

# QUETTA VOICE

Email address:  
quettavoic@gmail.com

Saturday 06  
August, 2022

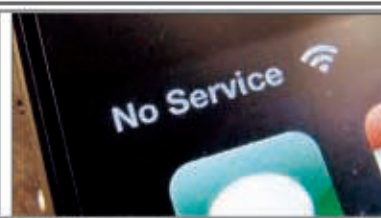
[https:// www.quettavoic.com/](https://www.quettavoic.com/)

ABC Certified

Quettavoic



**PM stresses prior steps to cater to new rain spells in flood-hit areas**



**Mobile services to remain suspended in Quetta on 7,9 and 10th Muharram**

## Floods wash away 12 dams in Balochistan: Irrigation Minister

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Balochistan ministers have said the government was well-prepared to cope with the next predicted monsoon rainfall in the province. Balochistan received 500 percent more rain as compared to the past, Muhammad Khan Lehri, the Balochistan Irrigation Minister said. Addressing a press conference along with other ministers, he said only 12 dams were washed away in flood out of a total of 1020 dams constructed in the province. "We have ordered an inquiry of the breaching of 12 dams in the province", Mr. Lehri said. Health minister Balochistan, Syed Ehsan Shah, Home Minister Balochistan, Mir Ziaullah Langove and others were also present on the occasion. PDMA provides foodstuff to 25,000 families: Minister Home Minister Balochistan, Mir



Ziaullah Langove said the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has provided one month's foodstuff to over 25,000 families in flood-affected areas of the province. Addressing a press conference on Friday in Quetta, he said rescue teams have evacuated thousands of stranded families to safer places in Lasbela, Jhal Magsi, Killa Abdullah, Kech and other parts of Balochistan. "Despite meager resources, we provided support to every flood-affected person", Mr. Langove said. He reiterated that flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall have claimed 166 lives across the province. Over 1,000 people have sustained injuries in floods-related incidents. "This cycle of rains has come after 30 years in Balochistan". "This cycle of rains has come after 30 years in Balochistan", Syed Ehsan Shah said. He said the province has suffered a lot in terms of human losses and financial losses. Mr. Shah stated that floods

have washed away highways, and small roads and delay and check dams. The health minister stated that the department has established free medical camps in various parts of Balochistan to provide medical treatment to the patients. He said thousands of patients have been treated in free medical camps in Balochistan. Syed Ehsan Shah appreciated the Pakistan Army for launching rescue and relief operations in various parts of the province. He however expressed concern over the martyrdom of Commander 12 Corps, Lieutenant General Sarfaraz Ali and other military officers. "Military officers sacrificed their lives while supporting the people of Balochistan", he said. Balochistan Home Minister, Mir Ziaullah Langove said flash floods unleashed by torrential rains inflicted heavy financial losses in Quetta and other parts of the province. Rains played havoc in various parts of the province.

## Give us education no tents, Ikramullah inspires PM Shehbaz

Nafi Kakar, Syed Ali Shah

"Give us education, we do not need any tents", a 13-year-old boy, Ikramullah inspired Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif. The Premier was visiting a flood relief camp set up in the Killa Saifullah district of Balochistan the other day. The minor is fluent in Urdu and speaks better English. Although, he belongs to an extremely poor and marginalized family. Despite all troubles as a flood affectee, the minor boy managed to get closer to the Prime Minister and speak for the state of education in the area. "Government would provide you education anywhere in Pakistan in a well-reputed institution", Shehbaz Sharif assured the minor inside the camp.



"I had decided to meet the Premier whatever happens". "I had decided to meet the Premier whatever happens", Ikramullah told Daily Quetta Voice in an exclusive interview. Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili called the minor boy and encouraged him for his bold stance about the state of education. "My struggle is for the education of girls and boys in remote areas of Balochistan", Ikramullah stated. In his interview with this daily, the minor boy spoke for the education of all girls and boys living in rugged mountains, deserts, plains and small towns of Balochistan. Ikramullah's father, Noor Muhammad Sail is a class IV employee. Ikramullah's father, Noor Muhammad Sail is a class IV employee in the

Balochistan health department at Killa Saifullah. "A friend of mine pays Ikramullah's school fee", Mr. Sail informed. He said he was not in a position to pay for his fee and books. Ikramullah's mud-walled house located in Khainsoob area of Killa Saifullah has washed away in recent flash floods unleashed by torrential rains. His village is the worst hit by floods and heavy rainfall. Family members told the minor boy to go and meet the PM to ask for relief but he had thought the other way. "They all thought I will beg for food and tents", he recalled. The video of the minor boy boldly speaking to the premier went viral on social media. The Prime Minister's Office also shared the minor boy's conversation with the PM on its official Twitter account.

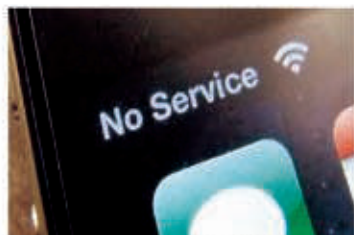


DERA GHAZI KHAN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing the flood affectees in Dera Ghazi Khan.

**Mobile services to remain suspended in Quetta on 7,9 and 10th Muharram**

News Desk

Mobile Phone services to remain suspended in Quetta on the 7,9 and 10th days of Muharram ul Haram. The cellular services will remain off in various parts of Balochistan due to security situations in Ashura. Meer Zia Ullah Langove, the Home Minister of Balochistan presided over an important meeting regarding security in the days of Ashura and instructed the Police and Law enforcement agencies to maintain peace in the province. The meeting thoroughly reviewed the security situation and Ashura routes on 7, 9, and 10th Muharram in Quetta. Historically such instructions to suspend mobile phone services are issued at the last minute to ensure maximum security, the Home Minister Balochistan stated in the meeting. The cellular services will also remain suspended in Mach, Bolan, Jafarabad, Jhal Magsi, and other areas of the province.



The Mobile Phone and Internet services will remain off from 6 AM to 12 AM, a notification from Home Department Balochistan mentioned. Strict security on the eve of Muharram Balochistan government has taken strict security measures on the eve of Muharram ul Haram to avert any untoward incident. Thousands of policemen and frontier corps personnel would be deployed throughout the city to maintain law and order situations. Procession routes would be completely sealed and manned to ensure peace on the eve of Muharram ul Haram.

**No threat to Shehbaz govt at Centre, says Hamza**

LONDON: Hamza Shehbaz, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and son of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, said on Friday that he was dismayed at the way election for the seat of Punjab chief minister (CM) was held. Talking to media here, Hamza Shehbaz said for the first time in his life he had heard words like 'interim chief minister' and 'judicial chief minister'. He said he planned to fight his case in the courts. "I hope that I will not let down the people of Punjab," Hamza said. He also dispelled the impression that there was any danger to the coalition government at Centre. "Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan should first clarify his position on the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict in prohibited funding case. Hamza was welcomed by his brother Suleman Shehbaz on arrival at London's Heathrow Airport. INP

**Imran Khan offers fateha for Shaheed Lt. General Sarfaraz**

News Desk

Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI) Chief and former Prime Minister, Imran Khan visited the residence of Shaheed Lieutenant General Sarfaraz Ali on Friday. Imran Khan offered fateha for the departed soul. The PTI Chief also met with the family members of Shaheed Lt. General Sarfaraz Ali. Lt. General Sarfaraz Ali and five other military officers were martyred in a helicopter crash in Balochistan's Lasbela district the other day. Bad weather had caused the helicopter to crash.



