

QUETTA VOICE

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Friday 08 July, 2022

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Pakistan Railways announces 30pc discount in fares



Imran Khan says ready for negotiations on one-point agenda

Balochistan rains: death toll rises to 53 as rescue operation underway



Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA: The death toll in rains-related incidents reached 53 on Thursday night as Pak Army, Frontier Corps, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and civil administrations launched a massive rescue and relief operation across Balochistan.

"PDMA has received 53 dead bodies since the start of heavy rainfall in Balochistan", an officer of the provincial emergency operation cell said. He said 47 people have suffered injuries as a result of heavy rainfall and flash-floods unleashed by rains. The

officer revealed that 18 women and 16 children were also among the dead.

Heavy rainfalls have also killed 416 livestock.

Damages assessment underway across Balochistan

Efforts to evacuate victims are the first priority. However, the administration is also assessing the damages so that the relief operations can be expedited - cooked food and tents are being provided to the victims by PDMA, Pakistan Army, and FC, a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

In addition, financial

assistance is being provided to the bereaved families and rations and necessary financial assistance are also being provided to the affected families according to local traditions.

The passenger train was temporarily halted due to a landslide near Dozan Post in the Machh area yesterday. However, the trains were restored after the railway track was cleared by FC personnel and railway workers.

Casualties were reported from Quetta, Barkhan, Dera Bugti, Pishin

Most of the casualties were reported from Quetta, Barkhan, Dera

Bugti, Pishin, Zhob, Dukki, Kohlu, Harnai, Sibi and Lasbella. Heavy rainfall played havoc in Quetta's Link Badini Road, Kharotabad, Pashtoonabad, Nawan Killi, Sariab Road and other poor neighborhoods of the city.

Rains have damaged dozens of small bridges and delay and check dams in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. Videos widely shared on social media show dams and bridges being swept away in floods and heavy rainfall.

"We have ordered the concerned deputy com-

missioners to assess the damages", Mir Ziaullah Langove, the Balochistan Home Minister said. He said the government was aware of the difficulties of the masses.

Pak Army FC personnel assisting civil administration. Personnel of the Pak Army, Frontier Corps (FC) assisted the PDMA and civil administration during rescue and relief operations throughout the province. Pak Army personnel were seen rescuing the trapped people in Gwadar, Killa Saifullah, and other parts of the province.

Heavy rainfall and floods have left thousands of people homeless in Balochistan. Most people are still in desperate need of support.

"Government should practically launch relief operation rather than words", Fazal ur Rehman, a tribal elder from Pishin said.

He said flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall have swept away most of the bridges and small dams in the district. "Government should compensate the people for their human and financial losses", he demanded.



Pak Army FC assisting civil administration in rescue operation in Balochistan

News Desk

QUETTA: Pak Army and Frontier Corps are assisting the civil administration and the provincial disaster management authority (PDMA) in rescue and relief operations after floods and heavy rainfall in various parts of Balochistan.

FC Balochistan and Pak Army, PDMA, District Administration and other concerned agencies are providing full support to the rains and floods affected people across the province.

Areas of Quetta, Chaman, Loralai, Qila Saifullah, Sui, Dera Bugti, Machh, Lasbela,



Sibi, Harnai, Dakki, Kohlu, Barkhan, and Zhob have been severely affected by floods and rains.

Efforts to evacuate victims are the first priority. However, the administration is also assessing the damages so that the relief

operations can be expedited - cooked food and tents are being provided to the victims by PDMA, Pakistan Army, and FC.

In addition, financial assistance is being provided to the bereaved families and rations and necessary financial assis-

tance are also being provided to the affected families according to local traditions.

The passenger train was temporarily halted due to a landslide near Dozan Post in the Machh area yesterday. However, the trains were restored after the railway track was cleared by FC personnel and railway workers.

Relief operations in Qila Saifullah, Chaman, Qila Abdullah, Harnai and other affected areas in collaboration with PDMA and district administration will continue till facilities are provided to the victims. ISPR

Cholera claims 2 lives, over three dozens affected in Zhob

Ali Khan Mandokhail

ZHOB: Cholera claimed two lives and affected over three dozens were affected in Balochistan's Zhob district on Thursday. Women and children were also affected as cholera spreads in various parts of the district.

"During last two days, we have provided medical treatment to over three dozens of patients", Dr. Noor ul Haq, the Medical Superintendent of district headquarters hospital Zhob.

Most of the patients were discharged after providing first medical aid and basic treatment. However, the condition of six patients was severe. "We fear a rise in the number of patients in aftermath of flash floods in Zhob", Dr. Noor ul Haq warned. He said using contaminated water was the major reason behind the spread of cholera in the area.

"No adequate medicines to treat patients", MS complains

When asked about the availability of the medicines, Mr. Haq informed that the hospital administration was facing problems because of less supply of medicines.

This cholera outbreak has come almost a week after



cholera claimed two lives in Balochistan's Barkhan district. Cholera had also claimed precious human lives in Balochistan's resource-rich Dera Bugti district.

The government of Balochistan has not taken any notice of the cholera outbreak in Zhob till the filing of this report. Government-run hospitals in remote areas of Balochistan paint a bleak picture when it comes to the availability of doctors and the provision of medicines and medical treatment.

CJ Naeem Akhtar Afghan administers oath to 5 new additional judges

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Chief Justice Balochistan High Court (BHC), Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan administered the oath to the five newly appointed additional judges on Thursday. The oath-taking ceremony took place at the BHC hall in Quetta. The newly appointed judges include Advocate Iqbal Ahmed Kasi, Advocate Shaukat Ali Rakhshani, Advocate Gul Hassan Tareen, Muhammad Amir Nawaz Rana and Sardar Ahmed Aleemi. President Dr. Arif Alvi had appointed the five additional judges of the BHC on the recom-



mendations of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan. With the appointment of five

new judges, the number of judges in the Balochistan High Court (BHC) reached 14.

Pakistan Railways announces 30pc discount in fares

LAHORE: In order to facilitate masses on the occasion of Eidul Azha, Pakistan Railways has announced a 30 percent discount in fares.

According to the railway administration, the reduction in train fares will be applicable to all passenger trains during the three days of Eidul Azha.

The notification has been issued on the direction of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique.

On the other hand, three special trains will be operated on multiple routes before Eidul Azha, while the first special train would depart at 10 am on July 8. It would travel from Quetta to Peshawar via Multan, Sahawal and Lahore. INP

PIA operates first direct flight to China's Chengdu

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airline (PIA) successfully operated the first direct flight between Islamabad to Chengdu China on Thursday.

Chinese aviation authorities at the Chengdu International Airport extended a splendid welcome to the PIA flight and also cut a cake on the occasion.

The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad said that direct flights between both cities enhance bilateral ties with China.

Also, PIA has opened the northern areas to the world and now added more flights from Islamabad to Skardu, 12 times a week, for more choice and greater convenience.

So for this summer vacation and Eid holidays, don't waste out the opportunity and book your tickets. INP

Imran Khan says ready for negotiations on one-point agenda

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has asserted that he was ready for negotiations on the issue of holding early elections.

Speaking to journalists during a meeting, the former premier said he was ready to hold talks with anyone if early elections are guaranteed. "The doors of negotiation are open, but only on general elections," he added.

Imran Khan said that he was concerned about the country's situation and will continue to raise his voice for the betterment of people of Pakistan.

The PTI Chairman added that he can never see the army becoming weak, while appointment of the army chief had never been his issue. INP

PM Shehbaz sees drop in petrol price after fall in global market

ISLAMABAD: Admitting that hike in petroleum products' (POL) prices had made all and sundry worried, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Thursday that the oil prices had come down in the global market, and it was hoped that the commodity would soon be available to people in Pakistan at cheaper rates.

