

# QUETTA VOICE

Email address:  
quettavoic@gmail.com

Thursday 07  
July, 2022

[https:// www.quettavoic.com/](https://www.quettavoic.com/)

ABC Certified

Quettavoic



**Making Bani Gala 'money gala' was Imran Khan's only agenda: Marriyum**



**Imran Khan says 'thieves cannot win even with umpires' support'**

## Monsoon rains claim 45 lives in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah  
Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Monsoon rains and flash floods have claimed 45 lives and injured over 50 people across Balochistan. Heavy rainfall played havoc in the Suburbs of Quetta, Killa Saifullah, Bolan, Mastung, Chaman, Barkan, Kohlu, Dera Bugti, and other parts of Balochistan.

"Death toll is likely to increase as we are getting reports about missing of people in floods," Naseer Ahmad Nasar the DG told Daily Quetta Voice. Mr. Nasar said flash floods unleashed by torrential rains swept away bridges, and delay and checked dams across Balochistan.

Heavy rainfall left thousands of people homeless.

Heavy rainfall has left thousands of people homeless in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. Rains-affected people complain about the non-availability of tents blankets food and medicine in Quetta's south-eastern suburbs. "I just got one blanket after three days", Muhammad Yousaf, an aged man with a white-bushy beard told Quetta Voice with tears in his eyes. Heavy rainfall has



completely destroyed bricks and mud-walled homes in only one street of Muhammad Shahi town of Quetta.

An aged man is pointing towards the destruction

caused by heavy rainfall in Quetta

Like Yousaf, dozens of rain-affected people surrounded this reporter while demanding the PDMA, provincial government, and

other charity organizations a timely relief and support.

"Our women are passing sleepless nights because of no shelter", Jan Muhammad, a young man lamented as his voice

cracked.

"Send medical teams and medicines", people demanded

The rain survivors also demanded the provision of medicines and informed

that some women, children, and aged people were suffering from different diseases. "If they are not providing tents, then they should send a medical team", Jan Muhammad suggested.

Continued rainfall has also swept away poorly constructed dams across Balochistan. "We have ordered a survey to assess the damages caused by heavy rainfall", Mir Zia Ullah Langove the Balochistan home minister said. Mr. Langove visited the PDMA's head office and revived the relief and rescue operation in Balochistan. "Government will not let the people alone in this hour of trial", Mr. Langove said.

The home minister chaired a high-level meeting to review the relief and rescue operation in Balochistan. DG PDMA Naseer Ahmad Nasar thoroughly briefed the minister about the ongoing operation in Balochistan.

The Met office has termed the next 24 hours crucial as more rainfall is expected in various parts of Balochistan, which covers half of the country in terms of area.



QUETTA: A view of damage house due to recent rain in Qila Saifullah.

### Imran Khan says 'thieves cannot win even with umpires' support'

SAHIWAL: Former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday said "even with the support of the umpires thieves cannot win Punjab by-polls", scheduled to take place on July 17.

Addressing a public gathering in Sahiwal, Imran Khan thanked participants for coming in large numbers to the public gathering despite heavy rain and accumulated water in the jalsagah.

The former prime minister said the politics of turncoats has been exposed, adding that "looties" have joined Asif Ali Zardari and Sharifs for the lust for power.

Lashing out at his political opponents, Khan said Asif Ali Zardari and the Sharif family are only concerned with their wealth they have no sympathy for the general public.

He also reiterated his claim that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is trying to ensure the victory of the "imported govt".

"Even if empires are with you, we will defeat you," Imran Khan said in his message to the political opponents.

Imran Khan asked the masses to check voter lists before Punjab by-polls on 20 seats. He vowed to win all 20 seats on July 17.

Paying rich tributes to the journalists for standing with truth, he said the government is pressuring the journalists and those who are raising their voice for the country are being booked in cases. INP

### Pakistan taking measures to improve trade with Iran: Miftah

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Wednesday said Pakistan was taking all possible measures to resolve the bottlenecks for significantly augmenting the bilateral trade volume with Iran.

The minister was talking to Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, who called on him here, according to a Finance Ministry statement.

Miftah said the current trade volume between the two countries was not at the optimal level.

He also highlighted deep-rooted cordial and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Iran based on centuries old religious and cultural affinities. He emphasized that Pakistan always highly values its brotherly relations with the neighboring country.

The Iranian ambassador appreciated Pakistan's economic policies and said the two countries had great potential for extensive collaboration in the fields of energy, trade and other areas.

Both the dignitaries expressed their satisfaction on mutual bilateral relations and keen intention for enhancing collaboration in various areas of common interest. INP

### Imran confident of winning by-elections in Punjab

CHICHAWATNI: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday while taking a dig at his political opponents said that they cannot win even if the umpire is on their side. Addressing a rally in Chichawatni on Wednesday, Imran Khan said "a person" sitting in Lahore has been given task to rig by-elections in favor of Hamza Shahbaz. Khan expressed confidence that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf will emerge victorious in polls despite unfair moves by the opponents. INP

### President approves appointments of 5 additional judges of BHC

Dawood Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi approved the appointment of five additional judges of the Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Wednesday. The newly appointed judges include Muhammad Iqbal Kasi Advocate, Shaikat Rakhshani Advocate, Gul Hassan Tareen Advocate, Muhammad Amir Rana Advocate, and Sardar Ahmed Aleemi Advocate.

The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) had recommended five senior lawyers for the appointment of additional judges of the BHC. The President approved the



appointments as per article A 175 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

### US State Secretary speaks with FM Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had a telephone conversation on Wednesday.

The Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto confirmed that he received a phone call from Antony Blinken.

Talking to Twitter, Bilawal wrote "I had talked with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken today and we reaffirmed to further strengthen ties marking 75 years of bilateral relations."

The Foreign Minister further wrote that in order to strengthen bilateral relations, contacts in the fields of trade, energy, public health and security would be expanded, and we should promote our people-to-people and business-to-business contacts. INP

### Making Bani Gala 'money gala' was Imran Khan's only agenda: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said Wednesday while addressing a press conference here that the one and only agenda of former prime minister Imran Khan was to make Bani Gala a "money gala".

"Imran Khan is now playing a farce. He himself used to say that he did not become the prime minister to tell the prices of potatoes and onions," Marriyum castigated.

"We have concerns about the mental state of Imran Khan. He only made political cases against his opponents during his four-year tenure. He should tell how he continued taking political revenge from opponents for four years," she stated.

"You [Imran Khan] destroyed every sector. Now that the evidence has surfaced against you, what will you say?" she questioned. "If there was a conspiracy against you [Imran Khan], why didn't you talk about it first? What will you tell the people that you have made them poor?" she questioned further.

"Don't tell the people how the diamonds were bought. Tell them the political opponents were put into jails because the people's money was to be looted," she loathed.

"Imran Khan had to tell the people [about all these irregularities] when the corruption of Farah Gogi came to the light," she despised.

"[False] cases were registered against Shehbaz Sharif and Rana Sanaulah," she castigated further.

The federal information minister held Imran Khan responsible for inflation in the country, adding he would have to answer for that. She also blamed him for the destruction of the foreign policy of Pakistan.

Marriyum Aurangzeb also came down hard on former first lady Bushra Bibi and said that she should be ashamed of herself for misleading the youth.

She claimed that every page [sector] was littered with Imran Khan's corruption, for the one and only agenda of Imran Khan was to make Bani Gala a "money gala". INP

## PTI ready for 'grand dialogue' if election date announced: Fawad Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Wednesday that his party is ready for a "grand dialogue" but will only come to the table if an election date is announced.

Talking to the press in Islamabad, Fawad said that if the government continued making such moves one after the other, it may derail democracy in the country.

"Every other day, a new scandal of this government is coming to light. There is a solar scandal which should be investigated," said the PTI leader.

