

# QUETTA VOICE

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**Zardari expresses displeasure over petrol price hike by govt**



**Pakistan 'happy to play positive role' to bridge differences between US, China: PM**

## Monsoon disrupts train service between Balochistan Sindh Punjab

Ali Jan Mangi  
Yousaf Marri

Monsoon rains disrupted train service between Balochistan and the rest of the country on Tuesday morning. Flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall caused the suspension of train service between Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab and other parts of the country.

The entire railway track in the Lehri area located between Dera Murad Jamali and Sibi was flooded after heavy rainfall. "We have stopped passenger trains at Sibi", Izhar ul Haq, a Pakistan railway official said. He said the passengers were waiting at the Sibi station since morning.

Pakistan railway has also dispatched a team to clear the track from flood water. However, the track remained flooded since the area has received record monsoon rainfall. Passengers remained the worst sufferers of the suspension of train service.

**Passengers suffering after suspension of train service**



"Since morning, we are here at Sibi and waiting for the reopening of the track", Muhammad Mudassar, traveling in the Jaffar Express said. Like Mudassar, scores of passengers including women and children have been waiting for the opening of the track.

The authorities stopped Jaffar Express and Bolan Mail at Sibi after reports of floods on the track in Lehri and Notal areas of Naseerabad district. Passenger trains coming from Punjab, Sindh and other parts of the country were stopped at Jacobabad.

ers rescued 20 people stranded in the Musakhail district of Balochistan. Floods claimed nine lives in the Musakhail district on Monday. "We have put all departments on high alert to tackle the situation", Imran Mandokhail, the Assistant Commissioner, Musakhail told Daily Quetta Voice.

**Thousands displaced in Naseerabad**

Naseerabad: Floods left thousands of people homeless in the district. On their own, flood affectees established tents to pass nights on the highway linking Balochistan with Sindh near Dera Murad Jamali, the district headquarters. "People have nothing to eat", Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, the Central leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) said. Mr. Umrani demanded of the provincial government to take notice of the situation and support the flood affectees.

**7 killed in Kohlu**

Kohlu: Floods have wreaked havoc in the Kohlu district of Balochistan. Most parts of the districts were flooded after heavy rainfall on Monday night. "Floods destroyed standing crops, bridges, roads and dams", Noor Muhammad Marri, a resident of Kohlu said. Musakhail: Levies and other rescue work-

Tuesday, 16 August, 2022



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing during a seminar on "All Parties Conference on Revival of Economy" at a local hotel in Federal Capital.

### Balochistan cabinet to pay one month salary for flood affectees

Muhammad Mudasir  
Musavir Khan Bareech

QUETTA: Balochistan cabinet members announced to pay one month's salary for the flood-affected people in the province. The cabinet also decided to pay one day's salary to government employees in the Balochistan relief fund to support the flood-affected people.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo chaired a meeting of the provincial cabinet on Tuesday. Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili briefed the cabinet members about the human losses and financial damages caused by heavy rainfall and floods across the province. All cabinet members

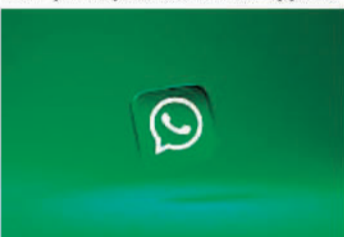


announced to pay one month's salary in the Balochistan flood fund. The cabinet also decided to pay government employees one day's salary in the relief fund. The provincial cabinet directed all survey teams to ensure timely completion of the surveys of the damages caused by the heavy rainfall and floods in all 26 affected districts of Balochistan.

### WhatsApp to add New Privacy Features soon

Syed Muhammad Yaseen

WhatsApp has decided to add a new privacy features in its application for enhancing the privacy of its users. The Social Media messaging app is thought to add three new privacy features in its applica-



tion soon.

The Metaverse owner Mark Zuckerberg shared very important information on Facebook application about the development of three new privacy features on WhatsApp.

exit group chats without notifying group members control who can see when you're online on WhatsApp prevent screenshots on view once messages.

In addition, WhatsApp is now launching a new global campaign starting in India and U.K. (more countries will be following later) in order to inform users about new features and how WhatsApp secures their experience by using different layers of protections thanks to their privacy features: end-to-end encryption, two-step verification, end-to-end encrypted chat backup, and more.

The focus of their campaign is also to educate people to understand what the real security is: it is important to protect users not only when the information is sent but even when it's stored (for example, by using end-to-end encrypted backups). We'll keep building new ways to protect your messages and keep them as private and secure as face-to-face conversations, the WhatsApp company officials took onto Social Media site.

### 2 policemen guarding a polio team killed in Tank district

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Armed accused opened fire and killed two policemen guarding a polio team in Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday morning. Police sources said two policemen identified as Pir Rehman and Nisar breathed their last on the spot in the attack.

A police contingent reached the spot of the incident after the attack and collected evidence to probe the incident. The attackers fled unhurt from the spot. The countrywide anti-polio campaign started on

Monday in Karachi, Hyderabad and six districts of Southern K-P - Bannu, Lakki Marwat, North and South Waziristan, Dera Ismail Khan, and Tank.

The ongoing polio campaign will continue till August 24. In Balochistan, the polio campaign will take place from August 29 to September 4.

According to Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel, the polio vaccination campaign will begin in other parts of the country from August 22 to 26. There have been 14 cases of polio reported in Pakistan so far this year.



### Zardari expresses displeasure over petrol price hike by govt

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari has expressed his displeasure over the hike in the prices of petroleum products by the government.

In a statement, former president Zardari said that Peoples Party is part of the government and such decisions must be taken with the consultation of

the collision parties.

He went on to say that he have made this government to provide relief to the masses.