**Pakistanis fully support Kashmiris' right to self-determination: Baluchistan govt spokesperson**

LAHORE: Baluchistan government's spokesperson Farah Azeem Shah said on Friday that the people of Pakistan fully supported the right of self-determination of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). She regretted that Indian state terrorism against the oppressed Kashmiris was continuing unabated for decades. Addressing a press conference at Lahore Press Club, she said that on August 5, which is being observed as the Yom-e-Istehsal Kashmir [Day of Exploitation of Kashmiris], "We will continue to raise our voice against Indian state oppression at every forum." She said that Narendra Modi-led fascist government had gone mad as it was using all means to forcefully suppress the voices of millions of Kashmiris. Stressing the need for international support, she called upon the international community to take notice of the oppression and cruelty of the Indian state institutions. She said that according to the resolution of the United Nations (UN), Kashmiris should be given their right to vote and self-determination. She said that Pakistan was strong, united and Balochistan was integral part of the country, saying that people of the province was the diehard Pakistanis and they would fight against each enemy and curb propaganda against the country. She appealed to the people to join hands to steer the country out of crises. She also appealed to support the people of Balochistan in this time of trial and extend financial assistance to them. INP

**PM stresses prior steps to cater to new rain spells in flood-hit areas**

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged upon the departments concerned to take measures in advance to cater to new rain spells in the flood-affected areas. During his visit to the flood-hit areas of south Punjab including Dera Ghazi Khan, Rojhan and Rajanpur, he urged upon the need for a joint survey by federal and provincial governments to assess the damages in the wake of floods. The Prime Minister earlier had an aerial view of the area to see the devastation caused by the heavy rains. The prime minister said the federal government was committed to providing relief to the people affected by floods and ensuring their early rehabilitation. He emphasized on ensuring that the compensation was timely disbursed among the victims. The prime minister on the occasion was given a briefing by the authorities concerned regarding the ongoing relief and rehabilitation work in the area including the supply of food, drinking water and basic health facilities to the displaced people staying at temporary shelters. He said the federal government had increased the cash assistance for injured people from Rs25,000 to 250,000 and had also announced a similar compensation of Rs0.5 million for both mud and concrete houses damaged completely and Rs 0.2 million for partially hit ones. Federal Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Adviser Ataullah Tarar, Member National Assembly Sardar Riaz Mehmood Khan Mazari, Aslam Bhootani and Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lt Gen Akhtar Nawaz accompanied the prime minister. INP

## 'Must be condemned at every level': Army slams 'regretful social media campaign' following chopper crash

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General (DG) Major General Babar Iftikhar on Friday expressed strong disapproval of "false propaganda and insensitive comments that erupted on social media" after six officials — including a corps commander — were martyred in a helicopter crash during flood relief efforts in Balochistan. "The way this happens on social media, we have to look into this and reject such elements involved in it," he said on Geo News programme Naya Pakistan. "We can do this collectively. That's why we issued a press release as it was important to highlight this matter. This has to be condemned at every level." The remarks from the military spokesperson come in the wake of "deeply insensitive" comments on social media, which Maj-Gen Iftikhar said hurt the sentiments of the heirs of martyrs of the chopper crash. The wreckage of the Pakistan Army helicopter that went missing in Balochistan on the night of Aug 1 was found near Musa Goth in the Lasbela district a day later. "All 6 officers and soldiers including Lt Gen Sarfaraz Ali embraced shahadat," the media affairs wing of the armed forces had tweeted. The chopper was on flood relief operations in Lasbela, Balochistan when it lost contact with ATC [air traffic control]. The DG ISPR said his department also issued a press statement earlier in the day rejecting "false propaganda and insensitive comments by certain



elements following the helicopter crash". In its statement, the ISPR had noted that the "regretful social media campaign after unfortunate helicopter crash on Aug 1 has caused deep anguish and distress among Shuhada families and Rank & File of the Armed Forces". It asserted that the whole nation stood with the institution "in this difficult time certain insensitive quarters resorted to hurtful and derogatory comments on social media which is unacceptable and highly condemnable". In his talk with the TV channel, the DG ISPR said there was "extreme anguish and pain" in the ranks of the army and aggrieved families about the "insensitive" comments on social media. "We can tackle such propaganda collectively and this has to be condemned at every level." Maj Gen Iftikhar said the forces were in grief as "we had been going through a tough time involving this tragedy, hence we issued a statement today." In response to a question about the killing of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri, the DG ISPR said there was no question of Pakistan soil being used for "such a purpose". "The Foreign Office has clarified it in detail. They are all rumours as anybody can write anything on social media. We should avoid this. Our enemy, in particular, feeds such information to and they (people) get exploited," the military spokesperson noted. Web Desk

## QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

## Floods expose construction quality of dams in Balochistan

Flash floods unleashed by torrential rains exposed the construction quality of dams across Balochistan. Heavy rainfall wreaked havoc in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan recently. Floods swept away dozens of small delay and check dams in different parts of the province.

Over the years, the provincial and federal governments constructed hundreds of dams to check the wastage of rainy water. Successive governments merely celebrated the completion of projects rather than focusing on the construction quality of dams. Although, the dams and lakes constructed by British colonial rulers in different parts of Balochistan are still intact even after more than a century.

Breaching of dams puts human lives at peril. Breaching of dams not only failed to save rainy water rather it also put human lives at peril in Pishin, Barkhan, Lasbella, Kohlu, Killa Abdullah, Killa Saifullah and other districts of the province. Rains-related incidents have claimed 65 lives till the filing of this editorial. This is simply disastrous and a failure from all concerned quarters.

Flash floods also swept away poorly constructed roads and standing crops in various parts of the province. This all needs a thorough investigation. Irrigation and Communication Works (C&W) departments are known for commission and corruption.

Commission, corruption a common word in C&W and Irrigation departments

This is a good opportunity for those at the helm of affairs to make sure transparency in the utilization of funds by the two departments. Since word commission is an open secret in the two departments, the Chief Secretary of Balochistan should form a high-powered committee comprising committed and honest retired and serving officers to probe into the breaching of dams.

The quality of construction of roads in Quetta and all districts of Balochistan should also be probed to improve socio-economic conditions. The irony with Balochistan is that first the province has meager resources and second they too are ruthlessly used/ swallowed.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo and his coalition partners must go beyond words and launch an inquiry into the breaching of dams and damage to roads.

## Sardar Mengal

Climate change is unleashing its worst effects in the form of heavy rainfalls and disastrous floods. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had already waved multiple red flags about dire consequences of climate change in Pakistan. The authorities should have been on their toes in response to the contours of the crisis but we witnessed everything otherwise.

Balochistan Vulnerable to Climate Crisis

It is noteworthy that almost 30 districts of Balochistan have been badly hit by the current climate emergency. People who were already drowning in man made disasters of inflation, poverty, political crisis are currently drowning in a Natural disaster. Nushki, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Bolan and Jhal Magsi received much of the inflictions of flash floods.

People were left stranded to flow with the waves as seen in

## The Looming threat of Climate Crisis in Pakistan



footages, circulating on social media. Unfortunately, disturbing pictures of dead bodies of children covered with mud, families who were sitting helplessly on debris of their houses and sinking valuables of the people couldn't awaken the government from its stupor. Even more gloomily, the enraging waves of floods-engulfing lives and property, converting everything into dust & debris and wreaking havoc all around- couldn't merit

breaking news on national media. Prior disregard and later delayed response have multiplied inflictions of the catastrophe. Loss of land communication has further isolated the stricken areas making true estimation of destruction more exhausting.