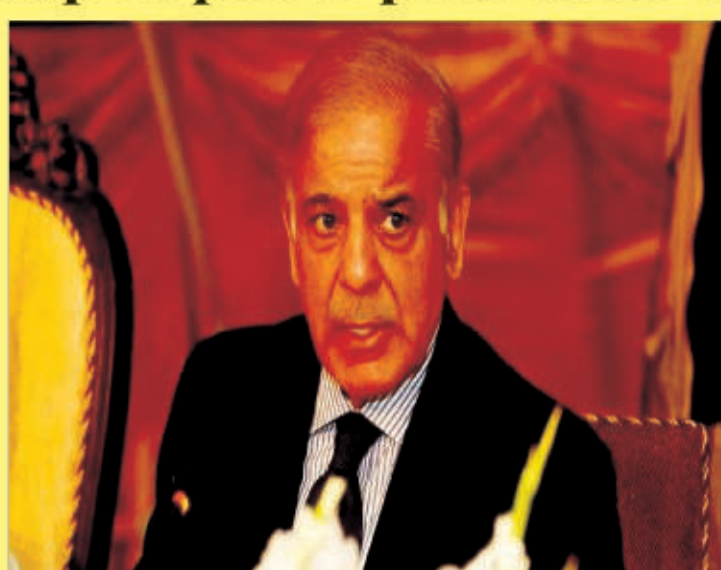
Addressing the ceremony held in connection with launching Blue and Green Line Buses in Islamabad, Shehbaz Sharif made it clear that the projects of public welfare were among the government's top priorities, and delay in the completion of these schemes would not be tolerated. "People, belonging to all strata of the society, will benefit from Blue and Green Line buses," he added.

PM Shehbaz, on the occasion, pledged to steer the country out of all crises. "We will work hard for the development of our country," he commented.

He also praised Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah for announcing steps for the betterment of Islamabad Police.

Shehbaz inaugurated the first four-line interconnected Islamabad metro bus service, terming the step a big relief for commuters of the twin cities dealing with high fuel prices. He termed the service a gift for the residents of the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, which will accommodate common man, students and workers plying on the routes.

With the service, Bhara Kahu, GT Road, Korai and Rawalpindi have been connected through Green, Orange, Blue and Red Lines respectively. The bus service will run from Baharakahu to PIMS (Green Line) & Korai to PIMS (Blue Line) where all the Green Blue service will merge with Red Line (Rawalpindi Islamabad Metro). From Faiz Ahmad Faiz bus



stop, the passengers can take Orange line to Airport.

The prime minister mentioned that at the time when the petrol prices skyrocketed, the launch of four metro bus lines would be a sigh of relief for commuters. He said a decent and on-time transportation service on regular basis was a service to common man and lauded the efforts of Interior Minister and the Chairman CDA for service delivery.

He announced to offer free transportation service to commuters for one month.

PM Sharif regretted that a delay in launch of service for four years during the previous tenure incurred heavy losses to national exchequer.

He directed completion of allied services to metro bus project on urgent basis to facilitate the common man.

PM Sharif said the shuttle service from Rawat to Korai was under consideration and funds would be provided for an early launch.

He said every penny of national exchequer would be spent judiciously for the uplift of citizens and stressed that every public project be monitored to avoid lapses in delivery.

The prime minister said efforts were afoot to control inflation in the country through short-term relief measures. He said the government would promote solar power generation projects to mitigate the challenges of shortage of electricity.

He lauded the step of the Punjab government to provide free electricity to consumers using 100 units and hoped that the other provinces would also emulate the facility. The prime minister appreciated the efforts of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah for the steps taken regarding the welfare of Islamabad police and their families. INP

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.

Hundreds of heartbreaking images of rain survivors were shared on social media outlets.

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).

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.

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 Seargent 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.

A society under stress

By Kamila Hyat

While we know about the level of political dichotomy in the country and the hatred that has crept up between political parties and their supporters with the use of the most abusive language at times on social media and even on television, we need to think about the other strains which are tearing our society apart.

Pakistan was once a society which was strongly united - during the 40s and 50s - and for the longest time, Muslims, Christians, Hindus, and other groups celebrated events together and maintained good relations. This somewhat ended under the General Ziaul Haq era when hatred seeped into schools, offices and other places, with discriminatory laws coming in against specific minority groups, and a general feeling of difference was created.

We see the impact of this hatred today. Children from minority groups attending missionary schools say that they do not have Muslim friends. This is a loss to them and the Muslim children who see less diversity in their society and little understanding of the groups they live with. At one charitable school run for children

from all communities, we have parents complaining that Muslim children should not be exposed to the slightly different Christian culture which they believe will have a negative effect on their children's morality.

Again, in the 1980s, such feelings were non-existent. All school-going children, regardless of their religion, would play together, and there was little sense of difference with birthday parties attended by both groups - Christians and Muslims - and there was no consciousness of cultural differences which did exist but were widely accepted. Today this has changed.

Even adult Christians say that they have few Muslim friends and generally socialize only within their community. Even though Pakistan's minority groups make up over two per cent of the population, such differences are even more unfortunate especially when we consider the fact that Christians and Muslims in Punjab live in close proximity to each other. In Sindh, Hindus and Muslims have enjoyed excellent relations in Tharparkar and other places where they lived together for the longest time.

However, this has started to change as many Hindu families are trying to flee the country which, in the words of its founder, was created for all religious groups and intended as a place where all of them were free to follow their religions and live in harmony. While we criticize India frequently for the terrible events that are taking place there and the genocide against Indian Muslims, we should also look within although we are fortunate that we have not yet reached the same hatred levels as are seen in India, with the government promoting anti-Muslim sentiments under the BJP.

But we still witness murder and lynching cases of various kinds, with Christians burnt to death on allegations of blasphemy without any trial, young Hindu girls forcibly converted and married off to far older Muslim men, and Sikhs made to feel uncomfortable and during Ramazan and Muharam asked not to lay out the feasts they traditionally offered to their Muslim brethren, and in case of violence in some areas, they are forced to pay 'jazia' and impelled to move out of the area or even leave the country.

This of course is Pakistan's loss and the loss of future generations. The more diversity we have the richer our country will be.

We must also recognize that the same kind of division exists on the basis of ethnicity with divisions between the Baloch and Punjabi communities and other groups. A ban placed on Balochi and Sindhi nationalist websites during the Musharraf era, which has continued into the present age, does not help matters. Even if we do not agree with their views, we should allow these people to express what they feel and how they think. If this is not allowed, the differences will keep growing as will hatred and the feeling of divide and difference.

India is a glaring example of what hatred can do. We have also seen the horrors of a hate-filled society in our country. We must act against the growing division and build a more united society. A few children attending some Christian schools where Muslims are also admitted say that they are encouraged to be friends with everyone, and anyone pointing out any kind of differences with another group is called

up for disciplinary action. This is commendable. These students say that they are generally able to make friends with Muslims as well as Christians, regardless of their religion. This is also true of other schools, but divisions and differences do exist. In some colleges, Hindu girls are isolated completely because of their religion with only a few conscious teachers and students attempting to help them out of their isolation.

These barriers need to be brought down. This includes the barriers based on ethnicity and those based on religion. Both are dangerous and can have an extremely adverse impact on the country. We are already seeing this impact as groups such as the TLP spread more hatred.

