

QUETTA VOICE

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Electricity likely to go up by Rs4.69 per unit



9 more dead bodies found as floods engulfed entire Balochistan

Balochistan floods: Govt and friendly opposition missing

Syed Ali Shah analysis government's response

The disastrous situation developed in the aftermath of heavy rainfall in Balochistan demands the provincial rulers and 'friendly opposition' to spend their days with flood affectees. However, the situation is quite different here.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo once visited the flooded Lasbela district in a helicopter and then visited Killa Saifullah along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The cabinet members are hardly seen in the flood-affected areas. The friendly opposition has also preferred to be mum when it comes to supporting the flood-affected people and criticizing the government.

heavy rainfall have wreaked havoc across Balochistan. Floods and rains claimed precious human lives, destroyed standing crops, killed livestock, and swept away bridges, dams, and roads throughout the province.

The 30-year average rainfall record has been broken

A statement from the climate change ministry said that the 30-year average for rainfall in Balochistan and Sindh had been broken. In Balochistan, the destruction caused by floods is beyond imagination.

The Balochistan government has declared an emergency in 26 out of a total of 34 districts of Balochistan. Some deputy



commissioners have performed well when it comes to rescue and relief operations. Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps have extended all-out support to the provincial government in evacuating the stranded people.

The Balochistan government should take the lead

Nevertheless, it is the core responsibility of the Balochistan government to get a leading role in the rescue and relief operations. The CM and cabinet members should come

out of their offices and support the people on the ground and encourage the rescue workers to evacuate the people.

The damages are beyond comprehension. Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili has comparatively performed well when it comes to monitoring the situation and directing the concerned quarters in supporting the flood affectees.

A comprehensive and fair survey of the damages needs to be conducted to ensure compensation to the affectees across Balochistan. The provincial government should also seriously approach the federal government to announce a special package for the rehabilitation of affectees, growers, and farmers of Balochistan.

Floods: Holidays announced in schools till 27 August in Balochistan

Saeed Yousaf Education Desk

The government of Balochistan has announced holidays from August 22nd to August 27 because of the flood situation in all educational institutions. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo has made this decision in view of the looming threat of



rains and flash floods across the province, an official handout issued on Sunday night said.

All private and public schools would remain closed from August 22nd to 27th of August, the handout concluded.

Secretary of Balochistan Higher Education, Hafiz Abdul Majid also announced holidays

in higher educational institutions from August 22nd to 27th across the province. In a notification received by Daily Quetta Voice, Mr. Majid stated that the decision has been made on the directives of Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo in view of looming threat of floods and rains in the province.

2 labourers died in roof collapse in Loralai

From Our Correspondent

Two labourers died when the roof of a house collapsed in Balochistan's Loralai district on Sunday. Police sources said one labourer was injured in the incident. The top of the house collapsed in the Killi Chinjan area of the Loralai district.

The police immediately shifted the dead and injured dead to the hospital, where the dead bodies were handed over to the



family members. Most parts of the Loralai district have been flooded after heavy rain-



President Dr Arif Alvi offering condolences to the family of late Yaseen Lakhani at his residence in Karachi

9 more dead bodies found as floods engulfed entire Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA: Rescue workers found nine more dead bodies in various parts of Balochistan in floods and rains-related incidents on Sunday. The death toll in rains-related incidents rose to 225 after the recovery of nine dead bodies.

Director General (DG), Provincial Disaster Management Authority, Naseer Ahmed Nasar revealed that 67 children are also among the dead. On Sunday, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Sohbat Pur, Quetta and other parts of Balochistan received heavy rainfall.

Cracks appeared in Pat Feeder Canal

Cracks appeared in the Pat Feeder Canal, which left thousands of people homeless in the Naseerabad district of Balochistan. "We demand evacuation rather than food and tents", Muhammad Asghar, a flood affectee from the district told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone.

A large number of people have taken refuge on the highway linking Balochistan with Sindh province. Women and children are also among the affectees. "So far we have not received any support from the government", Allah Bakhs, another aged flood affectee lamented.

Most parts of Balochistan flooded

Most parts of Balochistan including Lasbela, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Killa Abdullah, Pishin, Barkhan were flooded, which forced people to leave their homes.

Balochistan government had declared an emergency in 26 out of a total of 34 districts of the province to cope with the situation. Continued rainfall has severely affected routine lives, businesses and



official activities in Balochistan. Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili chaired an important meeting on Sunday and reviewed the pace of relief and rescue operations across the province. Mr. Uqaili directed the concerned commissioners and deputy commissioners to step up efforts and shift the stranded people to safer places.

XEN C and W Killa Saifullah suspended

The CS also suspended an executive engineer of the communication and works department for his poor performance in Balochistan's Killa Saifullah district. He warned that the provincial government would take an action against the officials demonstrating negligence in the relief and rescue operations.

On the directions of Chief Minister Balochistan Establishment of Relief Fund For Rehabilitation of Flood Affectees

The Government of Balochistan has established an emergency fund for relief and rehabilitation of Flood Affectees titled as "Balochistan Flood Relief and Rehabilitation Fund" with account head "G12141"

People living in Pakistan and abroad can deposit their donations in this fund through State Bank of Pakistan, District Accounts Offices and all branches of National Bank of Pakistan.



Ikramullah got admission in Lawrence College Marri

Staff Reporte

QUETTA: A 13-year-old boy from Balochistan's Killa Saifullah district, Ikramullah finally got admission to the Lawrence College Marri. Ikramullah had impressed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to the flood-affected Killa Saifullah almost a month ago. "Dreams came true", Noor Sail, the father of Ikramullah told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. Lawrence College is considered to be one of the prestigious educational institutions across the country.

The talented boy asked the Premier to enroll him in a well-reputed educational institution rather than giving a tent or blanket. "My request is quality education not food", Ikramullah told the visiting premier.

The bold stance and honest approach of the minor boy prompted the Prime Minister to announce free education for him. "My son got admission in class 8 in Lawrence College Marri", Noor Sail, the father of the minor boy confirmed to Daily Quetta Voice.

Ikramullah got 81 percent out of 100 percent in mathematics, science, Urdu and English subjects, Noor Sail informed. Noor Sail is a watchman in the health department government of Balochistan at



Killa Saifullah. The government of Balochistan provided a vehicle to Ikramullah from Islamabad to Marri, Noor Sail mentioned.

Electricity likely to go up by Rs4.69 per unit

ISLAMABAD: Electricity is likely to become more expensive as the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) has filed an application with NEPRA seeking power tariff increase by Rs4.69 paise per unit.

According to details, the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) has filed a request in National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) to increase the price of electricity by Rs4.69 per unit on account of the monthly fuel adjustment of July.

