleaning the drainage

system, digging the sewer and clearing the forest through heavy machinery crane under their supervision.



Quacks are Playing with the human lives

Bahawalnagar (IPS), Bahawal-

Quack doctors are playing

Matric Fail quacks have opened their own hospitals, medical stores and clinics. The officers of the health department have allowed them to work by taking money. Local people have demanded CO Health Bahawalnagar and Deputy Commissioner Bahawalnagar to immediately seal the clinics of middle and matric failed doctors who are playing with human lives and take strict legal action against them.



nagar has plenty of quacks. with human lives. Middle and

ANF recovers over 68 kg narcotics; arrests accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and ANF Intelligence while conducting an operation managed to recover over 68 kg narcotics besides netting an accused. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF Intelligence conducted a raid near Islamabad Motorway Interchange and managed to recover 68 kg narcotics including 36 kg opium and 32,400 kg charas from a car. The spokesman informed that ANF also arrested an accused namely Muhammad Musa Ishaq. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process. The spokesman informed that accomplices of the accused would also be sent behind

the bars. Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and ANF Intelligence while conducting an operation managed to recover

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formed that ANF also arrested an accused namely Muhammad Musa Ishaq. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process.



PML-N govt. has failed: Aslam

Mianwali (Soon Times), Information Secretary Thehrak-e-Insaf Malik Aslam Shaheen has said, the people are disgusted with the government policies. Thehrak-e-Insaf will not remain silent on the injustice done to the people. The PML-N government has failed. Taking money from the people in the form of gas and electricity bills is a cruel move by the government. He expressed these thoughts while talking to the media at his residence. The government has created problems for the poor man by adopting wrong economic policies and made Pakistan indebted to foreign financial institutions, he said.



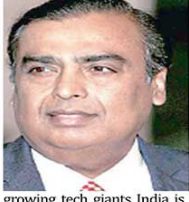
Crypto scammers hacked Imran Khan's Instagram account

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Thehrak-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Instagram account was briefly hacked by crypto scammers on Monday. The hacker shared a promotional tweet regarding Elon Musk and cryptocurrency from the former Prime Minister's Instagram account, which has currently over 7.4 million followers. This is the second incident in one week that a social media account of a PTI leader has been hacked. Last week, the Twitter account of PTI Secretary General and former Federal Planning Minister, Asad Umar, was hacked which was recovered hours later. Crypto scammers hacked Imran Khan's Instagram account. Last week, the Twitter account of PTI Secretary General and former Federal Planning Minister, Asad Umar, was hacked which was recovered hours later.

Asia's richest go head-to-head in India 5G auction

MUMBAI: Asia's richest men made multi-billion-dollar bets on the future of Indian telecommunications in the country's 5G auction Monday, but nearly 30 percent of the available spectrum went unsold. Narendra Modi's government plans to roll out 5G networks offering up to 10 times the speed of 4G to its 1.4 billion population before the end of the year. But despite being home to several fast-

chairman Akash Ambani said in a statement, promising "services, platforms and solutions that will accelerate India's digital revolution." Rival Bharti Airtel, led by Sunil Mittal, bid 431 billion rupees for just over a quarter of the spectrum. Airtel and British telecoms giant Vodafone's local unit Vi have been locked in fierce competition with Ambani's Jio since the latter kicked off a price war in



growing tech giants India is late to the 5G game, with analysts saying authorities held off auctioning the spectrum in the hope of raising more revenue. Four companies bid a total of 1.5 trillion rupees (\$19 billion) for 20-year 5G licenses. But only 71 percent of the 72 GHz of available airwaves were bid for during the seven-day auction, telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnav told reporters in New Delhi. Much of it was sold for the minimum price, the daily auction reports from the telecommunications department have shown. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Jio swept up the lion's share as the market leader bid 881 billion rupees for more than a third of the available spectrum, the company said. "Jio is set to lead India's march into the 5G era,"

