

## GE chief attacks 'damaging' UK immigration cap

News Desk

LONDON: General Electric (GE) says the immigration cap could make the UK a less attractive place to invest for the company, reported Daily Telegraph in a follow-up of Saturday's interview of Business Secretary Vince Cable in which he expressed his concerns on immigration cap, affecting the UK economy.

Mark Elborne, General Electric's national executive for North Europe which employs 18,000 people in Britain, revealed he had been unable to hire a stem-cell research executive from India and gas-turbine engineers from outside the European Union because of the government ban.

The company has been given only "a very, very small" quota of people it can hire from outside the EU, he said. Elborne said that in the battle for capital allocation, the added concern of the immigration cap could make the UK a less attractive place to invest for the company.

"We have customers who are global and we have a global supply chain and products that are used globally," Elborne said. "It is very difficult to make planning decisions and to know where to allocate people if you have a limitation on the number you can bring in."

## PML-Q does not favour dictatorial rule: Shujaat

KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid-e-Azam (PML-Q) president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said on Sunday his party wanted the present government to complete its tenure so that its performance could be fully tested.

Speaking at Meet the Press programme of the Karachi Press Club here, Hussain said his party would not favour any dictatorial rule in the country. Whatever the PML-Q had done and would do in future it would be in the greater national interest, he added.

He said had former president Pervez Musharraf not indulged in controversies with the judiciary and other controversial issues, he could have prolonged his tenure. "Musharraf committed mistakes which forced his exit."

Earlier, addressing the media PML-Q secretary general Mushahid Hussain said today there were only two parties which represented the people in the four provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan and identified them as the Pakistan Peoples Party and the PML-Q.

Hussain said the PML-Q wanted a unified Muslim League and that was the reason they approached Pir Sahib Pagaro for the merger of Muslim League. "Political merger is good for the country and well being of the people of Pakistan," he opined.—APP

## PCB chief rejects corruption charge

News Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ijaz Butt rejected on Sunday allegations of corruption in the third one-day international against England and said he felt there was a conspiracy against the national team.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is investigating on Friday's match at the Oval after receiving information from a British newspaper alleging a suspicious scoring pattern in Pakistan's innings. Pakistan won by 23 runs.

"We won the match and we are under suspicion. England lost, their players should be investigated," Butt said. "You don't lose a match if you are doing fixing. We have cooperated so far with all this investigation but after the third ODI we get this feeling it is not a conspiracy to defraud bookies but to defraud Pakistan cricket."

## Leaders off to US for Mideast talks

JERUSALEM: Top Israeli and Palestinian officials headed on Sunday for the United States where they were expected to seek ways to break a deadlock over settlements threatening to sabotage peace talks.

Israeli President Shimon Peres left on a four-day visit coinciding with the UN General Assembly meeting in New York, before Defence Minister Ehud Barak set off for talks in Washington. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas was also to fly later to New York for the annual sitting, with efforts under way to arrange a meeting with US President Barack Obama, a senior Palestinian official told AFP.—AFP



**BIRMINGHAM: Pope Benedict XVI (C) is helped onto the stage to begin a Mass to beatify Cardinal John Henry Newman in Cofton Park here on Sunday. The Pope began celebrating a huge outdoor mass to elevate a 19th century Catholic convert to the final stage before sainthood as the pontiff wraps up his historic state visit to Britain.—AFP wirephoto**

## Three election staff found dead in Afghan north

KABUL: Bodies of three election workers abducted during parliamentary polls on Saturday, were found, while eight children were killed while playing with a rocket round left in a village in northern Afghanistan, officials said on Sunday.

Afghanistan began counting votes on Sunday in parliamentary elections tainted by allegations of fraud and a low turnout after widespread and deadly Taliban violence targeted the vote. Preliminary results are expected on Wednesday, with final certified results due on October 31.

Nato said that 18 Afghans were killed as the country voted for its second parliament since the 2001

US-led invasion. Western supporters praised the 3.6 million Afghans who, according to preliminary figures, took part in Saturday's election, compared with the 4.8 million valid votes cast in last year's presidential poll.