Zardari said that he is behind Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and "soon I will be meeting him".

The government on Monday increased petrol price by Rs6.72 per litre, while slashed diesel price by Rs0.51. INP

### 'Nawaz Sharif strongly opposed hike in petrol price'

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice-President Maryam Nawaz has claimed that the party's supremo Nawaz Sharif strongly opposed the hike in petrol price.

Taking to Twitter, Maryam Nawaz said that party supremo Nawaz Sharif had strongly opposed the decision to raise the petrol price.

"Nawaz Sharif even said that he couldn't burden the people further and that he was not in favour of the decision," the PML-N vice-president said, adding that the party's supremo also left the meeting.

In another Tweet, Maryam Nawaz said that she stand by the people of Pakistan and cannot support the government's decision. INP

### Dollar rout continues, closes at 213.90 against rupee in interbank

KARACHI: The Pakistani Rupee (PKR) on Tuesday continued its winning streak in interbank against the US dollar.

According to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the rupee closed at 213.90 against the US dollar in the interbank market and at the close of today's market, the dollar depreciated Rs0.09 or 0.04% against the rupee.

On Monday, the rupee appreciated by Rs1.51 against the dollar to close at RS213.98.

It is pertinent to mention here that the US dollar traded at a record high rate of Rs239.94 in interbank on July 28, 2022. INP

### Pakistan 'happy to play positive role' to bridge differences between US, China: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has offered Pakistan's services as a mediator to bring together US and China as it did decades ago.

In an interview with Newsweek, published on Monday, the prime minister said: "If China and the US so desire, Pakistan would be happy to play a positive role to bridge their differences, as we had done in the past."

The interview revolved around national, regional and global issues and focused in particular on the role Pakistan could play in "preventing the world from sliding into an ever deeper set of crises", as put by the publication.

PM Shehbaz characterised Pakistan's foreign policy as one of "friendliness and goodwill towards all the nations of the world".

"Pakistan has traditionally maintained good relations with China and the United States. Historically, it was Pakistan that acted as a bridge in opening up the relationship between the United States and the Peoples' Republic of China," he said.

The premier said that Pakistan has always underscored the need to avoid a confrontational approach. "Bloc politics and any drift towards cold war will not produce any positive results, and in fact would be counterproductive for growth and stability," he stressed.

"Pakistan strongly believes that inter-state relations should be based on mutual respect and peaceful resolution of disputes by upholding the principles of the UN charter and international law," he added.

To a question on what it could mean for Pakistan and the rest of the



world, if nations were asked to choose sides, especially given the close ties Pakistan and China enjoy, PM Shehbaz said that while the relationship may be "very special", Pakistan and the US "have also maintained a long-standing historic bilateral relationship which covers all issues of mutual interest". "The world can ill-afford descent into another era of Cold War or bloc politics. I believe polarisation would have serious consequences for the global economy afflicted by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis," the premier told Newsweek. He said developing countries, like Pakistan, are "already suffering from external shocks to their socio-economic well-being, and do not desire aggravation of these challenges induced by major power rivalry". On the subject of relations with the US and their planned trajectory, PM Shehbaz said that Pakistan has instituted dialogues in the areas of health, energy, climate, investment and trade. "These dialogues are playing an important role in strengthening our bilateral ties. Most recently, we held the Health Dialogue with the US, which will help facilitate more bilateral cooperation in the health sector. We also hope for the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Ministerial level meeting this year," he said. He also spoke of bilateral trade and commercial ties, saying that Pakistan has had high-level visits from the US to explore these ties. "Some of the US companies are doing extremely well in Pakistan, and there are growing trade and commercial ties between the two countries, with a lot more potential to achieve," he said. 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.

## Drinking Water Quality Status And Its Sources Of Contamination

By Aryal khan panizai

Due to intimidating increase in population and rapid-fire industrialization, drinking water quality is being deteriorated day by day in Pakistan. This review sums up the issues of colorful exploration studies conducted for drinking water quality status of different areas of Pakistan by taking into account the physicochemical parcels of drinking water as well as the presence of colorful pathogenic microorganisms. About 20 of the whole population of Pakistan has access to safe drinking water.

The remaining 80 of population is forced to use unsafe drinking water due to the failure of safe and healthy drinking water sources. The primary source of impurity is sewerage (fecal) which is considerably discharged into drinking water system inventories. Secondary source of pollution is the disposal of poisonous chemicals from artificial backwaters, fungicides, and diseases from husbandry sources into the water bodies.

Anthropogenic conditioning beget waterborne conditions that constitute about 80 of all conditions and are responsible for 33 of deaths. This review highlights the drinking water quality, impurity sources, sanitation situation, and goods of unsafe drinking water on humans. There's immediate need to



take defensive measures and treatment technologies to overcome hygienic condition of drinking water inventories in different areas of Pakistan.

Drinking water is mainly taken from surface and underground aquifers near rivers and canals. Surface water quality is rapidly declining due to the addition of raw municipal and industrial wastewater as well as agricultural runoff to the water source. When river water flow is at its maximum, it contains a highly concentrated suspension. Most rivers are long and thin and do not support aquatic species.

It is clear that these waters are contaminated with faeces and need to be treated appropriately to remove the contaminants for human consumption. In Pakistan, four major cities use surface water; these are Islamabad, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Hyderabad. The main cause of

microbiological contamination is the mixing of the common sewer with the domestic water supply. In most rural areas of Pakistan, surface water is used for drinking after slow sand filtration, and chlorination is not performed at filtration stations. In most rural areas, there is no pre-treatment facility for water purification. All this deficiency is due to microbial contamination and poor water quality.