We welcome the efforts made to do so at some schools, including missionary schools set up in Youhanabad and other areas. But more effort and action is required. No act of violence against any person on the basis of his or her religion or ethnicity should be tolerated. Yet we hear of such actions even at elite education institutions of higher learning both in Punjab and other places.

A capitalist supernova?

By John Smith

Excerpted: "Are We Heading Towards a Capitalist Supernova?" Global debt - of households, private firms and governments - reached a staggering \$305tn (234tn GBP) in 2021, up from \$83tn in 2020.

Furthermore, global debt now equals 355 per cent of global GDP, up from 120 per cent in 1980 and 230 per cent in 2020.

The events we are witnessing mirror the dynamic that kicked off our current phase of capitalism in the first place.

In 2021, debtors of all types handed \$10.2trn - 12 per cent of global GDP - in interest payments to their creditors. In comparison, the annual income of the poorest 50 per cent of humanity is just 8.5 per cent of GDP.

Global debt has grown twice as fast as global GDP since 1980 and is accelerating, while global GDP growth is slowing and threatening to go into reverse.

While global debt has rocketed, global interest rates have been in almost continual decline since 1980. So low have interest rates fallen since the global financial crisis of 2008 that, by 2021, \$17tn of bonds were trading at negative interest rates, even before inflation is taken into account. That's \$7tn more than the figure that astounded Bill Gross in 2016, referenced at the beginning of this article.

As a result, interest on

debt, as a share of GDP, is well below its peak at the beginning of the neoliberal era. The Economist calculates, for instance, that 27 per cent of US GDP was swallowed by interest payments in 1989, but only 12 per cent of it in 2021, despite the massive growth in US debt.

But the world of ever-lower interest rates has now come to an end. The decision of the US Federal Reserve on 15 June to hike interest rates by 0.75 per cent - the sharpest increase in nearly three decades, with the promise of more to come - sent shockwaves around the world and has wiped trillions of dollars off the values of stock and bond markets.

Any rise in interest rates means a huge shift of purchasing power from indebted households, firms and governments to their creditors. The Economist calculates that a 2 per cent increase in US interest rates in 2021 would, by 2026, double the share of global GDP absorbed by interest payments.

Decades of ever-lower interest rates have inflated what Nouriel Roubini, one of the few economists to predict the 2007-8 financial crash, famously called "the mother of all asset bubbles", eventually leading to a bust, another massive financial crisis, and a rapid slide into recession.

However, a bubble is insubstantial and delicate, and bursts with

barely a sound. A far more appropriate and useful metaphor is that of a star, which is immense, and dies in a stupendous explosion. As Bill Gross, the 'bond king', tweeted in 2016, "Global yields lowest in 500 years of recorded history. \$10 trillion of negative rate bonds. This is a supernova that will explode one day."

What has forced the Fed to aggressively raise its interest rate is the dramatic reappearance of a most feared monster: inflation. The events we are witnessing mirror the dynamic that kicked off our current phase of capitalism in the first place.

The neoliberal era was inaugurated in October 1979 by a huge hike in US interest rates aimed at quelling entrenched and rampant inflation. The "Volcker shock", as it became known (after Paul Volcker, then head of the US Federal Reserve), was likened by journalist Naomi Klein to "a giant Taser gun fired from Washington, sending the developing world into convulsions... Higher interest payments on foreign debts... could only be met by taking on more loans. The debt spiral was born."

This hike in interest rates succeeded in killing the inflation monster, but at the cost of a sharp recession in imperialist countries and a devastating debt crisis throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America. The debt crisis immiserated

millions and forced these nationally independent countries to submit to the dictates of the "Washington Consensus": wholesale privatisation, austerity and removal of obstacles to cross-border flows of capital and commodities (but not of people!)

Now the inflation monster has risen from the dead, prompting the Fed and other central banks to attempt to kill it again before it has had a chance to gain in strength. Thus the Bank for International Settlements, which provides banking services for the world's central banks, has called on them to "not be shy of inflicting short-term pain and even recessions to prevent any move to a persistently high-inflation world."

As a result, the debate has moved on from whether there will be a global recession to how severe it will be - and whether central banks really have the guts to carry out their threats and risk a global economic crash. Over the next 18 months we will find out.

Why did Bill Gross liken global bond markets to a star about to explode? What are the chances that his prediction may come to pass? What would such a cataclysmic event actually mean in practice? A star is a production process, in which heavier elements are fused out of lighter elements, releasing huge amounts of energy. When the

energy released by the fusion of lighter elements is insufficient to counter the gravity exerted by the growing mass of heavier elements, the star dies.

It either ends its life as a burned-out cinder or, if it is big enough, in a supernova, an extremely violent implosion that incinerates anything in its vicinity and scatters debris throughout space.

Will the coming crash take the form of a brief recession, or a long and deep depression (as in the 1930s) or something many magnitudes worse?

Capitalism is also a production process, and the energy that fires it is living labour, performed by workers and farmers who produce more wealth than they consume. The surplus is converted into capital - that is, self-expanding wealth, wealth that must either make profits or shrivel and die. Capital, whether in the form of stocks and shares, bonds, real estate or fine wines, is, in the words of Karl Marx, "dead labour which, vampire-like, only lives by sucking living labour, and lives the more, the more labour it sucks."

As with a star, when the mass of accumulated capital exceeds the capacity of living labour to breathe life into it, the moment of crisis has arrived, and swathes of capital are destroyed in a financial crash. With the interest rate hikes, our moment of crisis has arrived. But will

Playing with dolls

Zorain Nizamani

Congratulations! We have made history. You can now freely marry

an under-aged girl and legally get away with it. Bonus points, you might get the court to rule in your favour too. Our forefathers fought wars just to see us encourage (and dare I say legalise) underage marriages. Let your wildest and darkest thoughts adorn your interior, revel in all the possibilities that can further be explored. What's next, pedophilia?

It evades all logic how the courts function despite an ossification test showing a Dua Zehra's bone age to be 16 or 17; it is unfathomable how the honorable judge has gone as far as to say that she is free to live with whoever she wants to. I mean now that we're at it, why not legalise forced conversions too?

But where does the problem lie though? How is it that we, as reasonable citizens, can tell something's wrong. Why can't our Lords figure that out too? Dua Zehra is 16 or 17 and she's been allowed to marry and live with her "husband". Read that as many times as you want and try making peace with it. This is the best we've managed in 75 years of our country's existence and

we aren't stopping any time soon, we just might have more to offer. Mr Mohammad Ali Jinnah, eat your heart out.

Why are we slaves to formalities and to due process? Being a practising lawyer for the past three years, I have noticed that something that can be resolved in a month generally takes years due to following the 'correct procedure' which adheres to the 'laws' laid down by those who ruled us more than 100 years ago. Why is it that we're so rigid and inflexible that we will only go by the book? Why can't we just form a medical board of independent doctors and let them decide if Dua Zehra is of legal age to marry? Why is that court hearings go on for years and years until the claimants die?

Why is that we aren't utilising the wonders of science to decide a decoding someone's age? But well, on the flip side, Dua Zehra's case is a massive win for the predators, the sick minded, the diabolical pedophiles and for everyone who wishes to go down the deepest pits of disgust and horror. Those who love to violate and fondle with no objection, the lonely souls with their emptiness fulfilled and the beings who crave the touch of young skin. No more do they

have to be left alone with their sanity, their primitive instinct does not require honing any more, because our system has allowed for you to marry a girl who is below 18. Yes, she can and will consent. No, you will not be questioned. We live in a free country.