The NEPRA will hear the request of CPPA on August 31. The increase will impose an additional burden of more than Rs65 billion on consumers.



CPPA says that in July 35.17 percent of electricity was generated from water, 12.74 percent from coal, 1.46 percent from diesel, 6.42 percent from furnace oil.

According to CPPA, the cost of electricity generated by diesel was Rs27.88 per unit, electricity generated from furnace oil was Rs35.69 paise per unit. CPPA said that the reference cost for July was set at Rs6.28 paise per unit, the production cost of electricity was Rs10.98 paise per unit, thus a total of 13 billion 76 crore units of electricity were generated in July. INP

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.

Multivariate Aspects of Climate Change in Pakistan

Syed Mansoor Ahmed

Climate change steams unbeatable challenges in the future. According to the World Bank report, Pakistan stands 6th in affect of climate change. The awful and deadly floods of 2010, and 2011, extremely dry weather in a rainy area, and fluctuation in actual climate pattern is alarming and despairing signs among all the dwellers of the town.

Climate Change and Agriculture in Pakistan

In addition, Pakistan is a semi-arid country. The focal and dependent source of water is from the snow-covered Himalayan and the Karakorum in the Northern Areas. Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and the Sutlej rivers flow through this area. Within the water calculus, the country's entire agriculture is dependant on water flow from the Indus river.

Glacial flood out-

burst also poses a serious threat to the country's climate in the Karakorum range. The sole aim was reaching and understanding the possible nodes of surge-type glaciers, which are characterized by unsteady movements and frequent frontal advances of glaciers. As result, it causes natural hazards by obstructing river channels, forming ice-dammed lakes, which will ultimately cause GLOFs and pose threats downstream of the water. After meaningful analysis, it revealed that a surge between 1998 and 2002 generated 6 GLOFs.

Damages by Climate Change:

Meanwhile, rigorous critical exploration of the Attabad Lake of Hunza Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan is the distinctive event to justify the future threats of climate change in the center of freshwater. The lake flooding displaced more than

6,000 people from upstream villages and inundated over 19 kilometers of the Karakorum Highway.

Recently, global warming and subsequent climate change have increased the constant state of fear and the risk of massive outburst flooding in the respective mountainous region. The comprehensive field evidence, local testimonies by the natives, modern applications of remote sensing, and cross-correlation feature-tracking techniques provides the improved understanding of glacier surges and ice-dam formation disclosed the scale future threat.

Glaciers in Pakistan:

It is also noted, historically, in the Karakorum Range 39 glaciers are responsible for ice-dam formation. On the other hand, 36 glaciers build ice barriers in the running rivers due to frontal

advance, near to the densely populated areas of the Karakorum region. By constant observation of the prevailing and growing threat of climate change, it is airing the endless future threat only due to the GLOFs. For instance, the Indus River System (IRS) is the jugular vein of irrigation in Pakistan. It is providing water for almost 90% of the food product in Pakistan. The ice-dam formation due to the GLOFs will slow down the water flowing pace downstream. And could raise a deep impasse among the units for water distribution formula. In the end, it will ultimately surface the challenge of food insecurity in Pakistan.

The Karakorum Range, more importantly, is the home of the anticipating One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR) by giving with a potential corridor through the Karakorum

Highway from Khunjerab to the seaport at Gawadar in Balochistan (CPEC) on the Indian Ocean. Therefore, the smooth running of the traffic on the roads is the keynote for progressive economic development. While the ice barriers in rivers due to frontal advance could inundate the black-tops of the Karakorum Highway. The dislocation and dissolution of roads will give birth to never-ending challenges due to the factor of GLOFs.

In the same run, these lakes and GLOFs attracted media, political, and scientific attention because of the repeated outburst of floods. So, it needs the heart blood as well as collective effective efforts to bring down the scale of the future threat without causing infinite miseries.

The writer is a Public Policy Analyst and Lecturer at BUET, Khuzdar.

In choppy waters

Pakistan is wobbling in choppy waters, literally as well as figuratively. A natural disaster has overlapped a political crisis. There is a growing sense of foreboding about what may happen during the next few days. Dark clouds are hovering on the horizon. Again, politically and meteorologically.

Because of how popular imagination is hooked on politics, not enough attention is paid by the media to the rain emergency that has deepened during the past few weeks. There have been reports in the main news bulletins but almost no mention is made of the misery of millions of citizens across vast terrains in talk shows and other regular features.

And just when the magnitude of the calamity was beginning to break into the consciousness of our opinion makers, the Shahbaz Gill episode has suddenly become the nation's foremost preoccupation. For once, this would be a legitimate distraction, considering its possible political fallout. The dramatic developments that were played out on Friday are likely to become a catalyst in the ongoing power struggle.

In many ways, the initiative rests with Imran Khan to take decisive political action. He has certainly been building up the tempo with large

public rallies and the show staged in Lahore on the eve of the Independence Day must have boosted the confidence of his supporters. It was a well-designed political extravaganza.

But what happened on Friday could not have been a part of any planned strategy. After Shahbaz Gill's arrest for allegedly inciting mutiny among armed forces in a statement telecast live by ARY, Imran Khan himself and other PTI leaders were cautiously distancing themselves from the remarks made by the party's most strident spokesperson. In the Senate, PTI leader Faisal Javed was categorical in repudiating the stance that had been adopted by Shahbaz Gill. All this changed on Friday after video recordings of how Imran Khan's chief of staff was brought to court became viral. There he was visibly in pain and crying out for his respiratory mask. A clip was shared by the PTI's official Twitter account, describing the scene as "heartbreaking". Irrespective of a contradictory statement of the Islamabad police and partisan assertions that Shahbaz Gill had been certified as healthy in a medical report, the visuals and allegations made by PTI leaders seriously raised the issue of torture. It is something the federal

government would have to deal with against the backdrop of rising tensions.

Imran Khan took the charge of torture to another level and said in a tweet: "All the pictures & videos show clearly Gill was tortured both mentally & physically incl sexual abuse - most too gruesome to relate". He immediately went into action and drove to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) to see Shahbaz Gill, where the PTI leader was sent by the sessions court.

Not allowed to meet his chief of staff, he announced protest rallies in support of Shahbaz Gill across the country, with he himself leading one in Islamabad on Saturday evening. Hence the threat of public disorder has become real. That Punjab is now governed by the PTI, care of Parvez Elahi, may strengthen Imran Khan's hand to some extent. Yet, there is considerable ambiguity about how the powers that be will deal with the unfolding scenario.

Already, proceedings against Imran Khan have been initiated with reference to the Election Commission of Pakistan's verdict on foreign funding and the Toshakhana case. On Friday, the ECP issued notices of Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar for making

"intemperate and contemptuous remarks" against the electoral watchdog.