Sources of Contamination: Microbiological Contaminants:

In Pakistan, microbial pollution has been discovered as one of the serious problems in rural as well as urban areas. This is due to the leakage of pipe, pollution from sewage lines intrusion into drinking water supplies, and so forth.

Chemical Contaminants: Chemical pollutants that come from industries, soil sediments and agricultural

runoff, i.e. pesticides and fertilizers, enter water sources. In Pakistan, the use of fertilizers and pesticides is around 5.6 million tons and 70,000 tons respectively according to gross profit (GOP) figures.

These chemicals, usually insecticides, leach into groundwater by mixing with irrigation water and rainwater. Between 1988 and 2000, about 107 samples were taken from groundwater, and 31 samples showed clear pesticide contamination above the limits set by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO. Another significant problem for groundwater in Pakistan is higher salt concentration, which is mainly caused by irrigation activities, salt dissolution in soil, seawater intrusion and chemical industries. Salinity affects major areas of Balochistan, PK and Punjab.

Wastewater from industries and households has high levels of arsenic,

becoming a serious problem. In the major cities of Sindh and Punjab, about 16% of people were exposed to more than 50 ppm of arsenic. Fluoride concentrations above the permissible limit cause problems in the main regions of Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh. Dental fluorosis is common in Sindh, Punjab and KPK.

Floods Cause Major Damage to Drainage System: In Pakistan, floods have created serious environmental problems. They damage pipes and eventually cause sewage to overflow into water bodies. Severe flooding destroyed buildings and crops. All these substances can cause toxic chemicals and oils to be discharged into rivers, streams, lakes, and can lead to the death of aquatic organisms. Many chemical pollutants enter floodwaters in their path. Current severe floods (2010) and heavy rains have damaged 80% of Nowshera, destroying 40% of infrastructure. The total number of houses destroyed and damaged

Human Health Impact: Due to the poor sanitation system, treatment, and monitoring, drinking water quality deteriorates. The presence of toxic chemicals and bacteria in drinking water causes adverse effect on human health. Due to the fecal contamination, people have been suffering from waterborne diseases.

## 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.

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## 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.

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## Thunderbolt incident claims three lives in Kamar

LARKANA: An incident of thunder strike in Kamar-Shahdakt district during the rainfall claimed three lives on Tuesday.

The deceased in thunderbolt incident in Waggan area of Kamar district, have been identified as Ishaq and Muhammad Khan, two brothers, and their cousin Ameen. "The deceased were sitting under a tree at an agriculture farm to take meal, when thunderbolt struck them," rescue sources said. The bodies have been transferred to

home, family members said. Larkana and adjoining areas being lashed by heavy rainfall since the wee hours of today, according to a weather report.

At least five people, including women and children, were killed in Sindh's Tharparkar district last year in September after being struck by lightning during thundershowers.

Four people were also injured in different incidents of thunderbolts in Tharparkar. Moreover, 80 animals were also report-

ed killed in different areas of Tharparkar district due to unprecedented incidents of lightning bolts in desert region.

An unprecedented number of 26 people, including women and children, were killed in Tharparkar and Sanghar districts in 2019 after being struck by lightning during thundershowers. Thunderbolts claimed 22 lives in Tharparkar region and four others in adjoining Sanghar district apart of the death of dozens cattle during deadly rainfall. INP

## Afghanistan only country where girls banned from high school: UN

UNITED NATIONS: The lives of women and girls in Afghanistan have deteriorated since the Taliban took over the war-torn country a year ago, according to three UN agencies.

"It has been a year of increasing disrespect for their right to live free and equal lives, denying them opportunity to livelihoods, access to health care and education, and escape from situations of violence," Sima Bahous, Executive Director at UN Women, the entity devoted to women's empowerment, said in a statement released on Monday.

Ms. Bahous outlined how the Taliban's "meticulously constructed policies of inequality" have set Afghanistan apart from the rest of the international community, wiping out decades of progress on gender equality and women's rights in mere months.

Afghanistan is the only country in the world where girls are

banned from going to high school and effectively barred from political participation, as the Taliban has an all-male cabinet and there is no Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Afghan women are now mostly restricted from working outside the home, they must cover their faces in public, and they have to be accompanied by a male chaperone when they travel. Furthermore, they continue to be subjected to multiple forms of gender-based violence.

Soaring food and fuel prices - worsened by a drought and the war in Ukraine - mean that roughly 95 per cent of the population, and nearly all female-headed households, do not get enough to eat, according to the UN.

Ms. Kanem said keeping girls out of secondary school not only violates their right to education and prevents them from realizing their full potential, it but also puts them at increased risk of early

marriage, early pregnancy, violence and abuse.

"The breakdown of the health system has compromised women and girls' access to reproductive health services, including maternal health care, particularly for the more than nine million people living in remote areas of the country. For the estimated 24,000 women who give birth each month in hard-to-reach areas, childbirth can, in effect, be a death sentence," she said.

Afghanistan was already struggling with education even before the Taliban takeover last August, as more than four million children were already out of school, 60 per cent of them girls. Barring girls from attending secondary school also has a monetary cost, according to a new analysis by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). It shows that the country loses 2.5 per cent of its annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) because of the decision. INP



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khwaja presenting a souvenir to Japanese Ambassador Wada Mitsuhiro

## Turi demands compensation for Kurram flood victims

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi has written to Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif to declare the flood stricken district Kurram as 'calamity-hit' and compensate the people for their losses.

He said that due to the recent heavy rains and floods, Kurram district should be included in the special aid package for flood-affected areas so the losses of affected people could be addressed.

He said that the floods caused by the heavy monsoon rains caused loss of life and property in various villages of the district adding floods have damaged standing crops, roads, bridges, houses and other infrastructure.