And for all those who have the audacity to concur with the judgement of the court and those who have been abusing the rhetoric of 'let her live her life', I ask you, imagine your underage daughter elopes, will you still adopt this rhetoric and let her 'live her life' or will you try and protect her because: a) she is incapable of giving consent; and b) child marriages are illegal. Don't be a hypocrite.

I haven't put forth my opinions here in almost a month but the judgement in Dua Zehra's case was an eye opener and it required being dissected. It was a testament to how we're flogging a dead horse. The system has failed and there is absolutely no way it will improve, unless it's reconstructed from the root. I am short on words on how Dua has been allowed to 'go wherever she wants', it just sets a massively dangerous precedent.

Our children our calling out our name, they're screaming at the top of their lungs, can't you hear them?

How to break a vicious cycle [Part - II]

By Ishrat Husain

It goes without saying that political stability is the sine qua non for any sustained effort to achieve rapid and inclusive growth. The main drivers of such growth would be small farm agriculture, SMEs and microenterprises, construction and low-cost housing, tourism, IT and IT enabled services, diversification and value addition in exports.

Thus, the agenda proposed for the short, medium and long term should have a continuous chain, linking and consolidating the gains from these sectors and stimulating inter-sectoral synergistic impulses over time. Continuity of these policies beyond the electoral cycle is an absolute must. There are multiple pathways to attain this kind of growth but the preferred route to be chosen is the one that expands domestic productive capacity to meet the higher aggregate demand associated with rising per capita incomes, the relatively high propensity to create productive jobs and support livelihoods, alleviate poverty, and reduce interpersonal and regional inequality. Tough political decisions would be required from time to time. The time horizons described are not discrete as they would have spillovers but are continuous, interwoven in a chain that leads to the ultimate goal.

Short-term Agenda 2022-24: The revival of non-inflationary, sustained and inclusive growth would span a much longer time period. What is presented in the following paragraphs is what can possibly be done in the next two-and-a-half-year time period with great concerted effort. We are fully aware that there will be elections in 2023 but the commitment of all political parties to this agenda is to be secured.

For this, first, raise the investment-to-GDP ratio by two percentage points every year, reaching 20 per cent by 2024. Public-sector investment along with public-private partnership should not only be stepped up but its quality and composition should be able to crowd in private sector investment. Bank credit-to-GDP ratio, particularly in the fixed investment component, has remained dismally low compared to our neighbouring countries and has to be doubled from the current level. Private equity, development finance institutions, IPOs, and debt capital markets have to play a crucial role in financing private investment. Second, increase productivity of small and medium sized farmers - particularly in wheat, sugar, cotton, oilseeds, livestock products and pulses - improve marketing infrastructure, confine the role of government to strategic reserves for managing

demand supply gap, and maintain price stability. Provision of improved seed, fertiliser, pesticides, small agricultural implements through targeted subsidies along with water resource use efficiency and credit to small farmers who constitute two third of the total farms can boost the national yields of crops. Veterinary services and artificial insemination would do the same for dairy and livestock. It is paradoxical that a country with the largest irrigation system has to import food items and cotton amounting to almost \$10 billion. The impressive results in rice and maize crops show that government intervention in markets is to be avoided. R&D in the public sector needs to be integrated and coordinated.

Third, continue focused attention on the construction and housing sector and tourism which would create jobs, induce activity in the allied industries, assist micro, small and medium enterprises and help low-income families in acquiring houses and expanding tourist facilities in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Makran Coast and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The domestic cement industry is not only expanding in response to demand within the country but also because of economies of scale it is able to export. The Pakistan Steel Mills

has to be made fully operational under private sector lease arrangement and expanded to three million ton capacity and, along with performance linked incentives to manufacture quality products, will reduce dependence on imports. The engineering goods industry has remained stunted and should be incentivized to meet the local industrial demand or compete in international markets.

Fourth, broaden the FBR and provincial tax bases to attain tax-to-GDP ratio of 15 per cent (provincial taxes contributing three per cent from one per cent at present) through automation, data integration and data analytics, harmonization, new surveys and valuation of properties, track and trace system, and minimizing interaction between taxpayer and tax collector; gradually bring down the ratio of indirect taxes from 60 per cent of the total to 50 per cent; expedite income tax and sales tax refunds on the lines of FASTER without any human intervention at any stage in the process. Urban property tax is a huge potential that can be tapped if the powers to assess and collect this tax is devolved to municipal corporations. Cities like Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Faisalabad can generate five to six times more than the present levels if they carry out cadastral surveys, revalue properties

annually and impose heavy penalties on non-utilization of plots. Taxes on the agriculture income of large landowners and revision of irrigation charges can prove to be a remunerative source of income for the provinces and also ensure efficient use of water resources that are getting scarce. The reliance on indirect taxes on goods and services is highly regressive and it needs to be replaced by direct taxes on income (irrespective of the source), property, capital gains, assets and inheritance.

Fifth, revamp state-owned enterprises (SOEs) through restructuring, capital market sales, sales to strategic investors, mergers, liquidation, management contracts, public-private partnership to improve overall economic efficiency and maximize the returns to the exchequer. All the heads of these enterprises have to be recruited through an open competitive process and the candidates selected on the basis of merit, compensated well but held accountable for the results. The ministry heading this can set the performance agreements but not interfere in day-to-day operations. A comprehensive plan and strategy is already in place that has classified the commercial SOEs in two parts - those to be retained in public ownership for strategic or public

Public display of chutzpah

Imran Jan

Growing up in Charsadda, as a young student we liked to repeat a joke every time we came across any man with a beard who would either drive his car carelessly or indulge in some ridiculous act. The joke was just four Pashto words but the story and history behind those words was common knowledge and so people understood the context everytime we uttered those words, which are Sheekh pa ghalata de. It translates literally as "the bearded one is in the wrong."

Attallah Tarar sports a beard and shaves his mustache. Muslim men do this keeping in line with the seriousness and depth of their faith. However, he has indulged in uncouth and irreligious behaviour. Fathers who may have asked their sons and daughters to keep watching and reading news so as to prepare for the CSS exam must have felt very uncomfortable watching this public display of an act, which is usually the stuff of adult entertainment.

There is another Charsadda joke. Whenever any bearded man indulges in some irreligious or immoral behaviour, the oft-repeated joke is that he is exempt from any repercussions because he holds the licence for being ridiculous and immoral, which is an indirect refer-

ence to his beard. It was a double-edged sword. One, anything the labeled pious did was right by default. Two, don't dare criticise the bearded ones as their self-righteous mindset is unstoppable and dangerous. Perhaps this second joke is more relevant here. Because we have kind of forgotten that the same Atta Tarar some weeks ago openly threatened anyone who may dare call him a lota.

Public display of disrespect or profanity toward any faith or God is regarded as blasphemous. The people who adhere to the faith that is targeted by the blasphemy feel humiliated and resentful. One could argue that faith is a sacred as well as a private matter because it is one human's connection and contract with his Creator. We can disagree with an act of blasphemy but we are not to judge someone's actions or validity of their faith because that work is reserved for our Creator.

An elected or a government official takes oath of office to protect a document where the rights of the people are enshrined. That is a contract between the official and the state as well as the people. Disgracing the Holy Book is wrong and immoral but that is for the Creator to punish not us because that is a violation of the relationship between man and his Creator. Disgracing the sacred document called the Constitution is

a violation of the contract made with the people. Even the Holy Book emphasises on the rights of the people more than on the rights our Creator has over us. It is called Huguq-ul-ibaad i.e. the rights of the people.

The bearded spokesperson of the Punjab government has openly displayed filthy profanity for the very document, which enshrines the rights the people have over him as a government official. It is not the violation of a specific right but rather the wholesale mockery of whatever rights the people may think they have.

