

# QUETTA VOICE

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### Anti polio campaign postponed in Balochistan because of floods



### Quetta: Children facing brunt of floods as their death toll reached 75

## Floods wreak havoc in Hanna Urak Quetta

Syed Ali Shah  
Manan Mandokhail

Flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall wreaked havoc in Hanna Urak Quetta, Pakistan's famous tourist point. Floods swept away houses, bridges, and roads in the lush green valley located in the middle of rugged mountains. "Floods swept away everything", Israr Khan Kakar, a flood affectee told the Daily Quetta Voice on Friday evening.

Heavy rainfall and floods had destroyed standing apple trees and inflicted heavy damage to other standing crops in the area. The true face of the lush green valley famous for pleasant cold weather was completely distorted by the merciless floods. Israr Kakar, a mighty man with a black bushy beard bursts into tears when he recalled the night when floods swept away their homes. "My daughter calls for her school bag, which was swept away in floods", he cried recalling the movement.

It is very difficult to drive on the already narrow and poor road severely damaged by floods. Residents of the area don't allow



tourists to enter the valley because of fear of the worst traffic jams.

"You are not allowed to go to the valley", a man who identified himself as Ajab Khan Kakar, a member of the Hanna Urak Committee told the Daily Quetta Voice team. However, after showing press cards, the man allowed the team to cover the natural disaster.

### "Floods inflicted heavy damages to our orchards"

Floods and heavy rainfall have also damaged apple orchards located in

the mountain-ringed valley, which is home to what locals say 14,000 people. "Floods inflicted heavy damages to our orchards", Zainuddin, another flood affected lamented. The affected people demanded of the federal and provincial governments support them in these difficult times. "A bag of sugar and flour is not enough, we want our homes back", Zainuddin said. He said the government has to relocate them and construct houses for them. Balochistan and Sindh provinces have faced the brunt of recent monsoon rains, which unleashed flash floods. Most parts of the two provinces have been completely flooded and people have no space to live.



## In few minutes, floods swept away a house built after 40 years struggle

Syed Ali Shah  
Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall wreaked havoc across Pakistan. The flood-affected people narrate heartwrenching stories about the devastation caused by merciless floods in Balochistan, the country's area-wise largest province.

"We constructed this house after 40 years of struggle", Tasleem Akhtar, an aged woman in Quetta's Nawan Killi said. She said her husband and family members struggled for 40 years to collect money to construct this house.

Tasleem, her two daughters, two sons and husband were sitting outside the destroyed house in Malik



Town Nawan Killi. The authorities had not provided them with tents and blankets and they were shelterless.

"I know, you media men only make photos and give nothing", she told the Daily Quetta Voice reporting team. Media men have been coming but they are not giving anything.

### Floods swept away 200 mud-walled houses in Killi Kamalo

Floods swept away more than 200 mud-walled houses in Quetta's Killi Kamalo Uzbek Bazar. A large number of people are shelterless there. "That was doomsday when

floods swept away our homes before our eyes", Amanullah Rind, a disabled man with a bushy black beard recalls. "I could not save a single glass", he said.

### "My son got injured when a wall fell", Agha Jan, a 43-year-old man cried

"My son got injured when a wall fell", Agha Jan, a 43-year-old man cried. Narrating the ordeal, the man burst into tears. "I constructed this house after 20 years of strug-

gle and floods washed away it in few minutes", Agha Jan said.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) claimed to have provided relief items to the flood-affected people. However, people on the ground negate PDMA's claims and are critical of the authority.

### Houses damaged in Quetta

"We are fed up with photo sessions", Mustafa Khan, another flood-affected person said. Mr. Khan said the officials were coming and making photos of the destruction. "They should at least provide tents", he demanded.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo has already admitted that there was a shortage of tents in the province. He said this was the underlying reasons that still a large number of people were shelterless.

## Thousands in desperate need of support in Balochistan: Lashkari Raisani

Staff Reporter

Senior politician and former senator, Nawabzada Mir Lashkari Raisani on Thursday said that thousands of people were in desperate need of support in Balochistan.

"The philanthropists should come forward and support the flood-affected people", Mr. Raisani said. The Balochistan Peace Forum launched relief activities in flood-affected areas of the province to support the affected people. "People are deprived of a one-time meal and we should join hands to support them", Lashkari Raisani said.

Flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall played havoc across Balochistan. Almost 80 percent



area of the province, which covers half of the country in terms of the area has been hit hard by floods and torrential rains.

The Balochistan Peace Forum distributed relief goods among the affected people in Nawan Killi, Hana Urak, Killi Nasaran and other parts of the province. "We standby our people in this hour of trial", Haji Lashkari said.

## Anti polio campaign postponed in Balochistan because of floods

Health Desk

QUETTA: The anti-polio campaign was postponed for the second time in Balochistan because of



floods. The government has decided to postpone the anti-polio campaign scheduled to commence on September 5th, a statement issued by the health department government of Balochistan said.

The campaign has been postponed after floods wreaked havoc across the province. A new schedule for the commencement of the anti-polio campaign would be announced later, the statement said.

This is for the second time that the government has postponed the anti-polio campaign. Earlier, the health department had postponed the anti-polio campaign scheduled to commence on August 29th.