The bodies of three election officials, kidnapped during the voting, were found in northern Balkh province on Sunday, Independent Election Commission Chairman Fazi Ahmad Manawi said on Sunday.

The blast that killed eight children happened in Ali Abad district of Kunduz, which took the brunt of attacks by the Taliban insurgents on Saturday. district chief Habibullah Mohtashim said the rocket may have been fired by the Taliban on

Saturday and did not explode.

Elsewhere, two service members from the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) were killed by a homemade bomb in southern Afghanistan and another Isaf service member was killed in an insurgent attack in northern Afghanistan on Saturday, Isaf said.

Afghan and coalition security forces killed a local Taliban commander and six other insurgents during an operation in eastern Nangarhar province, while a coalition air strike killed a local Haqqani network commander and three other insurgents in eastern Paktia province on Saturday, Isaf added.—Agencies

## Avalanche kills three in Kohistan

News Desk

MANSEHRA: At least three people were killed when an avalanche struck them near Bagarial area of Kohistan district on Saturday.

According to reports, seven people were heading towards Kundian valley from Chilas when an avalanche fell on them. Locals rushed to the incident site and retrieved three bodies and handed them over to their heirs at Diamer district for burial.

## Two hurt

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countries in the former British empire. "The two terrorists came on a motorcycle and the man riding pillion first fired randomly at the mosque and then fired in the air and at the people, and then he fired on the bus in which the tourists had come," Syed Ahmed Bukhari, the mosque's chief imam of the Jama Masjid, told AFP.

New Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit confirmed the shooting and appealed for calm. "It's a very sad incident," she told NDTV news channel. "An incident like this is worrying but nothing to panic about."

The Indian Mujahideen, a local Islamist group, claimed responsibility for the attack in an email quoted by the Press Trust of India and other media organisations. Another senior police source cast doubt on the claim.

"The claim sent to various media outlets is not reliable because the attack was carried out in a very unprofessional and crude manner, which no organised terrorist group would do," he told AFP.

Indian police said they suspected that the attack was likely the work of a "disgruntled gang of criminals." "We suspect it is a disgruntled gang of criminals who planned this attack basically to discredit the Delhi police," spokesman Rajan Bhagat told AFP.—AFP

## Babar

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including one relating to the Competition Commission, will be presented.

Meanwhile, in response to the allegations Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah said that Babar Awan could not make decisions on the legality of the Punjab ministers and that courts would make these decisions instead.

Sanaullah said that if Awan had any issues regarding the administrators then he could take them up in the court. He added that Punjab's administration was fulfilling its responsibility according to the law.

## Lib Dem leaders

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But he said party members were "proud" of the way Business Secretary Vince Cable had spoken out against the immigration cap and Clegg's assertion at the Commons despatch box that the Iraq War was "illegal".

The comments came during a consultation session on the party's political positioning and future strategy.

Callum Leslie of Liberal Youth warned: "We have got the Scottish elections coming up in 2011 and somebody thought it would be a good idea to have the council elections as well so we have them in 2012."

We have then got a year off and then we have more elections again. He suggested there could

be "donor fatigue" which could hit the party's ability to fight elections.

Andy Strange from Luton said: "I am not sure we have the organisation and the capacity to campaign and build on our success and turn it into further success at the ballot box. "Our excitement at being in government shouldn't blind us to the fact that there is something not quite right in the state if the Liberal Democrats.

"We have lost our way, we need to face the urgent task of sorting out our organisation and our campaigning ability. I don't get the sense from this debate that we are aware as a party of that urgency. Friends, colleagues, I urge you - wake up."—PA

## UN gathers

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said Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Store, who is in New York. Norway had already pledged 115 million kroner to the earlier Pakistan appeal and upped this to 400 million kroner (\$66 million).

India has made an immediate \$25 million contribution to its neighbour as soon as the appeal was made on Friday. The main world powers have held back from announcing their response to the record UN appeal though.