The former information minister claimed that not a single corruption case was filed against any of the ministers belonging to the PTI-led government.

"What happened to Captain (ret'd) Safdar in our tenure was done by the Sindh government. Two journalists were killed in Sindh and cases are being registered against politicians. They want a solution to political problems but the date of election should be given first," said the PTI leader.

Taking a jibe at his predecessor Marriyum Aurangzeb, Fawad said



that the incumbent information minister should respond as her husband is an Australian citizen and represents the tobacco industry in Pakistan.

Fawad alleged that billions of rupees were given to the tobacco industry because of what Marriyum's lobby said. He added that due to her lobbying, foreign companies were given concessions.

"Now due to the lobbying of Ali Tareen and Marriyum Aurangzeb, the tobacco industry got billions of rupees as tax concessions," claimed Fawad.

On the other hand, Shireen Mazari said that the grand dialogue should be led by those who have people's mandate.

There is no Opposition in the Parliament, the largest political party of the country is outside the Parliament," said Mazari as she alleged that lawlessness is at its peak during the incumbent government's tenure.

"If you want to impose Martial Law then announce it clearly. Wherever we go, our cars are stopped and people are abducted," said the former human rights minister Web Desk



## QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

## Torrential rain exposed drainage system in Quetta

Torrential rains badly exposed the drainage system in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province. Heavy rainfall brought joy to the people living in posh areas of the city, whereas, woes to people living in poor neighborhoods and marginalized areas. A heartbreaking video of two teenage boys being swept away in the rainwater in Quetta's Sariab Road area was widely shared on social media. This really pained every sane person.

Hundreds of heartbreaking images of rain survivors were shared on social media outlets. This simply exposed the system in general and Quetta's drainage system in particular.

Rains-related incidents claim 7 lives

Rains-related incidents claimed seven precious human lives as per the statistics shared by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). Women and children were also among the dead. PDMA's media managers were sharing videos of their operations when people were facing the brunt of heavy rainfall in various parts of Balochistan.

Most streets and roads in poor neighborhoods of Quetta were inundated by the rainwater. It was not possible for the people to walk or drive on roads completely inundated.

Billions of rupees were spent but with no impact

Billions of rupees have been spent on the drainage, construction of roads, bridges, beautification and master plan of the city. However, one hour's heavy rainfall exposed all claims on behalf of the concerned departments.

Thousands of people have settled in the middle of nullahs/waterways over the years without the permission of the Metropolitan Corporation. MCQ appears to be a silent spectator when it comes to people constructing their houses on waterways.

PDMA has rather become a ghee and sugar distribution agency rather than coping with natural disasters in Balochistan.

Rainfall also exposed the traffic system

Rainfall has also exposed the traffic plan of the city. Nevertheless, the traffic policemen and Sergeant deserve to be appreciated for ensuring the flow of traffic as streets and roads were giving an image of river flooding.

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Qudus Bizenjo must have mercy on the provincial capital, which houses around 3 million people. Beyond political and personal interests, the provincial government should improve the drainage system, stop illegal settlements on waterways, ensure transparency in funds allocated for the construction of roads, bridges and etc.

Rainy water needs to be reserved to maintain the depleting water table in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan.

## Development policies

By Atta-ur-Rahman

In this new world order, the key for rapid socio-economic development lies in the ability of nations to manufacture and export high-technology and high value-added goods.

There are now 23 IITs in India. The older six IITs have already contributed over \$400 billion to the Indian economy. On the strength of its high-quality engineering graduates, India has forged ahead with industrialization in many key high-technology fields including the manufacture of engineering goods, satellites, fighter aircraft, space vehicles, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, vaccines etc.

One example of the benefit to industry is that of Tata Motors. This top Indian automobile manufacturer was founded in 1945 under the guiding support of Jawaharlal Nehru, and it produced its first commercial vehicle in 1954 in collaboration with the top German automobile manufacturer Daimler-Benz AG. After acquiring the latest technological know-how from Daimler-Benz, Tata decided to throw away the foreign crutches and go its own way. The collaboration ended in 1969. Starting off with the manufacture of trucks and buses, Tata moved into car manufacturing by 1998. Unlike Pakistan's automobile manufacturers - who are assemblers and not manufacturers - Tata went into full basic manufactur-

ing mode. Accordingly, Tata Motors acquired the capability to indigenously produce all parts of a car including the engine, gear box and other parts.

The first fully indigenously manufactured car, Tata Indica, was launched in 1998. In 2004, Tata bought over the South Korean truck manufacturer Daewoo, thereby getting access to the latest Korean technologies. In 2008, it acquired the ownership of Jaguar motors, acquiring knowledge about the latest automobile technologies in engine manufacturing and other systems used in modern luxury cars as well as access to cutting-edge research in this fast-moving field.

In 2008, Tata launched the world's cheapest passenger car Tata Nano. Today, Tata Motors is manufacturing the next-generation cars including Harrier, Tiago, Hexa, Tigor, Nexon and Altroz. It is also now the world leader in mass public transportation. The company has launched the Starbus Electric (9m and 12m) and the Starbus Hybrid 12m buses. It has also rolled out a range of smart buses powered by alternate fuel sources. India's first 'fuel cell bus' is also under development. The Tata Group reported annual sales of \$103 billion last year from its various ventures including engineering goods, automobiles, textiles, etc.

There are many lessons that we can learn from the evolution of the Tata Group over the past 30 years. This is particularly important since the world seems divided into two halves: those who are investing massively in quality education, science and technology, and are taking necessary measures to acquire high technology and to promote innovation, and those that are trapped in the low value-added economies, relying mainly on low value-added agricultural goods for exports.

Pakistan, unfortunately, belongs to the second group because of the myopic policies of successive governments. An important prerequisite for technology development or transfer to occur is that a country needs to have highly skilled workers who can develop, adopt, properly absorb and utilize the available technologies. For this, we need to make major investments in upgrading existing technical training centres, setting up high-level applied universities of science and engineering (Fachhochschule) on the pattern found in Germany and other European countries, and full-fledged engineering research universities. We have over a thousand technical training centres which need to be linked to top international institutions so that they can be brought to the highest standards. For develop-

ment of new cutting-edge technologies, we need to set up or upgrade existing engineering universities, and research and development institutions in collaboration with reputable foreign partners, as India did in the case of its IITs.

The budget of science and technology for India is about INR150 billion, equivalent to about Rs400 billion, whereas the budget of the Ministry of Science and Technology is less than Rs4 billion in Pakistan. Taking the six-fold population difference into account, it should be at least Rs65 billion.

Similarly, university research budgets are an average of about Rs15 million (\$ 70,000) per year for equipment, chemicals, maintenance and research salaries. The paucity of research funds and required infra-structure during the last decade has stifled research and gradually converted most universities to poor-quality colleges, with a few notable exceptions such as NUST, COMSATS, UETs, etc, that have managed to survive somehow.

Private-sector investment in research and development is also virtually non-existent in Pakistan. To encourage companies to undertake meaningful research and development efforts to be globally competitive, the government must offer major incentives to the private sector.

## So much for independence

By Belen Fernandez

Every year on July 4, to much fanfare and revelry, the United States marks its 1776 independence from Britain.

The date is also an official holiday in Puerto Rico and other de facto US colonies. So much for "independence".

I was born in the US in 1982, and, before definitively freeing myself from the "land of the free" in 2003, got to experience many a Fourth of July celebration. One year, when I was 12 or 13 and living in the Texas capital of Austin, my family and I attended a massive Independence Day gathering by the river, complete with deafening music and fireworks that permanently traumatised our dog Boulder. Although this was more than 25 years ago, I can still recall being disproportionately moved by the Lee Greenwood song, God Bless the USA - a staple of July 4th festivities - even as Boulder convulsed beside me.