## Walking for miles, 72 flood affectees arrive in Kalat

Abdullah Lehri

KALAT: Walking for miles, 72 flood affectees including women and children finally arrived here on Friday. The flood-affected families from Garhi Khair Sindh walked for miles day and night to reach Kalat. "None has asked about food and shelter", Rukhsana, a woman with her two daughters complained.

She said their children were suffering from different diseases and the authorities have not provided them any support so far. The flood-affected people reached Kalat Bazar. Local people provided food on their own after their arrival.

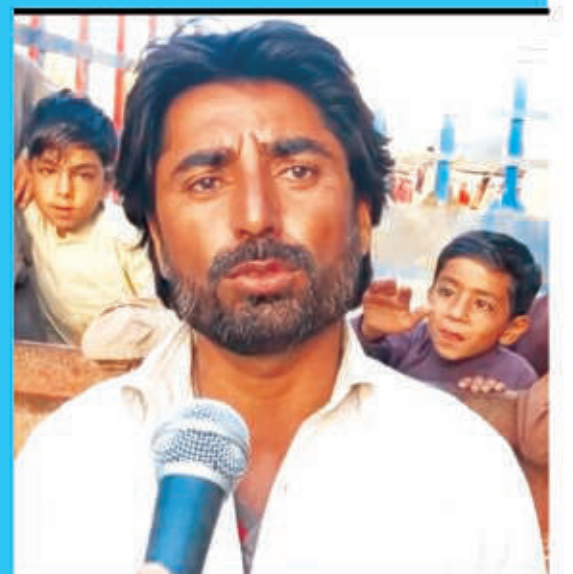
"We are extremely tired and our women and children are in desperate need of support", Ilahi Bakhsh, an aged man said. Mr. Bakhsh said their hut-like houses were completely destroyed and the entire area was flooded. "We had no option other than coming to Balochistan", he said.

### Flood affectees from Sindh also arrive in Naseerabad

Flood affectees from various parts of Sindh have also arrived in the Naseerabad district of Balochistan. Since the entire Naseerabad division has been flooded, the flood affectees from Sindh have taken refuge on the roadside.

"The situation in Sindh is more serious than Balochistan", Chief Minister, Mir Qudus Bizenjo said. He said only the Naseerabad division was worst hit in Balochistan and the rest of the province was normal.

The provincial government has already declared six districts including Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Jhal Magsi, Sohbat Pur, and Sibi as calamity-hit districts. These districts are very close to Sindh province.



### No clean drinking water in Naseerabad

The flood-hit people in Naseerabad have demanded of the provincial government to provide them with tents, food, and clean drinking water. "There is no clean drinking water", Muhammad Bakhsh, another flood affectee from Sindh's Tul area who arrived in Dera Murad Jamali lamented.

Sindh and Balochistan have faced the brunt of the recent monsoon, which played havoc in their districts. Millions of people are in desperate need of support in the two provinces.

## Three siblings killed as truck runs over flood victims in Badin Sindh

Monitoring Desk

In a shocking incident, three siblings were killed as a truck loaded with relief goods ran over flood victims in the Badin district of Sindh province. The flood-affected people were sleeping on the roadside when the truck ran over them in the wee hours of Friday.

The unfortunate siblings were displaced by the floods and had sought refuge on the roadside when the tragedy

struck. Police rushed to the spot soon after the incident was reported as flood victims blocked the road. Officials arrested the driver and the conductor, and also seized the vehicle as around 40 people continued the protest.

Golarchi Station House Officer (SHO) Asghar Halepoto identified the driver as Zainullah and the conductor as Noor Gul, reiterating that the vehicle in question had been impounded.

## Quetta: Children facing brunt of floods as their death toll reached 75

News Desk

QUETTA: Children continue to face the brunt of floods as their death toll in rains-related incidents rose to 75 across Balochistan on Thursday. The death toll in rains-related incidents rose to 256 as per the statistics shared by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

"Death ratio of children is high in Balochistan", Naseer Ahmed Nasar, the Director-General of PDMA said. He said merciless floods swept away children playing on streets and on waterways and some of them died below the rubbles of their collapsed houses.

Most of the deaths of the children were recorded in Quetta, Pishin, Bolan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, and Killa Saifullah. "Parents have also to be very careful", Mr. Nasar said.

### Parents went through dumb agony

In some cases, the hapless parents were to go through dumb agony



for the recovery of the dead bodies of their beloved children. In Quetta's Sariab Road area, a 9-year-old boy was swept away by floods, and a brave man Mir Balach Nowsherwani jumped into the floods and sacrificed his life for the recovery of a minor.

Rescue workers retrieved the dead bodies of Balach and the minor boy after a 14-hours rescue operation. Two children went missing in flash floods unleashed by torrential rains in Balochistan's Pishin district. People of the area retrieved the dead bodies after 48 hours.

### "Women and children are vulnerable to the floods"

"Women and children are vulnerable to the floods", Wadood Tareen, the Chief of a non-governmental organization (NGO) working on children's rights said. He however stated that parents too have to show responsibility when it comes to the safety and security of children.

Floods and heavy rainfall have also paralyzed routine life in Balochistan, Pakistan's resource-rich but least developed province. The province remained disconnected with the rest of the country for the last one week.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

Balochistan floods: Govt and friendly opposition missing

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 Qaddus 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.

Flash floods unleashed by 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.

Above all, Commander 12-Corps Lieutenant General Sarfaraz Ali and other military officers embraced martyrdom in the relief and rescue operation in Lasbela.