With a renewed focus on this fateful political conflict, the rain disaster and massive disruption in the lives of a large number of people will remain somewhat in the background. But there is one incident that intertwines the rain disaster with the current political upheaval. Something seems mysterious about this connection and how it is evolving. I am referring to that tragic helicopter crash in which we lost six army personnel, including Lt-Gen Sarfraz Ali. This crash took place in Lasbella, a district of Balochistan on the first day of this month. Now, this was a flood relief operation and bad weather was said to be a reason for the accident.

Strangely, this helicopter crash prompted a negative campaign in the social media of such a nature that the military authorities had to take cognisance. In a press conference this week, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif blamed Imran Khan for "blatantly" his Chief of Staff Shahbaz Gill and others for launching this campaign. In any case, an extensive investigation is in progress and some arrests have been made.

Meanwhile, the full extent of the devastation caused by the rains, in

By Ghazi Salahuddin

terms of lives lost and property destroyed, has not been adequately explored by the national media. And more floods have been predicted in the coming days. Not many human stories of suffering have been reported to underline the gravity of this disaster.

It is not surprising that the foreign media has demonstrated the right editorial judgment by giving more attention to Pakistan's rain havoc than to its political crisis. On Wednesday, The Guardian had a detailed report with this headline: "Pakistan floods kill 580 and bring misery to millions". The sub-heading said: "Government accused of inaction as downpours leave schools destroyed, homes ruined, crops failing, and cholera on the rise". On July 24, The New York Times had a story: "Pakistan's deadly flood season worsened by climate change and bad infrastructure".

Yes, we do have our daily clips of the flood situation, mainly of ferocious currents cutting across roads and bridges and poor settlements. On Thursday, a car was swept away by the flood waters of Malir River in Karachi, with its seven passengers all drowned. But it was not a lead story and lacked personal details about the lives that were lost.

Sanitation System in Quetta

By: Iqra Shaheen and Rabail Urooj

Quetta is the capital city of Baluchistan, the largest province of the Islamic

Republic of Pakistan. It is located at an altitude of 1,680 m between the strategically important Bolan and Khojak passes on the route to Afghanistan. The town and suburbs have grown tremendously in the last 20 years, and hold now an estimated population of 1.2 million. Inadequate wastewater and solid waste disposal, storm water drainage and flood control seriously affect the existing water resources as well as the urban environment. Sanitation refers to public health conditions related to clean drinking water and excreta treatment and disposal of human excreta and sewage. Preventing human contact with feces is part of sanitation, as is hand washing with soap. Sanitation systems aim to protect human health by providing a clean

environment that will stop the transmission of disease, especially through the fecal oral route. For example, diarrhea, a main cause of malnutrition and stunted growth in children, can be reduced through adequate sanitation. The unpleasant smell of the sewage water dismayed over prevailing unhygienic sanitary conditions in Quetta. The garbage dumped into the drains daily has fully choked the

already ineffective sewerage system. Sariab Road, Sabzal Road, Brewery Road, Spiny Road, Kasi Road, Mizan Chowk, Prince Road, Musa Colony, Wahdat Colony and Nawan Killi were among the areas where sewage water had accumulated due to choking of the drainage system. Only a few areas like Satellite Town, Shahbaz Town, Jinnah Town and Model Town were established with some planning.

There are 315 slums and underserved areas located in 44% of the 50 Union Councils of Quetta city. 57% slums are not found in any of the government records. Quetta city has 2 Million population out of which 35% lives in slums and

underserved areas. 13% residents of these disadvantaged areas are temporarily displaced either in the province or are of other nationalities (mostly Afghans). The provincial capital of Balochistan generates over 700 tons of solid waste every day, but the administration is only capable of disposing of around 300 tons of it. The rest of the sewage meanders in the area, while some of it is used to grow vegetables. As the sewerage system is clogged, dirty water accumulated on the streets. People found it

difficult to walk in most areas like Mikangi Road, Imdad Chowk, Mission Chowk, Korai Road, Gawalmandi Chowk, Browri and

Quetta where the water is accumulated. On one side the tall claims of cleaning the drainage system, while on the other the dirty water on the roads had made the life of shop owners and residents miserable. People have demanded of the Metropolitan officials to get the sewerage system cleaned. The dirty water accumulated on the roads has laid bare the Metropolitan team's and

authorities' tall claims about cleanliness. The garbage lying by the roadside also caused immense difficulties for the people. So the suggested solution is to stop dumping chemicals and waste into the environment, develop sanitation and raise awareness on best hygiene practices. Reducing the number of people practicing open defecation. Increasing the number of people with access to basic sanitation facilities and the amount of fecal waste effectively captured and treated on-site, or collected, transported, and treated off-site. Improving the ability of educational and health systems to

manage sanitation and hygiene facilities in institutions and affordability and availability of sanitation products and services. Increasing the number of people with safely managed sanitation services, handwashing with soap at critical times and the rate of safe management of household drinking water.

Demographic engineering

By Malik Muhammad Ashraf

Indian authorities have recently permitted temporary residents in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to register as voters. This is yet another attempt by the Indian government to change the demographic features of Kashmir.

This move follows the promulgation of a new domicile law after the repeal of Article 370 of the Indian constitution, revoking the special status of the state and its bifurcation into two territories. The announced measure is likely to add 2.5 million more voters, which the local population fears would allow the BJP government to alter the demographics of the region.

It is a sinister move to convert the Muslim majority into a minority in due course of time and has rightly been rejected and condemned by Pakistan. The action constitutes the blatant violation of the Geneva Convention and the UN resolutions on the Kashmir dispute. After the end of World War II, as a consequence of the initiative taken by the International Committee of Red Cross, the Diplomatic Conference for the Establishment of International Convention for Protection of Victims of War was held in Geneva, which adopted the fourth Geneva Convention on 12 August 1949. It is one of the four treaties of the Geneva Conventions.

While the first three

conventions dealt with combatants, the fourth Geneva Convention was the first to deal with humanitarian protections for civilians in a war zone. Currently, 196 countries are party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

In 1993, the UN Security Council adopted a report from the secretary general and a commission of experts which concluded that the Geneva Conventions had passed into the body of customary international law, thus making them binding even on non-signatories to the conventions whenever they engage in armed conflicts.

Article 27 of the Geneva IV states: "Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honour, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs. They shall at all times be humanely treated, and shall be protected especially against all acts of violence or threats thereof and against insults and public curiosity."

Article 49 of the Geneva IV says: "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." Article 32 of the convention adds: "The High Contracting Parties specifically agree that each of them is prohibited from taking any measure

of such a character as to cause the physical suffering or extermination of protected persons in their hands. This prohibition applies not only to murder, torture, corporal punishment... but also to any other measures of brutality by civilian or military agents."