The song's refrain begins: "And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free" - and, indeed, as I stood there surrounded by my fellow Americans in a city named for a coloniser and slaveowner, I felt my heart swell with pride at the thought of this inexplicable freedom that, according to the tune, we somehow collectively enjoyed.

Anyway, that's pretty much how cheap patriotism works in her acclaimed book Notes on

a Foreign Country, journalist Suzy Hansen incidentally cites this very same Lee Greenwood anthem, which she and her classmates sang one day on the school bus in New Jersey during the US invasion of Iraq in 1990 - not to be confused with the 2003 US invasion of Iraq or the apocalyptic US sanctions that, as late American diplomat Madeleine Albright admitted, had killed some half a million Iraqi children as of 1996.

To be sure, Iraq is far from the only place on Earth that has long had to suffer the deadly repercussions of self-righteous American entitlement and ignorant nationalist fervour. As Mark Twain reportedly said: "God created war so that Americans would learn geography".

Nor are children in the US free to go to school without having to worry about being mown down by a semi-automatic weapon or other lethal device. Recall the case of 11-year-old Miah Cerrillo, a survivor of the May 24 massacre of 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. As CNN reported, Cerrillo "feared the gunman would come back for her so she smeared herself in her friend's blood and played dead".

I dare say that is not what freedom looks like. This Fourth of July, I am not "proud to be an American" - and I never should have been. Anyway, that's pretty much how cheap patriot-

ism works. In her acclaimed book Notes on a Foreign Country, journalist Suzy Hansen incidentally cites this very same Lee Greenwood anthem, which she and her classmates sang one day on the school bus in New Jersey during the US invasion of Iraq in 1990 - not to be confused with the 2003 US invasion of Iraq or the apocalyptic US sanctions that, as late American diplomat Madeleine Albright admitted, had killed some half a million Iraqi children as of 1996.

To be sure, Iraq is far from the only place on Earth that has long had to suffer the deadly repercussions of self-righteous American entitlement and ignorant nationalist fervour. As Mark Twain reportedly said: "God created war so that Americans would learn geography".

Nor are children in the US free to go to school without having to worry about being mown down by a semi-automatic weapon or other lethal device. Recall the case of 11-year-old Miah Cerrillo, a survivor of the May 24 massacre of 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. As CNN reported, Cerrillo "feared the gunman would come back for her so she smeared herself in her friend's blood and played dead".

I dare say that is not what freedom looks like. This Fourth of July, I am not "proud to be an American" - and I never should have been. Anyway, that's pretty much how cheap patriot-

ism works. In her acclaimed book Notes on a Foreign Country, journalist Suzy Hansen incidentally cites this very same Lee Greenwood anthem, which she and her classmates sang one day on the school bus in New Jersey during the US invasion of Iraq in 1990 - not to be confused with the 2003 US invasion of Iraq or the apocalyptic US sanctions that, as late American diplomat Madeleine Albright admitted, had killed some half a million Iraqi children as of 1996.

To be sure, Iraq is far from the only place on Earth that has long had to suffer the deadly repercussions of self-righteous American entitlement and ignorant nationalist fervour. As Mark Twain reportedly said: "God created war so that Americans would learn geography".

Nor are children in the US free to go to school without having to worry about being mown down by a semi-automatic weapon or other lethal device. Recall the case of 11-year-old Miah Cerrillo, a survivor of the May 24 massacre of 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. As CNN reported, Cerrillo "feared the gunman would come back for her so she smeared herself in her friend's blood and played dead".

I dare say that is not what freedom looks like. This Fourth of July, I am not "proud to be an American" - and I never should have been. Anyway, that's pretty much how cheap patriot-

ism works. In her acclaimed book Notes on a Foreign Country, journalist Suzy Hansen incidentally cites this very same Lee Greenwood anthem, which she and her classmates sang one day on the school bus in New Jersey during the US invasion of Iraq in 1990 - not to be confused with the 2003 US invasion of Iraq or the apocalyptic US sanctions that, as late American diplomat Madeleine Albright admitted, had killed some half a million Iraqi children as of 1996.

To be sure, Iraq is far from the only place on Earth that has long had to suffer the deadly repercussions of self-righteous American entitlement and ignorant nationalist fervour. As Mark Twain reportedly said: "God created war so that Americans would learn geography".

Nor are children in the US free to go to school without having to worry about being mown down by a semi-automatic weapon or other lethal device. Recall the case of 11-year-old Miah Cerrillo, a survivor of the May 24 massacre of 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. As CNN reported, Cerrillo "feared the gunman would come back for her so she smeared herself in her friend's blood and played dead".

I dare say that is not what freedom looks like. This Fourth of July, I am not "proud to be an American" - and I never should have been. Anyway, that's pretty much how cheap patriot-

## It's come full circle

By Faizan Qayyum

With one foot on a banana peel, we are standing at an abyss. PM Shehbaz Sharif and the PML-N face mortal political and economic challenges, and the government has shown little resolve to confront them head-on. Domestic petroleum prices are up more than 40 per cent within the last few days, and energy prices have quickly followed suit.

It is morbidly satisfying that Shehbaz Sharif and the PML-N - of motorway, flyover, and underpass fame - should face rising fuel prices in their ultimate battle for political survival. For decades, our cities have facilitated private car owners at the expense of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. The Shehbaz Sharif model of urban development, albeit with different speeds of execution, pervades other political parties and leaders as well; large-scale grey infrastructure like signal free corridors, flyovers, underpasses, and ring roads with obscene levels of service have become the norm in cities around the country. Cities, from Islamabad to Turbat, have become sprawling sites of speculatively held vacant plots in shady housing schemes.

This is our real tragedy. Our current economic crisis is our own Frankenstein's monster staring right back at us. Consider these examples: Capital Smart City Islamabad is approximately 40 kilometres from Blue Area. DHA City Karachi is over 60kms from Frere Hall. These and other projects exclusively target car owners: only the most influential five per cent of our urban population.

So what to do when the most influential people's financial and residential interests move 50kms from the city's economic hubs? Build expressways, signal-free corridors, ring roads, Lyari Expressways, and Leh Expressways to coddle them. These projects help the elite bypass the city's congestion, often by taking a longer route. Sometimes flyovers and underpasses help address particular points of congestion in the city's road network. As these projects materialize, the richest few begin to travel more and more to reach their workplaces, meet friends, or for other everyday tasks. Because there's no public transit - and whatever transit exists is class incompatible - people drive, often in their sparkling new SUVs.

The same logic has unfortunately extended to inter-city travel. We have prioritized motorways and highways over railways. Our railways network has shrunk from over 8500kms of tracks in 1950s to around 7,800kms today. This has been accompanied by a drastic drop in the railways' share of traffic: while the service carried over 86 per cent of all freight traffic in the 1950s, its current share stands at a meager 4-6 per cent. Similarly, Pakistan Railways has gone from the single largest carrier of passenger traffic in the 1970s to carrying less than 10 per cent of all passengers today.

This drastic decline is not coincidental. According to one estimate, the state spent three times as much on intercity road infrastructure than it did on railways. The uniformed state's patronage of entities has combined with private car owners' interests to completely overpower socioeconomic efficiencies associated with rail travel.

All these developments are brazen examples of elite capture. Only around 10 per cent of all urban households own cars, and yet all of our cities have seen massive infrastructural investments that favour private car travel.

## 'Picturesque' protests

By M Neelika Jayawardane

In March, as Sri Lanka's economic crisis unfolded, desperate people started gathering in front of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's respective official residences - themselves destitute people paid a few thousand rupees and bottles of arrack - to attack the protest site and destroy the 'village', reports containing references to 'mobs', 'rioters' and 'clashes' further proliferated.

