

# QUETTA VOICE

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## Dengue cases rise across Pakistan amid floods



## Dollar shows no mercy for Rupee in interbank trade, reaches Rs230

# Balochistan floods: Pregnant women in urgent need of healthcare

Syed Ali Shah, Ali Jan Mangi

QUETTA: In flood-affected areas of Balochistan, thousands of pregnant women are in urgent need of healthcare. So far, the health department government of Balochistan has failed to compile the district-wise data of pregnant women in flood-affected districts of the province.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo said women and children remained the worst sufferers of recent monsoon rains. Thousands of women are pregnant and the health department was providing the required medicines and support to the women.

Mr. Bizenjo said. Despite repeated attempts, this scribe was not able to get the data on pregnant women in flood-affected areas of Balochistan. Especially, a major portion of the population has been displaced in the Naseerabad division, which was completely flooded.

"There are pregnant women but the government is not providing the required treatment", Muhammad Jan Mangi, one of the flood affectees told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. He said, "My sister-in-law is pregnant and the health department has not provided the required food and medicines".

Rights groups have also expressed serious concern about the plight of

women and children in flood-affected areas of the province. "Authorities should ensure the provision of required medicines and food in the affected areas", Yaseen Mughal, one of the women rights activists in Quetta demanded. The Aurat Foundation and other rights bodies addressed a press conference in Quetta and expressed their concern about the pregnant women in flood-affected areas.

**"At least they should compile data of pregnant women", Yasmeeen Mughal noted.**

Chief Minister urged the international community to play its role in rehabilitating the affected people. "The damage is



beyond the government's capacity," he said. CM Balochistan stated that Pakistan's contribution to the gas emissions warming the planet was less than one percent. Despite this all, the damages inflicted by

climate change were disastrous and huge, he said. Chief Minister Balochistan thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for all his support for the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Yousaf Raza Gillani calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

## Dengue cases rise across Pakistan amid floods

ISLAMABAD: The metropolis cities of Pakistan saw a sharp surge in dengue cases as 62 patients were diagnosed with dengue in the past 24 hours in Lahore, whereas Islamabad reported 55 new dengue cases in the last 24 hours and Karachi Health Department confirmed 113 dengue cases in 24 hours.

While the Covid cases saw a decline across Punjab and other parts of Pakistan, dengue cases started increasing rapidly across Pakistan.

The genie of dengue is out of control in Lahore, as 62 more new cases reported while 152 dengue patients are under treatment in different hospitals in the city.

On the other hand, during the anti-dengue campaign, 1,686 dengue larvae were recovered from different places, which were disposed of on the spot.

Medical officials have instructed citizens to wear full-sleeved shirts and use mosquito repellent lotion to protect themselves from dengue mosquitoes.

A total of 55 new dengue

patients were admitted to the hospitals in Islamabad in the last 24 hours. According to DHO Zaem Zia, 36 people from rural areas and 19 people from urban areas were suffering from dengue. The total number of dengue patients reached 424 in rural areas and 244 in urban areas.

With the latest figure, the tally of the season in the city has risen to 668. It is to be mentioned here that three deaths have also been reported due to dengue.

Amid the flood situation in Sindh, different water-borne and vector-borne diseases are spreading across Karachi. The situation in Karachi is really alarming as 113 new dengue cases have emerged in different government and private hospitals in Karachi in the last 24 hours.

Moreover, official data of Sindh indicated that Sharqi district is the most affected by dengue where 66 cases have been reported while Central District reported 25, South District 11, Korangi reported 6, Malir reported 2, and 2 cases have been reported in the West. INP

# Panjgur: Levies men sexually abused 3 minors, 1 arrested others escaped

From Our Correspondent, Ibrar Ahmed

PANJGUR, QUETTA: Three levies personnel sexually assaulted three minor boys in Panjgur city of Balochistan on Sunday. Police sources said one levies personnel involved in the sexual abuse of the minors was arrested.

However, the other two levies personnel involved in the sexual abuse of the minor boys are still at large. "We are conducting raids for the arrest of two other accused", Amir Jan, the Police Inspector said. He said police were interrogating the arrested levies personnel with regard to the sexual abuse of the minor boys.

**DC suspends levies constable Muhammad Younas**  
Deputy Commissioner Panjgur suspended levies constable Muhammad Younas for his alleged involvement in the sexual abuse of minors. According to a notification, a copy of which was obtained by this daily, the DC has also ordered an inquiry against the suspended constable, Muhammad Younas.

According to local sources, the accused had subjected minor boys to rape at the bungalow of the deputy commissioner. This is yet to be officially verified.

One suspect has been arrested while the remaining two suspects, including the Levies official, have gone into hiding and raids are being conducted to arrest them. According to police inspector Amir Jan, the ages of the victims are between 12 and 14 years who were taken to the government building by deception.

One of the affected boys said in one of his videos that "Levies officials took him to the commissioner's house saying that he was called by a government official. After going there, the accused gave him a cold drink, after which he became unconscious - he said that the accused raped him



while he was unconscious.

In his statement to the police, the victim's father told the police that the accused had also taken nude pictures and videos of the boys. The SHO said that the doctor confirmed the rape of a boy after the examination.