Perhaps, this public display of chutzpah is coming from a greater belief of impunity. This middle finger is not only a mockery of the supposedly sacred document but also an indication of massive support from those who are usually in the business of raising the finger as a third umpire. Speaking of which, there was a lot of noise when Imran Khan some years ago said that the third umpire had raised his finger. Somehow, there is not much noise at this finger raising as if it is some sort of a halal finger.

The violation of the Constitution used to be benignly labeled as "Doctrine of Necessity". That is obsolete now because now our politicians just middle finger the Constitution. Ah, those good ol' days!

NEPRA okays rs7.90 per unit hike in power tariff

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Thursday approved another hike in power tariff by Rs7.90 per unit. According to a notification issued by the power regulatory authority, the increase was made under fuel adjustment charges (FAC) for the month of June, following demand from CPPAG for a hike of Rs7.96 per unit. The power regulatory authority took the decision after conducting a hearing on the plea of Central Power Purchasing Agency (CCPA) today.

The amount will be received in the bills of July, it said and added that life consumers and K-Electric are exempted from the tariff hike.

Separately on July 4, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) raised the power tariff for K-Electric consumers by Rs9.66 per unit after the power utility sought

an increase in power tariff by Rs11.34 per unit.

The demand came during the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority hearing for fuel adjustment charges for May.

It is pertinent to mention here that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has already fixed the power tariff at Rs24.82 per unit for the fiscal year of 2022-23 after a massive hike of Rs7.91 per unit. INP



QUETTA: A livestock vendor is selling sacrificial animals on a road ahead of the upcoming Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha in Provincial Capital.

Nazim Jokhio case: Judicial magistrate defers decision on police challan

KARACHI: Judicial Magistrate Malir's court on Thursday deferred its decision again on the police challan submitted in the Nazim Jokhio murder case.

The court will take decision to approve or reject the police challan in the murder case in its hearing on July 16, judicial magistrate said in the hearing.

On May 23, in a major relief for PPP lawmakers and other suspects in the Nazim Jokhio murder case, the anti-terrorism court had okayed the transfer of the murder case to session court.

However, a decision to exclude names of the PPP lawmakers and others from the police challan was not taken by the ATC. The counsel representing the suspects had argued before the court that anti-terrorism clauses do not apply to the case, the stance was also seconded by the prosecution, plaintiff, widow of the victim, and investigation officer. The ATC court after the consensus from all sides directed the investigation officer to file challan in the case before the session court.

PPP MNA Jam Kareem, MPA Jam Awais Jokhio and others were nominated in the case.

In October last year, the family of Nazim Jokhio said that PPP MPA Jam Awais Gohram Jokhio and his men had allegedly tortured Nazim Jokhio to death as he tried to stop his foreign guests from hunting houbara bustards in the Memon Goth area of Karachi.

Police registered a murder case against PPP MPA Awais, his brother MNA Jam Kareem and others. They detained Awais but Jam Kareem left the country and flew to Dubai, only to return later to cast his vote in no-trust motion against Imran Khan. INP

PSF launches phase two of funding to scientific societies: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) is funding scientific societies for promotion of science and technology across the country. The second phase of funding has initiated.

Talking to WealthPK, Saifullah Azeem, Director of Planning and Development and Project Director of Funding Scientific Societies, said the cost of the project for financial assistance to the scientific societies in Pakistan (phase-two) was Rs125 million. The annual allocation is around Rs15 million.

"The funding for the Pak-US Natural Science Linkages Program (NSLP) is for scientists working on natural science research proposals in the public and private sectors. A research proposal's technical excellence and relevance to the nation's socioeconomic needs are appraised. If scientists have R&D capabilities but are unable to implement them due to financial obligations, the NSLP will give them help and funds. Principal Investigators (PIs) receive research money on a six-month basis," he said.

PSF's principal objective is to encourage scientific research and related activities; hence, they sponsor research in a vast array of fields," he said, adding that the scientific societies should be registered with the Registrar Societies under the Societies Act.

According to the Societies Act, Saifullah said, the scientific societies must be registered with the Registrar Societies. "There are different societies busy promoting science and technology in the country, but only 36 of them are registered with the PSF and only 16 to 17 are active. The other societies are sometimes active and sometimes dormant. The PSF provides grant-in-aid to these societies but they should be active in their respective fields. They should have developed credibility at the national level. They should hold national and international seminars, workshops and conferences on a regular basis for funding," he remarked. For the upcoming fiscal year, the federal government has proposed an amount of Rs45 million for financial support to the scientific societies in Pakistan (phase two). The federal government has proposed a budget. INP

Young scientist Dr. Shah Fahd of the University of Haripur (UOH) from the Department of Agronomy is honored with 'Comstech Young Researcher Award 2021'. Dr. Shah is among those few students whose names have appeared in the Standford University list of top 2% scientists of the world," he said.

Saifullah said conferences, seminars and symposia provide a forum for scientists to share their research experience with each other. Knowledge is exchanged at such events.

"If the conference organisers need funds, they can submit a formal request and they will receive it. All requests must be presented through the official PSF pro forma and through proper channel. The

nologists, and physicians receive funding to present their research work at international conferences. The funding will cover their travel, registration, and living expenses. In addition, funding is available for short-term i.e. 1-2 weeks under the travel grant," he said.

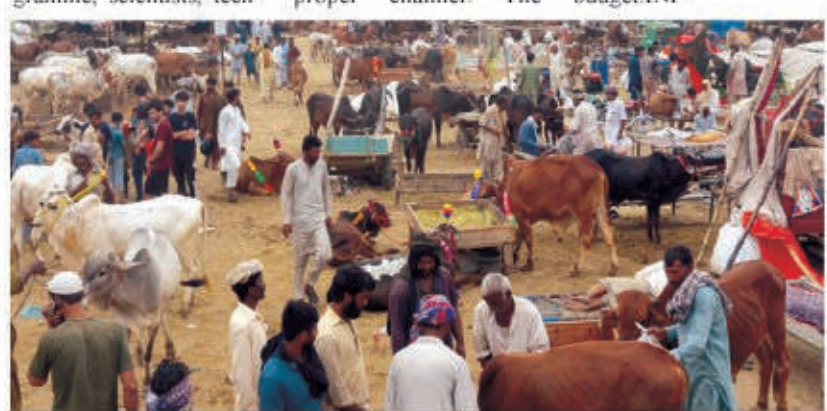
Saifullah said each society will provide Young Researcher Awards for exceptional accomplishments in a given year.

"Young scientist Dr. Shah Fahd of the University of Haripur (UOH) from the Department of Agronomy is honored with 'Comstech Young Researcher Award 2021'. Dr. Shah is among those few students whose names have appeared in the Standford University list of top 2% scientists of the world," he said.

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Travel Grant programme, scientists, tech-



FAISALABAD: Livestock vendors are selling sacrificial animals at a livestock market ahead of the upcoming Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha in the city.

Dam breaks in Pishin district amid heavy rains

PISHIN: A dam in Pishin district of Balochistan broke due to heavy rains which wreaked havoc throughout the province claiming 39 lives and causing massive damage on Thursday.

According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Balochistan, the rescue teams had shifted the people to a safer place before the breakage of Toor Murga Malikar Dam.

The local deputy commissioner and the PDMA teams are there on the spot for the rescue operation, according to the PDMA.

"The PDMA's heavy machinery and ambulances have also been sent to Pishin district for rescue operation,"

PDMA Director Faisal Tariq said. "Relief goods, food, tents, blankets and other items have also been sent to Pishin district," he added.

