

QUETTA VOICE

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Shehbaz Sharif directs to accelerate relief efforts in flood-hit area



Qatar Investment Authority to invest \$3b in cash-strapped Pakistan

BHC dismisses application of Qasim Suri in foreign funding case

Syed Ali Shah
QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Wednesday dismissed a constitutional petition submitted by former deputy speaker of the national assembly, Qasim Suri in a foreign funding case. Mr. Suri had pleaded before the court that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has convened him in the foreign funding case. He had demanded of the court to stop FIA from convening him in the case. A division bench of the BHC comprising Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, and Mr. Justice Sardar Ahmed Haleemi dismissed the constitutional petition filed by the former deputy speaker national assembly.

FIA convened Mr. Suri, former Governor Balochistan Syed Zahoor Agha

The FIA had convened Mr. Suri, former Governor Balochistan, Syed Zahoor Agha, and two other leaders of the former ruling Pakistan Tehrik e Insaaf (PTI) in the foreign funding case. The PTI had challenged the FIA's decision of convening in the Balochistan High Court. The inquiry having fully been initiated by the FIA Banking Circle Quetta on the instruction of the Federal Government i.e. Ministry of Interior Government of Pakistan on the basis of the order of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on August 8, 2022, cannot be



Throttled by this court at this inquiry stage in its constitutional jurisdiction, the BHC order mentioned.

FIA forms teams to probe foreign funding of PTI

On August 5 FIA announced the initiation of investigation in the prohibited funding case and said that 5 different inquiry teams have been formed by FIA against Tehreek-e-Insaf. Various inquiry teams have been formed and these inquiry committees will work in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Islamabad, and Quetta. This notice has come after the election commission of Pakistan issued the much-awaited decision about the foreign funding case of the former ruling party i.e. Pakistan Tehrik e Insaaf (PTI) S Akbar Babar, one of the founding members of the PTI had challenged the foreign funding case. The verdict was announced after seven years by the ECP.

NP stands for supremacy of the parliament: Dr. Malik Baloch

From Our Correspondent

Karachi: Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, the central president of the National Party (NP) said that the biggest problem in the country is the supremacy of the Parliament. "NP stands for the supremacy of the Parliament and whenever NP comes to power it will preserve the rights of the people in a better way", he expressed these views while addressing party workers in Karachi on Wednesday.



Former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, addressed the leadership of Sindh Wahdat in the Sindh Secretariat, while addressing he said that the ban on media and pressure on the judiciary have further complicated matters. The sectarian and ethnic problems in the country are becoming more and more serious, he said. Chieftains, landlords, and capitalists are all at one stage, he noted. A capitalist is also a landlord and a chieftain. The older conflicts still exist with their intensity across the country and this only political approach offers a panacea, the Baloch nationalist leader stated.

Central Secretary General Jan Muhammad Buledi, Provincial President Taj Marri, Wajah Abu Al Hasan, Majeed Sajidi, Ayub Qureshi, and other leaders were also present at the meeting. Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch said that the supremacy of the establishment is the same as earlier, Pakistan has become a security state, and we have failed to make this state a welfare state.

He said that there is no such thing as the government in Balochistan, the floods and rains have caused havoc in many areas including Balochistan, Sindh, and Koh Sulaiman's Taunsa Rajanpur. The current federal and provincial governments are failed at providing relief to the people.

"Whenever the National Party comes to power, they will first try to solve the issue of insurgency and missing persons in Balochistan", Dr. Malik Baloch stated. If fair and transparent elections are held, the National Party will be in a better position than it was in 2013, he predicted.