Timely decision and act can reduce the effect of Climate Change

To stop ballooning problems into crisis, rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations should be carried out on

full scale as the current pace is insufficient to meet the requirement. NDMA and PDMA need to reach out to the peripheral areas that are out of the radar.

It's high time for the provincial and federal coalition government to pay special attention to those whose lives are at the stake. Political parties need to rise above the traditional politics and launch concerted efforts to help out the calamity stricken at the earliest. Social welfare organisations should

come forward to heal the lesions of suffering humans. On national media, there should be special discourse and discussion on settlement and rehabilitation of the affected people.

In addition to ensuring; re-building of eroded infrastructure, compensation for losses, clean water, adequate supply of food, there should be numerous measures in pipeline to overcome the post-flood outcomes such as increased risk of infectious diseases. The flood-stricken area can become a breeding ground for many health related problems. Supplying preventive medicines and upholding precautionary measures can halt the onslaught of infectious diseases.

The state machinery in its all forms should come into play to navigate a safe passage out of this hurricane of climate emergency enveloping us now.

The author is a final year MBBS student at King Edward Medical University, Lahore, Pakistan. He can be reached on twitter via @SardarMengal11.

## The Socio-Economic Impacts of 2022 Floods in Balochistan

Syed Safdar Ahmed

Flood is one of the most devastating natural hazards throughout the globe. According to CRED-Data Base, from the 19th century till the present day thousands of people have lost their life due to flood disasters. Further, 4.5 million people were displaced, injured, and homeless.

Pakistan Vulnerable to Natural Disasters:

Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters including floods. The 2010-11 floods adversely affected the economy of Pakistan. The geographical location of Balochistan is prone to many natural disasters, like drought floods, and earthquakes. The recent monsoon spells have adversely affected the rural communities of the province. The socio-economic development of the rural areas of Balochistan mainly



belongs to the agriculture sector. The agriculture sector is depending on the availability of the required amount of water.

Balochistan loses huge amount of water due to no dams.

Unfortunately, in the recent monsoon season, we have lost a huge amount of water due to the lack of proper reservoir and dam systems in the province. Dam and reservoirs can minimize the initial pressure of flood on one

side whereas; on the other hand, such storage of water can recharge the depleted groundwater table in those particular areas.

Due to a lack of proper management and planning, we always face catastrophic events in terms of floods drought, etc. the relevant stockholders like PDMA, Agriculture Department, and Irrigation Department need to revisit their policies in terms of water storage to minimize the adverse

impact of flood and drought in the province.

The consequences of floods, both negative and positive, vary greatly depending on their location, duration, the extent of flooding, depth, and speed, as well as the vulnerability and value of the affected natural and constructed environments.

Floods impact both individuals and communities and have social, economic, and environmental consequences.

The environmental benefits of flooding can also help the economy through things such as increased fish production, recharge of groundwater resources, and maintenance of recreational environments.

We need to take action with a proactive approach rather than a reactive approach. If we invest \$10 in the pre-phase of a disaster so we can save \$100 in the post-phase of a disaster.

## Climate affairs

By Chloe Atkinson

Scientists have long clamored that human activity on Earth has led to the calamitous weather changes we are witnessing today. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed that climate change makes heatwaves hotter and more frequent.

According to the research, greenhouse gas emissions have heated the planet by an estimated 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.16 degrees Fahrenheit) over the last two centuries.

The Nature journal published an article this month detailing what its authors say is proof that heatwaves in Europe have increased three-to-four times faster than in other northern mid-latitude areas such as the United States. The reason for this, according to the article, is due to the fast west-to-east air stream, or atmospheric circulation, which is carrying hot air across the northern atmosphere.

Most scientists appear to agree that temperatures will continue to rise unless humans cease adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

Without a drastic change in the way mankind conducts its business, heatwaves are predicted to worsen. Tackling climate change should be a top priority for every country today. Heatwaves that occurred once every decade are now happen-

ing at three times that rate. The 2015 Paris Agreement and last year's Glasgow climate conference were intended to bring the issue to global attention and generate movement on the ground. But current climate policies are not sufficient to avoid the dangerous effects of global warming. More must be done.

Today, wildfires are raging in Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, Morocco and Italy. Over one thousand people have died so far and many thousands more have been evacuated from their homes out of concern for their safety.

Climate change plays a significant role in the cause of wildfires since it increases the hot and dry tinderbox conditions that help fires start and then spread quickly. Less precipitation means dry land and vegetation. This means that when a fire starts, it burns faster and more intensely. Hot and dry conditions are a perfect recipe for a massive inferno.

However, it is important to note that not every fire is caused by climate change. Forest management programs, which deal with how forests are maintained specifically to prevent massive infernos, are often insufficient. In addition, it is often careless people who ignite fires through arson or simply by barbecuing Human fire starters aside, they don't cause the actual heatwave. Individuals are not responsible necessarily but since mankind is col-

lectively composed of individuals, it does fall on each and every one of us to take steps to minimize our carbon footprint. There is a reason why famed reality star Kylie Jenner was slammed on social media for posting a photo of her private jet parked next to boyfriend Travis Scott's plane, asking "You wanna take mine or yours?" And she was slammed again for taking her jet in the end for what turned out to be a paltry 12-minute flight.

Heatwaves that occurred once every decade are now happening at three times that rate. The 2015 Paris Agreement and last year's Glasgow climate conference were intended to bring the issue to global attention and generate movement on the ground. But current climate policies are not sufficient to avoid the dangerous effects of global warming. More must be done.

Today, wildfires are raging in Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, Morocco and Italy. Over one thousand people have died so far and many thousands more have been evacuated from their homes out of concern for their safety. Climate change plays a significant role in the cause of wildfires since it increases the hot and dry tinderbox conditions that help fires start and then spread quickly. Less precipitation means dry land and vegetation. This means that when a fire starts, it burns faster and more intensely.

## Global energy security

By Maximilian Hess

Not since World War II has the threat to global energy security been as severe as it is today.

Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine and the consequent geo-economic war between the Kremlin and the West disrupted global gas markets at a scale unprecedented in recent history. The Kremlin's use of its power over energy markets as leverage – and Europe's efforts to wean itself off of Russian natural gas and avoid a massive shortage this winter – are triggering price hikes and rerouting flows around the world.

No one is left unaffected, even those who thought they had prepared for every eventuality. For example, Pakistan, which had secured several long-term natural gas import contracts to increase its energy security in recent years, has seen partners break those deals to send their gas to new clients offering to pay more. The coffers of both the developed and developing world are being drained. Meanwhile, the Kremlin is using the global energy crisis it created to sustain its economy in the face of severe international sanctions. Moreover, it is weaponising Europe's dependency on Russian natural gas to try and break Western resistance to its ambitions in Ukraine. Earlier this week, Moscow tried to tighten its squeeze on

Europe further, saying it plans to reduce gas supplies through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany to just 20 percent capacity.

In response, European Union energy ministers swiftly announced an agreement for the bloc's members to gut gas usage by 15 percent this winter. This was an attempt by Europe to show it would not give in to Russian pressure and abandon Ukraine in order to fill up its gas reserves. Such conflict-driven demand reduction, however, means that an already likely recession is now all but guaranteed. Following Gazprom's latest cuts, analysts already predict the EU will not be able to reach its own target of refilling gas storage to 80 percent capacity by winter. Now that Europe made it clear that it is finally – and perhaps much belatedly – ready to take the steps to cut its need for Russian gas at any cost, the Kremlin will do everything it can to inflict maximum pain on Europe in the short term, while the dependency remains.