In his letter to PM, Sajid Turi writes that he is well aware of the fact that you are working day

and night to ease the miseries of affected people and have directed the concern to provide necessary relief and assistance.

He expressed that the recent flood has also affected his constituency NA-46 specially village Shalozan, Kara Khaila, Kachkina and other villages and the only bridge which link Shalozan with rest of the areas is also damaged. He added that beside this village Pewar, Malana, Teri Mangal, Bugdai, Burki, Lalmai, Kharakhala, Shingak and Nistkot have also suffered great loss. The flood also damaged major areas in lower and central Kurram, he wrote. "In the above-mentioned villages of my constituency i.e. NA-46 most of the seasonal crops and fruits are damaged, clay houses are destroyed, livestock are flushed away by floods as recent rains were unprece-

ded and so it's devastating effects", his letter reads.

Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi has demanded "in the light of above foregoing, I strongly recommend and shall be grateful if you may graciously consider my request for special relief package and direct concerned authorities to take necessary steps for grant of Financial Assistance for affected areas/villages of District Kurram/NA-46 on priority".

Meanwhile, Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi met with Federal Minister of Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood in his office and discussed in detail the importance of connecting Kurram district with the motorway and CPEC.

Sajid Hussain Turi told the Federal Minister of Communications that Kurram's Kharachi. INP

## Citizens' safety, our foremost priority, says DIG/Ops

ISLAMABAD: DIG (Operations) Sohail Zafar Chatha has said that no laxity would be tolerated in the safety and security of the citizens.

He was chairing a meeting, the other day, to review the crime situation in the capital city.

SSP (Operations) Islamabad Malik Jameel Zafar all zonal SSP, SDPOs and SHOs of all the police stations attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed the overall crime situation in the capital.

Speaking on the occasion, the DIG/Ops warned the officers that no laxity towards safety and security of the citizens would be tolerated and strict disciplinary action would be initiated against them. "We are servants of the citizens and their safety is our

prime priority," he added.

He further directed all officers to arrest the offenders involved in heinous crimes especially murder cases adding that the ratio of challan of the cases and recoveries should be increased.

The DIG/Ops asked police officials to accomplish all their responsibilities in a professional manner. He also directed the officials concerned to submit challans in the cases that had been pending since years and also submit a report in this regard to his office.

The DIG/Ops said that the SSP, SDPOs, SHOs and investigation officers must remain in touch with the complainant and apprise them about progress in the case so that public trust in police could be restored.

He strictly directed the officers concerned not to implicate any innocent in the case during snap-checking. He directed to make stronger patrolling in their respective areas and check suspected and without number plates motorbikes.

The DIG/Ops emphasized that, Almighty Allah asks us to protect right of others and it is our duty to ensure it and get inner satisfaction through our actions. He further directed all officers to arrest the offenders involved in heinous crimes especially murder cases adding that the ratio of challan of the cases and recoveries should be increased. The DIG/Ops asked police officials to accomplish all their responsibilities in a professional manner. INP

## KP Assembly passes resolution against ban on ARY news

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly has passed a resolution against the ban on ARY News and demanded the restoration of its transmission.

According to details, Provincial Minister Shaukat Yousofzai tabled the resolution, seeking the restoration of ARY News transmission.

The resolution strongly condemned the cancellation of ARY News' no-objection certificate (NOC).

"The government has not restored the channel's transmission despite orders from Sindh High Court (SHC)," it stated, demanding immediate restoration. INP

## PTI top brass discusses strategy for by-elections

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday started consultations to formulate a strategy for the by-election campaign in 9 constituencies of the National Assembly.

In this regard, a consultative meeting was held in Bani Gala under the chairmanship of PTI supreme Imran Khan while the party's top leadership including Asad Umar, and Fawad Chaudhary participated in the meeting.

Sources privy to the development said that the strategy of the election campaign for the by-elections in 9 constituencies was discussed in the meeting, and Babar Awan gave a briefing on the court proceedings related to the Shahbaz Gill case. INP

## PAF conducts relief operations in flood affected areas of Baluchistan

ISLAMABAD: Keeping the tradition of serving the nation during natural calamities, Pakistan Air Force came to the succor of flood affected families of Qila Abdullah, East of the provincial capital, Quetta.

PAF Bases are actively participating in relief operations on the special instructions of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. PAF is reaching out to the needy families whose houses have been damaged in the natural calamity. As a humanitarian gesture, 41 tents and 600 ration packs carrying 12000 Kgs basic food items and commodities were distributed amongst the needy families. INP



QUETTA: Chairman Harnaai Bachao Tehreek Malik Muhammad Akbar Khan addressing a press conference at press club in Provincial Capital.

## AIOU organizes speech competition

ISLAMABAD: A speech competition was held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in light of the ongoing celebrations of Independence month.

The competition was organized by the Directorate of Student Advisory and Counselling Service between 56 students from schools, colleges, and universities across the country.

The six best speakers included Muzamil Taslim, Maryam Bibi, Noman Baqir, Iqra Zulfiqar, Abdul Rehman and Hureen Rasheed. Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid, Dr. Malik Akhtar Hussain and Dr. Qasim Yaqub were the judges of the speech competition.

The topic of the competition was "Are we following the objectives of Pakistan Movement?". The participants presented the basic objec-

tives of Pakistan movement and reasoned that we are following the objectives of Pakistan movement and our beloved homeland is on the path of development in all sectors.

Director, Student Advisory and Counselling, Rana Tariq Javed while explaining the aims and objectives of the competition said that our aim was to inform the generation about the historical background of the establishment of Pakistan.

In order to explain the meaning of Pakistan to the youth, Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum had given instructions to celebrate the entire month of August as Independence month.