Pakistan seeks assistance from international community after devastating floods

Pakistan has urged the international community and philanthropists to help with relief efforts as it struggles to cope with the aftermath of torrential rains that triggered massive floods, killing more than 900 people. According to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), heavy monsoon rainfall and floods have affected some 2.3 million people in Pakistan since mid-June, destroying at least 95,350 houses and damaging a further 224,100.

been killed, nearly all of them in Balochistan, while damage to nearly 3,000 km of roads and 129 bridges have impeded movement around flood-affected areas. July's national rainfall was almost 200% above average, Sardar Sarfaraz, a senior official at the meteorological office told Reuters on Wednesday, making it the wettest July since 1961. Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, in a Twitter post, revealed that over 900 people have died and thousands of people have been displaced due to floods, adding that a "humanitarian crisis" had arisen across the country. The main supply route from the



port city of Karachi has been cut for more than a week after a bridge linking it to Balochistan was swept away, while dozens of small dams in the province were overwhelmed. Web Desk

Zahid Saleem appointed as Home Secretary Balochistan

News Desk

The Balochistan government appointed Zahid Saleem, a grade-20 officer as the Additional Chief Secretary of Home on Wednesday. According to a notification issued by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD), his predecessor Hashim Ghilzai, a grade-20 officer has been posted as the Secretary of Finance Balochistan.



The government has appointed Salman Mufti, a grade-20 officer as a member Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT). Zahid Saleem has served as the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Balochistan and other important positions in the province.



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Ameer of the State of Qatar at Deewan-e- Aameeri in Doha.

Qatar Investment Authority to invest \$3b in cash-strapped Pakistan

Qatar's Emiri Diwan Wednesday confirmed that the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) aims to invest \$3 billion in Pakistan lending support to the South Asian nation's cash-strapped economy. "The Qatar Investment Authority announced its aspiration to invest \$3 billion in various commercial and investment sectors in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," Emiri Diwan said, without giving details. The announcement was made during a visit to Doha by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who held official talks with Qatari Ameer Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on Wednesday after a meeting with the QIA on Tuesday.

that Qatar's \$445 billion sovereign wealth fund was currently assessing the strategic investments in the key economic sectors of the South Asian nation. It added that people familiar with the matter said that the investments might be in Pakistan's "main airports in Islamabad and Karachi, as well as in the renewable energy, power and hospitality sectors". The publication, citing an official, added that the QIA investments could partly overlap with the \$2 billion in bilateral support Qatar has already planned for Pakistan. "The fund may end up investing more or less than \$3 billion depending on the asset valuations and opportunities, the people said, without sharing a time frame." Qatar's support comes as Pakistan desperately seeks to shore up its foreign reserves and avoid default. The country's currency is continuously losing ground against the dollar and inflation is constantly on the rise. Web Desk

US dollar gains 34 paisas in value against Pakistani rupee

ISLAMABAD: The US dollar sustained its upward journey on Wednesday as the greenback gained 34 paisas in value against the Pakistani rupee.

According to the forex dealers in the interbank market, the Pakistani rupee suffered 34-paisa depreciation during the early trading activity on Wednesday. At the moment, the US dollar was being traded at Rs218. On Tuesday, the greenback ended the day at Rs217.66 with a one-rupee gain. The ongoing political uncertainty is another factor that keeps dragging the local currency down. The sky-high inflation in the country, rising trade deficit, and falling foreign exchange reserves are putting extreme pressure on the local currency. The IMF tranche which is expected to reach Pakistan by the end-month is likely to give a much-needed boost to our economy and revive confidence in the value of the Pakistani rupee. INP

Punjab govt allocates MPAs quota for 16,000 grade-4 jobs

LAHORE: The Punjab government has allocated MPAs quota for 16,000 in grade-4 jobs across the province on Wednesday.

As per the list presented before Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi, each MPA will be given a quota ranging from 20 to 80 jobs in grade 4. Also, there would be a separate quota for the ticket-holders. In Lahore, 1,720 jobs quota will be distributed among provincial lawmakers. According to the documents, lawmakers of Attock will get 556 jobs quota, Rawalpindi 478, Chakwal 843, Jhelum 196, and Gujrat MPAs will get 283 jobs quota. INP

BHC bars Balochistan Govt from appointments in prisons department

Syed Muhammad Qaseem

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) barred the Home Department Government of Balochistan from making appointments in the prisons department. A division bench of the BHC comprising Senior Judge, Mr. Justice Hashim Khan Kakar, and Mr. Justice Gul Hassan Tareen passed this order on a constitutional petition filed by five candidates in the high court.