A recent German poll found that at the moment, 58 percent of the population is supporting sanctions against Russia despite potential negative impacts for Germany. Russian President Vladimir Putin is working to bring that number down – down to the point that it becomes

untenable for Germany's leaders to push for policies to support Ukraine and help the West win its confrontation with Russia. The waning of public support for the sanctions regime in the face of economic difficulties is an equally significant risk for other European governments.

Europe's leaders are now facing the herculean task of simultaneously helping their industries survive on a reduced energy supply, supporting Ukraine's war effort and maintaining public support for the sanctions regime amid a cost-of-living crisis largely manufactured by Russia that seems to have no real end in sight.

Energy is perhaps the most consequential front in the ongoing geo-economic battle between Russia and the West, and thus Europe needs to strengthen its hand there first. After moving to address the demand side of the equation, now it needs to address the supply side of the problem to be able to shore up its economy to the furthest extent possible, and insulate public support for Kyiv and the sanctions regime against Russia.

There are some obvious steps that European governments can take – but have been reluctant to in fear of domestic backlash – to resolve the supply issue swiftly. The Netherlands, for

example, can pump billions of cubic metres of extra natural gas across Europe by increasing production at the Groningen gas field. Bewilderingly, however, it is still planning to take the entire operation offline next year over the risk of minor earthquakes in the surrounding area and some pushback from environmentalists.

Germany can also increase its future capacity to supply energy simply by extending the lifespan of its nuclear power plants that are meant to come offline at the end of the year. The governing coalition said it is now considering this option, but the Greens – including Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock – continue to resist the move. The party's stance on this issue is somewhat understandable – after all, Germany's Green Party was in large part borne out of Germany's Cold War-era anti-nuclear movement. Nevertheless, by blocking a relatively straightforward and low-risk solution to a major problem facing the nation, it risks failing the test of being a responsible government partner at a time of war, less than a year after its best-ever election result. Beyond increasing their own production capacity by any means possible, European nations should of course also work on forming new

partnerships with suppliers outside their region. The global gas crisis and its impacts are by no means limited to Europe. It is therefore imperative that Europe seeks to bring together the international community to coordinate global supply.

When the world last faced such a major energy crisis, the Allies had significant control over the world's oil supplies. British Petroleum and its predecessors, and the forefathers of the modern United States energy majors, controlled most of the Middle East's petroleum at the dawn of World War II. Britain established the Petroleum Warfare Department and the Petroleum Board – which brought together all allied energy firms, including US ones even before Pearl Harbor brought the US into the conflict directly – to coordinate supplies for the war. Today, ownership of global energy supplies is far more diversified. And while the US has pledged to use its role as a liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter to support Europe, a fire this June at its flagship liquefaction plant in Freeport, Texas has seen export capacity fall by some 17 percent. Thus addressing global gas shortages will require a coming together of key public and private players from across the world to develop a strategy for this winter.

## Inequality and hunger

By Chuck Collins

Beginning on May 24, the World Economic Forum is gathering in Davos, Switzerland for an in-person meeting, discussing the global tax system and financial inclusion.

Thanks to protests and new research, however, participants will not be able to avoid the elephant in the room: the surging inequality of wealth during the pandemic.

As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality.org have documented over the last two years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost their lives and livelihoods.

A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food and agriculture industry, Oxfam found that billionaires in that industry saw their wealth increase by \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farmers.

In January, an analysis by the Fight Inequality Alliance, Institute for Policy Studies, Oxfam, and the Patriotic Millionaires found that an annual wealth tax starting at just 2 percent for those

with more than \$5 million, 3 percent for those with over \$50 million, and up to 5 percent for billionaires could generate upwards of \$2.52 trillion a year. That's enough to lift 2.3 billion people out of poverty, fund vaccines for everyone in the world, and deliver universal healthcare and social protections for all the citizens of low- and lower-middle-income countries.

A group of over 150 millionaires released a strong statement calling on Davos attendees to face the dangers of runaway wealth inequality and speak out in favor of national efforts to levy progressive income and wealth taxes on the ultra-wealthy. "The truth is that 'Davos' doesn't deserve the world's trust right now," the statement reads. "For all the countless hours spent talking about making the world a better place, the conference has produced little tangible value amidst a torrent of self-congratulations."

"Until participants acknowledge the simple, effective solution staring them in the face – taxing the rich – the people of the world will continue to see their so-called dedication to fixing the world's problems as little more than a performance."

The letter is signed by actor and activist Mark Ruffalo, as well as supporters of the In Tax We Trust movement including Abigail Disney, Morris Pearl, and Nick Hanauer. These millionaires delivered the In Tax We Trust

letter directly to the World Economic Forum offices in New York and Geneva, and attended pro-taxation demonstrations at the outskirts of the elite compound in Davos itself.

As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality.org have documented over the last two years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost their lives and livelihoods.

A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food and agriculture industry, Oxfam found that billionaires in that industry saw their wealth increase by \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farmers.

In January, an analysis by the Fight Inequality Alliance, Institute for Policy Studies, Oxfam, and the Patriotic Millionaires found that an annual wealth tax starting at just 2 percent for those with more than \$5 million, 3 percent for those with over \$50 million, and up to 5 percent for billionaires could generate upwards of \$2.52 trillion a year. That's enough to lift 2.3 billion people out of poverty, fund vaccines for everyone in the world.

## OIC GS reiterates call for implementation of UNSC resolutions on J&K

ISLAMABAD: OIC General Secretariat has reiterated the call for the implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a press release issued on Friday, August 5 marks the third anniversary of the illegal and unilateral actions taken in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, which were followed by additional unlawful measures including illegal demog-

raphic changes. It said such illegal actions can neither alter the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir nor prejudice the legitimate right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

Recalling the resolutions of the Islamic Summit and Council of Foreign Ministers on Jammu and Kashmir, the General Secretariat reaffirms the OIC's solidarity with the Kashmiri people in the realization of their inalienable right to self-

determination. It calls for the respect of their fundamental freedoms and basic human rights and for the reversal of all illegal and unilateral measures taken on or after 5 August 2019.

It further said that the General Secretariat reiterates its call on the international community to take concrete steps for the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, INP



QUETTA: A child vendor selling National flag and related stuff along roadside on ahead of start 14 August independence Day celebration .

## Annual inflation soars to 38.63pc after 0.82pc weekly rise

ISLAMABAD: The annual inflation in the country, after a weekly increase of 0.82%, has gone up to 38.63%, data issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics shows.

According to the data issued by PBS, the weekly inflation rate in the country was 0.82% taking the annual rate to 38.63%. Prices of 33 essential items went up, four items decreased, while 14 items remained stationary.

The price for onion went up by Rs18, tomatoes by Rs8.84, Moong Pulse by Rs11.12, Mash Pulse by Rs17.69, Masoor by Rs13.84 while Chickpea pulse went up by Rs6.09.

Moreover, the price for a dozen of eggs went up by Rs4.77, Garlic by Rs4.24, while a 20 kg flour bag increased by Rs2.58. The prices for sugar, rice, and ghee also went up in the last week.