Giving voting rights to non-residents and allowing people from the Indian mainland to buy property in IIOJK is in breach of Article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention.

Indian security forces in IIOJK are the occupying power by all definitions since Kashmir's fate, as per UN resolutions, is to be decided through a plebiscite held under the auspices of the world body, a position which the UNSC has reiterated in its three informal meetings after the Modi regime revoked the state's special status.

After the scrapping of Article 370 of the Indian constitution, the entire population of Kashmir is under siege, and they have been denied contact with the outside world; there is a complete lockdown in the valley, and people are not even given access to mosques. International media, human rights organizations like Amnesty International and even UN Human Rights Commission in its reports has corroborated blatant violations of human rights in IIOJK. The discovery of mass graves at 38 sites also lends currency to the inhumane treatment of

the local population by Indian security forces.

Through the foregoing actions India has not only torn asunder the fourth Geneva Convention but also pummeled the UN resolutions with regard to the plebiscite and breached international law with impunity.

It is indeed regrettable that neither the UN nor the big powers have shown real interest in stopping India in its tracks and resolving the Kashmir conflict as per the UN resolutions. Their indifference to the developments taking place in the valley and the fallout of those provocative measures is encouraging Indian hegemonic designs in the region.

India is being ruled by a diehard follower of the supremacist RSS ideology of Hindutva, which takes inspiration from Nazism. It has already started showing its ugly face in the form of enhanced Indian hostility towards Pakistan. Indian leaders have repeatedly threatened Pakistan of dire consequence, and on February 2019, India made its intentions clear when it sent planes to bomb imagined terrorist camps in Balakot, ostensibly in retaliation for the Pulwama incident. It is interesting to note that an Indian journalist close to the BJP regime later revealed that the Pulwama incident was stage-managed by the Modi government to win elections and find an excuse to take action against Pakistan.

Animal cruelty in Pakistan

Syed Mohammad Ali

The indifference, callousness, and contempt that so many people exhibit toward animals is evil first because it results in great suffering in animals, and second because it results in an incalculably great impoverishment of the human spirit. "I did not pen these words, Albert Einstein did. Islam also forbids treating animals cruelly or killing them except for food. Zabiha rules stipulate how an animal to be slaughtered must not be mistreated or caused undue pain. Yet, animal cruelty is rampant and exists in varied forms in countries like ours.

We live in a country where political leaders have been known to hold political rallies with caged and chained lions, and where animals like turtles given away as party favours at children's birthdays. Many well-to-do people pay a lot of money to purchase expensive cats, dogs, or birds but treat them callously. Cruelty towards animals is not the reserve of rich people only. Cruelty to animals especially donkeys, horses and mules is also widespread. These animals are overworked, under-fed, and harshly beaten by their owners.

Some recent attempts at humane dog population management and mass vaccinations in Karachi have dissipated. Instead,

the recent uproar following the negligence of animal owners and attacks by guard dogs on pedestrians in Karachi unleashed another unwarranted attacks on dogs all over the country. Several neighbourhoods started instigating municipal organisations to shoot stray dogs on sight. Use of strychnine poison was once again allowed to poison dogs.

There is a general absence of adequate laws related to animal welfare and animal slaughter, and the existing laws that exist are not adequately implemented. Pakistan's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1890) aims to protect many animals, including draught animals. This law is however outdated and does not reflect the prevalent scientific, cultural, or commercial compulsions pertaining to animal welfare.

It is time to update this law to protect both pet and wild animals, to institute mechanisms for their care, and define consequences for those who are neglectful towards animals.

It is encouraging that the Halal Authority Act (2015) has not only mandated humane treatment of animals throughout the slaughter process, but also prohibited animals from seeing one another being slaughtered. However, there has been little implementation of this law.

While animal abandon-

ment is illegal in Pakistan, there is scant regulation on how animal owners should care for their animals. Moreover, zoos across Pakistan are notorious for their poor conditions. Prompted by international criticism over the Islamabad zoo's maltreatment of the elephant, Kaavan, the Islamabad High Court issued an unprecedented ruling last year. It ordered that the entire zoo of over four hundred animals to be closed and all the animals within it to be transferred to appropriate wildlife sanctuaries in the short period of two months. The rush to empty the zoo caused the death of a pair of lions which passed away, two days apart, during their transfer from the zoo to a farmhouse in Kasur city instead of a sanctuary as had been directly by the court.

Pakistan also urgently needs to enact legislation detailing specific welfare requirements for the rearing of farm animals during distinct phases of rearing, transport, and slaughter. Such requirements must be legally binding and species-specific and aligned with international animal welfare standards. Regular inspections of farms and slaughter establishments would have to be carried out with a special focus on animal welfare or the situation on the ground will not change for the better.

Daska by-poll rigging: ECP to summon four political leaders

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to summon top leaders of the PTI including Firdous Ashiq Awan after they were blamed for rigging in the Daska by-election.

According to sources privy to the matter, the ECP has decided to summon top political leaders including Firdous Ashiq Awan for their direct involvement in rigging the by-poll.

"Out of 20 presiding officers probed for rigging in Daska-by-poll, some of them blamed the political personalities for their

direct involvement," they said, adding that during the ECP probe, even some police officers also named the political personalities.

They said that the ECP is likely to summon these political leaders within two days.

In November 2021, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) ordered to take action against officials involved in Daska by-poll rigging under criminal charges.

In a written order issued by the election commission, other than the criminal proceedings, a departmental inquiry would also be launched against all

those involved in rigging in the Daska by-poll.

The ECP has also sought a draft from concerned departments for a criminal complaint besides also seeking recommendations for the formation of inquiry committees for departmental action.

The ECP has directed the concerned departments to submit recommendations in this regard for approval in a week. "It should also be ensured that no officer involved in rigging be appointed for election duty again," the ECP said. An inquiry report issued by the Election Commission, INP

728 have died so far in recent rains and floods, says NDMA report

ISLAMABAD: As of August 20, as many as 728 people have died due to recent rains and floods across the country Sunday reported citing a report of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The NDMA has released the details of the loss of life and property due to rains. Among those who died the most were men, whose number was 309, the NDMA report said.

The majority of the people who died were from Balochistan, whose number was 207, the report added.

At the same time, the number of people killed due to recent rains in Sindh has reached 177, whereas, the number of people killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was recorded at 149.

Moreover, at least 151 people lost their lives in Punjab, nine in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and 34 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

Collectively, as many as 309 men, 156 women and 263 children have

lost their lives across the country due to recent rains and floods.

Whereas, the total number of people who were injured across the country from June 14 to August 20 was recorded at 1,291.

The majority of people who were injured in rain and flood related incidents belonged to Sindh, whose number was 701.

Besides, 300 people were injured due to rains in Punjab, 81 in Balochistan, 186 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 19 in AJK.