The successful candidates in the previously held tests and interviews had challenged the recent advertisement in newspapers regarding the recruitment in the prisons department. The bench asked the Balochistan Home and Tribal Affairs Department and Prisons



Department not to make any appointments in the department.

The candidates pleaded before the court that the recruitment committee has prepared the final merit list after a set procedure of tests and interviews. However, the department has issued fresh advertisements instead of issuing them orders as per the previously prepared merit list.

17m consumers being given relief in fuel adjustment: Minister

HYDERABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Khurram Dastagir Khan on Wednesday said that 17 million consumers were being given relief in fuel price adjustment charge.

During his visit to the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company's (HESCO) headquarters, energy minister said that the government was providing a relief of Rs 22 billion to power consumers.

This relief is being given to the consumers of up to 200 units in view of the IMF issue, he said.

The power consumers who have paid their bills, their bills will be adjusted under the new package, federal minister said.

"Fixed tax on traders has also been withdrawn," energy minister said. "Providing cheaper electricity to consumers is a challenge for this government," Dastagir said. "We are going to launch a 1320 megawatt project in Thar Thursday," he said.

He directed the HESCO authorities to increase recoveries so that uninterrupted power supply could be ensured to the consumers. INP

Shehbaz Sharif directs to accelerate relief efforts in flood-hit areas

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the concerned authorities to expedite rescue and relief operations in flood-affected areas, considering the prediction of more rains in those areas.

According to details, the prime minister - who is currently on a two-day official visit to Qatar - is monitoring the rescue and relief efforts in the country for relief of the flood-stricken people.

He directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and all the relevant ministries and departments to collaborate with one another as consecutive rain spells were deteriorating the flood-caused destructions.

The premier further said that as the flash floods had inflicted huge losses on the people, it was the nation's responsibility to support their countrymen.

"The rehabilitation in the calamity-hit areas is a gigantic task. This is possible only through collective efforts," he said, requesting the local and international charity organisations to extend their support for the rehabilitation of affected population. INP

Sindh rains: MQM-P appeals to COAS Bajwa to help flood-hit people

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has appealed to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa to help flood-stricken people in interior Sindh.

In a statement, MQM-P Rabita Committee has urged the COAS Qamar Javed Bajwa to issue immediate orders for the rehabilitation of the people and infrastructure in flood-hit areas where hundreds have been killed and thousands rendered homeless. INP

'Humanitarian crisis': Over 900 people killed in monsoon rains across the country since June, says minister

Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman on Wednesday revealed that over 900 people were killed during monsoon rains across Pakistan since June this year, while 1,293 were left injured.

"Heartbreaking scenes of rain and flood devastation are emerging from all over the country," she said in a series of tweets today. "Since June, 903 people, including 326 children and 191 women, have died in various incidents of monsoon rains and floods." According to the data shared by the minister, the highest number of deaths and injuries during the time period was recorded in Sindh and Balochistan. The PPP leader said that thousands of people had been displaced due to floods, claiming that a "humanitarian crisis" had arisen across the country. "The government is utilising all available resources to help the flood victims," she assured, stressing that the local administrations and provinces needed more resources to deal with the catastrophe. Rehman underscored the need to meet the shortfall in resources, emphasising attracting partners and donors at the national and international levels. "Thousands of people trapped in floods are waiting for rescue and relief. This is not the time for division, but for unity. We have to deal with and overcome the humanitarian crisis as a nation, not separately," she added. Pakistan is currently in the grip of a monsoon system that has caused heavy rains and catastrophic flooding. Among the worst-hit provinces are Sindh and Balochistan where the downpour has broken a 30-year record.



Videos and photos emerging on social media show towns, villages, and cities inundated with no sign of life. Teams of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Army have been deployed in flood-affected areas across the country to rescue people.

Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb urged the nation to donate money for the rain-affected areas today, adding that donations could be deposited to the Prime Minister Relief Fund Account 2022. "All commercial banks and their branches can collect donations in the Prime Minister Flood Relief Fund 2022 as per State Bank of Pakistan circular," she said, adding that overseas Pakistanis can also send donations through wire transfers, money service bureaus, money transfer operators and exchange houses. Her announcement comes a day after the government decided to launch an international appeal seeking funds for relief and rehabilitation of flood-hit people and restoration of damaged infrastructure. The decision was taken during an urgent briefing on the flood emergency in NDMA, which was summoned to reassess the damage done by floods and to apprise the development partners and donors of the magnitude of the crisis. Torrential rains have spelled disaster in the province as another devastating spell of monsoon rains continued in most districts on Aug 23. While urban centers were hit by flooding due to the slow pace of drainage of rainfall runoff, the rural areas witnessed massive losses to standing crops and lands. Web Desk

ECP rejects ruling MNAs' plea against Imran Khan in Toshakhana reference

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday rejected a reference filed from MNAs hailing from ruling coalition government against Imran Khan with regard to a Toshakhana case.

speaker National Assembly is already being heard at the ECP and since both of them pertain to a similar matter, therefore one of them should be quashed.

three-week time for submission of answer in Toshakhana reference. Imran Khan is facing disqualification reference for allegedly hiding Toshakhana gifts.

Ahsan Iqbal distributes certificates among NADRA's software engineers

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Wednesday distributed certificates among National Database and Registration Authority's (NADRA) software engineers for developing Digital Census Turnkey Solution in shortest time.

(CRVS) in joint collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. The minister expressed interest in NADRA's record for registration of birth and death at health facilities across the country.

and world's best practices in the NADRA, setting a new benchmark for the world to look for. He distributed the Certificates of Excellence among 24 software engineers. The minister appreciated the efforts of all software engineers who worked day and night in developing the solution for the country's first ever digital census.



ISLAMABAD: UN World Food Programme's Special Advisor on Mother and Child Nutrition, Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

NA-118: Plea against acceptance of Imran Khan's papers rejected

LAHORE: An appellate tribunal of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has rejected an appeal filed against acceptance of the nomination papers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan for by-election in NA-118, Nankana Sahib on Wednesday.

During the hearing, the election commission presented the record of Imran Khan's nomination papers before the court. The petitioner's counsel Mansoor Awan also appeared before the court.

contest by-polls from all nine seats, vacated after the NA speaker accepted PTI MNAs' resignation. According to the ECP schedule, the by-polls on the nine National Assembly seats would be contested on September 25.

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.

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.

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.



QUETTA: Government Teachers Association activities hold protest at Manan Chowk.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits 974 Stadium (venue of FIFA World Cup 2022); Prime Minister is being briefed with regard to different sections and facilities at the stadium.

Five kids among seven die in rain, flood-related incidents in Sindh

KARACHI: Seven people including a woman and five children died while five others sustained critical injuries in rain and flood-related incidents in different areas of Sindh on Wednesday. Three children of the same family died after the roof of their house collapsed on them due to rain in Kandhkot, Sindh.

were identified as seven-year-old Waheed, five-year-old Rehmat and three-year-old Nusrat. The injured and the bodies of the deceased were earlier shifted to a hospital. The bodies of the deceased were later handed over to the families.

Advertisement for Saifullah Khan Registrar, Banking Court Quetta. Includes Urdu text and contact information.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Pakistan expected to sell shares of Roosevelt Hotel to Qatar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is expected to sell shares of the Roosevelt Hotel in New York's Manhattan to Qatar in return for the Doha investment in the aviation sector, citing sources, ARY News reported on Wednesday. During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Qatar, a massive investment is likely to be made in Pakistan's aviation sector by Doha. Sources said that Qatar expressed interest in making investments in the airport and hotel sectors. It was learnt that the federal government will hand over administrative affairs of Islamabad International Airport to Qatar, whereas, a Qatari company will provide the relevant services of the airport's terminal and cargo. Reports said that the Qatari government will be given shares of the Roosevelt Hotel in New York's Manhattan financial centre in return for the investment. The investment will be received through state-to-state agreements between Pakistan and Qatar. Earlier in the day, it emerged that Qatar has agreed to make investments of up to \$3 billion in Pakistan as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is currently in the country to cement bilateral ties between the two countries.