2016 by offering dirt-cheap internet and free calls. Debt-laden Vi -- formerly Vodafone Idea -- which is also backed by Indian billionaire K.M. Birla's Aditya Birla Group, picked up nearly nine percent of the bands. And Gautam Adani, who competes with Ambani for the title of Asia's richest person, marked his entry into telecoms by bidding for just over 0.5 percent. Earlier this month, Adani said the conglomerate does not plan to use the airwaves to compete in the consumer mobility space. "Instead it was looking to provide private network solutions along with enhanced cyber security in the airport, ports and logistics, power" and manufacturing sectors, the company said in a statement. India is home to the second-highest number of smartphone users after China.

Shenzhen accelerates China's driverless car dreams

SHENZHEN: On a busy downtown street three delivery bikes suddenly dart over the pedestrian crossing ahead of the car. On the car's dashboard they look like small 3D blue blocks from a 1990s video game. The steering wheel turns itself a notch and the vehicle slows to a gentle halt, while the safety driver looks on from the passenger seat. The vehicle is one of a hundred sensor-laden robotaxis belonging to start up DeepRoute.ai cruising the dense central Futian business district in China's southern tech hub Shenzhen, giving 50,000 trial rides to passengers in the last year. While the United States is regarded as taking an early lead in testing autonomous vehicle (AV) technology, in Shenzhen the industry appears to be changing gears, with trial robotaxis fast becoming a common sight. Baidu Inc's Apollo unit, Toyota Motor Corp-backed Pony, Nissan-backed Weride, Alibaba-backed Auto X and DeepRoute have all been running trials navigating the city's difficult environment, with

frequent jaywalkers and ubiquitous e-scooters. Shenzhen, a city of 18 million, has now brought in China's clearest AV regulations. From Monday registered AVs will be allowed to operate without a driver in the driving seat across a broad swath of the city, but a driver must still be present in the vehicle. So far, Chinese cities have allowed robotaxis to operate on a more limited basis with permission of local authorities, but Shenzhen's regulations for the first time provide a crucial framework for liability in the event of an accident. If the AV has a driver behind the wheel, the driver will be liable in an accident. If the car is completely driverless, the owner of the vehicle will be responsible. If a defect causes an accident, the car owner can seek compensation from the manufacturer. "If you want more cars, eventually there will be accidents, so these regulations are very important for mass deployment," said Maxwell Zhou, DeepRoute's CEO, speaking at the company's offices in a tech park near the Hong Kong border.

China warns its military will 'not sit idly by' if Pelosi visits Taiwan

BEIJING: China said on Monday that its military "not sit idly by" if U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi visits Taiwan. The latest warning was issued during a Chinese foreign ministry regular briefing. Spokesperson Zhao Lijian also said that because of Pelosi's status as the "No. 3 official of the U.S.

government", a visit to Taiwan, which China claims as its own, would "lead to egregious political impact". Pelosi was set to kick-off a tour of four Asian countries on Monday in Singapore amid intense speculation that she may risk the wrath of Beijing by also visiting self-ruled Taiwan.

We have technical means to produce atom bomb, no intention of doing so: Iran nuclear chief



DUBAI: Iran has the technical capability to produce an atomic bomb but has no intention of doing so, Mohammad Eslami, head of the country's atomic energy organisation, said on Monday, according to the semi-official Fars news agency. Eslami reiterated comments made by Kamal Kharrazi, a senior adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in July. Kharrazi's remarks amounted to a rare suggestion that the Islamic Republic might have an interest in nuclear weapons, which it has long denied seeking. "As Mr. Kharrazi mentioned, Iran

has the technical ability to build an atomic bomb, but such a program is not on the agenda," said Eslami. Iran is already enriching uranium to up to 60% fissile purity, far above a cap of 3.67% set under Tehran's now tattered 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Uranium enriched to 90% is suitable for a nuclear bomb. In 2018, former U.S. President Donald Trump ditched the nuclear pact, under which Iran curbed its uranium enrichment work, a potential pathway to nuclear weapons, in exchange for relief from international economic sanctions. Iran has re-