Following the instructions, various events have been organized including an

awareness walk, national song competition, flag hoisting, cake cutting, and tree plantation are already held, while painting, essay competitions and prize distribution ceremony is yet to be held.

The names of best 6 speakers were announced by Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid. He congratulated the students for revealing the objectives of Tehreek e Pakistan in a very good manner.

The final round among the best students in the competitions will be held in the grand prize distribution ceremony.

The first, second and third place winners will be given cash prizes of 7,000, 5,000 and 3,000 respectively.

All the participants in competitions are invited to which they will be given certificates of participation. INP

## Imran Khan to hold 'power show' in Rawalpindi on Aug 21

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has decided to hold a power show in Rawalpindi on August 21.

The decision was taken during a consultative session of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which was chaired by former premier Imran Khan. The meeting reviewed the important issues including the country's political situation.

The meeting also discussed the federal government's move to challenge the nomination papers of Imran Khan for nine vacant seats of National Assembly (NA).

During the meeting, the former premier has decided to hold power show in Rawalpindi on August 18 as part of the Haqeeqi Azadi campaign.

"The people of Pakistan have rejected the imported government," he said, reiterating his demand for immediate and transparent elections. INP

## Industrial production increased by 11.7 % in 2021-22: PBS

ISLAMABAD: Industrial production increased by 11.7 % in the fiscal year 2021-22, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) shows.

According to the PBS data, the annual production of big industries witnessed a spike of 11.7 % in the fiscal year 2021-22. An increase of 11.5 % was noticed in June 2022, it added. The production increased by 0.2 % in comparison to May 2022.

Food producing and processing industries witnessed a growth of 8.4 %, while the tobacco sector gained by 15.9% in 2021-22. The PBS data said that Textile grew by 3.5 %, while the automobile sector saw a significant growth of 49.4 %.

The highest growth in production was witnessed in the timber and furniture sector. The Furniture sector grew by a staggering 180%, while the Timber by 115.7%.

The pharmaceuticals industry grew by 13.7%, chemicals by 9 %, Iron and steel by 16.3%, and the Beverage industry by 0.5%. INP



QUETTA: Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Quetta, Abdul Jabbar Baloch giving a trophy to Marshal Art Competition winning team players at Ayub Stadium.

## PTI to hold 'freedom of speech' seminar in Islamabad on Aug 18

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced to hold a 'Freedom of Speech' seminar as part of their two-day plan to raise their voice against the crackdown on media and press freedom in Islamabad on August 18.

According to details, Central Secretary PTI Asad Umer has issued an advisory to all party officials to prepare for the protest and seminar against the crackdown on media and press freedom by the incumbent government.

The party, on Wednesday, would stage a protest against the suppression of press freedom by the PML-N-led federal government. The protest in the capitol would be led by Asad Umer.

Additionally, the party would hold a seminar on 'Freedom of Speech' which would be addressed by PTI Chief Imran Khan. Journalists, writers and intellectuals would participate and address the seminar.

Prominent personalities from print, electronic and social media would be invited to take part in the

seminar, the party advisory read. INP

Tan Railways on Tuesday decided to include the private sector to enhance service and improve profits, the private sector would build modern washrooms at 20 railway stations.

Railway and Aviation Minister Khwaja Saad Rafique held multiple sessions of Pakistan Railways on August 16, 2022. A decision to cooperate with the private sector to enhance profits and improve services was made in the meetings held under Railways Minister.

Railway sources say that the Private sector would build modern washrooms on 20 railway stations across the country. Passenger travel would be made easier to improve the service quality, they added.

They added that the decision to reinstate the Railway Estate Development and Marketing Company (Redemco). Officers will be appointed to serve as CEO and Secretary Redemco.

Officers and staff will also be appointed at the Gawadar office of the Pakistan Railways. INP



KARACHI: People are enjoying pleasant weather at Sea View picnic point in Provincial Capital.

## Female student 'sexually harassed, filmed' for refusing marriage proposal

FAISALABAD: A female student was allegedly abducted, sexually harassed and filmed by men after she refused a marriage proposal in Faisalabad.

Police said that a female student in Faisalabad was kidnapped and harassed for refusing a marriage proposal. The accused men forcibly took the girl to their home from the University Town area.

The girl was subjected to inhumane torture by the accused who also trimmed her hair and filmed the torture activities.

The female student

stated in the police complaint that the prime suspect namely Danish had abducted her and her brother Hassan after she refused to marry him.

She revealed that Danish had also recorded a video of her being subjected to sexual harassment besides threatening to make the video viral on social media if she did not give her Rs1 million.

A case was lodged at the local police station over the complaint of the victim in which six persons were nominated and 10 unidentified accused including two women.

Police said that the case was registered under

10 different sections. Police added that most of the accused are currently at large.

In the latest development, six nominated persons were arrested by Faisalabad police following the orders of CPO Umar Saeed. The arrested persons include prime suspect Danish, housemaid Maham, security guards Khan Muhammad, Shoaib, Faizan and Asghar.

Police told the media that raids are being conducted to arrest another accused namely Ana Ali. CPO Umar Saeed assured of bringing all culprits to justice.

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## Rain-wind-thundershower expected in various parts of country: PMD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain-wind/thundershower for Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan during the next 24 hours.

Heavy falls are also expected at scattered places in Kashmir, Sindh, east Balochistan, upper/southern Punjab and south Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the period.

According to the synoptic situation, strong monsoon currents were penetrating the central and south parts of the country, which were likely to continue during next 02 to 03 days. A westerly wave was also present over upper parts.

Flash flooding is expected in local Nullahs of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, Shakar Garh, Sialkot, Narowal, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Dir, Karak, Lakki Marwat, Bannu and Kashmir on 16th August. Heavy rains may generate urban flooding in Karachi, Thatta, Badin, Hyderabad, Dadu, Jamshoro, Sukkur, Larkana, Shaheed Benazir Abad and Mirpurkhas during the next 48 hours.