Sources closer to Finance Ministry revealed that Qatar will be making immediate investments in multiple sectors in Pakistan. "The Qatari officials have shown their interest in making investments at Karachi and Islamabad airports," they said, adding that the Qatari investment authority will ensure bringing investments in the least possible time. The shares and managerial control of the Roosevelt Hotel in the US are also likely to go into the hands of Qatari authorities, it was learnt. Reports said that the Qatari government will be given shares of the Roosevelt Hotel in New York's Manhattan financial centre in return for the investment. The investment will be received through state-to-state agreements between Pakistan and Qatar. Earlier in the day, it emerged that Qatar has agreed to make investments of up to \$3 billion in Pakistan as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is currently in the country to cement bilateral ties between the two countries. Sources closer to Finance Ministry revealed that Qatar will be making immediate investments in multiple sectors in Pakistan. INP



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong meet Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazi (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Pakistan condemns BJP leader's sacrilegious remarks against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) spokesperson on Wednesday strongly condemned the disparaging remarks made by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lawmaker against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In a statement released by the foreign office, Pakistan called for strict legal action against India's right-wing ruling party stalwart while noting that Raja Singh accused of blasphemy was released 'on bail within hours of arrest and welcomed by BJP zealots'. The MOFA spokesperson said, "The token and perfunctory disciplinary action taken by the BJP against the said official cannot assuage the pain and anguish caused to the Muslims of India and around the world." The silence of top BJP leadership also irked the foreign ministry which labelled the current Indian regime 'obsessively spiteful of Muslim'. "The deafening silence of the top BJP leadership on the abhorrent incident manifestly reflects their approval and full support to the radical Hindu zealots within and beyond the BJP," the statement read further. The accused BJP leader is a member of the state legislative assembly of the Indian state of Telangana. Pakistan has demanded that the Indian government should take immediate and decisive action against the BJP members habitually involved in attacking Islam and targeting the dignity of the beloved Prophet (PBUH). It also called on the international community to take cognizance of increasing Islamophobia in India. Earlier, BJP National Spokesperson Nupur Sharma was suspended by the party in June after several Arab countries boycotted India over her blasphemous remarks about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The BJP leader had made the remarks during a show about the Gyanvapi Mosque-Kashi Vishwanath temple dispute on May 26. Besides suspending Sharma, the BJP also put out a statement saying it respects all beliefs and denounced disparaging remarks against any religious personality. A disciplinary committee also denounced the views stating that the comments were contrary to its standpoint. INP

ECP tosses appeals against fines imposed on Imran Khan, Asad Umar

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday tossed appeals by PTI Chairman Imran Khan and senior party leader Asad Umar against the hefty fines imposed by the Commission for violating election code of conduct. The ECP announced its decision after no one on behalf of Imran Khan and Asad Umar appeared before the commission. It may be noted that despite ECP directives, Imran Khan had on March 15 last had visited Swat and addressed a gathering while he was still in office ahead of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's local government elections that were scheduled for March 31. The ECP had, as a result, imposed a fine of Rs 50,000. According to the new ECP code of conduct, no public office-holder can visit the districts where elections are/about to being held. INP

PM accorded a warm welcome at Qatar's Diwan-e-Amiri

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday was accorded a warm welcome as he arrived at the Diwan-e-Amiri to meet Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. On his arrival at the Diwan, the Amir of Qatar warmly welcomed the prime minister. Later, the Amiri guards also presented a guard of honor to the prime minister, who is here on a two-day official visit on the invitation of the Qatari Amir. Prime Minister and Amir held talks to discuss ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation. Later today, he would also meet Chairman of Qatar Businessmen Association and CEO of Qatar Airways to promote economic cooperation between the two countries. On Tuesday too, the prime minister had a busy day when he met the Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, besides addressing the Pakistan-Qatar Trade and Investment Roundtable conference. Later, the Amiri guards also presented a guard of honor to the prime minister, who is here on a two-day official visit on the invitation of the Qatari Amir. Prime Minister and Amir held talks to discuss ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation. Later today, he would also meet Chairman of Qatar Businessmen Association and CEO of Qatar Airways to promote economic cooperation between the two countries. INP