However, the price of chicken dropped by Rs13.66%, while per dozen bananas dropped by Rs3.54%. While prices of 14 items remained unchanged.

Pakistan's annual inflation for the month of July, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), has reached 24.93 per cent, the highest year-on-year rise since November 2008. INP

## Kashmir dispute battle of hope against overwhelming odds, PM says on Youm-e-Istehsal

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised Friday Kashmiris and said the territory's dispute has been a battle of hope against overwhelming odds as the nation marks Youm-e-Istehsal to express solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren.

"The Jammu & Kashmir dispute has been a battle of hope against overwhelming odds, of courage against fear, & of sacrifice against tyranny," the prime minister said in a series of tweets.

He mentioned this day marks the third sombre anniversary of India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, that aimed to change the internationally recognised disputed status of IoJK and alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory.

Over the last decades, PM Shehbaz said India has used unbridled force with complete impunity. "Generations after generations, brave Kashmiris have persevered in the face of fear, intimidation, torture, and worst forms of human rights violations. Indian oppression has failed to dent their resolve."

Today, PM Shehbaz said the country pays rich tributes to all the martyrs of occupied Kashmir for their ultimate sacrifice

and to their families for their resolve and courage. Pakistanis are observing Youm-e-Istehsal today to mark the third year of the Indian military siege of occupied Kashmir and denounce illegal, immoral, and unconstitutional steps to strip its special status.

On August 5, 2019, the Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party government struck down Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution, thereby scrapping the law that granted Kashmir its special status.

In his message on the occasion, President Dr Arif Alvi said the resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people is the only way to ensure durable peace and stability in the region.

The president said Pakistan honours the sacrifices of the Kashmiris in their just struggle for their right to self-determination.

The president said India's August 5 actions contravene several UNSC resolutions which stipulated that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people through a free and

impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the UN.

He called upon the international community to take practical steps to hold India accountable for its gross and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK and to facilitate a peaceful resolution of this long-standing dispute.

In connection with the Youm-e-Istehsal, a rally was held from the Foreign Office on Constitution Avenue in Islamabad to express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people.

People belonging to different walks of life, including parliamentarians, participated in the rally. Carrying banners, the participants chanted slogans in support of the Kashmiri people and against the Indian atrocities.

Speaking to the participants of the rally at D-Chowk, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said Pakistan's commitment to Kashmir is "everlasting" and it will never dilute because of the internal situation. In his remarks, Adviser on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira said the Kashmiri people have been braving Indian atrocities over the last seven decades and sacrificed over one hundred thousand

## Speakers deplore world's silence on Indian brutalities in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: An international webinar was organized by Sada-e-Roos in Moscow on the intensity of Indian atrocities on innocent Kashmiris and the silence of the world community after the illegal action of Modi's Hindutva government on Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

Defence analyst and former defence secretary Lt. Gen. Naem Khalid Lodhi, Chairman of Kashmir Council Europe, Ali Raza Syed, Turkish human rights activist, Turge Avern and others participated in the webinar while Russia-based Pakistani journalist Ishtiaq was host of the webinar.

Addressing the function, Ali Raza Syed said, "Now we have to work consistently for a sustainable solution to the

Kashmir dispute and we will have to raise the Kashmir dispute more constantly after August 5, 2019 because continued struggle is the guarantee of our success." He said the struggle of Kashmiris to achieve their right to self-determination will be successful one day. He also called for the release of Kashmiri detainees.

Salman Khan, who participated in the webinar from South Africa, thanked Ishtiaq Hamdani, the chief editor of Sada-e-Roos, for his special effort for the Kashmir cause. He said that every action in the world has a reaction, the way Modi tried to annex Kashmir illegally in 2019, it has brought a new passion and desire among the Kashmiris to get freedom. He said that after the martyrdom of Burhan

Wani in 2016, the struggle for the freedom of Kashmir got further impetus.

Turkish human rights activist, Turge Avern, said India has been killing innocent people in the occupied territory for the past several decades, while three years ago, the Modi government repealed the special status of Kashmir and since then there has been a rapid increase in the atrocities being committed on innocent Kashmiris.

Syed Ishtiaq Hamdani, the host of the conference, said since August 2019, Kashmiris are forced to live under continued Indian military siege and oppression. He said by imposing an undeclared war on Kashmiris, India has turned the territory into the world's largest military camp. INP

## Kashmiris stage protest camp in front of EU External Action Service in Brussels

BRUSSELS: A protest camp was staged in front of the European External Action Service (EU foreign Ministry) at Brussels, the capital of Belgium to mark August 5 as Kashmir Exploitation Day.

The event was organized by Kashmir Council Europe (KCEU) in connection completion of three years to the repeal of special status of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and imposition of military siege there by Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government.

Many of the Kashmiris and Pakistanis based in Europe and

European supporters as well attended the gathering in Brussels in order to condemn Indian atrocities against innocent people of IIOJK. Participants of the gathering also expressed their solidarity with the oppressed people of the occupied territory.

On the occasion, the KCEU Chairman Ali Raza Syed said, purpose of the protest camp is to highlight the brutalities against the people of Kashmir and other illegal acts in occupied Kashmir by the Indian authorities. He called for end to the Indian atrocities in IIOJK especially violence against the Kashmiri

women and children.

The KCEU Chairman and other participants of the gathering in Brussels asked the international community including UN and EU to play their role for implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions to enable the Kashmiris to exercise their right to self-determination. They also called for withdrawal of Indian troops, an end to Indian state terrorism, end of genocidal repression, rape, gang-rape, torture, and degrading treatment of Kashmiri men, women, and children. They also demanded easy physical access INP

## KP Health department to privatize 58 govt hospitals

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Health Department has decided to privatize 58 government hospitals across the province under the Public Private Health Initiative (PPHI).

According to details, the Department of Health KP has issued an advertisement for privatising the 58 hospitals.

Five hospitals from Peshwar, while all hospitals in categories C and D would be privatized under the PPHI project. The hospitals would be handed over to private companies through the health foundation. 24 hospitals from three tribal districts of KP will be privatized too. According to details, the Department of Health KP has issued an advertisement for privatising the 58 hospitals.

Five hospitals from Peshwar, while all hospitals in categories C and D would be privatized under the PPHI project. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari speaks at closing ceremony of RIPJA (P) Sports Festival organised by RWP ISB Photojournalists Association (RIPJA Professional) at Pakistan sports Board.

## Petrol Price: No relief for masses as Govt set to hike OMCS margin

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to increase the margin for oil marketing companies (OMCs) rather than providing relief to the general public following decline in prices of fuel in the international market.

It has been proposed to increase the margin for the oil companies by 63.04 percent with sources saying that the margin for OMCs on petrol and diesel will be hiked by Rs2.32 per litre to Rs6. "Currently the margin for OMCs on petrol and diesel is Rs3.68 per litre," they said.

The sources said that the approval in this regard will be taken from Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC) and

the federal cabinet. The Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC) on Thursday approved an increase in sales and distribution margins of oil marketing companies (OMCs) and petroleum dealers.

A well-placed source in the finance ministry told that the ECC meeting presided over by Finance Minister Miftab Ismail here in Islamabad has accepted the demands of petroleum dealers OMCs by raising their sales margin by Rs7 per litre. The OMCs and petroleum dealers have been seeking an increase in their sales and distribution margins by around 6 per cent to the premise of an increase in the costs of doing business and

inflation. In December 2021, the ECC approved a hike in OMCs margin, increasing the profit margin on petrol and high-speed diesel from Rs2.97 to now Rs3.68. It is an increase of Re0.71 that is pending approval from the cabinet before the revision notification.