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 Uqali 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.

According to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), Pakistan is the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change. Pakistan will face a \$26 billion annual loss. The greenhouse gas emissions of Pakistan are 0.7% which is nearly negligible. Greenhouse gases are resulting in the increase in temperature of the planet earth.

Pakistan received heavy rainfall in this monsoon. The rainfall was followed by extreme flash floods in many parts of the country. The 3 provinces Khyber Pakhtun khwa (KPK), Sindh, and Balochistan particularly received heavy rainfall and floods. Till now most damages are recorded in the Balochistan province.

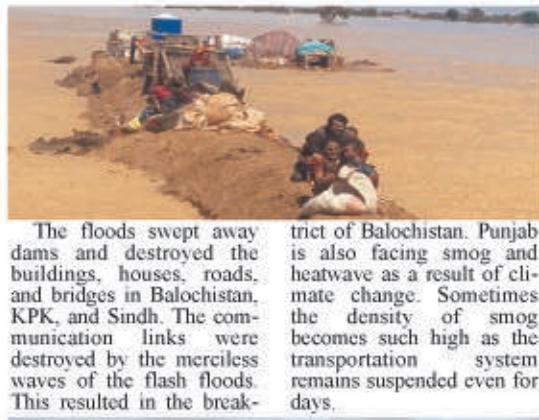
Balochistan is the most vulnerable to climate change.

Balochistan is the most vulnerable province of Pakistan to climate change. Many times this province has faced different types of natural disasters due to climate change. Drought is the major threat to Balochistan as Barkan the district of Balochistan faced a prolonged drought of 22 months from 1999 to 2002, and Quetta experienced severe droughts in 2000, 2004, and 2008. During this monsoon season, Balochistan faced extreme floods in almost every part of the province.

Houses damaged in Quetta

Vulnerability of Balochistan Pakistan to Climate Change

Syed Muhammad Qaseem



The floods swept away dams and destroyed the buildings, houses, roads, and bridges in Balochistan, KPK, and Sindh. The communication links were destroyed by the merciless waves of the flash floods. This resulted in the break-

down of physical communication between the provinces. The provinces faced food shortages, as all of the roads were broken and the bridges collapsed. Train service was also suspended due to the collapse of a bridge in Bolan, a dis-



Balochistan totally paralyzed due to floods: The flood waves destroyed the infrastructure in Balochistan. The primary source of income for Balochistan's 85 percent population is agricultural. Floods destroyed crops on

large scale, and people faced economic issues. Life in the province was totally paralyzed as it faced a prolonged Sui gas suspension, no electricity, a shortage of food items, and no mobile network. The government announced 7 days holiday for all educational institutions in the province, due to the continuous floods.

The floods claimed many precious human lives. Most of them were children, women, and aged men. The provincial government and Federal government seemed very weak to cope with the situation. Balochistan's government called for the Pakistan Military to be stationed in the different flood-affected areas of the province in order to handle the unwanted incidents.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) need to make disaster management plans to handle such situations. It should highly train its employees so that human lives can be saved.

Dams must be built on emergency bases to prevent floods and store water for drought-like situations. The dam construction work should be strictly supervised to increase the construction quality of the dams. The provincial government must ensure zero encroachment in the waterways.

Pakistan as a developing country needs the cooperation of the International community.

Pakistan's economy is mainly based on agriculture and climate change is adversely affecting its crops. Climate change is having an impact on the seasonal conditions of Pakistan in which summers will get longer and winters will be shorter. Pakistan is economically weak and it is difficult for the country to fight climate change. As a developing country, it has limited resources and poverty is spread all over the country. The average daily income of more than half of the population is around 2 dollars.

Bridge collapsed in khuzdar district of Balochistan

The highest emitters of greenhouse gases are developed countries. Interestingly only 10 countries emit 68 percent of the greenhouse gases. Pakistan being a signatory of the Paris agreement on climate change and being the least emitter of greenhouse gas needs the cooperation of the international community to help it to fight against climate change.

The author is a student of Software Engineering at the Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS). He frequently writes about looming threat of climate change and global warming in Balochistan and Pakistan

The Socio-Economic Impacts of 2022 Floods in Balochistan

Syed Ahmed Safdar

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

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



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

Balochistan loses huge amount of water due to no dams. Unfortunately, in the recent monsoon season, we have lost a huge amount of water due to the lack of proper reservoir and dam systems in the province. Dam and reservoirs can minimize the initial pressure of flood on one

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

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

The consequences of floods, both negative and positive, vary greatly depending on their location, duration, the extent of flooding, depth, and speed, as well as the vulnerability and value of the affected natural and constructed environments. Floods impact both individuals and communities and have social, economic, and environmental consequences.

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

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

Future directions

By Atta-ur-Rahman

As the floods sweep across much of Pakistan, they have highlighted the need for proper water management. It was in the 60s when President Ayub Khan built the Warsak, Mangla and Tarbela dams. Little work on new dam construction has been done in the subsequent 50 years.

In contrast China has constructed 80,000 large dams, and India has built over 5000 large dams while Pakistan has only two big dams. If Pakistan too had built about a thousand large dams, much of the water that is causing national devastation could have been stored and used both for agriculture as well as for electricity generation.