Flash flooding is expected in Qilla Saifullah, Loralai, Barkhan, Kohlu, Mosa Khel, Sherani, Sibbi, Bolan, Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbella, Awaran, Turbat, Panjgur, Pasni, Jiwani, Ormara, Gwadar and hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan during the next 48 hours.

Rainfall may trigger landslides in Kashmir, hilly areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Galiyat, Murree, Chillas, Diamir, Gilgit, Hunza, Astore and Skardu during the forecast period.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail addressing a press conference in Federal Capital.

### Fuel prices hike challenged in LHC

LAHORE: A petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court (LHC), challenging the recent fuel prices hike.

Advocate Azhar Siddique filed a plea in the LHC pertaining to fuel prices.

He stated that the federal government has jacked up the prices of petroleum products, despite price fall in the international market. The move of government would lead to a further rise in inflation, he added.

The government rather than transferring the benefit of downing oil prices in the international market, has jacked up the fuel prices in the country, the petitioner read.

The petitioner pleaded with the court to declare the recent increase in fuel prices void.

On Monday night, the federal government announced a hike of Rs6.72 per litre in the price of petrol for the remaining days of August 2022, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance. INP

### ECP's jurisdiction in Pml-Q intra-party election case challenged

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid leader and Punjab CM Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Tuesday challenged the jurisdiction of the ECP in PML-Q intra-party elections case.

A five-member bench of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) heard Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain's plea, challenging PML-Q's intra-party elections.

At the outset of the hearing, the counsel of Pervaiz Elahi challenging the ambit of ECP said, the electoral body cannot hear the case.

He said the LHC directed ECP to reconsider the issue of its jurisdiction in the case, to which Justice Iqbal, a member of ECP, said LHC has not made ECP bound in the case.

Chief Election Commissioner, Sikandar Sultan Raja directed Pervaiz Elahi's counsel to submit reservations with the ECP in writing. "We are not bound to immediately decide on your plea", the ECP chief said and added after hearing arguments, we will decide how to take up the case further.

The further hearing on the case has been adjourned until August 18. INP

### Pakistan-Iran train service partially restored: officials

CHAGAI: The train service between Pakistan and Iran, which remain suspended for the last 25 days, has been partially restored on Tuesday.

The goods trains - which were stopped at Dalbandin area of Chagai district - were allowed to proceed towards Iranian city of Zahedan. However, Ahmedwal Quetta railway station is still completely closed, the officials added. According to the Pakistan Railways officials, the Ahmedwal Pak-Iran railway pill was submerged by rainwater and the track had been badly affected. The goods trains, coming from Iran to Quetta, will be stopped near Ahmedwal railway station, they added. The rehabilitation work of railway track was underway for the last 20 days. "The restoration Ahmedwal Quetta section would take another 15 to 20 days," the officials concluded. INP

### Rain lashes parts of Karachi

KARACHI: The weather turned pleasant as parts of Karachi received heavy showers on Tuesday afternoon. Saddar, M.A. Jinnah Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, University Road, Site Area, Sher Shah, Landhi, Orangi, Baldia, Gulshan-e-Maymar, Port Qasim, Gulshan-e-Hadeed and other areas received showers.

Yesterday, the Meteorological Department issued a forecast of cloudy weather with chances of rain/thundershower in the city on Tuesday (today). The city could receive more rains till August 18 under an approaching low monsoon system though the persisting low-pressure area over the North Arabian Sea has become less intense. INP

### Govt increases dealers' margin on diesel

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has increased the dealers' margin to Rs7 per litre on the High-Speed Diesel (HSD) from the current Rs4.13.

According to details, the federal government has approved an increase of 69 percent in profit margin on High-Speed Diesel (HSD). The increase in dealers' margin will be applied from today (Tuesday). The fixed profit was increased from Rs4.13 per litre to Rs7 per litre. After the increase, the citizens were deprived of Rs2.87 relief on diesel. However, the government reduced the price of high speed diesel by Rs0.51 per litre after increasing the dealers margin. It is pertinent to mention here that the government had previously increased dealers' margin on petrol by Rs2.10 per litre. Earlier, the federal cabinet had approved an increase in dealers' margin. A day earlier, the federal

government announced a hike of Rs6.72 per litre in the price of petrol for the remaining days of August 2022. According to a notification issued by the Finance Division, petrol will now be priced at Rs233.91 after the latest hike, followed by high speed diesel at Rs244.44, kerosene oil at Rs199.40 and light diesel at Rs191.75. The price of diesel saw a decrease of Rs0.51 while the per litre rate of light diesel jacked up by Rs0.43 per litre. A day earlier, the federal government announced a hike of Rs6.72 per litre in the price of petrol for the remaining days of August 2022. According to a notification issued by the Finance Division, petrol will now be priced at Rs233.91 after the latest hike, followed by high speed diesel at Rs244.44, kerosene oil at Rs199.40 and light diesel at Rs191.75. INP

### IHC forms larger bench to hear PTI prohibited funding case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday decided to constitute a larger bench to hear Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) petition, challenging Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict in the prohibited funding case.

Names of the judges who will constitute the bench are yet to be finalised. Justice Umar Farooq took up the petition filed by the PTI challenging the ECP's verdict in prohibited funding case.

During the hearing, PTI counsel Anwar Mansoor argued that the accounts' information, which were provided, was not included in the electoral watchdog's verdict. "We had told ECP that some accounts' information was not necessary due to some reasons,"

### IHC reserves verdict on plea against dismissal of Shahbaz Gill's physical remand

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday reserved its verdict on the admissibility of the federal government's petition against the rejection of an extension in the physical remand of senior PTI leader Shahbaz Gill sought under a separate plea in a seditious case.