As Dilini Algama, a PhD student of English Linguistics at Justus Liebig-Universität Gießen in Germany, noted in a conversation on Twitter, it was always clear who was armed, and who instigated the violence. Yet German news outlets referred to chaos and 'unruh', which, explained Algama, can also mean 'riots'. There was "little to no clarification about the violence of pro-government and pro-Rajapaksa groups, or that tear-gas and water cannon toting military provoked and assaulted protesters". Moreover, "phrasing the violence as a 'clash between two groups' delegitimises the protests and equates people practicing their democratic right to protests with the violence of groups dispatched by the state to intimidate and stop them", she added. This

is nothing unique to Sri Lanka - we often see similar narratives of "clashes" and "riots" in the international coverage of protests and police actions against them across the Global South, most infamously evident in Palestine.

In Sri Lanka's case, however, the reality of the protests was not only misrepresented through narratives about "clashes". Due to the island's colonial past, and the fact that many Europeans - Scandinavians, Germans, Russians and Britons - regularly holiday there, other problematic attitudes that reduce the protests into one-dimensional Orientalist fantasies have also crept into the coverage.

Sri Lanka's protest movement is idealistic and focused on collective care. Organisers at GotaGoGama, for example, set up a free food station that provides meals for protesters and the destitute, a medical aid tent, and a library, where anyone can come and read books or organise a "People's University" session hosting discussions on social and political issues. The protesters at the village have been consciously and strategically educating each other, through "teach-outs", about the conditions that created this economic crisis, and the way successive leaders

have used ethno-nationalism to obtain votes and power. They have been working to bring together people who have purposefully, and for political ends, been divided across ethnic, religious, and class divides since Sri Lanka's independence. The protesters have also put on educational shadow-puppet shows, sung raucous island bails (catchy tunes, often accompanied by cheeky lyrics commenting on social conditions), chanted inventive slogans, and made some of the most hilarious protest posters I've ever seen. In some international news reports, however, these strategic and undeniably effective efforts to bring about change and bring a nation together have been portrayed as youthful naivete, infantilising the movement and making it look somewhat less serious and impactful than its Western counterparts.

Throughout these protests, people from different religious and ethnic groups, who have been trained to be deeply suspicious of each other, broke fast together during the month of Ramadan, celebrated Easter, and had fun on the Buddhist holiday Vesak. On a few occasions, a kat-tadiya, or an exorcist came to do an exorcism ceremony to cast out evil demons from the island. They've educat-

ed each other about the state's violence against their communities - especially violence targeting the country's Muslim and Tamil people; Ambika Satkunanathan and others repeatedly noted why Tamil people, especially those in the North and the East could not, without inviting further state surveillance and bodily harm, protest as freely as did the Sinhala in Colombo. They honoured the Tamil victims of the civil war together, and invited the surviving families of those forcibly 'disappeared' in the North and the South to speak.

Representatives of various religious organisations also attended the protests to bear witness to the events, and try to offer some protection to protesters from the violence of police, Sri Lankan Armed Forces and extrajudicial groups looking to harm them.

Images of Catholic nuns forming human chains to protect protesters were undeniably potent. So were those showing Catholic and Anglican priests, Muslim imams and maulan, Hindu priests, and Buddhist monks, all in their religious robes sitting together at Galle Face Beach, chatting and sharing views. Together, they have held vigil, overnight, at the main protest,

## Palestine's victories

By Ramzy Baroud

In November 2006, the Israeli military prevented all Palestine-based footballers from participating in the final match of the Asian Football Confederation qualification group stage. The news had a major demoralizing effect on all Palestinians. Even rare moments of hope and happiness are often crushed by Israel.

As disappointing as the Israeli decision was, it was hardly compared to the collective shock felt by Palestinians everywhere when, in 2007, Palestinian players were not allowed to participate in a decisive World Cup qualifying game against Singapore. Instead of showing solidarity with Palestinians and condemning Israel, the International Football Association (FIFA) decided to award an automatic victory to Singapore of 3-0.

This is why Palestine's latest qualification is historic, as it is more proof that Palestinian resilience has no bounds. It sends a message to Israel as well, that its unjust draconian measures will never break the spirit of the Palestinian people.

The latest achievement should also be placed within another context. It is the third time in a row that the Palestine national team qualifies for the Asian cup finals, thanks

to an impressive squad that represents all Palestinian communities, at home and in the Diaspora. This moment, however, is bittersweet. Many Palestinian footballers, who should have been present in the Sports Center Stadium in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia - where the qualification rounds were held - were missing. Some are in Israeli prisons, others are maimed or killed. Much of the killings happened in 2009.

Indeed, 2009 was a terrible year for Palestinian football. In January 2009, three Palestinian footballers, Ayman Alkurd, Shadi Sbakeh and Wajeh Moshatah, were killed during the Israeli war on the besieged Gaza Strip. All three were seen as promising athletes with bright futures. Two months later, Saji Darwish was killed by an Israeli sniper near Ramallah. The 18-year-old was slated to become a big name in Palestinian football, too.

that his once-promising sports career was over.

Arrests, torture and killings of Palestinian footballers became a regular headline in Palestine. This includes the killing of former Palestinian football star, Ahd Zaqqut, in 2014, and the deliberate shooting of the feet of Jawhar Nasser Jawhar, 19, and Adam Abd Al Raouf Halabiya, 17. The two players were attempting to cross an Israeli military checkpoint in the occupied West Bank to return home after a long training session.

These are but mere examples. The targeting of Palestinian sports is a constant item on the Israeli military agenda. Palestinian stadiums are often bombed during Israel's brutal wars on Gaza.

Indeed, 2009 was a terrible year for Palestinian football. In January 2009, three Palestinian footballers, Ayman Alkurd, Shadi Sbakeh and Wajeh Moshatah, were killed during the Israeli war on the besieged Gaza Strip. All three were seen as promising athletes with bright futures. Two months later, Saji Darwish was killed by an Israeli sniper near Ramallah. The 18-year-old was slated to become a big name in Palestinian football, too. In July of that same year, the tragedy of Mahmoud Sarsak began. Sarsak had only been a member.



Karachi rains: Dial traffic police helpline 1915 for vehicle repairing

KARACHI: Amid the ongoing monsoon spell in the metropolis, the Karachi Traffic Police have launched an emergency helpline 1915 for the citizens stuck during the downpour. According to details, the Traffic police have initiated a free vehicle repairing service for Karachiites to facilitate citizens during monsoon rains and maintain a smooth flow of traffic. The special vehicles of Karachi traffic police have mechanic facilities like fixing tyre punctures, filling the air in the tyres, towing a car and other necessary equipment including fire extinguishers. Moreover, the traffic police team will provide free petrol to vehicles ran out of fuel. Yesterday, the citizens of the port city were stuck in long vehicle queues amid moderate to heavy rainfall that lashed parts of Karachi. Meanwhile, a weather official has warned against urban flooding in low-lying areas of Karachi as monsoon rains continuing in Karachi and other parts of Sindh. Chief Meteorologist Sardar Sarfaraz has predicted around 50 millimeters of rainfall in some areas of the port city. Sarfaraz has cautioned against urban flooding in some parts of metropolis adding that intermittent rainfall with thunderstorm will continue in the city today. The ongoing monsoon system will remain active in the region until July 09, the weather official further said. INP



MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas offering dua after inaugurating central press club.