In London, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg announced a major increase in aid to Pakistan on Sunday. He told the Liberal Democrat conference the UK will be "dramatically increasing" the amount of money going to Pakistan beyond the £60 million already provided.

The money will provide temporary school facilities, help farmers

replace livestock and crops and provide more support for the emergency efforts in southern Pakistan.

Clegg said he feared the "worse is still to come" for Pakistan after visiting the flood-stricken country. "I've never seen anything like it. I found it deeply, deeply, personally, a very shocking experience because the scale is just really difficult to comprehend," he said.

Answering questions from party activists at the conference in Liverpool, Clegg said: "This is a terrible catastrophe which is getting worse, not least because of the deadly grip of waterborne diseases."

He added: "We will be dramatically increasing the amount of government aid that we are giving, even on top of what we have already provided, on top of the £60 million we have already provided, for three things.—Agencies

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that it might help address the impression among the survivors of being displaced. "At least they will feel at home."

Once they are settled in temporary shelters in their native villages, they will be in a better position to stand on their feet. Till then they could be provided flood-relief cards to collect aid supplies from depots to be set up in nearby major towns or other secure locations, he added.

But other people, who took part in the relief activities, believe that the immediate task is also gigantic. "Look around, an area of the size of England is under water and the population half the size of Italy is affected. They need clean water and protection from post-flood diseases," said Shah, a former member of the Sindh Assembly. Once the water

## Vatican declares pope's visit to Britain a success

BIRMINGHAM: Pope Benedict XVI's state visit to Britain has been a "spiritual success", his spokesman said here Sunday.

Father Federico Lombardi said the Pontiff was happy that his message of Catholicism's "positive contribution" to society had hit home during the four-day trip to Scotland and England.

"It is a spiritual success," the Vatican spokesman told reporters, describing the visit as "wonderful" after the Pope presided over the climax of his visit, a beatification mass for 19th century cardinal John Henry Newman in Birmingham.

"The Pope is not happy because there are big crowds, but because we have the clear demonstration that people were interested in what he had to say," Lombardi said.

"Hundreds of thousands of people have met the Pope personally in the street and at the major events and also, through television and the Internet, many others have seen him and heard what he has to say. The message that he has about the positive contribution of the Catholic Church and of Christian faith to society has been received very well."

Commenting on Saturday's protests in London, Lombardi said: "If there are critics and protests, this is normal for us and the Pope and it is a positive sign of freedom of expression in this society."

It was only the second Papal trip to Britain since King Henry VIII broke with Rome in 1534, forming the Church of England. Pope Benedict has also visited Edinburgh, Glasgow and London during the visit.—AFP

## NA, Senate meet today

ISLAMABAD: The president has summoned the sessions of both the National Assembly and the Senate on Monday (today) and the devastation caused by floods in the country is likely to dominate the sessions of the two houses.

This would be the 64th session of the upper house and the 25th session of the lower house of parliament. According to sources, both the houses are expected to adopt resolutions condemning ongoing "brutalities" by Indian forces in held Kashmir.

The Senate may also discuss the statement of Muttahida Qaumi Movement chief Altaf Hussain in which he demanded martial law-like steps against corrupt politicians.

According to sources, MQM members will not attend the sessions as part of 10-day mourning announced over the assassination of Imran Farooq in London.—APP

## Wajid chides opponents for berating govt's relief efforts

News Desk

LONDON: Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK Wajid Shamsul Hasan has said that the floods had rendered millions stranded in locations where only government had the resources to reach for their evacuation, which it did.

Addressing the 6th annual meeting and Pakistan Flood Relief Benefit Evening organised by DO-GANE (Dow Medical College Graduates Association of Northern Europe) here on Saturday, the high commissioner apprised the audience of the scale of disaster and relief activities being carried out by the government of Pakistan.

He said: "Currently, this is the phase of relief assistance. I am aware of the misgivings about the government. But I expect from the literate community such as yours to at least see things in its correct perspective."