According to Levies officials, part of the Valin Dam in the Afghan border area of Pishin district also broke, causing water to enter low-lying areas and flood 11 homes. The affected have been shifted to safer places.

Meanwhile, over a dozen small and delay-check dams were swept away in the rainwater in Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Bolan, Mastung and other parts of Balochistan. Traffic remained suspended on Quetta-Jacobabad highway after floods in Machh river.

Adviser to CM Balochistan on Home and PDMA Balochistan Mir Ziaullah Langove has said that 39 precious lives have been lost so far due to monsoon rains in different parts of Balochistan, while damage to property is being estimated.

"PDMA Balochistan is in coordination with the Pakistan Army, FC Balochistan and all government agencies to deal with the situation arising out of the unusual rains," Zia Langau said.

He said that the government had already made arrangements for the recent monsoon rains but due to the intensity of the rains and the extraordinary ground realities of the province, there was loss of life and property. INP

Govt urged to immediately release senior anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan

ISLAMABAD: Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) President Kazim Khan has demanded the government to immediately release senior anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan.

The CPNE President Kazim Khan condemned the arrest of senior anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan. He said that the detention of the anchorperson was an illegal and unconstitutional step. The council urged the government to end the trend of lodging fake cases and arrests of journalists.

Khan said, "The government must clarify its position on the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) ordinance. It is concerning to include sections of PECA in cases against the journalists. Should we stand against the PECA ordinance once again?"

Kazim Khan said that the government should stop exhibiting cowardliness and refrain from banning the freedom of expression. "We condemn martial law-like dictatorial measures against the journalists."

The CPNE president said that Pakistan is becoming more dangerous for journalists and journalism is becoming a serious crime here. INP

'Fitna Khan's ego satisfied by snatching free electricity from masses: Maryam

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Thursday while taking a dig at PTI chairman Imran Khan said that Fitna Khan satisfied his ego by snatching free electricity relief package from the poor masses of Punjab.

It is pertinent to mention the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on July 7 suspended Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz's free electricity relief package till the Punjab by-elections which will be held on July 17.

After the ECP decision's, taking to Twitter, Maryam Nawaz wrote that the ego of 'Fitna Khan' was satisfied by snatching free electricity from the poor, adding that he sacrificed the relief of the poor for the sake of bad politics.

"How Imran Khan can ask for votes from the people of Punjab after snatching necessities from them," she further wrote. INP



ISLAMABAD: Visitors take keen interest in a painting during painting exhibition of Rabia Zahir artist title "The Spiritual Journey" at a local mall in Federal Capital.

FO rejects 'so-called dossier' by Indian Army maligning Pakistan



The Foreign Office on Thursday outrightly rejected "baseless allegations" levelled by Indian Army through a "dossier" reported by various sections of the Indian media.

According to India Today, the Indian army prepared a 33-page defence dossier containing claims of Pakistan's alleged "terror plots" against the neighbouring country.

The so-called dossier claims Pakistan is allegedly aiding militants to infiltrate across the border for "terror activities", the Indian website added.

Responding to the claims, the FO said: "We outrightly reject this false and fabricated so-called dossier, the reported contents of which have been crafted using disinformation, fake assertions and insinuations that seek to divert the world's attention from India's own brazen and well-documented campaign of state-terrorism and widespread human rights violations in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and

Kashmir."

The FO spokesperson highlighted that instances had been reported where direct links between the ruling BJP and perpetrators of violence in the IIOJK, Udaipur and elsewhere had surfaced.

"Pakistan has regularly shared with the world irrefutable evidence of Indian occupation forces' gross and widespread violations of human rights abetted by draconian laws in the IIOJK through comprehensive, evidence-

based dossiers."

The spokesperson said the evidences compiled by Pakistan had extensively documented the "truth behind India's active planning, promoting, aiding, abetting, financing and execution of terrorist activities in Pakistan".

The FO noted that it was regrettable that India had chosen to present fictional accounts to divert attention from its "own failures instead of fulfilling its obligations under international law and ensuring that the people of IIOJK are granted their inalienable right to self-determination".

Pakistan asked India to carry out introspection with a view to putting its own house in order. "The mischievous Indian attempts at masquerading as a victim of terrorism and leveling baseless terrorism-related allegations against Pakistan stand fully exposed," the statement added. Web Desk

NOTICE FOR HOUSE JOB

Applications are invited from the doctors of Final Professional BDS Supply Examination Session 2019, for House Job training for the period of One Year.

Note: The Applications Forms are available in the office of the undersigned. The applicants are advised to fill their applications form and submit in original in the office of undersigned, 15th July 2022, along with the copies of following attested documents.

FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE NECESSARY WITH APPLICATION FORM

1. One Year Provisional License Medical issued by PMC.
2. NIC, Local/Domicile of the Candidates.
3. Qualification Certificates (FSC, DMC of Final Year BDS)
4. Character & Provisional Certificates issued by the Principal BMC.
5. Receipt of PMC Registration Certificate & Bank draft copy.
6. One Passport size photograph

DATE OF INTERVIEW- Saturday 16th July, 2022

Medical Superintendent
Bolan Medical Complex Hospital quetta

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Wrong policies, only a miracle can save Pakistan from bankruptcy: PEW

Says giving IPPs incredible profits tantamount to economic suicide.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Thursday said in the presence of contradictory, ambiguous and negative policies, only a miracle can save Pakistan from going bankrupt.

Pakistan had gone bankrupt in 2018 but an IMF loan and help from friendly countries saved it from insolvency but after rescue, no attempt was made to correct the direction of the economy, the result of which is now a more serious crisis, it said.

Pakistan's import bill from 1960 to 1973 was less than one billion dollars while from 1973 to 2002 the volume of imports increased to eleven billion dollars annually but reforms were avoided to please influential people, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW.

In 2018 the import bill for goods jumped to \$63 billion while the services import bill jumped to \$9 billion which shook the foundations of the economy, he added.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that from 2002 to 2022 the import bill jumped by 600 percent

which was unsustainable while the energy import bill surpassed \$27 billion but no attempts have been made to save electricity.

IPP's are getting unbelievable profits and government has to pay Rs380 billion to Chinese IPPs while China has refused to reconsider the amount, he informed.

Dr. Mughal noted that many export industry is almost 1000 to 1200 kilometre away from the port, power plants using imported fuel are also set up around a thousand kilometre away from the port due to political considerations, and no major

dam has been constructed since 1973 which is a recipe for disaster.

He said that goods are not transported through rail but by road transport which increases the cost of doing business and rail as well as public transport have not been developed which benefits the automakers and damages the country and masses.

Due to the plight of public transport, people are forced to use motorbikes and cars, which waste tens of millions of rupees of fuel daily.

The majority of the economic experts are linked to international institutions therefore they

do not reveal the truth about important issues, he said.

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Deaths soar as Pakistan reels under new coronavirus wave

ISLAMABAD: The alarm bells must be sounded all across Pakistan as the latest wave of coronavirus pandemic has now become more deadly as it claimed nine lives and infected 872 more people during the last 24 hours, showed the statistics released by the National Institute of Health Pakistan on Thursday morning.

As per the NIH data, the death toll in Pakistan recorded steep rise and shot up to 30,414 after registering nine fatalities whereas the number of total infections now stood at 1,540,952 after adding the fresh 872 cases.

During the last 24 hours (Wednesday), 23,125 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio shot up to 3.77 percent. The number of patients in critical care was recorded at 165.

Karachi was the most affected city keeping in view the latest Covid-19 spread and the authorities there have ruled out any lockdown despite over 500 cases were reported during the last 24 hours (Wednesday).