sponded to top European Union diplomat Josep Borrell's proposal aimed at salvaging the nuclear accord, and seeks a swift conclusion to negotiations, the top Iranian nuclear negotiator said on Sunday. Borrell said he had proposed a new draft text to revive the deal. "After exchanging messages last week and reviewing the proposed texts, there is a possibility that in the near future we will be able to reach a conclusion about the timing of a new round of nuclear negotiations," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani

US envoy pushes Lebanon-Israel talks over maritime dispute

BEIRUT: US envoy Amos Hochstein arrived in Beirut Sunday to push talks to resolve a bitter maritime border dispute between Lebanon and Israel over Mediterranean waters with offshore gas fields. "Reaching a resolution is both necessary and possible, but can only be done through negotiations and diplomacy," the US State Department said in a statement ahead of Hochstein's visit. Washington's envoy for global infrastructure and investments is "facilitating negotiations between Lebanon and Israel on the maritime boundary," the statement added. Hochstein met with Lebanon's Energy Minister Walid Fayad on Sunday, and was scheduled to meet with President Michel Aoun and prime minister Najib Mikati the following day.

Biden again tests positive for Covid but 'continues to feel well': doctor

WASHINGTON: Joe Biden tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday for a second straight day but "continues to feel well," the US president's physician said. Biden had been recovering early in the week from a first bout of Covid, but after four days of negative tests again received a positive result on Saturday. In a memorandum Sunday, White House doctor Kevin O'Connor linked that result to "rebound positivity." He said patients treated with Paxlovid -- as Biden was -- sometimes clear the virus but still test positive afterward. "His strict isolation measures," O'Connor said, but "I will continue to conduct the business of the American people from the executive residence." O'Connor said Saturday that Biden had "experienced no re-emergence of symptoms," meaning no further treatment was required. Biden again tests positive for Covid but "continues to feel well," doctor.

Nine perish in Uganda floods, many more 'feared dead'

KAMPALA: Nine people have lost their lives and more are feared dead in flooding in the eastern Ugandan city of Mbale after two rivers burst their banks, leaving a trail of destruction, officials said Sunday. Police and the military have been called in to help in the search and rescue operations in Mbale, where stranded residents could only watch helplessly as their belongings were washed away by the floodwaters. Mbale City resident commissioner Ahmada Waashaki told AFP that nine bodies had been recovered so far, including one of a soldier. "Many more people are missing and feared dead," he

said. "There is a lot of destruction, roads cut off, buildings submerged as a result of heavy rain that started last night until this morning." He said the situation deteriorated after the Nabuyonga and Namatala rivers burst their banks, causing flooding across most parts of the city. Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja visited the scene of the disaster in Mbale, which lies about 300 kilometres (180 miles) northeast of the capital Kampala. "Police and military marine forces will be coming to help in the rescue and search for dead bodies as we provide relief to the affected population," her office said.

First grain shipment leaves Ukraine as southern city pounded

KYIV - The first shipment of Ukrainian grain left the port of Odessa on Monday morning, Turkey announced, as Kyiv said the "brutal" shelling by Moscow of the southern city Mykolaiv had killed an agriculture tycoon. The blocking of deliveries from war-ravaged Russia and Ukraine -- two of the world's biggest grain exporters -- has contributed to soaring food prices, hitting the world's poorest nations especially hard. Last month both sides signed a landmark deal with Turkey and the United Nations aimed at relieving the global food crisis. "The ship Razoni has left the port of Odessa bound for Tripoli in Lebanon," the Turkish ministry said in a statement. "It

is expected in Istanbul on August 2. It will then continue its journey after it has been inspected in Istanbul," the statement added. Other convoys would follow, respecting the maritime corridor and the agreed formalities, it said. The Joint Coordination Centre, the organisation overseeing the

grain exports, said the Razoni is carrying "over 26,000 metric tonnes" of maize. "Tycoon killed - While the much needed grain exports will be welcomed, the war in Ukraine rages on. Authorities in Mykolaiv said Sunday that widespread Russian bombardments overnight killed at least two civilians."