Islamabad Advocate-General Jahangir Jadoon, on August 13, had moved the IHC seeking its order to declare the decision taken by the district and sessions court null and void while extending the physical remand of Shahbaz Gill, a close aide of PTI Chairperson Imran Khan.

The court had served a notice to Gill on Monday. IHC acting Chief Justice resumed the hearing of the government's petition today.

he added.

The PTI counsel noted that some funds were transferred to provincial leaders from central accounts, urging the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to stop ECP from taking any action against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Meanwhile, Justice Umar Farooq announced to constitute a larger bench, saying that a stay order will also be issued by the larger bench. The bench would take up the petition in PTI prohibited funding case on August 18.

The ECP bench in its reserved verdict said prohibited funding against PTI had been proven. ECP, in its unanimous verdict, ruled that the party received funds from business tycoon Arif Naqvi and from 34 foreign nationals. INP

"It is not the jurisdiction of the high court to see for how long an accused has to be remanded. No matter how serious the offence is, only the magistrate is to look into the matter of remand," Justice Farooq said.

Meanwhile, the court took up Shahbaz Gill's plea - seeking dismissal of the FIR against him - for hearing together with the government's plea. Accusing the police of lodging a seditious case against him on the directives of the federal government, Gill pleaded with the IHC to declare the FIR against him null and void. He maintained that the case registered against him is based on malice, adding that the Islamabad Police registered the case to show its loyalty to the government. INP



ISLAMABAD: DIG (Operations) Sohail Zafar Chatha chairing a meeting regarding safety and security of the citizens.

During the last 24 hours, rain-wind/thundershower (with isolated heavy falls) occurred at Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

The rainfall recorded in Sindh: Padidan 120 mm, Tando Jam 71, Karachi (Kemari 45, Orangi 44, Saadi Town 43, Masroor Base 34, Saddar 30, Quaidabad 26, Nazimabad 20, Faisal Base 19, Old Area Airport 14, Gulshan Hadid 13, Sarjani 12, DHA 11, Korangi, Gulshan Mimar 10, Jinnah Terminal 09), Dadu 38, Mithi 37, Larkana 35, Rohri 27, Thatta 13, Jacobabad 10, Badin 07, Shaheed Benazirabad 06, Hyderabad (City 04, A/P 01), Chhor 03, Sukkur 01 mm.

In Punjab: Murree 40 mm, Multan (Airport 18, City 04), Rawalpindi (Shamsabad 15, Chaklala, 09 Kachhari 01), Islamabad (Golra 13, Saidpur 09, Bokra 04, Zero Point 02), Airport 01), Lahore (Airport 05, City 01), Rahim Yar Khan 03, Khanewal 02, Sialkot, Bahawalpur, Attock 01 mm.

In Balochistan: Panjgur 39, Turbat 06, Barkhan 03, Gwadar 01 mm.

The rainfall recorded in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Mirkhani 38 mm, Dir (Upper 25, Lower 02), Drosh 25, Cherat 19, Bannu 18, Gupis, Kalam, Bacha Khan (Airport 11), Chitral 08, Peshawar (City) 04, Pattan 03, Parachinar 03, Malam Jabba, 02, Mardan 01 mm.

Kashmir: Muzaffarabad (, Airport 05, City 03), Garhiduppatta 03, Gilgit-Baltistan: Bagrote 06 mm. The highest maximum temperatures recorded were Nokkundi 41° C and Bahawalnagar 39° C. INP

### KP opposition seeks special rehabilitation funds for flood victims

PESHAWAR: The opposition parties in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Tuesday demanded emergency measures and establishment of a special fund for carrying out rehabilitation work and resettlement in rains and flood affected areas of the province.

JUI (F) MPA Naeema Kishwar, initiating debate on her adjournment motion, deplored that there was no option to store and use the rainwater in the province and every year it goes wasted, adding that the government should plan projects to use the rain and flood water in future which she said was also useful for crops.

She said that the recent flash flood played havoc in Balochistan pushed the country 30-year back.

She said the damage caused by the recent rains should not be politicized and all the governments should work together to provide relief to the victims besides establishing special package for this type of disaster.

She said that due to flood, tobacco crop, vegetables and other important crops have been damaged and houses were destroyed, adding the affected areas should be declared disaster affected and measures should be taken on emergency basis.

Nisar Mohmand of ANP said that rains in the areas of Pandialai, Ambar tehsil of district Mohmand caused a lot of damage to agriculture, livestock and people were waiting for the relief package.

Mir Kalam Wazir of North Waziristan said that planning should be done to take advantage of the rains and floods. He said that funds have been

kept for the affected areas but North Waziristan had been completely neglected.

He said that houses and crops had been severely damaged in the Tochi and Hamzooni areas of Waziristan.

Ahmad Kundi of PPP said that more dams should be built to save the people from floods and to get advantages of dams. He said that people of DI Khan division had suffered huge losses.

He said that the flood drains were closed with dirt, which had not been cleaned for twenty years, adding these drains were affecting more than the flood.

Hafiz Issamuddin of JUIF said that the amount announced for the rains and flood victims was insufficient and the process of giving funds is also too complicated.

Parliamentary leader of PML (N) Sardar Muhammad Yousaf said that the provincial government should make a proper mechanism to save the people from rains and floods.

Concluding the opposition debate, Agriculture Minister Mohibullah Khan said that as a result of the recent floods, not only Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but also Balochistan suffered and the helicopter.