Suleman Shehbaz serves Rs1bn defamation notice on PTI's Imran Ismail

LONDON: Suleman Shehbaz, son of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on Wednesday sent Rs1 billion defamation notice to PTI leader and former Sindh governor Imran Ismail over solar panel agreement allegations. Suleman Shehbaz has sent notice to former Sindh governor through his lawyers. Shehbaz, in a notice available with this news agency, maintained that Mr. Ismail had leveled baseless allegations against the former regarding agreements made with Turkish companies over the purchase of solar panels for Pakistan. "Imran Ismail had claimed that PM Shehbaz Sharif, during his recent visit to Turkey, aided solar energy deals for his son Suleman Shehbaz", he wrote in a notice and declared all such allegations as baseless. The notice gives Ismail 15 days to not only retract her remarks and tender an apology, but also pay her Rs1 billion as compensation. In a series of tweets on July 3, former Sindh governor Ismail had claimed that the government's decision to shift public buildings to solar panels amid power shortfall was to benefit PM Shehbaz's son Suleman. He wrote, "Instead of improving ties with Turkey, Shehbaz Sharif aided solar energy deals for his son Suleman Shehbaz during the visit and now solar panels would be purchased from his [Suleman] company." INP

'Loadshedding to be reduced during Eidul Azha holidays'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir said Wednesday that the loadshedding rate will be visibly reduced during Eidul Azha holidays. Khurram Dastgir said in a statement that the recent spell of rainfall increased the water level in dams and Tarbela Dam is generating 3,684 megawatts of electricity. He said that the permanent shortfall of electricity is 6,000 to 7,000 megawatts. The federal minister said that the electricity generation was increased from Tarbela Dam which will reduce the loadshedding rate. He claimed that the nationals will see a visible reduction in the duration of power outages during Eid festival while the current shortfall is 4,000 to 5,000 MW. He added that the power supply will be improved by the next summer as 5,000 MW of additional electricity will be added to the national grid. Dastgir said that the government will have to submit its reply to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on tariff rebasing. The coalition government wanted to shift the minimum financial burden to the nationals, said the minister. On July 3, Dastgir had announced that loadshedding will not be ended on the occasion of Eidul Azha, however, the duration of power outages will be reduced. During a press conference in Gujranwala, Power Minister Khurram Dastgir had said that loadshedding could not be ended this Eidul Azha, however, people will witness a reduced duration of power outages. He had detailed that 720 megawatts power plant has been made operational from June 29. The issue of power outages will be addressed next summer after the operationalisation of the new mega project. Dastgir had said that the power crisis was the result of the previous government as it had exhibited criminal negligence by delaying the purchases of the fuel. He added that the coal price was increased as compared to the previous year. The record demand for electricity up to 30,000 MW was witnessed on July 30, whereas, the domestic consumers of the electricity suffered power-related problems due to the provision of electricity to the industries.

Mushaal appeals world for safe release of Yasin Malik

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of International Interchange Development Association (IIDA) led by President Mun, Yong-Jo called on Mushaal Hussein Mullick, Chairperson Peace and Culture Organization in Islamabad on Wednesday and assured her of its support to highlight the case of incarcerated Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik at every global forum. Speaking on the occasion, Mushaal, wife of jailed Yasin Malik, thanked the IIDA President for the support and stated that the fascist Modi regime was using all brutal tactics to silence him. She said that Yasin was powerful voice of the Kashmir freedom struggle which was why he was implicated in various concocted cases. Mushaal stated that her husband was kept in death cell and neither his family nor was his counsel allowed to meet him. She expressed her apprehension that since dozens of Hurriyat leaders were tortured to death, therefore, she worried about her husband's safety. She told the delegation that they should play their role to ensure his release. The IIDA Pakistan President in Korea Sooba Khan and IIDA Standing Advisor Um Jung Sup were also present on the occasion. The IIDA President presented souvenirs to Mushaal and Sabeen Malik. Razia, Sultana also received a token of appreciation and souvenir from the delegation. INP

The benefits of exercise in a pill? Science is closer to that goal

ISLAMABAD: Researchers at Baylor College of Medicine, Stanford School of Medicine and collaborating institutions report today in the journal Nature that they have identified a molecule in the blood that is produced during exercise and can effectively reduce food intake and obesity in mice. The findings improve our understanding of the physiological processes that underlie the interplay between exercise and hunger. "Regular exercise has been proven to help weight loss, regulate appetite and improve the metabolic profile, especially for people who are overweight and obese," said co-corresponding author Dr. Yong Xu, professor of pediatrics-nutrition and molecular and cellular biology at Baylor. "If we can understand the mechanism by which exercise triggers these benefits, then we are closer to helping many people improve their health." "We wanted to understand how exercise works at the molecular level to be able to capture some of its benefits," said co-corresponding author Jonathan Long, MD, assistant professor of pathology at Stanford Medicine and an Institute Scholar of Stanford Chem-H (Chemistry, Engineering & Medicine for Human Health). "For example, older or frail people who cannot exercise enough, may one day benefit from taking a medication that can help slow down osteoporosis, heart disease or other conditions." Xu, Long and their colleagues conducted comprehensive analyses of blood plasma compounds from mice following intense treadmill running. The most significantly induced molecule was a modified amino acid called Lac-Phe. It is synthesized from lactate (a byproduct of strenuous exercise that is responsible for the burning sensation in muscles) and phenylalanine (an amino acid that is one of the building blocks of proteins). In mice with diet-induced obesity (fed a high-fat diet), a high dose of Lac-Phe suppressed food intake by about 50% compared to control mice over a period of 12 hours without affecting their movement or energy expenditure. When administered to the mice for 10 days, Lac-Phe reduced cumulative food intake and body weight (owing to loss of body fat) and improved glucose tolerance. The researchers also identified an enzyme called CNDP2 that is involved in the production of Lac-Phe and showed that mice lacking this enzyme did not lose as much weight on an exercise regime as a control group on the same exercise plan. Interestingly, the team also found robust elevations in plasma Lac-Phe levels following physical activity in rhesus monkeys and humans. Data from a human exercise cohort showed that sprint exercise induced the most dramatic increase in plasma Lac-Phe, followed by resistance training and then endurance training. "This suggests that Lac-Phe is an ancient and conserved system. INP

Fawad accuses Marriyum Aurangzeb of lobbying for her husband

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday accused Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb of lobbying for her husband and paving the path for him in making crores of rupees. Addressing a press conference, the former Federal Minister said that no Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) minister has been accused of corruption. The PTI leader. INP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain in his office.

Dua Zahra case: Court seeks Zaheer Ahmed's call records from April 15-19

KARACHI: The judicial magistrate (East) on Wednesday directed authorities to present the phone call records of the period April 15 to 19 of Zaheer Ahmed, the boy who allegedly kidnapped and married teenager Dua Zahra. Dua Zahra was reported missing by her parents in mid-April. She was later found to have married Zaheer Ahmed in Lahore. During the hearing today, the court asked whether Zaheer was in Karachi or Lahore on April 15. The IO said Zaheer was not in Karachi on April 15 and 16 as per the call data record (CDR) for the number that was provided initially. He said that the CDR of another phone number provided later has to be fetched. At this, the court directed the IO to submit the CDR of the new number at the next hearing. It also sought an additional challan in the case, while adjourning the hearing till July 20. During the hearing, Jibran Nasir, the lawyer of Dua Zahra's father Mehdi Kazmi, maintained that the challan for making the case class-C was rendered inadmissible due to orders of fresh investigation. He said that the suspect was accessible to the police in Karachi but the police did not arrest him. He claimed that Zahra was repeatedly compelled to lie, but wondered "on whose insistence" the child did it. "Who would be held accountable if the suspect in Zahra's alleged kidnapping flees the country," Nasir asked, adding that the suspect must appear in court and fight his case. "How did you take the statement of a suspect who has yet to be arrested?" the court asked the government's counsel. Meanwhile, the Sindh High Court (SHC) issued notices to the Sindh Health Department, Home Department, Sindh inspector general of police, Zaheer Ahmed and others seeking their replies by July 21 over Kazmi's new plea seeking the recovery of the teenager. Kazmi filed a new plea yesterday, basing his case on the findings of the medical board, which determined the girl's age to be between 15 and 16 years. The petitioner requested action against Zaheer if "rape" is proved in medical tests. He claimed that Zaheer took Zahra to Punjab to marry her. INP