Assistant Commissioner Panjgur Amjad Hussain Soomro told the Daily Quetta Voice that the parents did not bring the other two affected boys to the hospital for medical treatment. He said that the personnel involved in the incident have been suspended and will be arrested soon, however, he denied that the incident took place in the Commissioner's House.

Contrary to the denial of the Assistant Commissioner, a notification from Deputy Commissioner Panjgur also confirms that the crime was committed in the Commissioner's House. According to this notification, the Levies Havaldar posted at the Commissioner House has been suspended for neglecting his duties.

An investigation has also been ordered against four employees including three Levies officials posted at Commissioner House.

# Natural beauty of Zangi Nawar Dam Noshki attracts tourists

Syed Ali Shah  
Haji Tayyab Yallanzai

The natural beauty of Zangi Nawar Dam Noshki attracts tourists from across Balochistan and other parts of the country. However, very few people know about the natural beauty and location of the dam spreads over around 1100 acres of land.

A beautiful view of the blue water located below sand dunes, wild trees, and bushes attracts tourists. The sand dam is filled with floods water currently. Raging floods wreaked havoc across Pakistan. However, this sand dam filled with water for the first time after more than three decades. Locals of the



area say there are 21 big holes located in the sand dunes. They absorb flood water for centuries.

**A view of the Zangi Nawar Dam**  
"The natural beauty of this dam is unmatched"  
"The natural beauty of

this dam is unmatched", Amjad Rasheed, a well-known environmentalist said. He said the government and media should promote the dam to promote tourism and attract tourists.

In the morning, a view of the rising sun from the sand dunes gives a beautiful look. This is rare in many parts of the globe. The dam is located almost 160 kilometers west of Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province.

"This can be one of the famous tourist points in the country if promoted and protected", Ghulam Dastagir Badini, the former Balochistan minister said. He said the provincial government has to focus on the cleaning and protection of

the dam since it is a rare natural beauty in the region.

**Migratory birds come to Zangi Nawar Dam**  
Every year, migratory birds also come to the Zangi Nawar Dam in the winter season. Migrator



birds from Russian Siberia and other parts of the globe come to the sand dam.

**Floods water's destination is Zangi Nawar and Shorawak Afghanistan**

The final destination of flood water from Quetta, Pishin, and Killa Abdullah is always Zangi Nawar Dam and the Shorawak area of Afghanistan. Floods disappear in the sand dunes in the area. This is for the first time in three decades that the dam filled with water.

"People come and spend summer nights here", Muhammad Yar Badini, a resident of the area said. He said the provincial and federal governments have to work for the protection and promotion of the only sand dam located in the region.

# Dollar shows no mercy for Rupee in interbank trade, reaches Rs230

ISLAMABAD: The US dollar has continued its upward trend in interbank trading and gained Rs1.82 against the local currency despite the government Staff Level Agreement with IMF and receiving of the first tranche of \$1.166 billion from the international lender.

The American currency has been showing no respite for the Pakistani Rupee as on Monday it reached Rs230.80.

The last week's closing of the US dollar was Rs228.18. On last week's Thursday, the dollar strengthened by Rs4 in two sessions.

The sharp increase in the greenback prices despite the arrival of the \$1.1bn from the

IMF has threatened the government's aim to calm down the vulnerable exchange rate.

However, the resumption of IMF loans did provide temporary respite as the rupee recovered first and then started losing against the greenback.

The State Bank of Pakistan said that during the week ending Sept 2 it received \$1.166 billion from IMF.

"After accounting for external debt and other payments, the SBP reserves increased by \$1.103bn to \$8.799bn," said the SBP. INP





## QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

## The curse of narcotics in Balochistan

The curse of narcotics has ruined our society. Thousands of young people fell prey to the curse of heroin during the last four decades in Balochistan, Pakistan's least developed province. In Quetta, it is very difficult to walk on Jinnah Road because of the young heroin addicts begging and snatching things on the roadside.

First, they (addicts) beg and then try to snatch anything from mobiles to watches and purses from women. Such incidents have frequently taken a place with addicts snatching purses, mobiles, etc, and sneaking into the main city nullah, which snakes through Quetta's high-security zone.

This situation prompted the Quetta police and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) to launch an operation in the main nullah the other day. CTD and police claimed to have killed eight alleged drug peddlers during an exchange of fire. This was for the first time that police and CTD conducted such a targeted operation.

Fate of thousands of addicts is still shrouded in mystery. However, the fate of thousands of young addicts still shrouds in mystery as the government is yet to make a plan for their complete rehabilitation. The challenge for the government is to stop the narcotics smuggling from Afghanistan and rehabilitate the addicts.

Officially an awareness campaign on social media, radio, newspapers, and TV channels should be launched to create awareness among the people about the curse of narcotics. This would be a good initiative to prevent the youth from falling prey to drugs.

History of heroin dates back to USSR invasion of Afghanistan in 1979

The menace of narcotics in general and heroin, in particular, dates back to the USSR's invasion of Afghanistan at the end of December 1979.