Apart from the human loss, as many as 31,047 houses were completely destroyed while 85,724 houses were damaged across the country in rains and floods.

At least 18 bridges in Balochistan, 52 in GB, 45 in Sindh and seven in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were damaged in the recent rains.

More than 503,000 cattle heads were lost across the country, whereas, 2866.9km roads in the country were damaged.

The shops were also

not spared by the torrential rains and flash floods, as 17 shops were damaged in AJK while 32 shops were damaged in Sindh.

As many as 103 districts across the country have been affected by the recent rains and floods. Among the affected districts, four are in Balochistan and as many in GB. Whereas, communication roads are blocked in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Larkana roof collapse leaves three dead

Three children, including two brothers and a sister, were crushed after the roof of their house collapsed on them due to rain in Garello Town, Larkana.

The deceased were identified as 13-year-old Kashif Shah, nine-year-old Ehtisham Shah and seven-year-old Bisma.

The locals removed the debris and shifted the bodies of the three children to the hospital.

It merits a mention here that the death toll in roof collapse incidents has reached 18. INP



ISLAMABAD: Women take part during Independence Day Cycle and Bike rally at Jinnah Avenue in Federal Capital.

Polling under way as 15 candidates contest Karachi's NA-245 by-poll

KARACHI: Polling continues for by-election in NA-245 constituency in Karachi on Sunday.

At least 15 candidates are vying for the seat of NA-245 which fell vacant following the death of famous TV presenter and MNA Aamir Liaquat Hussain.

Mehmood Maulvi is the candidate of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) while Moeed Anwar is vying for the National Assembly seat as the candidate of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM).

Similarly, Ahmad Raza is the candidate of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) while Hafizuddin is contesting the election as the candidate of Pak Sarzameen Party (PSP).

Former MQM leader Farooq

Sattar is contesting the election as an independent. There are at least eight candidates who are vying for the National Assembly seat independently.

Danish Khan, the candidate of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and Aminullah, the candidate of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), withdrew in favour of the MQM's candidate.

The number of male voters in the constituency is 274,987 while there are at least 204,016 women voters in NA-245.

There are 263 polling stations in the constituency while the number of total polling booths at the polling stations is 1052.

The polling will continue till 5pm without any break. Strict security arrangements have been

ensured outside the polling stations.

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MQM challenges Imran Khan's nomination for Lyari constituency

KARACHI: The MQM-P, has challenged the approval of nomination papers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on the National Assembly seat from Lyari.

Returning Officer's decision of approving nomination papers for NA-246 Lyari, has been challenged by the MQM-P candidate Tayyab Hashmi in election tribunal, Salman Mujahid Baloch said.

MQM-P candidate in his plea said that Imran Khan has misrepresented his assets in nomination papers. "He fails to meet the criteria set by the constitution's Article 62 and 63 for public office," the MQM argued in its petition. The federal and provin-

cial election commission, the returning officer and Imran Khan has been made party in the petition. The PTI has submitted nomination papers of Imran Khan from three constituencies of the National Assembly in Karachi vacated after the speaker accepted resignations of the party's MNAs.

Former governor Sindh Imran Ismail submitted nomination papers of Khan while former PTI MNA from the Lyari constituency NA-246, Shakoore Shad submitted nomination papers as a covering candidate.

The nomination papers of Imran Khan were also submitted from NA-237 and NA-239 with Captain (ret'd) Jamil submitting

his nomination papers as covering candidate in the former and Raja Azhar in the latter.

Earlier, the PTI chairman announced to contest by-polls from all nine seats, vacated after the National Assembly speaker accepted the resignations of the PTI MNAs.

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

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Punjab govt decides to end 'fake cases' against PTI workers

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to dissolve 'fake cases' against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers.

The Punjab government took a decision to end 'fake cases' against the PTI workers which were deliberately filed to target the political opponents by the previous government led by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) after May 25 rally.

Punjab Home Minister Hashim Dogar sought an inquiry report on the cases registered against the PTI workers on May 25. Hashim Dogar said that the 'fascist government' had lodged 'fake cases' to terrorise the political workers on May 25. "I have sought a report on the fake cases from the high-level officials and concerned departments."

"All fake cases registered against the PTI workers will be dissolved and the responsible officers will be held accountable."

"Legal action will be taken against the representatives of the fascist government. They had violated the law in Punjab and later in the federal capital Islamabad. PML-N had used Punjab and Islamabad police departments for its political motives."

The Punjab home minister said that the PML-N leaders were now trying to hide from the authorities due to fear of getting arrested. "We will not treat you in same way which you have done with us. How many days you will hide from us. You will have to face the music in accordance with the law." INP

Registration of FIR sought for Imran Khan's arrest

ISLAMABAD: An application has been filed in an Islamabad police station seeking registration of a case against PTI Chairman Imran Khan on delivering a hate speech against the state institutions.

The application was filed by Ziaur Rehman advocate, resident of G 11-2, Islamabad, in the Ramna police station on Sunday.

He said that Imran Khan Niazi was inciting public against the Pakistan Army, judiciary and police officers and by doing so he wanted to get favourable verdicts from the courts in cases against his party leaders.

He further said that Imran hurred threats at IG and DIG police and a female magistrate who granted physical remand of Shahbaz Gill. He said hurling threat or obstructing a respected judge came within the domain of terrorism. inp



HYDERABAD: People standing in a queue at free medical camp at the flood hit villages at Manjhand organized by LUMHS.

Medical board examining Shahbaz Gill changed again: sources

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has once again changed members of a medical board examining PTI leader Shahbaz Gill, saying that the new four-member board will submit its report before the court.

According to sources privy to the matter, Dr. Atif Inam was replaced by Dr. Tariq Abdullah in the board after the former excused himself owing to his personal engagements.

"Dr Tariq Abdullah is member of general surgery ward of PIMS," they said, adding that doctors part of general surgery, pulmonology, medicine and medical ICU are included in the medical board.

They said Associate Professor Medicine

Shafat Rasool is heading the board along with Dr Zia as pulmonologist and Dr Salman from medical ICU.

"The four-member board will prepare his medical report which will be presented before the court," they said.

On Saturday, doctors at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) have decided to conduct CT pulmonary angiography to examine lungs of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill, who is suffering from chronic asthma.

According to sources at PIMS hospital, Shahbaz Gill is undergoing regular clinical tests after he is suffering from chest infection, body pain and sore throat.

"He is being adminis-

tered anti-biotic to deal with chest infection besides also being nebulized regularly," they said, adding that his blood pressure, sugar and pulse are recorded in normal range.

To ascertain causes behind his breathing issues, the sources said that he would undergo CT pulmonary angiography. "Gill is currently being staying at a single room in cardiac centre of PIMS and is being provided with facilities of AC, TV, sofa and food as per the advice of doctors," they said.