India records 18,930 new Covid cases, 35 deaths

India reported 18,930 new coronavirus cases and 35 more virus-related deaths in the last 24 hours. The death count now stands at 5,24,305, according to the health ministry. Currently, there are 1,19,457 active cases in India, comprising 0.27 percent of the cumulative case count. The recovery rate stands at 98.52 percent. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.32 percent.

At least 18,930 new coronavirus cases were reported in the last 24 hours in India, taking the total number of COVID-19 cases to 4,35,67,809.

Beijing tightens Covid vaccine requirements

China's capital city is set to require Covid vaccinations for entering gyms and some other venues, the first mandate at such scale in the country.

The vaccine requirement comes after a resurgence in new cases in Beijing, Shanghai and other parts of China in the last week.

Beijing city announced Wednesday that starting Monday, most people need to be vaccinated before entering in-person training centers, sports centers, entertainment venues and other social gathering spots.

The city said the requirement did not apply to people for whom vaccinations were not "suitable," but said vaccinated people would get priority for entering the above venues. Many spaces operate at a lowered capacity due to Covid restrictions.

Generally only Chinese-made vaccines by Sinopharm or Sinovac are available to the public in China.

Beijing has a relatively high vaccination rate. The city said Wednesday it vaccinated 23.4 million people, including 3.6 million above the age of 60. The capital city said it had nearly 22 million long-term residents as of 2020.

Covid outbreak hits Sri Lanka on eve of Australia Test

Sri Lanka's team were hit by a Covid-19 outbreak on the eve of Friday's second Test against Australia with Dhananjaya de Silva, Jeffrey Vandersay and Asitha Fernando all testing positive for the virus.

"All three players were found to be positive during a Rapid Antigen Test conducted yesterday," Sri Lanka Cricket said Thursday.

The hosts are looking to bounce back after their crushing 10-wicket defeat inside three days in the opening Test of the two-match series Angelo Mathews has returned to the team after testing positive during the first Test but Praveen Jayawickrama had already been ruled out on Tuesday after testing positive for Covid-19.



THATTA: Rescue work for recovery of 9 Coal Miners at Meeting Railway Station and Coal Mines area district Thatta, some 50 km from Hyderabad.

Babar Ghauri approaches ATC for bail

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) senior leader Babar Ghauri has approached Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in a bid to seek bail.

According to details, the ATC court has sought a reply from the investigation officer (IO) on Babar Ghauri's bail application and ordered him to submit a medical report of the MQM leader.

The court has directed the investigation officer to submit reasons if Babar Ghauri does not undergo medical examination till the next hearing. The court adjourned the hearing on Babar Ghauri's bail plea till July 13 INP.

Kaira pays homage to Burhan Wani on eve of his martyrdom anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Qamar Zaman Kaira, has paid homage to popular Kashmiri youth leader Burhan Muzaffar Wani on the eve of his sixth martyrdom anniversary.

Qamar Zaman Kaira in a statement issued in Islamabad said Burhan Wani is a symbol of resistance against the Indian barbarism in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Burhan Wani fought against India's illegal hold on Jammu and Kashmir and infused a new passion in the educated youth of the occupied territory to carry forward their struggle for securing their right to self-determination.

The adviser said the unparalleled sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of great martyrs like Burhan Wani reflect the fact that today's Kashmiri youth is fighting for their inalienable right with a great passion like their forefathers.

He said that's why the Indian occupational forces are ruthlessly massacring Kashmiri people especially youth to suppress their freedom sentiment. He said that unarmed Kashmiri youth are being martyred by Indian troops on a daily basis under the guise of so-called siege and search operations with an aim to change the Muslim majority of IIOJK into a minority.

Qamar Zaman Kaira said Pakistan continues to extend full support to the Kashmiri brethren at the international level. He said that the present government, especially Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has raised his voice in all the forums of the world for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute. He stressed that a strong and stable Pakistan is essential for the settlement of the lingering dispute. INP.

Power tariff hiked for KE consumers

KARACHI: The National Electric Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has approved an additional fuel cost adjustment (FCA) of Rs9.52 per unit for K-Electric (KE) consumers for the month of May, ARY News reported on Thursday.

According to a notification issued by the power regulatory authority, the K-Electric had requested a fuel cost adjustment of Rs11.34/kWh.

Nepra conducted a public hearing on July 4 on the petition submitted by KE for fuel charges adjustment for May 2022. The increase will be applicable to all consumer categories, except for KE lifeline consumers.

The amount would be recovered in the bills of July and August 2022 from the KE consumers. In July, consumers will be charged Rs2.63, while the consumers will be charged Rs6.89 in August. INP.

Pakistan army rescues stranded climbers from Nanga Parbat: ISPR

GILGIT: The Pakistan Army has rescued two climbers who were stranded after submitting Nanga Parbat, the 9th highest peak in the world.

On July 6, mountaineer Shehroze Kashif and his partner Fazal Ali were spotted returning to base camp 3 of the Nanga Parbat, a day after he went missing following scaling the ninth highest mountain. According to the ISPR, both the climbers Shehroze Kashif and Fazal Ali were rescued in Pakistan Army Aviation Helicopter, which landed near Jaglot safely. Both Shehroze Kashif and Fazal Ali are fit and sound, the ISPR said. INP.

PM directs to accelerate relief operations in rain-affected areas

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate rescue and relief efforts in the areas affected by heavy rains and floods in different parts of the country, particularly Balochistan. The prime minister expressed grief over the loss of life and properties caused by the rains and consequent floods. He asked the chief ministers of the provinces to prioritize the provision of assistance to the rain and flood affected people, besides personally supervising the operation. He also directed the National Disaster Management Authority and provincial disaster management authorities to speed up the emergency measures in coordination with the provincial governments and relevant departments.

He also instructed the relevant departments to accelerate relief and rescue operation in Quetta, Qila Saifullah, Zhob, Pishin, Harnai, Khushnub, Qamaruddin, Muslim Bagh and other affected areas.

He also called for providing immediate relief to the people who had lost their houses due to the heavy rains.

The prime minister also called for a better coordination to carry out relief and rescue operation in Sindh, particularly Karachi and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan besides providing the best medical facilities to the injured and the relocation of the affected people to the safe areas.

He asked the authorities concerned to carry out a survey of the affected areas so that a mechanism could be developed for compensation to the affected people. INP.

Five of a family killed as jeep falls into ravine in Gilgit

GILGIT: At least five members of the same family were killed when a jeep they were travelling in fell into a ravine in Gilgit-Baltistan, ARY News reported on Thursday. According to police, the incident occurred on Karakoram highway near Dasu when the ill-fated vehicle plunged into a deep ravine near Gilgit, killing five people of the same family. The police said the incident occurred due to speeding in the hilly area.

On receiving information, rescue 1122 teams and police reached the spot and shifted the bodies to hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The deceased included Mir Alam, Muhammad Farooq, Fazal Wahid and Bulbul Nabi.

In a similar incident reported this year in March, seven members of a family had died when a car they were travelling in fell into a canal in Khanpur tehsil of Rahim Yar Khan district. As many as nine members of the same family had been travelling from Khanpur to Rahim Yar Khan when their vehicle plunged into the Abbasa canal near Kot Samaba 86-pul. The deceased included Mir Alam, Muhammad Farooq, Fazal Wahid and Bulbul Nabi.

In a similar incident reported this year in March, seven members of a family had died when a car they were travelling in fell into a canal in Khanpur tehsil of Rahim Yar Khan district. INP.

No chances of heavy rainfall in Karachi: DG Met

KARACHI: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Thursday ruled out chances of heavy rainfall in Karachi amid ongoing monsoon spell in the metropolis.