The country's river systems are dependent on melting of glaciers in the snow-covered Himalayas and with global warming, increased flooding is to be expected both in terms of overflowing rivers as well as flash flooding due to unusually heavy rains, as has happened now. The water storage capacity of Pakistan in the Indus Basin is hardly 30 days whereas India has a storage capacity of about 200 days while in Australia and US this capacity is about 900 days. It is imperative that a well-thought-out water management strategy is urgently implemented as the present floods are likely to be a regular feature with further intensification over the next few decades, on account of global warming.

But dam construction is only one of the major problems facing Pakistan. The

country has dismally failed to tap into its real wealth, our children, by neglecting education. Our planning ministry needs to drastically change the overall directions of the country to a technology driven knowledge economy. Innovation leading to creation of disruptive businesses must become the national priority. For this it is important to promote the venture start-up eco system.

Pakistan's main problem is that its exports are at a miserable level of about \$30 billion since we are exporting only low value textiles, agricultural products etc. We need to emerge from this low value trap and start manufacturing and exporting high value products such as electronics, engineering goods, automobiles, new solar energy technologies, pharmaceuticals as well as AI products such as those based on Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things etc.

To achieve this, a number of steps need to be taken. Our universities and research centers must integrate innovation and entrepreneurship into their programmes. Universities today are harbingers of change. They can act as the platforms from which thousands of successful start-ups can sprout up. Technology Parks need to be made an integral part of all universities, and government support to university budgets linked to their success in promoting new businesses and enhancing national exports.

One excellent model is that of the University of Cambridge. I know the uni-

versity well as I spent over eight years there first for my PhD and later as Fellow of Kings College Cambridge. This association has continued over the last 50 years. A large Science Park is associated with Cambridge University which has been the home to thousands of new start-up companies in high tech fields. Established in 1970 by Trinity College, Cambridge Science Park is today Europe's largest centre for commercial research and development. Cambridge city is now home to some of the fastest-growing tech companies in the UK such as Darktrace, GeoSpock and more. These companies have been estimated to have an annual turnover of GBP2.4 billion.

There are huge opportunities in Pakistan in many sectors that remain unexploited including waste recycling, mineral extraction and processing, advanced agriculture and energy storage systems. Our universities need to be upgraded with high quality faculty, and technology parks established within them to foster new start-up companies. They should be given liberal research grants in both applied and basic areas of science, for technology development and for social sciences. The private sector has a pivotal role to play in these efforts by investing in Research and Development -- this is almost absent in Pakistan. The government can help jumpstart the private sector R&D efforts by giving tax breaks to industry investing in research and development.

Learning from catastrophes

By Abdul Sattar

Monsoon rains and floods continue to wreak havoc across the country. More than 1,000 lives have been lost and over 1,500 people wounded in the calamity that saw the destruction of bridges, small dams, schools, hospitals besides the inundation of millions of acres of land.

The recent floods have not only exposed the flawed development models but also put a question mark over the tall claims of the ruling elite that pretends to be altruistic.

The heart-wrenching scenes of five young men making desperate appeals for help in a town of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP) and the images of children swept away by merciless waves of floods in Balochistan have moved every sensitive person. The grief of those who saw their loved ones drowning in front of their eyes as they called authorities for help is unimaginable.

Such tragic incidents must have inflicted deep wounds in the hearts of those who lost their relatives. This tragic loss has become an integral part of their life, which will make them heartbroken every time they think about their loved ones.

What is even more unfortunate is the fact that these flood victims do not seem to have respite any time soon. The spectre of diseases, which are likely to break out in several parts of the country, is haunting millions of flood victims. Poor hygienic conditions in camps and temporary shelters are also multiplying their misery. It seems that it will take years, or maybe decades, for these people to rebuild their shattered lives.

But far away from the grief and misery of these unfortunate people is a ruling class which is busy enjoying its carefree life. The champion of change, whose party is ruling four out of the six regions that have been devastated by floods and torrential rains, has nothing to do except repeating the foreign conspiracy allegations. His teams in Punjab, KP, Gilgit-Balistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) seem to have a hectic schedule that forces them to visit every place except the areas that are inundated because of the incessant downpours and overflowing rivers.

These people are defending the logic of the 'revolutionary leader', who unabashedly asserted that he would hold public gatherings even in the middle of war. The pious leader firmly believes that his struggle for real independence will immediately tame the furious waves of the River Indus, warding off the danger posed to Nowshera and parts of KP. Imran Khan has a dogged determination to prove that if a leader is clad in shalwar qameez, repeats the mantra of corruption and addresses mammoth public gatherings, the misery of flood-affected people would evaporate within no time. Such an approach will immensely help rebuild

destroyed houses, drain inundated land, repair damaged bridges and restore extirpated roads. Therefore, he thinks it is justified to squander billions of rupees on larger-than-life billboards, thousands of panaflex and giant screens to propagate the message of the modern emancipator.

These floods have also exposed the performance of the party that claims to be the champion of the general will. Its pathetic handling of the situation in Sindh has infuriated tens of thousands of people who are struggling to get relief. The way the party's feudal lords treated grief-stricken people has unleashed a torrent of criticism. Video clips of a politician distributing Rs50 among the affected have prompted many to criticize the party that has been ruling for over a decade now.

In the last few days, we saw how angry mobs surrounded provincial ministers who went to flood-affected areas for photo sessions, questioning these modern barons over the lacklustre response of the provincial government. Instead of responding to these questions, some of these government's representatives misbehaved with the affectees.