2 years later, hope for justice in Beirut explosion

BEIRUT: It's been two years since his 3-year-old daughter, Alexandra, was killed in a massive explosion at Beirut's port -- and Paul Naggar has lost hope that outrage over the disaster will bring justice and force change in Lebanon. The investigation into one of the world's biggest non-nuclear explosions has been blocked for months by Lebanon's political powers. Many blame the Lebanese government's longtime corruption and mismanagement for the tragedy, but the elite's decades-old lock on power has ensured they are untouchable. In fact, some of those charged in the probe were re-elected to parliament earlier this year. Even as the wrecked silos at the port have

been burning for weeks -- a fire ignited by the fermenting grains still inside them -- authorities seemed to have given up on trying to put out the blaze. A section of the silos collapsed Sunday in a huge cloud of dust. "It has been two years and nothing's happened," Naggar, said of the Aug. 4, 2020 disaster, when hundreds of tons of highly explosive ammonium nitrate, a material used in fertilizers, detonated at the port. "It's as if my daughter was still hit by acar." "It has been two years and nothing's happened," Naggar, said of the Aug. 4, 2020 disaster, when hundreds of tons of highly explosive ammonium nitrate, a material used in fertilizers, detonated at the port.

Sports & Entertainment

India send Pakistan crashing out of Commonwealth Games



BIRMINGHAM: India women defeated Pakistan Sunday in their rain-curtailed Group A

However, the Pakistani batters failed to show their potential and were bowled out for only fours and one six. Aliya Riaz chipped in with a 22-ball 18, which included two fours. Skipper Bismah Maroof, who came at 3, managed 22-ball 18, which had two hits to the fence. Omaima Sohail and Ayesha Naseem scored ten runs each. India's spinners Suh Rana (2-15) and Radha Yadav (2-18) did the main damage. India raced to the target in only the 12th over after losing just two wickets. Smriti Mandhana smashed a fantastic 63 not out, striking eight fours and three sixes. Shafali Verma made a nine-ball 16 with two fours and one six. Sabhinnee Meghana scored a 16-ball 14, which included two fours. Leg-spinner Tuba Hassan and Omaima Sohail got one wicket each.

Multi-starrer 'Salahuddin Eyyubi' grand set, crew revealed

ISLAMABAD: "Salahuddin Eyyubi" is a grand period series co-produced by Pakistan and Turkeye Humayun Saad, Adnan Siddiqui, Dr Kashif Ansari, Ahmet Faruk Bakacak, Dr Junaid Ali Shah are the producers of the project. "Salahuddin Eyyubi" is a period series

like Magnificent Century or Ertugrul which will be based on the life of Muslim leader Sultan Salahuddin Eyyubi. The grand making of the project had already been started in Turkeye with magnificent set of Damascus city. The set has been constructed on 200 acres area.

The Mosques, Bazaars, palace and houses are being built in it. The grand set is giving vibes of older times. The set makers briefed that they have been doing paper work for the project since last four months. The Mosques, Bazaars, palace and houses are being built in it.