Separately, for the petrol dealers, the profit margin on petrol was been upped Re0.99 to now Rs4.90, and on HSD the approved margin is Rs4.13 with an increase of Re0.83.

Sharing a break-up of the foreign reserves position, the central bank said that the reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan stand at \$8,385.4 million. INP

## Judicial reference filed against CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja

LAHORE: A judicial reference has been filed with Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja on Friday.

The reference has been moved by an overseas Pakistani named Aslam Malik through his lawyer Azhar Siddique Advocate. The applicant in his reference pleaded to remove CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja and members Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) over charges of misconduct in the PTI prohibited funding case verdict.

The ECP declared overseas Pakistanis as foreigners in the PTI prohibited funding case verdict, which is in contradiction with the constitution of Pakistan, the judicial reference filed against CEC said.

The reference claimed that Sikandar Raja Sultan had violated the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) code of conduct and failed to fulfill his constitutional obligations.

Aslam Malik further alleged that ECP, in the past also gave decisions against the law including its decision on the Punjab Assembly's reserved seats.

On Thursday, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) withdrew a reference filed with Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) against the CEC. INP



QUETTA: Government teachers association hold sit-in outside QPC.

## PM AJK seeks world's pro-active role to settle K-dispute

MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiris living on both sides of the Line of Control and around the world today observed Kashmir Exploitation Day against India's August 05, 2019 move to revoke the special status of Occupied Kashmir.

However, the main protest rally was organized in the capital city Muzaffarabad, which was led by Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan and former Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan. Attended by people hailing from different walks of life was addressed by representatives of different social, political and religious parties and members of the civil society.

The protest rally started from the Old Secretariat and culminated peacefully at Alamdar Chowk. Addressing the rally prime minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, India's 5th August 2019 move was deep rooted conspiracy aimed at depriving the Occupied Kashmir of its special status and changing its demography.

He said that the world community should take notice of the serious violations of human rights being committed by the Indian troops in Occupied Kashmir and play its effective role to stop India's naked aggression against Kashmiris.

He said that India has let loose its 900,000 army to oppress Occupied

Kashmir. He, however, maintained that India's actions could dampen the spirits of Kashmiris.

Stressing the need for peaceful resolutions of the Kashmir dispute the PM said that India must bear in mind the fact that it cannot hold Kashmiris hostage by the dint of force. India, he said, was the largest violator of human rights violations in the world.

"Today, we remind the United Nations to play its role in granting Kashmiris their promised right", he said adding it was high time that the highest body should not let Kashmiris to lose their faith in this institution they have gazed at so long as a beacon of hope.

He also warned the Indian government to shun its policy of intransigence and accept ground reality that Kashmir is a disputed territory that needs to be resolved in line with the UN resolutions. On this occasion, Government Minister Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim read out a resolution of solidarity with Kashmir, which was unanimously accepted.

The rally was also addressed by former AJK PM Raja Farooq Haider Khan, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Minister for Planning and Development Chaudhry Muhammad Rasheed, Chief Secretary Muhammad Usman Chachar and others. INP

## Pakistan needs to expand LNG storage capacity: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The government has been asked to improve the storage capacity of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) so that the commodity could be provided to the industrial sector, especially the export-oriented industries, at cheaper rates and without any disruption.

Pakistan's two LNG terminals have the storage capacity of approximately 140,000 tonnes of LNG and regasification capacity of 1.35 billion cubic feet per day (BCFD).

It is to mention here that the Economic Co-ordination Committee

of the Cabinet recently decided to raise the price of LNG for five export-oriented industries (jute, leather, carpet, surgical and sports goods) to \$9 per million British thermal unit (mmBtu) in the fiscal year 2022-23 from \$6.5 per mmBtu in FY2021-22 under the Regionally Competitive Energy Tariff.

Moreover, ECC has also raised the tariff of the indigenous gas to Rs1,350 per mmBtu for export-oriented industries and to Rs1,550 per mmBtu for general industries, from Rs820 per mmBtu and Rs853 per mmBtu, respectively. The

major reason for jacking up the rates is the rising prices of energy products in the international market.

The government has set aside Rs20 billion subsidy on electricity supply and Rs40 billion on RLNG (Re-gasified-Liquefied Natural Gas) in the budget 2022-23 for the five export-oriented sectors.

Talking to WealthPK, Junaid Ali, chief executive of a textile unit in the Sialkot industrial area, said energy was an important input for industries, especially the export-oriented sectors.

He said that the gov-

ernment should facilitate the industries, especially the export-oriented sectors, because exports significantly contributed to the country's economy.

"The storage capacity of LNG should be increased in Pakistan with establishment of more LNG terminals at the Karachi port," he said. Moreover, he said the government could sign more long-term contracts with LNG suppliers to ensure the availability of cheap LNG to the industry.

In 2015, the first government-to-agreement was signed between the state-owned PSO and

Qatar on a "take-or-pay" basis to procure 3.75 million tonnes of LNG per year at 13.75% of crude price. In 2021, Pakistan struck another long-term contract with Qatar for three million tonnes per year of LNG at a 10.5% of crude. In total, Pakistan can import around 1,000 million cubic feet per day (mmcf), 900 mmcf and 100 mmcf, respectively, under long-term contracts with Qatar. Besides, Pakistan also makes spot purchases, which is less than 15% of total LNG imports. Pakistan is fast becoming an energy-deficient country as contribution of indigenous INP



QUETTA: Security personal seal the shop on the route of 7th Muharram ul Haram procession.

## Pak-Afghan-Uzbek Railway Line to enhance regional connectivity: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The proposed railway line linking Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan will enhance connectivity in the region, reports WealthPK.

This strategically important Peshawar-Kabul-Mazar-i-Sharif-Termiz railway line will enhance regional connectivity via trilateral trade, an official of Pakistan Railways told WealthPK, pleading anonymity.

In response to a question, the official said the project faced some difficulties because the rail tracks of the three countries were of different gauges and it took time for goods to reach the desired destinations. The width of Pakistan's rail track is 1,676mm, of Afghanistan 1,435mm and of Uzbekistan 1,520mm, he explained.

Nevertheless, it would still take less time in transshipment of goods from Pakistan to Uzbekistan as compared to other means of transport and will also be cost-effective and environment-friendly, the official maintained.

According to the World Bank study, a single freight train is equivalent to 100 trucks. In addition, since logistics is an extremely price-sensitive sector, it makes even more sense for public and private sector investment to be allocated for rail development. This is because a gallon of fuel can transport a tonne of goods over a distance of 250 miles using rail compared to only 90 miles by road. Added value also comes from fuel efficiency and the faster routes to market the rail offers. That is why internationally, almost 50% of all cargo is hauled by railways.

An official from the Board of Investment (BOI) told WealthPK that this railway line will provide Pakistan with a gateway for access to Central Asian and European markets, thereby boosting trade integration and connectivity. Moreover, it will also help Pakistan boost job opportunities and wealth creation, the official said.