Unfortunately, these members of the ruling elite, whether they are from the PTI, the PPP or the PML-N, will continue fooling the people unless the people rise against them demanding a model of development that does not benefit just a few

companies, contractors and politicians but the vast majority of the country. From Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to PPP Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, all are trying to give the impression that they really care about the plight of the people, but, in reality, no politician is ready to take responsibility for the loss of over 1,000 lives.

Several reports suggest that the government knew about the severity of the rains. However, the measures it took were not enough to ward off the losses that have had devastating effects on the lives of millions of people.

Many argue that the ruling elite is responsible for the destruction and devastation caused by the floods and torrential rains. The ruling class failed to make concrete efforts to clear off waterways, which could have minimized losses to a great extent. In 2019 the government was informed that the existing waterways were so broad decades ago that one million cusecs water could easily pass through them but their size has shrunk now because of encroachment and unplanned development. Now only 100,000 cusecs of water can pass through these waterways. Rivers have been encroached upon by the builder mafia, and even sewerage drains have not been spared.

What has been done cannot be undone, but the government can at least identify the waterways that are occupied by various vested interests and

Inequality and hunger

By Chuck Collins

Beginning on May 24, the World Economic Forum is gathering in Davos, Switzerland for an in-person meeting, discussing the global tax system and financial inclusion. Thanks to protests and new research, however, participants will not be able to avoid the elephant in the room: the surging inequality of wealth during the pandemic.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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WHO pledges support for flood-victims in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Regional Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Ahmed Al-Mandhari has pledged to continue supporting flood-hit victims in Pakistan.

current prevailing situation after the floods. Qadir Patel thanked the World Health Organization for helping the flood victims, the WHO has a key role in the health sector, he added.

severely damaged the basic health system. The WHO regional director said that the flood victims will continue to be fully supported.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar chaired a fifth meeting of Cabinet sub Committee to deliberate a policy relating to enforced disappearances at Ministry of Law in.

Speakers term Syed Ali Gilani epoch-making leader of Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD: speakers described the late freedom fighter as real hero of the Kashmir freedom movement for his undaunted resistance against the Indian tyranny all through his life.

people from Indian subjugation and his unprecedented struggle and spirit of resistance will continue to inspire the coming generations of Kashmiris.

India, the claimant of the world's largest democracy will not grant Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination through democratic means.

CPEC key to Balochistan's economic empowerment: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The Balochistan province will experience robust socioeconomic growth once the infrastructure and energy projects launched under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor are completed.

He added that today's challenge for any emerging nation is to become an ideal state economically. "We still need to learn how to run a successful economy."

have begun constructing hotels, stores and residences to boost their revenues," Adnan Khan said.



QUETTA: Families of missing persons burns tyres to protest in favor of their demands at Provincial Assembly Chowk, in Provincial Capital.

China closely following flood situation in Pakistan: Spokesperson

BEIJING: "Since the floods hit Pakistan, China has been closely following the situation. We responded immediately and made every effort to provide relief assistance."

province, which suffered devastating earthquake in 2008. At the time, Pakistan rushed to China's assistance and provided unreserved help by sending all its tents in stock to the stricken area, which deeply touched the Chinese people.

various ways to express sympathy or support to Pakistan. The China International Development Cooperation Agency has set up a joint working group with Pakistan on the implementation of follow-up cooperation in emergency relief," said Wang.

Faisalabad: JI blocks canal road against inflated electricity bills

FAISALABAD: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) has blocked Faisalabad's Canal Road against inflated electricity bills and demanded withdrawal of all surcharges slapped on the consumers on Friday.

have installed barbed wire and barriers outside the headquarters. The protesters announced that they would not deposit the bills if the increase in tariff was not withdrawn.

Rs4.69 per unit, Nepra said. Meanwhile, heavy contingent of anti-riot force and district police have been deployed outside FESCO headquarters to avoid any untoward incident.

Afghanistan mosque blast kills 18, including top cleric

KABUL: A huge bomb blast Friday at one of the biggest mosques in western Afghanistan killed at least 18 people, including an influential imam. Images posted on Twitter showed what appeared to be blood-stained bodies scattered around the compound of Gazargah Mosque in Herat city.



QUETTA: President Help Balochistan Dr Ameer Jozgai along with FC officer distributing rashes among flood affected peoples.

Lahore High Court strikes down FBR notices in AML investigations

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Friday struck down hundreds of notices issued by the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) to various people in anti-money laundering investigations.

CPEC presents enormous growth opportunities for SMEs: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are essential to economic empowerment, can benefit greatly from China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), reported WealthPK.

cial attention should be paid to SME development for creating employment opportunities and enhancing GDP (gross domestic product) growth in the country.

The SMEs have less access to information and communication channels and they face difficulties complying with labour, environmental, social, and international standards, therefore, they operate in limited markets.

Pakistan can save big by reducing post-harvest crop losses: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can save hundreds of millions of rupees by minimizing post-harvest crop losses through the use of modern equipment.