BTS may be able to perform while on military service: minister

SEOUL: K-pop boy band BTS might still be able to perform overseas while serving in the military, South Korea's defence minister said on Monday, as the country debates shortening mandatory military service for K-pop stars to three weeks from about two years. The issue is coming sharply into focus with the oldest member of band, Jin, turning 30 next year. Under a 2019 revision of the law, globally recognised K-pop stars were allowed to put off their service until 30. Military service is hugely controversial in South Korea where all able-bodied men aged between 18 and 28 must fulfil their duties as part of efforts to defend against nuclear-armed North Korea. Over the years, some categories have won

exemptions - either allowed to put off service or to do shorter service - including Olympics and Asian Games medal winners and classical musicians and dancers who win top prizes at certain competitions. Parliament is now debating a bill that would shorten military

service for K-pop stars. BTS' management, Big Hit, did not respond to a request for comment. "Even if they join the military, there would be a way to give them a chance to practise and perform together if there are scheduled concerts abroad," Lee said.



'Friendly Games' have an edge when India play Pakistan at cricket

BIRMINGHAM: The Commonwealth Games like to be referred to as the "Friendly Games" and up until Sunday even India and Pakistan cricketers had bought into the idea. Women's cricket is making its Games debut in Birmingham and because of that, there has been an all-for-one pioneering camaraderie built into the competition dialling down what is arguably world sport's most intense rivalry. But with

a path to the medal round opening up for the winners, sisterhood was put aside at Edgbaston Cricket Ground as India thumped Pakistan, who remain winless and dropped to the bottom of the Group A standings. Chasing 100 to win the rain-shortened match, India reached their target with 38 balls to spare as Smriti Mandhana smashed an unbeaten 63 to secure an eight-wicket victory.

Powell ends Chadwick's winning streak in W Series

Britain's Alice Powell ended compatriot Nicole Chadwick's seven race winning streak in the all-female W Series with victory in Hungary on Saturday. Double champion Chadwick, who had won every race this season as well as the last two of 2021, finished as runner-up after starting fifth on the grid in the Formula One support race. Dutch driver Beitske Visser was third. Powell had started on pole position and finished 0.608 seconds clear after coming under late pressure following a safety car period but holding steady. "Kind of roles reversed from this time last year," said Chadwick, who won at the Hungarian ahead of Powell last season. "I did what I could, the mixed conditions helped, it's a really tricky track to overtake (on) but at the end I just didn't have enough to challenge Alice." Chadwick extended her overall lead to 75 points with four races remaining. She can clinch the title in the next race in Singapore in October.

Australia Test captain Pat Cummins announces marriage with the fiancé Becky Boston

LONDON: Euro 2022 began with organisers defending the choice of small venues, but 25 days later a record European Championship attendance of 87,192 at Wembley for the final witnessed England at last win a major international tournament. The Lionesses' legacy could change the face of the women's game in England for future generations. A record television audience for a women's football match in

the UK of 17.4 million tuned in to watch Scotland's tense 2-1 victory in extra time over Germany, as Chloe Kelly scored the winner. Sarina Wiegman's squad changed perceptions on top of winning the hearts of the host nation. An Ipsos poll published on Monday found that 44 percent of the British public -- and 64 percent of football fans -- said they are more interested in watching women's football following Euro 2022.

Alia Bhatt says it was 'quite a task' shooting 'Heart of Stone' amid pregnancy

Alia Bhatt talked about shooting action sequences in her Hollywood debut movie Heart of Stone amid pregnancy. The Gangaubai Kathiawadi actor told Variety that it was "quite a task" working in an action movie for the first time while being pregnant as there were

"many layers" for her to "deal with." "It was my first Hollywood big English picture experience and I had quite a task at hand because I was shooting for the first time an action movie," the actor told the outlet. "But I'm also pregnant so there were so many layers for me to deal with. But

they made it so seamless and so easy and so comfortable for me," she added. "It's something that I will never forget because of how beautifully and how well I was treated," Bhatt continued while adding that the team took good care of her especially when she felt homesick in London. The Bollywood diva further gushed on her co-stars in the film, Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan, saying, "I had such a lovely time shooting with Gal (Gadot), with Jamie Dornan and with my director Tom Harper." "I think we're onto something pretty cool with Heart of Stone and I can't wait for the world to see it," Bhatt shared.