The sources further shared that the PTI leader is allowed to walk during evening and morning besides being allowed to take full nap. INP

Three children among four dead in Indian-made mine blast in Zafarwal

ZAFARWAL: Four people including three children died in an explosion caused by an Indian-made anti-tank mine in the Punjab city of Zafarwal on Sunday morning.

The blast took place in the Nulleh Deg in Zafarwal as the children were trying to catch fish in the floodwater coming from India. They instead caught up by an Indian-made anti-tank mine floating on the floodwater.

Personnel of bomb disposal squad, Zafarwal Police Station and Rescue 1122 reached the spot and shifted the bodies to a nearby hospital.

Rescue officials said another child was injured in the blast who was rushed to Rural Health Centre (RHC) Zafarwal for treatment.

On Tuesday last, two Indian-made anti-tank mines were recovered from a nullah, making its course into Pakistan from India, in a bordering village of Zafarwal.

According to the bomb disposal squad, the anti-tank mines came to the village while flowing in the floodwater coming from India. "Anti-tank mines are also dumped by India in the water that is released into Pakistan," said the bomb disposal squad. The weight of each of the two mines was 30 pounds. The bomb disposal squad and Rescue 1122 defused the mines. INP

Two girls raped in Lahore

LAHORE: Two girls were raped in two separate incidents in Lahore, police said on Sunday.

In the first incident, a 17-year-old woman was sexually assaulted in the limits of Nawab Town police station. According to details, accused Babar Hassan, who belongs to Jhelum, barged into the house of the woman who was a divorcee and got a two-year-old daughter. According to the woman, the accused entered her house and held her minor daughter hostage at gunpoint. He threatened to kill the child. Then he raped the mother. The poor woman used to work in Samsani area to earn her living. She alleged that the influential accused and his family were constantly threatening her. She appealed to the police high ups to provide her and her daughter protection and award punishment to the culprits. In the second incident, accused Muzammil and Akram kidnapped a 20-year-old Mehwish, resident of Chungi Amar Sidhu, Kot Lakhpat. They took her to a secluded place and gang raped her. The poor girl went to the police station to register her complaint. But the law custodians failed to provide her justice despite a lapse of three weeks. Instead of registering her complaint, the policemen were pressuring her to reconcile with the accused and dropped charges against them. INP



KARACHI: A woman cast her vote at polling station during by-election of NA-245, in Provincial Capital.

Pemra slaps ban on live telecast of Imran Khan's speeches

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority has put a ban on the broadcasting of live speeches of PTI Chairman Imran Khan on all satellite TV channels.

The media regulatory authority issued the directive late last night after Imran's speech in Islamabad Saturday in which the PTI chief targeted police and judicial officers. The regulator directed the TV channels that they could telecast only recorded and edited speeches of Imran Khan and those would be allowed if a time-delay mechanism was to be observed.

The Pemra relayed instructions to the TV channels regarding their editorial policy vis-à-vis a hate campaign against the state institutions.

Addressing a public rally in federal capital Saturday, Imran Khan announced that the PTI would register cases against the IG and DIG of Islamabad police and Additional District and Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry who granted physical remand of Shahbaz Gill despite the fact that he was subjected to "torture". Meanwhile, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that the PTI chief had to face the law over his threats to a female magistrate, IG and DIG police in his speech on

Saturday night. He said that everybody saw live on their TV sets that Imran was hurling threats to police and judicial magistrate. He said that now Imran had to face the law.

Sanaullah said that when we talked about Bushra Bibi and Farah Gogi, Imran suddenly remembered his 'Islamic touch'.

He said if we failed to implement the law, then Pakistan would turn into a jungle. "We will not let anybody run away from the grip of law who tried to incite mutiny in the Army. It cannot be allowed that a person disrespects the Shuhada, incites mutiny and challenges the state writ while standing in Islamabad," Sanaullah said adding that if we ignored this behaviour, the fundamentalists and terrorists would be encouraged by this.

The interior minister said that the government must take an action. Coalition parties demand legal action including PML-N, PPP, MQM-P and JUI-F condemned the threats hurled by Imran Khan to the judiciary and police demanding a legal action against the PTI chief and his companions. They said that threatening a female judge and intimidating police officers was deplorable. INP

Two planes narrowly escape midair collision over Karachi Airport

KARACHI: Two passenger planes narrowly escaped a midair collision due to the alleged negligence of air traffic controllers at the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi.

The pilots demonstrated their skills at the right time to avoid a midair smash as they were preparing to land at the airport.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)

took notice of the incident and launched an inquiry. A CAA spokesman said no staff will be spared if negligence proved.

Both the airplanes were in landing process simultaneously from opposite directions on the runways of the airport, which could have led them to crash into each other. Sources said "The pilots of the planes acted

wisely and avoided the imminent collision".

Note that all airplanes are equipped with a technology called the Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) that automatically guides them by communicating with the other plane's TCAS.

A similar incident occurred on 26 July when two Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) air-

planes closely avoided a midair crash while flying on the same air route and altitude over Iranian territory near UAE airspace.

The incident was caused by the purported negligence of the Iranian Air Traffic Controller (ATC) which had cleared the same altitude for both the airplanes, positioning them in close proximity to each other.

One of them, a Boeing 777, was flying over Islamabad to Dubai, while the other, an Airbus A320, was headed from Doha to Peshawar, as per the sources. When they were found to be dangerously close to each other, one was instructed to ascend and the other was told to descend in accordance with the standard practice. INP



DERA ALLAH YAAR: A man carrying their children wade through a flooded area of Goth Ismail Khan.

Pakistan rejects spate of India's false terrorism-related claims

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has rejected the recent spate of false terrorism-related assertions made by India in which some detached alleged incidents were being distorted and presented as a so-called 'terror' plot, reminding it 'not to make any mistake again'.

The Foreign Office Spokesperson in a statement today said, "All this is nothing but continuation of the sinister Indian design to yet again raise the 'terrorism' bogey to malign Pakistan. We reject these allegations and Indian machinations outrightly."

"Pakistan stands ready and resolute and is fully capable of effectively responding to any misadventure as was manifestly evident in response to India's ill-advised and irresponsible action in February 2019," the spokesperson said.

In order to build on this orchestrated 'terrorism' narrative against Pakistan, a section of the Indian media reported that India had intercepted a message from a 'Pakistani' WhatsApp number as well as seized an 'empty boat' in Maharashtra along with some weapons.

He said segments of the Indian media deceitfully sought to link these to the preposterous claims about a so-called 'Mumbai style' attack being planned. Separately, the Indian media also reported that the Indian intelligence and border forces were on high alert for possible 'cross-border infiltration' attempts along Rajauri, he added.