SHC restrains police from acting against cattle waste shifting

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Wednesday restrained police from illegal action against shifting of cattle waste outside the city. A high court bench was hearing a petition filed by dumper owners against police harassment over shifting of waste from cattle sheds at Gadap to outside the city. The bench observed that shifting of the animal waste is not an unlawful act, the police has no right to interfere in the business. "We shift the waste and garbage out of the city and return back with carrying clay," petitioner Peer Mohammad Gabol told the court. "Police demands extortion (monthly)," Ahmed Ali Shah advocate told the court. "Animals will suffer from diseases if the garbage and the waste will not be removed from the cattle sheds," the lawyer further said. "Police inquiry has proved that dumper owners have not been involved in any unlawful practice," according to the petition. "The dumpers movement can be an issue of the heavy traffic on roads," government counsel said. "Will they fly the dumpers into helicopters," Justice Iqbal Kalhoro questioned. INP



ISLAMABAD: Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor haideri called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

SHC approves MQM-P plea for hearing over Sindh jobs recruitment

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Wednesday approved a petition filed by the MQM-P leaders over alleged irregularities in providing 21,000 government jobs in Sindh, ARY News reported. The court approved the request for urgent hearing of the petition and issued notices to the Sindh government and other concerned parties for arguments on July 14. The bench also ordered the MQM lawyer Tariq Mansoor to appear in the case with preparation. MQM-P lawyer said that the petition was dismissed despite the restraining order. "What you want, the jobs recruitment should be entrusted with the MNAs," Justice Salahuddin Panhwar questioned the lawyer. "It is the provincial government's discretion to recruit on jobs in all departments of Sindh," the counsel said. "The laws were violated in recruitment on jobs from BS-05 to BS-15," the lawyer argued. "A fake committee was formed and a private entity was entrusted for test," the lawyer claimed. The Sindh High Court in June rejected MQM-P Khawja Izzah's petition against the issuance of fake domiciles in Sindh and retracted the restraining order on government jobs in Sindh. The MQM leader had filed a petition against the issuance of fake domiciles for securing government jobs in Sindh. "What you want, the jobs recruitment should be entrusted with the MNAs," Justice Salahuddin Panhwar questioned the lawyer. "It is the provincial government's discretion to recruit on jobs in all departments of Sindh," the counsel said. "The laws were violated in recruitment on jobs from BS-05 to BS-15," the lawyer argued. "A fake committee was formed and a private entity was entrusted for test," the lawyer claimed. INP

Persecution of minorities has increased to alarming proportion in India under Modi

ISLAMABAD: Persecution of Muslims, Christians and low-caste Hindus in India has increased to an alarming proportion in India under fascist Narendra Modi as attacks against members of religious minorities have increased manifold since BJP came to power in 2014. Violence, intimidation and harassment against minorities have become order of the day in India and communal Modi is shaping country's policy according to Hindutva dictates, said a report released, today, by Kashmir Media Service. It said the Indian minorities are living in a perpetual state of fear due to the discriminatory policies of Modi regime. "Muslims are the main target of Hindutva forces in India. Muslims, other minorities are being treated as second class citizens in Modi's India. BJP and RSS are on a mission to purge India of its minorities," it said. The report citing experts deplored that the BJP government in New Delhi is relentlessly imposing Hindutva ideology of RSS on the minorities in India. It pointed out that Hindutva narrative is now a dangerously growing trend in India which projects itself as the largest so-called democracy of the world. The global community must take cognizance of the plight of minorities in India. INP

Pandemic impact on mental health

ISLAMABAD: After 2 years of living with COVID-19, the physical toll of the pandemic is evident, in terms of cases, hospitalizations and deaths, but what of the mental effects? Frontline workers and young people have been some of the hardest hit, but no one has escaped the impact of the pandemic. In this Special Feature, Medical News Today investigates how the pandemic has affected mental health worldwide and asked experts how we might address this issue. All data and statistics are based on publicly available data at the time of publication. Some information may be out of date. Visit our coronavirus hub for the most recent information on the COVID-19 pandemic. In May 2020, the United Nations reported that stress and anxiety levels had risen substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, several waves of COVID-19 have left their mark around the globe. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as "a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community." Mental health issues occur when people cannot cope well with the stresses of life. A pandemic is a stressor that few might have envisaged having to cope with. The fear of contracting SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, together with concern about economic effects, has caused anxiety and stress. Frontline workers, particularly medical professionals, have experienced burnout. Stress and chronic stress from the increased pressure. Multiple lockdowns, physical distancing, and fear of infection have increased isolation, loneliness, and anxiety, all factors that, according to Lee Chambers, psychologist and founder of Essentialise Workplace Wellbeing, are "massive catalysts" for mental health issues. Other experts agree. According to Dr. Adnan James, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, "Social isolation, loneliness, stress and anxiety, domestic abuse, bereavement, financial difficulties, unemployment and severe COVID-19 infection are all factors that might have caused people's mental health to deteriorate." Worldwide increases in mental health issues. In 2019, a study in The Lancet reported that some 12.5% of the global population would have an issue with their mental health at some time in their life. In March 2022, the WHO reported that worldwide, anxiety and depression increased by 25%. Trusted Source in the first year of the pandemic. Lee Chambers has seen evidence of this: "If I'm honest, from my perspective, the incidence of everything [mental health-related] has increased. [...] It has been amplified for people who are already suffering with certain conditions. They've found less access to services and challenges in managing their everyday existence." He added: "One thing that continually got flagged was new incidences. People. INP

Advertisement for 'اطلاع برائے نئی نئی امید' (Information for New Hope) featuring a table with columns for 'مقام ایلامی', 'وقت ایلامی', 'زنگنه', 'ممبران', 'حساب نمبر', and 'حساب نمبر'. It includes contact information for 'ڈائریکٹر جنرل نشریات' and 'حکومت بلوچستان'.



# Any recording made to expose crime not against the law: Rana Sanaullah

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday said that any recording — video or audio — made to expose a person's criminal offences or misdeed could not be considered a crime, unless it was done to blackmail someone.

"The reality is that if any recording, whether video or audio, is made to catch someone's crime, then in my view it is no crime. If it is used to blackmail someone, then it is a crime," he said in a press conference.

"No one can even claim that it is a violation of their privacy," the minister asserted.

His comments come as a reference to the purported audio clip of Bushra Bibi, former prime minister Imran Khan's wife, and PTI social media head Dr Arslan Khalid that has been doing the rounds on social media.

In the alleged clip, Bushra Bibi could be heard telling Dr Khalid that Imran had asked him to run trends on social media declaring political opponents as "traitors".

As per the clip, Dr Khalid was told to declare "Aleem Khan and others" traitors on social media as they would be speaking against the PTI chief. According to the clip, the former first lady also asked the PTI social media head to raise the issue of the 'cipher' on social media. She also allegedly asked Dr Khalid to highlight the issue of the government not buying oil from Russia which was akin to "betrayal".

Dr Khalid was allegedly instructed by Bushra Bibi that these issues should not be hushed down and that trends should be generated to highlight how "Imran Khan and the country were being betrayed".

In the purported clip, Bushra Bibi also allegedly told Arslan Khalid to link criticism against her and Farah Khan, a friend of the former first lady who flew out of Pakistan in April, with treason. As per the clip, Dr Khalid assured the ex-first lady that the social media team would follow the instructions and label the PTI critics "traitors".

A day after the audio clip surfaced, PTI leaders Shireen Mazari and Fawad Chaudhry claimed that the phones of Imran and his family were being tapped and called the clip a breach of law.