He said that district administration and other institutions remained active in the rain affected areas. The minister linked the rains and floods with climate change and deforestation. He said that the Agriculture Department was doing its work, adding the Billion Tree Tsunami Project was a great achievement of the provincial government to maintain climate change normal. INP

### Gold price declines by Rs4,300 per tola

KARACHI: The price of gold Monday decreased on the backdrop of decrease in US dollar price against the Pakistani rupee.

The price of gold per tola of 24-karat goes down by Rs4,300 in the domestic market.

With this decrease, the price of gold per tola of 24-karat has now settled at Rs134,200.

Moreover, the price of 10-gram gold of 24-carat has also decreased by Rs3,686 to reach Rs115,055.

In the domestic market, silver prices fell by Rs20 per tola and Rs17.14 per 10 grams to reach at Rs1,540 and Rs1,320.30 respectively.

Meanwhile, in the global market, the price of gold per ounce has decreased by \$27 to reach \$1,775 per ounce. INP

### PML-N picks Hamza Shahbaz for PA opposition Leader slot

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has picked Hamza Shahbaz for slot of Punjab Assembly Opposition Leader.

According to sources familiar with the development, PML-N parliamentary party unanimously decided to nominate Hamza Shahbaz for the position and the party's allies have also been taken into confidence.

"Deputy Speaker's ruling is illegal. There is no legal justification for the Deputy Speaker's ruling," said the Supreme Court. INP

### Health ministry rejects DRAP's summary to increase medicine prices

ISLAMABAD: The health ministry on Tuesday rejected the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan's (DRAP) summary to increase the prices of medicines.

According to the spokesperson for the health ministry, the DRAP forwarded a summary, seeking an increase in the prices of more than 40 medicines.

The Summary was rejected by Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel. The government is committed to providing relief to the masses. INP

### 20 burnt alive as passenger bus collides with oil tanker near Multan

MULTAN: At least 20 people lost their lives as a passenger bus caught fire after a collision with an oil tanker at Motorway-5 in Multan on Tuesday.

According to details, the accident occurred at Motorway M5 in Uch Sharif near Multan where a bus going to Karachi from Lahore collided with an oil tanker due to which both vehicles caught fire, killing at least 20 persons and injuring six others. Motorway police and rescue teams reached the spot after the accident and started rescue operations. The injured and bodies were moved to Nishtar Hospital,

Multan.

It has been learnt that the accident reportedly occurred after the driver of the passenger bus fell asleep. The identity of the dead and injured could not be ascertained as per initial reports.

Meanwhile, Punjab chief minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has expressed grief over the deadly road crash and extended his condolences to the bereaved families.

Summoning report from the concerned authorities, Elahi directed the Multan commissioner to provide best medical facilities to the victims of the bus crash. INP



MOSCOW: Pakistan Ambassador to Russia Shafiq Ali Khan in a meeting with Shahid Butt CEO Pakistani Company Allied Fireworks which secured first Position in international competition in Moscow.

### Miftah defends petrol price hike, says no new tax imposed

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail on Tuesday clarified that government has not imposed tax of even a single rupee on petroleum products.

Finance Minister, who faced criticism from within his party as well as other cabinet members for hike in petrol price, defended the decision and said that increase in price will not affect supply and demand cycle.

The Minister said the present government has averted default by taking difficult political decisions and a beginning has been made to put the economy on sound footing.

Criticizing the economic policies of PTI government, the Finance Minister said they left behind 10.3 billion dollars in foreign reserves and we have to return loan of twenty-one billion dollars during the current fiscal year.

The Finance Minister said prices of petroleum products are determined by OGRA as per a laid down mechanism. He said no additional tax has been imposed on the petroleum prices. He pointed out that price of petrol in India is 303 rupees per liter while in Bangladesh it is being sold at 308 rupees.

Miftah Ismail said that a new letter of intent sent by the IMF will be signed by him today. He was confident that disbursements to Pakistan will start following the IMF's board meeting by the end of this month.

Responding to a question, the Finance Minister said that twenty-seven billion rupees in taxes will be collected from the traders during the current fiscal year. INP

### Orange Line Metro Train to go Solar

BEIJING: The first urban railway system Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT) in Lahore is going to go solarized to save the soaring more than Rs 1.9 billion annual electricity bill being consumed on entire operationalization of Metro Train.

Punjab Mass Transit Authority (PMAT) is operating OLMT since the train was handed over to it by the Chinese contractor CR-NORINCO, a joint venture between China State Railway Group (CR) and China North Industries Corporation (NORINCO) in 2020. CEN reported. In an interview, General Manager (operation) of PMAT, Ozair Shah said that electrifying OLMT with solar system is inevitable as the per unit cost of electricity varies between Rs. 18 to Rs. 21 that is not viable to run the entire function of OLMT for longer time. Many conceptual plans are on the cards to materialize solar system for Metro Train weighing up their merits and demerits, he added.

"One of the plans is to build up a solar plant with the capacity of 50 MG or 70 MG. The solar plant will activate a

mechanism of input to output through WeLink to power up OLMT instead of using traditional electricity apparatus," he said. After the operationalization of OLMT, its total ridership has exceeded 20 million. It has achieved advanced operating international standards with 90,000 train trips, covering a total distance of 12 million kilometers, with trip efficiency at 99.9% and a punctuality rate at 99.9%. Orange Line Metro Railway Project has 26 stations and track spanning over 27 kilometers long.

In addition, travel efficiency of the citizens was greatly improved, and journey of the entire route was reduced from 2.5 hours to only 45 minutes. In addition, the operation of the orange line is playing its role in reducing the use of old cars within the city, reduce emission of gases, improve environmental pollution, and promote the green and sustainable development of the city. Orange Line Metro is driven by all electric energy to achieve zero pollution and zero emission. It is estimated that the annual fuel emission of gases will be reduced by 30,000 tons. INP