The spokesperson said that the mischievous Indian propaganda campaign and baseless allegations against Pakistan reflected its utter desperation emanating from its complete failure to break the will

of the Kashmiri people in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The possibility of a choreographed 'false flag activity' to target Pakistan and negatively affect its political and economic interests could not be ruled out, as Indian propaganda was pointing in that direction, it was added.

"India must recognise that no amount of its false propaganda can deter Pakistan from exposing India's brutalisation of the Kashmiri people through an unabated military siege, indiscriminate use of force, extra-judicial killings, incarceration of Kashmiri leaders and youth, crackdown on the media and human rights activists, and denial of access to international human rights and humanitarian organisations to IIOJK," the spokesperson said.

He said Pakistan also urged the international community to take immediate cognizance of the fact that India was yet again resorting to classic 'false flag' methods to advance its sinister designs and that this could have serious implications for peace and security in the region.

India should also be held accountable for its gross and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in IIOJK. The realisation of sustainable peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia remained contingent upon peaceful resolution of the long-standing Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people, it was added. INP



LAHORE: A woman purchasing old books from a stall alongside Neela Gumbad Service Line road at Sunday Market, in Provincial Capital.

PAF relief operation continues in flash flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD: In the current unprecedented monsoon rain spell, Pakistan Air Force continued to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support to the people stranded in flash floods affected areas of South Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh.

The relief efforts were going on in the areas of Nurwah, Madadpur, Kot Magsi, Mauripur, Sohbatpur, Habib Kot, Fatehpur, Sadiq Pul, Fazilpur and Hajipur, a PAF news release said.

On the special instructions of the Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, emergency response teams of PAF were working round the clock to provide rations to people trapped in their homes.

During the operation, hundreds of flood affectees had been evacuated to safer places.

The PAF has always remained at the forefront in extending humanitarian assistance during natural calamities.

The relief operation in South Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh areas is a practical manifestation of PAF's resolve to extend all-out support to fellow countrymen in the hour of need. INP

Inquiry committee completes investigation over alleged torture on Shahbaz Gill

LAHORE: The inquiry committee on Sunday completed the investigation into allegations of torture on PTI leader and Chief of Staff of Imran Khan Shahbaz Gill under the supervision of Islamabad IGP Akbar Nasir.

Sources privy to the matter said that four PTI leaders Fawad Chaudhry, Raja Khurram, Ali Awan and Usman Dar appeared before the inquiry committee to record their statements.

According to sources, PTI leaders have provided alleged unconfirmed photographs of body parts to the committee. But when asked about the source and timing of the pictures, the party leaders could not give a satisfactory answers.

The committee also recorded the statements of the doctors and prepared a report, which will be submitted to the Islamabad High Court on Monday. INP

Threatening female magistrate is shameful act, says Hamza

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former Punjab chief minister Hamza Shahbaz on Sunday hit out at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan, saying that threatening by taking the name of a female magistrate is a reprehensible and shameful act.

Reacting to PTI chairman's threats to Islamabad police and female magistrate, Hamza said that Imran Khan is spreading hatred in society. The former Punjab CM further said that after continuous accusations against the state institutions, the matter has now shifted to black-mails, which is a conspiracy to spread the elements of anarchy and mischief across the country.

Taking a dig at the former prime minister, Hamza said that the head of a foreign-funded party is trying to challenge the writ of the state.

According to sources privy to the matter, a high-level meeting took place at the interior ministry where options were mulled for action against Imran Khan under sedition charges.

"The interior ministry has sought advice from advocate general and law ministry over two options which included if Khan should be booked in a similar case filed against Shahbaz Gill or a new case be registered against him," they said.

The sources said that the rally taken out in favour of Shahbaz Gill in Islamabad also violated the section 144 and a FIR could also be registered under it. INP

'Indian forces have converted IIOJK into military cantonment'

ISLAMABAD: Convener of Pakistan Federation of Chamber of Commerce Industries Kashmir Affairs Muhammad Iqbal Asad along with his delegation visited the office of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, today, and met Convener Mehmood Ahmed Saghar and other Hurriyat leaders.

Mahmood Ahmed Saghar informed Muhammad Iqbal Asad about the latest situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the Indian forces have practically converted the occupied territory into a military cantonment and the Indian troops were committing the worst kind of brutalities on innocent Kashmiris. He said India is using every tactic to change the demography of IIOJK on the pattern of Israel, which it has done on Palestinians.

Among other Hurriyat leaders, Muhammad Farooq Rahmani, Ghulam Muhammad Safai, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Sheikh Muhammad Yaqub, Syed Ejaz

Rahmani, Zahid Safai, Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, Zahid Ashraf and Imtiaz Wani were also present on the occasion.

The Hurriyat leaders said that the eyes of the Kashmiri people are on Pakistan, so that it could convey the voice of Kashmiris to the international community. They said Pakistan is the advocate of Kashmiris who has raised the voice of Kashmiris at every forum.

The Convener of Pakistan Federation of Chamber of Commerce Industries Kashmir Affairs, Muhammad Iqbal Asad, said the people and government of Pakistan are behind the Kashmiri brothers and Pakistan will continue political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiris until the Kashmir dispute is resolved. He said Kashmiris are actually fighting for Pakistan.

On the occasion, a shield was presented to Dr Humayun, Member Chamber of Commerce Kashmir Affairs. At the end, prayers were offered for the martyrs of Kashmir. INP

'Hindutva ideology a serious threat to world peace'

LONDON: Speakers at a panel discussion have termed Hindutva ideology a threat to world peace and security and called upon the international community and the United Nations to play their role in tackling it. According to Kashmir Media Service, the discussion on "Hindutva in London" was hosted by Raja Aijaz Ahmad Shaiq while the participants were Rehana Ali, Information Secretary of Tehreek-e-Kashmir, UK, and Gurchuran Singh of Dal Khalsa, a Sikh organization. To a question Rehana Ali said that the Hindutva ideology is dangerous not only for South Asia but for the whole world. She said that the sole aim of this ideology put forward by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in 1922 was to cleanse India of minorities and make it a Hindu Rashtra. She said extremist Hindu organizations, including Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Singh (RSS), Bharatiya Janata Party and Vishva Hindu Parishad, were working for the same objective of furthering the Hindutva ideology.

The Tehreek-e-Kashmir, UK, leader said that the RSS and other Hindu extremist organizations believed in violent means for the Hindu supremacy and could go to any extent to impose their ideology. She added that the ideology of Hindutva was itself a threat to the survival of Hinduism and the Hindu society was also in grave danger due to the extremist organizations. Gurchuran Singh said that the very existence of India was in serious danger due to the extremism being pursued by the RSS and other extremist organizations. He said that these organizations consider Muslims and other minorities as an obstacle to India's development. INP

Fawad demanded independent inquiry board to investigate the matter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday asked why Federal government is avoiding inquiry of the matter if Shahbaz Gill was not tortured.