At a press conference in Islamabad today, Sanaullah said that the audio clip proved that Bushra Bibi was "involved in a crime". "A lady of an important status is linking the entire opposition and the nation with treason over a letter, which they (PTI) claimed came from America."

"She is doing it to save herself from corruption. She is explaining how it can be done with a proper procedure, with proper planning and training," he stated, adding that no questions could be raised on such a recording.

But if PTI claimed that the recording was false, the minister continued, then Imran should straight up refute it and demand a forensic examination.

"Instead, his party members say that the content of the audio doesn't matter. If the recording is fake, they should say that it is fake so that an investigation is held to prove who is right and who isn't."

Meanwhile, responding to Imran's video speech last night, Sanaullah said that the PTI chief "should be ashamed of himself" for making claims that he was being harassed and isolated.

"Have you not been doing this with your opponents for 3.5 years? No such thing is being done with you," he said. "Is asking you about your assets and corruption harassing you?" In a message yesterday, Imran had threatened to "reveal everything" about the characters involved in the alleged conspiracy to oust his government if harassment of him and his party did not cease. "If we are pushed against the wall and harassed then I will be forced to speak up and will lay bare everything before the nation about what happened," he said. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman talks to press about current monsoon rainfall in the country.

## Pakistani rupee halts US dollar's upward trend

ISLAMABAD: After getting a good thrashing at the hands of US dollar Tuesday which was appreciated by Rs2.38, the Pakistani rupee halts greenback's further flight on Wednesday bringing its value down by 19 paise.

According to forex market, dollar was depreciated by 19 paise during the morning trading activity in the interbank and was being exchanged at Rs206.75. Yesterday, the American currency was closed at Rs206.94.

The Pakistani rupee which was constantly gaining some ground against the US dollar for almost a week, lost its steam Tuesday as its value was depreciated by a massive 2.38 in the interbank trading.

It was observed that after the announcement of the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) received from IMF for the combined 7th and 8th reviews on June 28, the rupee started its upward trajectory against the greenback in the interbank market.

Now, experts said the fresh decline in rupee's value was due to repayments pressure and increase in dollar demand. INP

## Sindh Opposition leader Haleem Adil arrested from Lahore

LAHORE: Police arrested PTI Opposition Leader in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh from Lahore in the wee hours of Wednesday.

Reportedly, Haleem Adil came to Lahore Tuesday and was staying in a hotel. Some officials in plain clothes entered the hotel and took him away with them. He has been shifted to some unknown place.

The CCTV footage of PTI leader Mr Adil being arrested by plain-clothed officials also surfaced. It could be seen in the footage that the MPA did not put up any resistance and went with the men.

His wife Dua Bhutto and daughter Ayesha Haleem confirmed his arrest through their tweets.

Daughter Ayesha wrote in her tweet that her father was a member of Sindh Assembly and he could not be detained with-

out the permission of the SA speaker.

According to sources, several cases have been registered in different Sindh police stations against Mr Adil and to evade his arrest in Sindh, he came to Lahore. On Tuesday, the authorities also arrested journalist Imran Riaz Khan while he was heading to Islamabad. He was taken into custody in a treason case registered against him in Attock. There are as many as 17 treason cases across Punjab against the journalist.

Yesterday, PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan decried the harassment of the party supporters wondering why the judiciary was silent over the matter, adding that whether fundamental rights, granted by the Constitution to the citizens of Pakistan, had been "suspended" under what he called a "fascist regime". INP

## Petition seeking Haleem Adil Sheikh's recovery filed in LHC

KARACHI: A petition seeking recovery of PTI Opposition Leader in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh has been filed in the Lahore High Court.

The petition was filed by Mr Adil's personal secretary Muhammad Farhan on Wednesday. The PTI leader was whisked away early this morning by men in plain clothes from a hotel in Lahore where he came to stay yesterday.

The Punjab IG police and others were made respondents in the petition. The plea stated that some men wearing plain clothes took away Haleem Adil. Police were contacted in this regard, but still the whereabouts of the SA opposition leader have not been disclosed, the petition added.

The petition further stated that despite a lapse of several hours, Mr Adil had not been produced yet before any court. The Lahore High Court is requested to pass an order for the appearance of the PTI leader before a court, the plea added.

Earlier, the police arrested PTI Opposition Leader in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh from Lahore in the wee hours of Wednesday. Haleem Adil came to Lahore Tuesday and was staying in a hotel. Some officials in plain clothes entered the hotel and took him away with them. He has been shifted to some unknown place.

The CCTV footage of PTI leader Mr Adil being arrested by plain-clothed officials also surfaced. It could be seen in the footage that the MPA did not put up any resistance and went with the men.

His wife Dua Bhutto and daughter Ayesha Haleem confirmed his arrest through their tweets.

Daughter Ayesha wrote in her tweet that her father was a member of Sindh Assembly and he could not be detained without the permission of the SA speaker.

According to sources, several cases have been regis-

tered in different Sindh police stations against Mr Adil and to evade his arrest in Sindh, he came to Lahore.

On Tuesday, the authorities also arrested journalist Imran Riaz Khan while he was heading to Islamabad.

He was taken into custody in a treason case registered against him in Attock. There are as many as 17 treason cases across Punjab against the journalist.

Tuesday, PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan decried the harassment of the party supporters wondering why the judiciary was silent over the matter, adding that whether fundamental rights, granted by the Constitution to the citizens of Pakistan, had been "suspended" under what he called a "fascist regime".

Meanwhile, it was learnt that police will present Mr Adil before the Model Town Kuchehri for his transit remand later today.

After getting his remand, the police would shift him to Sindh province as the Sindh anti-corruption department has registered a case against the PTI leader.

Adil Sheikh's lawyer amir Saeed Ran has also reached Model Town Kuchehri. According to sources, several cases have been registered in different Sindh police stations against Mr Adil and to evade his arrest in Sindh, he came to Lahore. On Tuesday, the authorities also arrested journalist Imran Riaz Khan while he was heading to Islamabad. He was taken into custody in a treason case registered against him in Attock. There are as many as 17 treason cases across Punjab against the journalist. Tuesday, PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan decried the harassment of the party supporters wondering why the judiciary was silent over the matter, adding that whether fundamental rights, granted by the Constitution to the citizens of Pakistan, had been "suspended" under what he called a "fascist regime". INP

## IHC directs to approach LHC over arrest of journalist Imran Riaz Khan

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday directed the counsel of Imran Riaz Khan to approach Lahore High Court (LHC) over arrest of the journalist.

Chief Justice of IHC Athar Minallah, while conducting hearing on contempt of court plea over the arrest, remarked that the journalist was taken into custody from Attock which does not fall under jurisdiction of this court.

The court further remarked that LHC is the appropriate forum to raise the matter of arrest of Imran Riaz Khan.

It merits mention that the petition stated that Imran Riaz was arrested despite clear orders of the Islamabad High Court. The court had directed the authorities concerned across the country not to arrest him.

The petitioner has taken a stand that contempt of court action should be taken against the violators of court order. IG Islamabad, IG Punjab and DC Islamabad were made parties in the petition.

It may be recalled that Attock police had arrested journalist Imran Riaz Khan on Tuesday night. INP

## Pakistan's Covid-19 positivity ratio rises to 4.69pc

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday reported as many as 805 fresh cases of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, the National Institute of Health (NIH) data showed.

According to the National Institute of Health, 17,150 Covid tests were conducted across the country in past 24 hours, out of which 805 turned out to be positive.

The nationwide Covid-19 test positivity ratio remained 4.69 percent, according to the report.

Moreover, one more person died of Covid-19 in the past 24 hours, taking the overall death toll in the province to 30,399, said NIH, adding that 168 people are in critical condition.