"There are low chances of heavy rainfall in the city during the ongoing monsoon spell," Chief Meteorologist Sardar Sarfaraz said, adding that the city will continue to experience light to moderate rainfall till July 9.

"Some Karachi areas may receive heavy falls during the period," he further added. Parts of the city received light to moderate rainfall on Wednesday night amid a forecast of showers in the metropolis.

Areas including Super Highway, Surjani Town, North Karachi, Nagin Chowrangi, Bufferzone, Shadman Town, Sakhi Hassan Chowrangi, North Nazimabad, Liaquatabad, SITE area, Garden, Guru Mandir and Numaish Chowrangi received light to moderate rainfall.

Karachi Press Club, Saddar, M A Jinnah Road, Empress Market, Landhi, Quaidabad, Malir, Airport, Shah Faisal Colony, Sharea Faisal, Clifton and other areas have also received rainfall.

The rain lashed Super Highway, Cattle Market, Gulshan-e-Maymar, Ahsanabad and its adjoining areas. INP.



RAWALPINDI: Former Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad visiting sacrificial animal mandi and buying camel for Eid ul Adha.

Govt took tough decisions to bring economy out of red zone: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industry, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said Pakistan was heading towards default, but the incumbent government took tough decisions and brought the national economy out of the red zone.

All-out efforts were made to further stabilize the economy, he said addressing the business community here at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ahsan Iqbal stressed that a quick jumpstart in exports, export-led economic growth, enhanced tax revenue, \$25-30 billion annual foreign direct investment (FDI), political stability and consistency in policies were key requirements for Pakistan to emerge as a stable economy.

He said China's annual imports were \$1 trillion and Pakistan's business community should focus on increasing their share in that huge market.

The government, he added, was also focusing to facilitate the small medium enterprises, and optimizing businesses and agriculture sectors to improve the economy.

It was seeking proposals from chambers of commerce to abolish laws or amend them that were creating hurdles for the private sector in order to turnaround Pakistan, he said, urging the ICCI to form a task force to develop such proposals and share them with his ministry for consideration and implementation.

He said the ICCI should share its proposal for

industrial estate in writing that would be given due consideration. He announced that the ICCI would be given representation in the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Planning.

The President, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, in his remarks, said the chamber had been making efforts for long to establish a new industrial estate in the region to promote industrialization, investment and employment, and urged the government to fully cooperate with the ICCI in early materialization of the important project.

He said a modern expo center should be set up in Islamabad on the pattern of Karachi and Lahore expo centres to organize exhibitions for better promotion of business activities and exports.

He urged the government to announce an industrial package to boost industrialization and exports.

He said the ICCI should be given representation in the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Planning to finalize development projects keeping in view the interests of the private sector.

He said high taxes, SBP's high interest rate, sharp devaluation of rupee and increase in oil, electricity and gas prices had multiplied the cost of doing business. He urged the government to take measures to reduce the cost of doing business so that business and investment activities could flourish and the economy could move towards stability. INP.

Imran Khan says 'ECP working with Hamza to ensure Pml-N victory'

SHEIKHPURA: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on Thursday alleged Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) working with Hamza to ensure the victory of turncoats in the Punjab by-elections.

Addressing a mammoth public gathering in Sheikhpura, Imran Khan claimed ECP is biased and working with Hamza Shahbaz Sharif.

"Hamza Kukri listen, do whatever you want but turncoats cannot win the by-elections," he was quoted as saying. He said the nation has rejected 'imported government'.

PDM came into power just to get relief in the cases being faced by their leadership and to save their 'looted wealth'.

Imran Khan said PTI can beat 'loota' of any size with the masses. Commenting on the issue of buying cheaper oil from Russia, the ousted prime minister said Finance Minister Miftah Ismail says they will buy the oil after knowing the rate, Russia was offering.

The present 'slaves' cannot buy cheaper oil from Russia due to fear of the United States. He also asked how can US dictate Pakistani leadership on visiting Russia? INP.

ECP bans political, car rallies during electioneering for LG polls

KARACHI: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has banned the organization of political rallies during electioneering for the second phase of local government (LG) polls under the revised election code.

After witnessing large-scale mismanagement during by-elections, the election commission has toughened enforcement of the election code of conduct for the upcoming second phase of LG polls.

The ECP also started strict monitoring of the revised election code during the LG polls' second phase.

The political parties have been stopped by the ECP from organizing political rallies for the electioneering of LG polls. The candidates and political parties will be allowed to only organize corner meetings. Car rallies were also banned. INP.

President writes to PM; conveys deep concern on harassment, torture against journalists

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif conveying his deep concern on the rising trend of harassment and torture against journalists and media persons in Pakistan. The president, referring to recent incidents of violence against journalists, said such events reflected a mindset of intolerance having negative repercussions both on the future of democracy as well as freedom of expression as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan and Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human

Rights. "Such actions also come under international focus and tarnish the image of our country," he remarked.

The president noted with concern that Pakistan stood at 157th position in the Freedom of Press Index-2022, which was very low and said the Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Human Rights Watch (HRW), Amnesty International (AI), and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in their reports had attributed harassment, intimidation, and physical violence against journalists as the main reasons for the dismal position of Pakistan in the said index. INP.



QUETTA: A traffic warden issued challan tickets to motorcyclists for not wearing safety helmets at National Highway in Provincial Capital.

Customs enforcement recovers smuggled items worth Rs 46 million

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Customs Enforcement on Thursday confiscated smuggled items worth Rs 46 million in multiple operations.

According to details, the Customs Enforcement conducted an operation in multiple locations on Thursday and confiscated items worth Rs46 million including clothes, tires and bottle nuts.

Customs officials told that five trucks full of smuggled international clothes were confiscated after an operation on a bus terminal. The smuggled clothes are worth Rs30 million, the officials said.

They added that the second operation was conducted at the Mochko check post. The items confiscated from the second operation were worth Rs16 million.

The total worth of recovered items was Rs46 million, they added. INP.

another operation on July 5, the Customs officials seized a container with a consignment of urea fertilizer at the Torkham border.

Additional Collector Customs Muhammad Tayeb has said that the department's officials during a search of an export container at the border crossing, recovered a consignment of 40 tonnes of urea fertilizer, being smuggled to Afghanistan.

"Fake documents of rice cargo were prepared for the container, carrying urea," the official said. "The export of urea from the country has been strictly prohibited," he further said.

"The Customs officials have filed a case, taken the container in custody and arrested an accused," he said.

"The consignment of the urea has a market value of 4.68 million rupees," he added. INP.

ECP suspends Punjab govt's free electricity package until by-polls

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has suspended the Punjab government's initiative to provide a subsidy on electricity bills under the 'Roshan Gharana Program'.

The ECP meeting headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja suspended the 'Roshan Gharana Program' until July 17 and directed that it could be re-launched after the elections.

"We want these elections to be held in a transparent manner as it will directly impact the formation of the provincial government," the CEC said.

During the hearing, Hamza Shahbaz said that the program to subsidize households receiving electricity bills of up to 100 units was launched in the provincial budget for FY2022-23. "This package is for the entire province and not limited to 20

constituencies," he said.

The chief minister's counsel said that it could only be declared a violation of the code of conduct if a package is being announced for a particular constituency.

To this, the chief election commissioner asked if the program was part of the budget then why there was a need to announce it later through a press conference.

Before the by-elections in the province, Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz announced to provide free electricity to households that consumed 100 units per month in the last six months.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, the Punjab Chief Minister announced that the provincial government will bear the power cost of households that consume up to 100 units of electricity in a month. INP.