Addressing a press conference, the PTI leader and former Information and Broadcasting minister demanded independent inquiry board to investigate the matter.

The PTI leader also clarified that announcing legal action against someone is not a threat and claimed that government is scared of Imran Khan's rallies.

Fawad Chaudhry further said that it is unfortunate for the country that Rana Sanaullah is the Interior Minister.

Earlier in the day, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan rejected allegations of torture on PTI leader Shahbaz Gill in police custody. Addressing a

news conference in Islamabad on Sunday, he said PML-N is against any kind of torture. He said our government believes that torture is against dignity of a man and a violation of constitution.

The Minister said story of torture on Shahbaz Gill is a drama to divert the attention from original matter.

He said an FIR was lodged against Shahbaz Gill as per law for instigating army officers and soldiers. He said state cannot tolerate such malicious conspiracies. The Minister said Shahbaz Gill was produced before judicial magistrate within twenty four hours and he was absolutely fine and did not complain of torture. He said on 11th of this month medical board did not indicate any torture in its report. He said Shahbaz Gill was not tortured by Islamabad Police. INP



RAWALPINDI: People standing in a queue for purchasing cooking oil outside utility store at Dhoke Khabba area, in the city.

Weekly currency update: Rupee likely to stay stable against dollar next week

ISLAMABAD: The rupee is expected to remain stable against the US dollar in the coming week due to subdued demand for the local unit from importers, say traders.

They said that market players are also eyeing the central bank's monetary policy meeting on Monday.

The greenback traded at 213-214 during the outgoing week. It closed at 213.98 per dollar on Monday and finished at 214.65 on Friday. The rupee fell 0.31% against the greenback during the week.

"The market has stabilised over the last week, and the rupee will likely to remain stable at the same levels in days ahead," said a foreign exchange trader.

"Apart from forex inflows and outflows, the monetary policy decision will be instrumental to gauge the rupee's future direction. The market is looking at Monday's meeting," the trader added.

The government lifted a ban on the import of non-essential and luxury goods to meet a condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ahead of the board's meeting later this month to revive the loan programme. However, it announced imposition of heavy duties on completely built units cars, mobile phones, and electronic appliances to discourage imports.

The market will also evaluate the impact of opening up of luxury imports on the rupee, according to traders.

'Jungle Raj' prevails in UP: Mayawati

LUCKNOW: Taking a dig at the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati has said that "jungle raj" prevails in the state and the drumming of development is merely a deception.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Mayawati said, "A number of people died in a boat tragedy due to an incomplete bridge over the Yamuna river in Banda. An undertrial who had been brought to Hapur for a hearing was shot dead, and now the painful incident of gangrape in Hamirpur. These incidents prove there is jungle raj in Uttar Pradesh and the drumming of development is only a deception."

She said, overall, lack of judicious use of law in UP and fearlessness among criminal elements are proof of poor law and order. "Their (BJP government's) development is also limited to certain districts, while there is extreme poverty and unemployment in all parts of UP," she said. INP

Karachi police arrest two thieves who stole women's clothes

KARACHI: Police have arrested two robbers who stole women's clothes from a tailor's shop in Karachi.

A two-member gang had wiped out a tailor's shop in Clifton a few days ago. They stole money, mobile phones and women's clothes from the shop.

The police identified the accused and arrested them with the help of CCTV footage received from the tailor's shop.

Police recovered weapons, mobile phone and motorcycles along with women's clothes from the accused.

A robbery from a tailor's shop before Eidul Fitr dealt a major blow to shop owner and the women. The accused took the tailor hostage and stole expensive clothes. After the robbery, the tailor said that he had been working in this area for the past 20 years, customers bring expensive brand clothes for stitch to them. INP

Interior Minister rejects allegations of torture on Shahbaz Gill in police custody

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ing army officers and soldiers. He said state cannot tolerate such malicious conspiracies.

The Minister said Shahbaz Gill was produced before judicial magistrate within twenty four hours and he was absolutely fine and did not complain of torture. He said on 11th of this month medical board did not indicate any torture in its report. He said Shahbaz Gill was not tortured by Islamabad Police.

He said a campaign against martyrs of Lasbela was run by PTI on the behest of Imran Khan. INP



DERA ALLAH YAAR: Women carrying their belongings wade through a flooded area of Goth Ismail Khan.

Last stator hoisted successfully at Suki Kinari hydropower project

ISLAMABAD: The last stator frame at the Suki Kinari hydropower project has been hoisted successfully and lowered into the unit pit.

The stator weighed 335 tons and the task was completed with the help of bridge cranes. The project has four electricity generation units with a combined capacity of 884 megawatts, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

The run-of-river facility is one of the early-harvest clean energy projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Gezhouba Group, China is implementing the project at around \$2 billion.

Also, the 5-kilometre-long relocated portion of National Highway 15 (N-15) is open to traffic. The existing portion of N-15 will submerge in the reservoir of the Suki Kinari hydropower project; therefore, the new road was constructed

at a higher elevation. The new road also has a 411-metre-long tunnel.

The project is expected to complete by the end of 2023 or mid 2024, an official said. He said that the powerhouse and reservoir parts of the project were at advanced stages of completion.

However, the 24-kilometre-long headrace tunnel is the most challenging part of the project due to unpredictable terrain, tough weather conditions during winters and dewatering issues, he said.

Gezhouba has deployed the most skilled workforce and state-of-the-art machinery at the tunnel sites and presently excavation and lining works are underway from both upstream and downstream sides, he said.

The project will add around 3 billion units of cheap electricity into the national grid annually after completion. INP

PAKISTAN AIR FORCE RELIEF OPERATION CONTINUES IN FLASH FLOOD HIT AREAS OF SOUTH PUNJAB, BALOCHISTAN AND SINDH

In the current unprecedented monsoon rain spell, Pakistan Air Force continues to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support to the people stranded in flash floods affected areas of Nurwah, Madadpur, Kot Magsi, Mauripur, Sohbatpur, Habib Kot, Fatehpur, Sadiq Pul, Fazilpur and Hajipur. On the special instructions of Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, Emergency Response teams of PAF are working round the clock to provide rations to people trapped in their homes. During the operation hundreds of flood affectees have been evacuated to safety. Additionally, all available resources are being utilized to provide treatment and medicine to the flood affectees at the field medical camps established by Pakistan Air Force.

Pakistan Air Force has always remained at the forefront in extending humanitarian assistance during natural calamities. Relief operation in South Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh areas is a practical manifestation of PAF's resolve to extend all out support to fellow countrymen in the hour of need.

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