The National Command and

Operation Centre (NCO) Tuesday issued fresh guidelines in view of the upcoming Eidul Azha, urging people to follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) to prevent Covid-19 infection. The forum has advised the people to stay indoors during the Eid holidays and observe precautionary measures in view of the rising trend of Covid cases. "It has been advised to undertake minimal necessary travel during Eid holidays as the risk of a new wave was imminent". According to the NCO, the Eid prayers should be offered at open spaces with Covid-19 protocols. In case prayers are offered indoors, windows and doors of mosques be kept open for adequate ventilation. INP

## Investigators seek SECP record in Farah Gogi corruption case

ISLAMABAD: Widening the scope of its probe into corruption allegations against Farah Gogi, the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) has sought record from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Wednesday.

Reportedly, the ACE wrote a letter to the SECP demanding the record of Ghousta Builders and G Mangolia Housing Society owned by Farah Gogi who is close friend of former first lady Bushra Bibi.

An inquiry committee of the ACE is holding investigations into the development of the housing society.

The probe was launched against the administration of G Mangolia Housing Society on the complaints of citizens.

According to sources, Farah Gogi is the chief executive of Ghousta Builders - the company which is building G Mangolia Housing Society. The Ghousta Builders' office is situated in 51 F Gulberg II.

The ACE wrote a letter to the SECP registrar and sought a complete record of both the construction companies. INP

## Imran Khan secures bail in 10 cases against him

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has obtained interim bail in 10 cases filed by the incumbent government against him, hours after journalist Imran Riaz Khan and Opposition Leader in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh were arrested.

According to details, PTI leader Babar Awan appeared before the court on behalf of Imran Khan in the district court and pleaded that the PTI chairman could not appear before the court owing to a threat to his life.

The court also extended the bail pleas of Shah Farman and Shahram Tarakai. Previously, a district and sessions court in Islamabad granted Friday pre-arrest bail to former prime min-

ister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in different cases pertaining to vandalism during the party's May 25 long march toward Islamabad.

PTI Chairman appeared before the district and sessions court of judge Kamran Basharat Mufi.

Subsequently, the Islamabad court granted pre-arrest to former prime minister in 10 FIRs till July 6 and directed police to submit a record of cases in next hearing. The further hearing of the case was adjourned until July 6. Earlier, the Peshawar High Court (PHC) granted transit bail to former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan till June 25 in different cases registered against him in connection with May 25 'Azadi March'. INP

## Missing mountaineer Shehroze Kashif traced, returning to camp: father

GILGIT: Mountaineer Shehroze Kashif and his partner have been spotted returning to base camp 3 of the Nanga Parbat, a day after he went missing following scaling the ninth highest mountain.

Kashif Salman, the father of the mountaineer, said that Shehroze Kashif and his partner Afzal were spotted returning to camp 3. "They are returning on their own and were not rescued by anyone," the father said, hours after he appealed to the Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa for launching a rescue operation for their safe recovery. Shehroze Kashif scaled the top of the Nanga Parbat on Tuesday morning, however, he later lost contact with the base camp later, prompting fear that he along with his co-mountaineer. INP

## Montaineers Kashif Shehroze, Fazal Ali go missing in Nanga Parbat storm

ISLAMABAD: Shehroze Kashif, the famous Pakistani climber, who recently set the record of scaling the killer Nanga Parbat as the youngest mountaineer of the world, is reported to have gone missing on the mountain at an altitude of 7,300 meters along with fellow climber Fazal Ali, it has been reported on Wednesday.

Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) Secretary Karar Haidari, however, said that both the climbers were stranded in the snowstorm on the mountain.

In a video message, the father of Shehroze Kashif has appealed to Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa for an immediate operation for the res-

cue of both the climbers.

"Despite several phone calls, no reply was received from Shehroze Kashif. Our contact with him and Fazal Ali was cut off during their return from Nanga Parbat," he said.

"Shehroze had paid homage to the martyrs of Pakistan Army by scaling the Kanchenjunga Peak. He has also set the record of scaling Nanga Parbat at young age," he added.

Meanwhile, Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Abdul Khalid issued orders for a rescue operation. It is to be noted here that Shehroze Kashif, known as the Broad Boy from Lahore, climbed 8,025 meters high Nanga Parbat, the. INP



ISLAMABAD: Special assistant to the Prime Minister on youth affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with representatives from UN Women Pakistan.

## Karachi: Meteorologist cautions against urban flooding in low-lying areas

KARACHI: A weather official has warned against urban flooding in low-lying areas of Karachi as monsoon rains continuing in Karachi and other parts of Sindh.

Chief Meteorologist Sardar Sarfaraz has predicted around 50 millimeters' rainfall in some areas of the port city.

Sarfaraz has cautioned against urban flooding in some parts of metropolis adding that intermittent rainfall with thunderstorm will continue in the city today.

He said concerned authorities and departments have been cautioned about the likelihood of urban flooding in the city.

The ongoing monsoon system will remain active in the region until July 09, the weather official further said.

Rain lashed several areas of Karachi on Tuesday as Malir, Shah

Faisal Colony, Landhi, Korangi, Saddar, Lyari, North Karachi, Surjani Town, Nagan Chowranghi, Godhra and other localities received showers in afternoon.

Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) in a recent forecast said that the monsoon currents are likely to further strengthen from the weekend.

Under the influence of this weather system Karachi, Mirpurkhas, Dadu, Thatta and Badin will receive rain until Thursday (tomorrow).

Balochistan's most district will also receive widespread rainfall, while Kashmir, KP, Islamabad and several districts of Punjab are expected to be lashed by rain with wind or thunderstorm from today till 07th July morning. Several districts of Sindh Tuesday received light to moderate rain. INP

## Pakistan felicitates Algeria on 60th Independence Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has extended felicitations on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the independence of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Mofa) extended the heartiest felicitations to Algeria's government and its people.

Both countries established their diplomatic relations in 1958. Also, both countries are members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The major items exported from Pakistan to Algeria include rice, textile, and sports goods. Pertinent to note that Algeria commemorates colonial Algerian independence from France on 5 July 1962. INP

## Two die in rain incidents in Karachi, roads flooded in Sukkur

KARACHI: Two citizens died in incidents after rain in Karachi. Roads in Sukkur were flooded due to the heavy rainfall while low-lying areas were inundated and different areas of Sukkur are also experiencing load-shedding. A man lost his life in Karachi's Azam Basti after getting electrocuted by water motor while a 14-year-old Iman lost her life in Malir after a wall of her house fell on her. On the other hand, power has not been restored after rain stopped. While drainage system was badly failed in the city. Roads and low-lying areas were inundated. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel receiving USAID donated four mobile laboratories to Strengthen Pakistan's COVID-19 Testing and other communicable diseases.

## Punjab by-polls: LHC summons ECP officials over 'change in electoral rolls

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has summoned officials of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on a plea against changes in electoral rolls ahead of by-elections in 20 constituencies of the Punjab Assembly on July 17.

The plea was filed by a citizen named Munir Ahmed through his counsel Azhar Siddique, who has represented PTI in many cases previously.

The plea which made the chief election commissioner and provincial election commissioner as respondents in the case stated that the ECP has made changes to the electoral lists ahead of the by-polls which is illegal.

"Many living people have been declared deceased and their votes have been disposed-off," it said,

adding that the step could lead to rigging in the polls.

The petition said that it is the responsibility of the Election Commission to hold free and fair elections and the court should direct the commission to restore the previous electoral rolls.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Punjab has recently rejected the allegations of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) central leader Dr Yasmin Rashid and clarified that no changes were made to electoral rolls after the unveiling of the election schedule in Punjab. The provincial election commissioner said in a statement that there were no changes made to electoral rolls after the announcement of the election schedule. INP