Azam Khan, Chairman of Horticulture, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, said that about 35 to 40% of total production is lost as a result of post-harvest losses in fruits and vegetables due to improper handling of the perishable products, inefficient transportation, and inadequate storage facilities and market infrastructure.

material, but before packing there should be proper fumigation so that it doesn't catch fungus, and there should be a proper storage facility where we can store them for a longer period of time because they will be used in November. If we don't, the viable seed won't germinate properly, which lowers the percentage of wheat production," he explained.

should follow protocols, including knowing how to handle seed grain after harvest and prepare it for the following year," he added.

that similar post-harvest crop losses occur with other crops such as banana, tomato, melon, mango, and orange. There is a dire need to tighten the supply chain if farmers are to reduce their losses.

Advertisement for SMEs in Urdu, mentioning 'Small and Medium Enterprises' and 'WealthPK'.

# Evo Community in China provides relief goods to affectees in Hana Urak

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: The Evo Community comprising Pakistani and other nationals living in China provided relief goods to the flood-affected people in the Hanna Urak area of Quetta.

Evo Community distributed 45 packages of food items in Killi Atalzai, Hana Urak, Quetta's famous tourist point. This commu-

nity is run by overseas Pakistanis working in China. Their aim is to provide basic needs to the flood-affected people in Balochistan and also in Peshawar.

Torrential rains followed by merciless waves of floods adversely affected the lives of people in Balochistan. A large number of mud-walled and concrete-built houses are heavily damaged and even some are completely swept away by the floods.

Many people are left shelterless in the province. The government doesn't have the potential to help the affected people or fulfill their needs. Food security is nowadays a big problem in most of the flood-affected areas of Balochistan.

"We will try our best to reach out to the people who are in desperate need of the support", Mr. Shah Zaman, the Food distribution chairman told the daily Quetta Voice while distributing the packages.



The community stated that they got motivation from social media to help the people in desperate need of food and shelter in Balochistan.

Each package contained Wheat, Sugar, pulses, cooking oil, etc. Shah Jahan, Naseem Khan, Wali Muhammad, and Shariq were also among the distribution members of the community. The members of the Evo community aimed to further increase their relief activities in Balochistan and Peshawar.



**SEHWAN:** A view of large number of flood affected People receive food aid from relief truck in Sehwan.

## Govt restores electricity in majority areas of KP: Khurram Dastagir

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Power Khurram Dastagir Khan on Thursday said that electricity had been restored in almost all flood hit areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Minister expressed these views during a press conference after presiding over a high-level meeting regarding flood damages to electricity infrastructure including grid stations, feeders, transmission lines and poles besides rehabilitation and reconstruction operations of the Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO) and Tribal Electricity Supply Company (TESCO) in the flood hit areas of KP at PESCO headquarters here.

The Minister said that except some flood hit areas of Swat and Bajaur, electricity had been restored in all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for which PESCO and TESCO authorities and field staff deserved appreciation.

He directed PESCO and TESCO authorities to restore electricity in remaining flood affected areas of upper Swat and Bajaur at earliest. The Minister said that Joint Secretary of Ministry of Power, Alamzaib had been deployed to oversee and monitor electricity's restoration and reconstruction works in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and would report on daily basis to the Ministry about resolution of electricity related issues in flood hit areas of the province.

Out of nine closed grid stations, he said, electricity on six grid stations had been restored. Similarly, out of 126 affected feeders, 121 feeders were restored in the province, adding basic electricity infrastructure includ-

ing feeders and grid stations were functional in KP despite devastating floods in Rivers Kabul and Swat.

The Federal Minister who dashed to Peshawar to oversee flood damages on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that destroyed electricity poles and transmission lines would be reconstructed on priority basis. He directed PESCO and TESCO authorities to expedite work on the affected poles and transmission lines in flood hit areas of KP.

The Minister said the flood had badly affected electricity infrastructure in upper areas of Swat including Matta, Madain and Bahrain besides some areas of Bajaur and directed PESCO and TESCO chiefs to restore electricity system in these areas on priority basis to provide relief to the affected population.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had announced Rs10 billion financial aid for flood victims of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to provide relief to the affected population. To a question, he said that a national policy would be prepared for provision of relief to flood victims in electricity bills. Besides KP, he said flood had also caused havoc in Sindh, Balochistan and southern Punjab Khurram Dastagir said electricity system in all flood hit areas of Nowshera and Charasadda had been restored and no damage had been done to any grid station in Nowshera due to effective planning of the PESCO He directed Joint Secretary Alamzaib to closely coordinate with PESCO and TESCO to address problem of electricity poles within a week and report to the ministry about progress on its restoration on daily basis. INP

### Trade deficit rose by 28.89pc in Aug 2022, shares PBS data

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Friday shared that a 28.89 percent increase in trade deficit is seen during August 2022 as compared to July 2022 with both exports and imports also witnessing a hike.

According to the PBS data, the exports in August remained at US\$2,504 million as compared to the imports of US\$6,034 million, showing a trade deficit of US\$3,530 million, a 28.89 percent hike as compared to July 2022 when the exports remained at US\$2,254 million and imports at US\$4,993 million.

The trade deficit in July stood at US\$2,739 million.

In cumulative data of July and August 2022, the trade deficit declined by 17.03 percent as compared to the same months of FY 2021-22 after it remained at US\$6,269 million. The exports rose by 3.75 percent while imports declined by 9.25 percent in the first two months of FY 2022-23. INP

### Interior Minister launches NADRA Biker Service

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah has launched NADRA Biker Service for carrying out all the processes of CNIC applied in renewal and modification categories at the door-step of the applicant. The inauguration ceremony was held at NADRA Headquarters, Islamabad.