Current account deficit drops to \$1.2 billion in July

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has reported a decline in current account deficit to \$1.2 billion in the first month of new fiscal year from \$2.2 billion in June, last month of subsequent fiscal year. The State Bank attributed the shrink in deficit to wide-ranging measures taken in recent months to moderate growth and contain imports, including tight monetary policy, fiscal consolidation, and some temporary administrative measures. The import bill fell by 38 percent to \$4.86 billion in July 2022 as compared to \$7.88 billion in June 2022, in line with the federal government's expectations. On year-on-year basis, in July 2022, the imports were lower by \$714 million, or 13 percent, compared to the same month last year, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In order to curb the deficit and fiscal instability, the federal government and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) took administrative measures to reduce imports. The government banned imports of more than three dozen of non-essential luxury goods. The Ministry of Commerce (MOC), imposed the ban through SRO No. 598(I)/2022, effective from 19 May 2022. Moreover, on 20 May, 2022, SBP published a circular requiring authorized dealers to receive approval from the FX operations department before issuing or amending a line of credit (LOC), registering, or amending a contract, making an advance payment, or authorizing transactions on an open account or collection basis. INP

Sedition case: Police seek seven-day extension in Gill's remand

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police on Wednesday sought seven-day extension of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill's physical remand in sedition case. The PTI leader has been brought before the Islamabad district and sessions court today (Wednesday) after the completion of his two-day physical remand. The Islamabad police along with apprising the court about the investigation pleaded to grant another seven-day physical remand. The prosecutor argued that they need to further investigate and therefore the remand should be extended. It is pertinent to mention here that the court on Monday rejected Shahbaz Gill's plea to be sent to jail on judicial remand and granted police another two-day physical remand. Shahbaz Gill while talking in the courtroom said that no one is being allowed to meet him, adding that twelve people tied him up and shaved him, they also tried to feed him forcefully. He further added that he was not even given new clothes to change and he could not bathe or even wash his face for five days. The IHC judge remarked that the PTI leader has mentioned of violent treatment but he was not even handcuffed. The court ordered the re-appearance on August 24 and directed the police authorities to provide full facilities and to further arrange a meeting of the accused with the lawyers and family. INP

LHC orders interim relief on electricity bills

LAHORE: Providing an interim relief to the consumers, the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday ordered the payment of electricity bills without including in it the amount to be paid under the head of fuel adjustment. During the hearing of petitions filed against the fuel adjustment tax, the court while issuing notices to the federal government, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) and other respondents in the case, sought their replies. The court also said it would hear this and other identical petitions together on September 14, 2022. The petitioners said that the electricity prices had gone further up following the federal government's decision to include the fuel adjustment tax in the electricity bills. The levy of the tax was not as per the law, they said, and prayed to the court to not only declare the notification issued in this regard null and void but also order the LESCO and other power distributing companies not to include fuel adjustment tax in the electricity bills until the court gave its decision on the petition. INP

IHC orders interior ministry to launch inquiry into alleged torture of Shahbaz Gill

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday ordered the interior ministry to launch an inquiry into the allegations of torture of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill. Acting IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq issued a detailed 21-page verdict, asking the interior ministry to appoint an inquiry officer under the supervision of a retired IHC judge. "An SSP rank officer will supervise the physical remand of Shahbaz Gill to ensure there should be no torture of him," the court ordered. "Upon his arrival at Adiala Jail, the physical examination of Shahbaz Gill was recorded in the record register. The medical officer wrote in the register that Gill had multiple injuries and marks on his body. He should have had an immediate medical examination as per the rules about the prisoners," the IHC said in its verdict. "According to the law, the jail authorities were bound to report to the sessions judge and the in-charge prosecution. But, the jail authorities reported torture of Shahbaz Gill to neither the sessions judge nor the advocate general," it added. "A medical board was constituted on August 13 and August 15 to examine Shahbaz Gill. According to the police, Shahbaz Gill refused to undergo a medical examination by the medical board which gave a report on Gill's health, but made no mention of torture. The IG Islamabad police also denied torture of Shahbaz Gill," it stated. "The allegations of torture of Shahbaz Gill cannot be ignored. The Constitution and the courts are the guardians of the prisoners' rights. INP