According to WealthPK research, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan signed a \$4.8 billion rail line project in 2021. With a track length of 573km, the proposed rail link would link Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent with Afghanistan's capital Kabul and Pakistan's northern city of Peshawar. Since the project aims to improve regional

trade and connectivity by offering landlocked Central Asia direct access to Pakistan's Arabian Sea ports, it is regarded as the "event of the century" in Uzbekistan. After it becomes operational, the railway will have the capacity to transport up to 20 million tons of cargo per annum. The transit time for goods from Uzbekistan to Pakistan will shorten by 8 to 10 days. According to the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation, investment in railway assets and implementation of related soft measures to enhance trade will be critical factors in making the railways attractive for shippers and transport operators. Enhancing railway connectivity, promoting trade and investment across borders, and improving access to external markets will help improve the economic prospects of the countries. The Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) train is the best example of regional connectivity. Numerous ITI freight trains have already concluded their journey, shipping a variety of commodities. The ITI train is not only connecting these three countries, but will also go to forge a link between Europe and Asia. Istanbul can provide a quick connection to Europe with the use of its Marmara undersea railway tunnel. The tunnel, which was recently opened to rail freight traffic, offers a faster link between Europe and Asia. According to the World Bank study, a single freight train is equivalent to 100 trucks. In addition, since logistics is an extremely price-sensitive sector, it makes even more sense for public and private sector investment to be allocated for rail development. This is because a gallon of fuel can transport a tonne of goods over a distance of 250 miles using rail compared to only 90 miles by road. Added value also comes from fuel efficiency and the faster routes to market the rail offers. That is why internationally, almost 50% of all cargo is hauled by railways. An official from the Board of Investment (BOI) told WealthPK that this railway line will provide Pakistan with a gateway for access to Central Asian and European markets, thereby boosting trade integration and connectivity. Moreover, it will also help Pakistan boost job opportunities and wealth creation, the official said. INP



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail addressing the members of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

### ISPR condemns propaganda post Lasbela helicopter crash

RAWALPINDI: The Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) has condemned negative propaganda over social media after the Helicopter crash in Lasbela, killing 5 Army officers.

A statement issued by ISPR said that the propaganda hurt the sentiments of the families of the martyrs. Pakistan Army's ranks and files have expressed severe displeasure over the negative propaganda, ISPR said.

They added that the nation stands with the Pakistan Army in this difficult time. The negative callous propaganda is unbearable and condemnable, they added.

The wreckage of an unfortunate Army helicopter that went missing during a relief and rescue operation in the flood-hit Balochistan area has been found in Musa Goth, Winder.

DG ISPR, Major General Babar Iftikhar confirmed the news that all the six officers and soldiers including Corps Commander Southern Command, Lt General Sarfraz Ali embraced martyrdom. INP

### NA by-polls: Imran Khan to contest from all nine PTI constituencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has announced to contest by-polls from all nine seats, vacated after the NA speaker accepted PTI MNAs' resignation.

According to the ECP schedule, the by-polls on the nine National Assembly seats would be contested on September 25.

In a meeting with senior journalists on Friday, the PTI has announced to contest elections from all nine constituencies himself. Elections would be held this year, government parties want to single him out, he said in the meeting.

"Would fight against the rulers at every platform," he added. The government alliance's plans to disqualify him would never be completed, he said.

Imran Khan said that he made two major mistakes in his political career. He added that he cannot share the first one, but the second one was appointing Sikandar Sultan Raja as the ECP Chief. INP

### Prohibited funding case: ECP directs Imran Khan to appear on 23rd

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has issued an official show-cause notice on the issue to seize prohibited funds of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

The ECP has issued an official show-cause notice to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the prohibited funding case.

The notice has been issued to former prime minister Imran Khan, directing him to appear on August 23.

The Commission has scheduled a hearing on the show-cause notice issued to the PTI.

The hearing will be chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja on August 23. INP

### Our economy is at the verge of devastation, observes CJP

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umer Ata Bandial on Friday observed that the country's economy is on the verge of devastation at this time and the court has to look at the public interest as well. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial heard the petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan against the NAB amendments.

During the proceedings, the CJP inquired whether any amendments were made yesterday to which the petitioner's lawyer Khawaja Harris said that according to his information, amendments have been made. INP

### Special medical teams to reach flood-hit areas of Balochistan: Qadir Patel

ISLAMABAD: The federal government's special medical teams will reach flood-affected areas of Balochistan within two days to provide free health services to the people.

According to the ministry's spokesperson, these teams have been constituted on an emergency basis to start relief work in the affected areas under the direction of Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel.

He said that the purpose of the formation of such teams was to provide medical treatment to people living in flood-affected areas.

He said that the minister had also ensured the availability of 30,000 vaccine doses.

He added keeping in view the flood situation in Balochistan, special instructions had been issued to the Extended Programme on

Immunization (EPI) to vaccinate the children in flood-affected areas.

He said that Abdul Qadir Patel also directed to provide vaccines for typhoid, measles, and diarrhoea in flood-affected areas within the next two days.

He said that the ministry was also striving to ensure a sufficient number of medicines for the treatment of fever, flu, and eye diseases for the affected population.

He said that better health facilities would be provided in flood-affected areas as the locals were facing a difficult time. He added keeping in view the flood situation in Balochistan, special instructions had been issued to the Extended Programme on

Immunization (EPI) to vaccinate the children in flood-affected areas. He said that Abdul Qadir Patel also directed to provide vaccines. INP

### India failed to suppress Kashmir's struggle: AJK President

ISLAMABAD: President of Azad Kashmir (AJK) Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that despite its jackboot tactics India had miserably failed to suppress Kashmir's spirit and their legitimate struggle for right to self-determination.

Talking to the media on Friday, the president while terming the 5th August move of the government of India as an atrocious assault on the Kashmiris' ethno-cultural identity said that the Indian motive behind this move was to put an end to Kashmir issue but they miserably failed in its designs.

Today, he said, the Kashmir issue had more resonance at international level as compared to what it had before the 5th August, 2019. Highlighting the dangerous designs of the BJP government, the president said that the situation

in the held territory had deteriorated after India revoked article 370 and 35 A of the Indian constitution.

"After August 5, the BJP has intensified its efforts to change the region's demography", he said, adding that since then the occupant authorities had issued more than 240,000 fake domiciles to non-Kashmir resident people.

Referring to political and administrative machinations of the Modi government, he said the BJP wanted to install a Hindu Chief minister in Occupied Kashmir by changing the electoral map of Kashmir.

Regarding the ruthless suppression of dissent in the valley, the president said that suppression of democratic dissent over the past three years has led to arbitrary arrests and detention of Kashmiri leaders and workers. INP

### BJP wants Kashmir to be Hindutva valley: Mishal Malik

RAWALPINDI: A protest walk and photo exhibition based on Indian atrocities were organized at Punjab Arts Council in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Chairperson Peace and Cultural Organization Mishal Malik. Addressing the ceremony, Mishal said that the extremist BJP wanted to turn the valley of Indian illegally Occupied Kashmir into Hinduism.

She said that the genocide of innocent Kashmiris had been going on for three years in Occupied Kashmir, and the cruelty of Occupied Kashmir has never been heard or seen in history.

"Fascist Narendra Modi and the Indian Army are turning Kashmiris into a minority in the valley by issuing domicile to six million Indian citizens in Occupied Kashmir," she added.

Mishal further said that my husband Yasin Malik was kept in a death cell where his life was in danger. The United Nations, Security Council, European Union and other international organizations were silent spectators to the human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir.

She said that the time was not far when India would have to account for its atrocities, adding the voice of Kashmiris and their struggle for freedom cannot be suppressed for long by repression.

In the end, she thanked Naheed Manzoor and Director of Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi Waqar Ahmed for raising the voice for Kashmiris.