During his visit to NADRA Headquarters, Chairman NADRA briefed the Interior Minister about NADRA operations in Sindh, Baluchistan and South Punjab which have been badly affected by devastating floods and heavy rains.

The minister was informed that the monsoon rains and floods have caused heavy losses to the most of buildings of NRCs which are inundated under water, however, the equipment has been saved and evacuated. Houses of 150 NADRA employees in those areas have been damaged, the chairman informed.

Moreover, during the briefing Chairman NADRA informed the Minister that more than 37 million people have been terribly affected

due to on-going floods and continuous rain pour. He told that the heavy rains and flooding situation in certain areas had led to the loss of CNICs of affected people which would be needed to have an access to governments' relief disbursement and other relief activities.

with regard to Biker service, Mr. Malik informed that initially the pilot phase of the service would be started in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. By the end of December this year, NADRA Biker service would be extended to all the districts of the country, he added.

Chairman NADRA told the minister that after rolling out digital online services for the citizens, a home-based NADRA's Biker service is basically a portable NADRA Centre that will walk into the peoples' lounges and register them in their premises saving them from the hassle of visiting NADRA centre. Through this service the female registration officers using scooters will also carry out the registration of women only. INP

### Floods: Pakistan approaches G-20 nations to defer debt payments

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has approached G-20 countries for relief in debt payments as the country faces devastating floods that have killed more than 1,000 people and displaced millions.

According to sources privy to the matter, six agreements with Japan, Italy and Spain will be finalized during the ongoing month for debt relief and it will help in deferring payments of US\$189.5 million.

During the third session, G-20 countries have deferred debt payments of US\$947 million and after agreements with the three countries, the sources said that the relief will reach US\$1.13 billion.

The sources within economic affairs division said that the relief will include deferment of the US\$3.1 million debt from Spain, US\$1.1 million from Italy and US\$180 million from Japan. INP

### Annual inflation rate reaches 46.10pc after 1.31pc weekly increase

ISLAMABAD: The annual inflation rate in the country, after a 1.31% weekly increase, reached a historic high of 46.10%, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data showed.

According to the PBS data, the weekly inflation rate in the country in the last week was 1.31%. Prices of 31 essential items increased in the last week while prices of three items fell in the last week, PBS data shows.

The data showed that the price of onion increased dramatically as a result of devastating floods in the country, the price went up by Rs51.52 in the last week. While the price of tomatoes went up by Rs20.87, it added.

The PBS Weekly Inflation report shows an increase of Rs17.21 in Moong pulse prices while Chickpea pulse went up by Rs6.76. Potatoes increased by Rs4.55, eggs by Rs8.39 per dozen while the price of chicken went up by Rs8.91, it added.

The price for Liquid Petroleum Gas cylinder increased by Rs118.63 in the last week while a 20 kg bag of four went up by Rs18.33. The prices for garlic, milk, yoghurt and sugar also went up in the last week.

Also Read: Miftah Ismail 'ashamed' over record-high inflation in Pakistan

However, the price for a 2.5kg box of cooking oil dropped by Rs5.81 and Masoor pulse by Rs0.10. While the price of 17 essential items remained unstable. INP

## Pakistan doesn't want to be a toy in anyone's hands: President

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi said that being an independent country, Pakistan neither wanted to be a toy in anyone's hands nor looked for polarization.

"Pakistan doesn't want to be a toy in anybody's hands. Pakistan is an independent country. Pakistan wants good relations with everybody, particularly at the time when we are going through economic turmoil (and) the world is going through economic turmoil. Türkiye is going through economic turmoil," the president said in an interview with Turkish Anadolu Agency published on Thursday.

He said that Pakistan wanted good ties with everyone as the world was going through the economic turmoil.

"Pakistan is not looking for any polarization and does not want to be in any camp," he said.

On Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's upcoming visit to Pakistan in September, he said Islamabad would welcome him.

He said Pakistan and Türkiye had a very deep, long-lasting relationship.

On Ukraine war, he said Pakistan wanted peace and

the role and lauded the President Erdogan's role in this regard.

"The strategic understanding of what is happening around Türkiye, as well as around Pakistan, is important. The fact that the thinking of the Muslim Ummah should be together that will always be on the agenda. The fact that our ties are demonstrated to become closer is important for the people of Pakistan and Türkiye," he commented.

Asked to comment on Pakistan's plan to purchase oil and grain from Russia, he said it was the government to decide on the matter.

He said Pakistan was looking for good relationships with our long-term friends, which was the United States of America. And similarly, the country also wanted to continue and further establish its ties with China, he added. To a question, about China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the president said it was a partnership which was very important to Pakistan's economic interest. Regarding relations with India, he said, "Pakistan has been looking for peace. But whether India is looking for peace, I'm not sure because all our overtures have been put under a question mark. INP

### Floods affected 9.716 mln in Sindh, death tally at 522: Sharjeel Memon

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, on Friday, informed that 670,602 people from torrential rains and flood hit areas were shifted to 1975 relief camps set up by government.

The minister while informing about details of the losses caused by the flood and rains in the province and rescue measures carried out in affected areas said that victims accommodated in relief camps were being provided with food, water, medicine and other relief items.