He said that some circles were trying to separate the army from the government, whereas armed forces are directed by the government and they have been mandated to carry out the relief work at the national level. The National Disaster Management Authority

under the prime minister's office coordinates and facilitates with all the relief agencies, including the armed forces. The expenditure incurred on the operational cost of relief work is met from the national exchequer, he added.

With a view to making Pakistani doctors more competitive the high commissioner recommended that members of DO-GANE may form groups to consider venturing into establishing institutes in Pakistan related to the field of medicine in order to make Pakistani medical graduates more competitive and bring them in pace with the progress that is taking place in other countries, particularly the West, in the medical field.

Rehman Chishtie MP in his address called upon Pakistani Diaspora to help in correcting misperceptions about Pakistan and creating a positive image of the country.

DOGANE president Dr Syed Iftikhar Yousef said that though the association was founded only six years ago, today it is one of the largest associations of expatriate Pakistani medical practitioners in the UK as graduates of other medical colleges have also

joined the organisation in large numbers. He further informed that only in last three weeks the organisation has been able to raise \$750,000 for the relief of flood victims.

The event took place at the Walthamstow Assembly Hall and was attended by Pakistani-origin doctors from the UK and number of other countries, including the US.

DOGANE's annual meeting takes place for inducting new office-bearers but this year it was dedicated for relief of flood victims. From this year Pakistan high commissioner would also be the patron of the association.

A donation of \$10,000 was also given by DO-GANE to the Pakistan Medical Association for carrying out relief activities in Pakistan. The association has also contributed over Rs2 million for setting up of medical facilities with volunteers for flood victims at the national level.

Famous pop singer Ainee also performed on the evening and a meena bazaar was also held, besides entertainment and educational activities for the children such as clown show and Bhangra.

## Gilani to welcome change through parliament

News Desk

LAHORE: Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani on Sunday said that an effort to bring a change in government through non-political means would be dangerous.

The prime minister, talking to senior journalists in the Punjab metropolis, said that if a change comes through democratic means then there is nothing to be worry about.

He added that the government was in full control of the executive and all the talk about a change was nothing but mere rumors.

The prime minister said that democracy would be strengthened if Pakistan Muslim League chief Nawaz Sharif joins parliament.

"Those who talk of change shall show mercy to the flood victims. To provide relief to the people was a top priority of the government," Gilani said.

While addressing a gathering of businessmen on Saturday, the prime minister accused "some undemocratic forces" of trying to destabilise democracy.

Declaring that no compromise would be made on principles, Gilani said, "We did not get this government as a gift from someone. We have been empowered by the people of Pakistan. Political forces have struggled for nine years to achieve this. I myself spent five years in jail. We were not afraid then, and even now this unwarranted criticism cannot deter us."

## Imran fears civil disobedience in country

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan foresees inevitable civil disobedience if the ruling elite continued to evade taxes, hide their assets and did not abandon their lavish lifestyle at the cost of poor taxpayers' money.

The ruling coalition appeared to be suffering from a state of complete indifference to the plight of consumers, as it either was insensitive or lacked commitment to putting a check on ever rising prices of essential items and utility bills, he said and warned, "if sanity does not prevail even now, we are then doomed".

"The economy is in tatters, industry crumbling and one-fifth of Pakistan facing flood devastation but is there even an iota of it reflected in the rulers' way of living and governance? Certainly not," asserted the PTI chairman while talking to The News here on Sunday.

## 3 protesters, woman

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and pro-independence demonstrations, according to residents reached by phone in Baramulla, Pulwama and Anantnag, the home districts of the latest victims.

The deaths come ahead of a visit by a high-level political delegation, headed by Home Minister P Chidambaram and set to arrive in the region on Monday, according to local media reports.

"Today's protesters are a very different group of young men, women and, in some cases, children," Chidambaram told the Hindustan Times on Sunday ahead of his visit. "We do need to recognise this. The protests are certainly more widespread and there is sig-

nificant alienation."

Authorities briefly relaxed a curfew on Saturday that had been in place for almost a week. But on Sunday, police again sealed off neighbourhoods with barbed wire and asked residents to stay indoors.