While speaking on the occasion, Naheed Manzoor said that the Indian govt had turned the valley into prison for three years. INP

## Pakistan can benefit from FTAs through export diversification: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan government is working to introduce an export-oriented policy, which will benefit local industry and producers, and generate employment opportunities.

An assistant chief at the Planning Commission told WealthPK that Pakistan has achieved significant trade partnerships with the help of free trade agreements (FTAs), particularly with China.

"Recently, Pakistan faced high trade deficit which is not in the favour of the country, but the main question is how to improve trade balance in the presence of FTA, and how to get the maximum benefit from trading partners," said the official who requested anonymity.

"Pakistani exporters do not fully take advantage of the FTA due to a lack of required competence and efficiency to target the Chinese market. Hence, their exports are limited and confined to raw materials like cotton yarn, woven fabric, and grey fabrics instead of value-added products to capture the Chinese market," he said.

The official suggested that Pakistani exporters should enhance their capacity to export more goods to China and diversify their export basket. "In the competitive world, countries want to get maximum benefit from their trading partners to attain social and economic development, because in such policies, coun-

tries allow their trading partners to import and exports goods and services without any restrictions or duties on the basis of comparative advantage," he said.

The official said Pakistan needs more focus on export growth and modernisation to match the increasing needs of Chinese customers.

"Most of industries from manufacturing to assembling will be set up in the industrial zones of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in different parts of the country. The Pakistani government must address all impediments while making future policies in these industrial zones," he said. According to the Consul General of China Li Bijian, more than 300 tariff-free commodities are now allowed to enter China, which is significant progress towards the Chinese government's aim of reducing trade imbalance. "In recent days, bilateral trade has grown very fast. We want to balance the trade, but it is not working as we wished even though the two governments have upgraded the FTA," he said. Pakistan's exports to China in June 2022 increased by 8% to \$251.30 million as compared to the corresponding month of 2021 when it was recorded at \$232.74 million. In June 2022, Pakistan's imports from China decreased by 14% to \$1.625 billion compared to \$1.894 billion in June 2021. This is a good sign for Pakistan to reduce its trade deficit. INP

### PDM parties to hold postponed meeting Today

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and coalition parties in the federal government would meet again on August 6, Nawaz Sharif and Ishaq Dar to attend the session via video link.

According to sources, PDM and government coalition parties would hold another meeting in Islamabad tomorrow to discuss the political scenario and strategize the coming situations. The participants would be briefed about the cabinet's decisions.

The meeting was supposed to be held on Thursday but was postponed citing security issues.

According to details available with ARY News, the PDM leadership postponed their third sitting due to the protest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and other security reasons.

PDM and its allied parties were to hold a meeting at the Prime Minister's House today for the third consecutive day seemingly to finalize a future course of action against Imran Khan. INP

Power company ends installment facility for current electricity bills

LAHORE: Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has ended the installment facility for the current electricity bills.

The new computer program has not provided the facility of the payment of the current electricity bills in instalments. In Lahore, electricity consumers could only get the installment facility on delayed payments once in six months.

It was learnt that the bank will only accept the computerised installment bill for receiving the payments. Sources said that the decision was taken to ensure 100 per cent recovery of the monthly bills.

Prior to the new decision, the electricity consumers could get the installment facility on current bills for the whole year. Sources said that LESCO took the step towards privatisation of the company. INP

### SC seeks NAB response on amendments in law

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday while hearing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's petition against the amendments in National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws, directed the accountability watchdog to submit its response over the matter.

A three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah heard the case.

During the course of proceedings, Additional Attorney General Amir Rehman said Advocate Makhdoom Ali Khan had been nominated as the federal government's counsel in the case, who was then granted permission to present his arguments.

Makhdoom Ali Khan said neither the bar councils nor the civil society

had raised any objection to the NAB law amendments.

Upon this, Advocate Khawaja Harris, counsel for Imran Khan, pointed out that the Islamabad Bar Council had challenged the amendments in the high court.

Makhdoom said efforts were being made to turn the Supreme Court into the third chamber of parliament. Several NAB cases had been fought over the years and the honourable judges knew what happened in the assets-beyond-means cases, he added.

He said the president, instead of approving the NAB law, had sent a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, which included suggestions regarding the amendments. The government had made the letter part of the case too, he added. Makhdoom said Imran Khan. INP



ISLAMABAD: Ex-Foreign Secretary Affairs Riaz Muhammad Khan speaks at Q&A session, panelists of the ISA organized seminar on Youm-e-Istehsal. Asstt Prof Area Study Centre Quaid e Azam University Munawar Hussain and Arfa Addul Razzaq from ISA also present.

### APHC-AJK chapter holds anti-India demos in several cities of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, today, held anti-India protest demonstrations and rallies in different cities of Pakistan including federal capital Islamabad.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the purpose of the demonstrations was to register protest against the illegal and unilateral steps taken by the Modi-led fascist Indian government in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

APHC leaders including its Convener Mehmood Ahmad Saghar, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Syed Yousof Naseem, Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Altaf Hussain Wani, Muhammad Hussain Khateeb, Raja Shaheen, Shaikh Abdul Mateen, Imtiyaz Wani, Engineer Mushtaq Mehmood, Zahid Ashraf, Syed Aijaz Rehmani, Syed Mushtaq Gilani, Zahid Safi and others participated in

demonstrations and rallies in Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi, Muzaffarabad and other cities. Federal ministers including Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Qamar Zaman Kaira as well as Sindh provincial minister Saeed Ghani and other political leaders of Pakistan also participated in these demonstrations and rallies. Speaking to the media persons during these events, they said the entire Pakistani nation and the Kashmiri people reject the illegal and unilateral steps of 5th August 2019 taken by the Indian government in IIOJK. They also expressed solidarity with the oppressed people of IIOJK and reaffirmed Pakistan's moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmir cause. Meanwhile, the APHC-AJK leaders also presented a memorandum at the United Nations Observer office in Islamabad. On the occasion, they said the Modi regime's action of abrogating Articles 370 and 35-A was unconstitutional. INP

### Saeed Ghani leads Youm-e-Istehsal rally in Karachi

KARACHI: Sindh Labour Minister Saeed Ghani on Friday led a rally organized in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal to express solidarity with the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The rally was taken out from People's Chowringi to the mausoleum of Quaid-i-Azam VIP Gate.

Besides other provincial ministers, Giyan Chand, Adviser to Chief Minister Sindh Rasool Bakhsh Chandio, CM Special Assistant Sadiq Memon, members of Sindh Assembly, DC East Raja Tariq Chandio, Administrator East Rahmatullah Sheikh and All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter leaders Sheikh Abdul Mateen and Zahid Ashraf participated in the rally.

Before the start of the rally, one

minute's silence was observed to express solidarity with the oppressed people of IIOJK.

Speaking on the occasion, Saeed Ghani said Youm-e-Istehsal was being observed across the country to pay tributes to the people of IIOJK for their resolve for freedom despite the worst Indian state terrorism. He said on August 5, 2019, India abolished the special status of Kashmir and imposed the Indian Constitution on occupied Kashmir as well.

He said after repealing special status of Kashmir, India started trying to convert the Muslim majority into a minority.

Saeed Ghani said, "I assure my Kashmiri brethren that the whole of Pakistani nation is with them in their struggle for freedom and I salute the spirit and struggle of Kashmiris." INP



QUETTA: Woman activists of BAP lighting candles in memory of Pakl Army Helicopter crash victims.