Over 9.716 million people in Sindh were directly affected by the torrential downpour and flash flooding, he informed and maintained that Sindh government was striving for relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims and rescuing the flood victims was its top priority.

He informed that death tally due to disaster has reached at 522 while 21,885 people have been injured.

Moreover, 101,901 cattle have also perished throughout the province during the unprecedented rains and flash flooding, he added.

As many as 235 talukas and 1051 union councils have been affected by the rains, Memon said adding that 1.45 million houses have been damaged, completely or partially, while crops cultivated over 3.173 million acres have been destroyed. INP



**GAHKUCH:** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the flood affectees of District Ghizer.

## Turkiye delegation arrives in Pakistan to visit flood-affected areas

ISLAMABAD: A 17-member Turkiye delegation led by Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu and Environment Minister Murat Kurum arrived in Islamabad to visit flood-affected areas of Pakistan on Friday.

According to details, Planning Minister Asad Umar, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman received the delegation at the Islamabad airport.

Apart from visiting flood-affected areas of Pakistan, the Turkiye delegation will also call on high-ups of the federal government.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal expressed his gratitude to the leadership and people of Turkiye for extending support to Pakistan in the hour of trial.

"We will never forget Turkiye's spirit of sharing the pain of Pakistani people," the Planning minister said, noting that the country was constantly sending

relief goods to Pakistan via aircraft and rail.

The visiting Interior Minister informed the Minister for Planning that prayers will be offered for Pakistan today after Friday prayers in ninety thousand mosques of Turkiye.

More than 1,200 people have died, including 380 children, in what the United Nations has called an 'unprecedented climate catastrophe'.

According to the statement issued by the Climate Change Ministry, 70% of the country has suffered from floods in the last 2 months. The southern parts of the country are under water right now, they added. The statement added that health concerns are rising amid devastating floods in the county and the river Indus is facing severe floods right now, he added. Over 1,200 people have been reported dead amid floods in the country, while over 3000 have been injured in the city, he added. INP

### ECP urges Punjab to hold LG elections immediately

ISLAMABAD: The election commission on Thursday directed Punjab government to ensure immediate holding of local councils elections in the province.

A session of the election body, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja discussed the issue of the local government polls in Punjab.

"The provincial government is bound to hold local councils elections under the constitution as well as the orders of the Supreme Court," chief election commissioner said. INP

## Pakistan rupee takes early lead against US dollar in interbank trading

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani rupee again started the day Friday on positive note against the US dollar in the interbank trading.

As the forex dealers took positions, the Pakistani rupee gained 60 paise against the greenback and was being traded at Rs218 down from Rs218.60.

On Thursday, the US dollar struck back at the Pakistani rupee after day-long hammering in the interbank trading. The greenback recovered all the losses against the and also gained 15 paise in its value.

As the trading concluded on Thursday, the US dollar was up by 15 paise and closed at Rs218.60.

The IMF on Monday revived Pakistan's loan programme and its board approved the \$1.17 billion loan disbursement thus paving the way for economic headway of otherwise forex reserves-starved country whose currency was fast losing its value. It was hoped that after the IMF loan approval, the Pakistani rupee would be appreciated considerably but it could not happen. Though the rupee is making gains but the large-scale destruction by recent floods and rains which have caused massive loss of crops, livestock, bridges, and roads, and the displacement of 30 million people, is hampering rupee's recovery as country's exports. INP

### Govt asks SC to dismiss Imran Khan's plea challenging nab laws

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday asked the Supreme Court (SC) to dismiss a petition filed by former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan against the recent amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws.

According to details, the federal government has submitted a reply on Imran Khan's petition challenging the amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) ordinance.

Raising objections over Imran Khan's petition, the federal government argued that the former premier was not the affected party not the application based on good faith. "The Supreme Court had declared it will not interfere in political matters", the written reply stated. INP



**KARACHI:** Miftah Ismail, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue addressing in the discussion Session on 'The Current State of Pakistan's Economy' Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) at IBA.

### PTI seeks details of security expenses on Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Friday sought details of security expenses on former prime minister and party chairman Imran Khan from Interior Ministry.

According to details, the PTI has sought details of security expenses on Imran Khan a day after Islamabad Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan claimed that the government was spending Rs20 million annually on former PM's security.

In a statement, former information minister Fawad Chaudhry noted that it was government's primary responsibility to provide security to Imran Khan.

He criticised the Sharif brothers and Zardari family for 'using state resources for glory', claiming that Sharif brothers have lavished billions on themselves under security. "Almost 3,000 security personnel were deployed around Jati Umrah," he alleged.

The former federal minister further said that Imran Khan stayed at his residence throughout his tenure. "The PTI chief spent his own money on the security wall built around the Bani Gala," he added.

"Imran Khan saved the public's money by reducing the expenditure on foreign visits and Prime Minister House," Fawad Chaudhry said, demanding the Interior Ministry to provide details of security expenses on Imran Khan.

It is pertinent to mention here that IGP Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir claimed that 266 security personnel had been deputed for security of the PTI chairman, which was costing the government Rs20 million per month.

The IGP told Senate committee on Interior that the Frontier Constabulary, Rangers, Islamabad Police, KP police and GB police, personnel from two private security companies were also performing security responsibilities of the former premier. Like former premiers Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Yousuf Raza Gillani, Mr Khan was also provided with five security guards, IGP Nasir said. INP