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LAHORE: Providing an interim relief to the consumers, the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday ordered the payment of electricity bills without including in it the amount to be paid under the head of fuel adjustment. During the hearing of petitions filed against the fuel adjustment tax, the court while issuing notices to the federal government, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) and other respondents in the case, sought their replies. The court also said it would hear this and other identical petitions together on September 14, 2022. The petitioners said that the electricity prices had gone further up following the federal government's decision to include the fuel adjustment tax in the electricity bills. The levy of the tax was not as per the law, they said, and prayed to the court to not only declare the notification issued in this regard null and void but also order the LESCO and other power distributing companies not to include fuel adjustment tax in the electricity bills until the court gave its decision on the petition. INP

Daska by-poll rigging: ECP summons Usman Dar, Firdous Awan

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned PTI leaders, Usman Dar, Umar Dar, Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan and three others in Daska by-poll rigging. According to a notice issued by the ECP, PTI leaders, Usman Dar his brother Umar Dar, Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, Arif Soni, Asif and Iqbal Soni have been directed to appear before the commission on August 30. The notice said in the light of statements of the witnesses and accused in Daska by-poll rigging, you [PTI leaders] were found directly involved in the rigging of the by-poll. After inquiry, it was learned that you people attended a meeting in the DPO office on February 17 and Rs3,000 each was 'given' to the presiding officers. Out of 20 presiding officers probed for rigging in Daska-by-poll, some of them blamed the political personalities for their direct involvement. 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. An inquiry report issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan determined that the NA-75 Stalkot-IV by-election held in Daska on February 19 was not held in a fair, free, and transparent manner. It may be recalled, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidate Nosheen Iftikhar clinched victory on a National Assembly (NA) seat in hotly-contested. INP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi calling on Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah.

IHC orders interior ministry to launch inquiry into alleged torture of Shahbaz Gill

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday ordered the interior ministry to launch an inquiry into the allegations of torture of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill. Acting IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq issued a detailed 21-page verdict, asking the interior ministry to appoint an inquiry officer under the supervision of a retired IHC judge. "An SSP rank officer will supervise the physical remand of Shahbaz Gill to ensure there should be no torture of him," the court ordered. "Upon his arrival at Adiala Jail, the physical examination of Shahbaz Gill was recorded in the record register. The medical officer wrote in the register that Gill had multiple injuries and marks on his body. He should have had an immediate medical examination as per the rules about the prisoners," the IHC said in its verdict. "According to the law, the jail authorities were bound to report to the sessions judge and the in-charge prosecution. But, the jail authorities reported torture of Shahbaz Gill to neither the sessions judge nor the advocate general," it added. "A medical board was constituted on August 13 and August 15 to examine Shahbaz Gill. According to the police, Shahbaz Gill refused to undergo a medical examination by the medical board which gave a report on Gill's health, but made no mention of torture. The IG Islamabad police also denied torture of Shahbaz Gill," it stated. "The allegations of torture of Shahbaz Gill cannot be ignored. The Constitution and the courts are the guardians of the prisoners' rights. INP

Police arrest three for digging Cholistan archeological sites

AHMEDPUR EAST: Local police in a raid arrested three accused allegedly involved in excavation of archeological sites in Cholistan for theft of antique items on Wednesday. Police conducted raid during illegal excavation at ancient archeological sites of Azeemwali and Siddhuwala, which were said to be vanished by drowning, officials said. Police has arrested three accused involved in illegal digging of the archeological sites and registered case against them, according to officials. The FIR has been registered at Derawar police station with archeological department official as complainant. Complainant archeological department SDO said that the illegal excavation was underway at the sites for last several days. "Cholistan have around 400 ancient sites with archeological importance," the official said. The FIR has been registered at Derawar police station with archeological department official as complainant. Complainant archeological department SDO said that the illegal excavation was underway at the sites for last several days. "Cholistan have around 400 ancient sites with archeological importance," the official said. The FIR has been registered at Derawar police station with archeological department official as complainant. INP



QUETTA: Chairman Kisan Ittihad Khalid Hussain addressing a press conference.