Meanwhile, a senior All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani withdrew plans to protest outside army camps in held Kashmir, lessening fears of a further escalation of violence.

"Instead of marching to army camps, the people should protest in all district headquarters and demand complete withdrawal of Indian troops from Kashmir," the 80-year-old Geelani said in a statement.—Agencies

## 29 killed in twin Baghdad car bombs

BAGHDAD: Two near-simultaneous car bombs rocked Baghdad on Sunday killing at least 29 people and wounding 111 in the Iraqi capital's deadliest day in a month.

The twin blasts struck near the Aden junction in north Baghdad and in the residential district of Mansur in the west of the capital at around 10:10 am, AFP journalists and security officials said.

An interior ministry official put the death toll at 29—19 died in the Aden explosion, and 10 in Mansur. "It was a minibus—the driver stopped and told people nearby that he was going to go see a doctor," said Abu Abdullah, 40, who was near the site of the Aden bombing. "A few minutes later, it exploded."

An AFP journalist at the scene said the blast, against an office of the Iraqi Federal Police, had left a crater three metres in diameter.

In Mansur, another AFP journalist reported seeing several bloodied bodies on the street, with multiple cars burned out and two buildings destroyed, while nearby houses were also badly damaged.

The explosion hit in front of an office of mobile phone company Asiacell, he said. It was unclear if Asiacell's offices were the specific target.—AFP

## Drone kills five

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confirmed. According to reports, local residents killed some 20 Taliban militants in retaliation.

Meanwhile, 16 people were killed in shelling by the security forces on the positions of rival Bangash and Turi tribes, who have been engaged in fighting for more than two weeks over a water dispute. The clashes have claimed over 100 lives so far.

In the Darra Adamkhel, six militants were killed when an armed clash erupted between two groups of insurgents on Saturday night. The bodies of the militants killed in the fight kept lying in a graveyard of Akhoral.

Militants also attacked the house of Yar Akbar in Akhoral area of Darra Adamkhel. Security forces reached the spot and after an exchange of fire the militants fled. No loss of life was reported from the incident.

## Floods leave a long trail to walk

and release them to their natural habitat once things get better. There is no sign as yet for the rest of wildlife," Shah said, adding that around 80 per cent of partridge population is also gone.

Shah said his village, Seeta, was saved from flooding, though it remained surrounded by water, mainly because of community mobilisation. "We are the followers of Dargah Luari Sharif. There is a large concentration of the followers of Luari Sharif in all the districts of Sindh, Balochistan as well as Punjab. In our difficult time they came to help us."

He also mentioned that a large number of followers from Sanghar and Badin, which remained unaffected by the floods, were busy in relief activities in Qazi Ahmad in the Nawabshah district, working at a relief camp set up by the Pir of Luari Sharif, Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi.

In Qazi Ahmad, the followers of Dargah Luari Sharif also kept watch on a nearby protective embankment. Mir Maqbool Ahmad Talpur, a grower from Khadro town in the Sanghar district, told The News that many men of his town were also taking part in relief activities in Kandiaro in the Naushehroferoze district, Seeta in the Dadu district and Dokri in the Larkana district.

Talpur said the followers arrived from as far as Gandakha in the Jafarabad district of Balochistan. However, he emphasised that their camps were not restricted to the followers of the Dargah alone. "The followers of Luari Sharif are ready to help anyone who is in need, and they are doing so."

The aid workers said that the coming weeks will see the continuation of the rescue operation as well as the start of the rehabilitation work. They empha-

sised that during that period arrangements must be made for vaccination of the flood victims against waterborne diseases, supply of food and clean drinking water, lending for rebuilding destroyed and damaged homes, and support for the agrarian masses to start cultivation wherever it's possible.

Ishaqani said the biggest problem would be provision of clean drinking water. The current capacity of the locally-bottled clean water supply is not enough to meet the huge demand. He proposed immediate import of sufficient quantity of water purification tablets, which could be provided to the flood victims along with their ration supplies.

He also said the NGOs have played a vital role in saving lives of the flood victims. And their efficacy cannot be ignored in the rehabilitation process.