The war in Afghanistan had and has direct impacts on Pakistan in general and Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces in particular. It is a common saying that 'Kalashinkove and Heroin' culture is the product of the Afghan war, which distorted the true tolerant face of the two provinces.

## Climate change, the prime challenge for Human Beings

By Syed Abid Shah

Climate change in the world is one of the most horrible issues. Climate is a significant variation of average weather conditions—say, conditions becoming warmer, wetter, or drier—over several decades or more. It's the longer-term trend that differentiates climate change from natural weather variability. The climate is the fundamental part of the world. Because our agriculture and industrial system are dependent on climate and a lot of commodities required in industries is directly coming from agriculture to industries. Moreover, climate control is essential for every state or even for every individual to take significant caution about the weather.

But now recently a 3 day's summit was arranged in Glasgow Scotland about climate changes in the world which is the leading

cause of the several issues of the world. The representative from all over the world, United Nation and different companies Chief executives were participating in this conference; talking about the same issue how to solve it and what measures are taken for this. The members of the summit emphasise using new technologies which are free from pollution like the solar system and wind turbine.

Anthropogenic causes of climate change. Humans—more specifically, the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that human activity generates—are the leading cause of the earth's rapidly changing climate today. Greenhouse gases play an important role in keeping the planet warm enough to inhabit. But the amount of these gases in our atmosphere has skyrocketed in recent decades. According to

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, our current concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide "are unprecedented compared with the past 800,000 years." Indeed, the atmosphere's share of carbon dioxide—the planet's chief climate change contributor—has risen by 46 per cent since preindustrial times.

The burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas for electricity, heat, and transportation is the primary source of human-generated emissions. A second major source is a deforestation, which releases sequestered (or stored) carbon into the air. It's estimated that logging, clearcutting, fires, and other forms of forest degradation release an average of 8.1 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, accounting for more than 20 per cent of all global CO2 emissions. Other human activities

that generate air pollution include fertilizer use (a primary source of nitrous oxide emissions), livestock production (cattle, buffalo, sheep, and goats are major methane emitters), and certain industrial processes that release fluorinated gases. Activities like agriculture and road construction can also change the reflectivity of the earth's surface, leading to local warming or cooling.

Though our planet's forests and oceans absorb greenhouse gases from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and other processes, these natural carbon sinks can't keep up with our rising emissions. The resulting buildup of greenhouse gases is causing alarmingly fast warming worldwide. It's estimated that the earth's average temperature rose by about 1 degree Fahrenheit during the 20th century.

Every state should take reasonable care

about the climate change in the world and look after the system of industries which is the major cause of climate change. The developed countries now take measurements to stop climate change and work on technical and advanced technologies which help out to stop the emissions of several gases which destroyed the climate. They also work on agriculture to produce new seeds and plants which support environmental protection. They also use the solar system and wind turbines instead of using fossil fuels which are causing climate change. Japan and other developed countries of the world work on electric vehicles it is also significant for climate change. Every individual must take too much care about climate change because it is one of the leading causes of the world which affects all over the world.

## Cinderella 2021 and women empowerment

Beenish Mahmood

Feet, what do I need them for, if I have wings to fly? — Mexican artist Frida Kahlo

Women form 48.76 % of the total population in Pakistan. Hence, women's empowerment is crucial to the development of a healthy society — economically, socially and politically.

A conservative society where men would harass wives, daughters, mothers in the name of honour and where women were subservient and docile, treated as objects rather than humans is gradually being replaced by a more accommodating, tolerant mindset in both genders.

Patriarchy is being redefined. But this is not always the case. With better education, it is assumed that incidents of rape, domestic violence and karo-kari would decline. However, every other day the newspapers come up with a blaring headline

that leaves the reader shattered and fearful.

Why is this happening, and who is responsible for this heinous crime? The question is potent!

Looking in retrospect, the Noor Mukadam case speaks volumes about the helplessness of a female in the wake of male superiority. Zahir Jaffer was from a well-to-do family. He was educated. So then what went wrong and where? To put it in a nutshell, rape and murder are an offense that only men who are frustrated sexually and suffer from an inferiority complex would commit. Imposing their power on the weaker sex is proof of their 'masculinity'.

Education does help in breeding an egalitarian society, but it is not an assurance of bringing up 'good' men! Sexual frustration and harassment is common amongst men, not only in Pakistan, but all across the

globe. And whereas before it was a taboo to discuss such issues, now with the freedom of expression, women are taking to the streets and asking for their rights and justice to prevail.

Regarding this scenario, the recent remake of Cinderella in 2021 by Kay Cannon brushes upon women empowerment in a beautiful and effervescent manner. Like in the original Walt Disney Classics, where Cinderella plays the victim, Camilla as Cinderella in the recent version is not helpless. She has agency. Cinderella is a strong, resilient and determined girl who thinks big! She wants to be a successful dressmaker. She wants to live her life, and she wants to live her dream. And nothing will make her deviate from the pathway to realise her goals. She wants to be a celebrity. She wants her name to be on everyone's lips,

but in the small, old-fashioned town she lives in, girls are not allowed the freedom to choose a career for themselves.

The film reinforces the notion of women's empowerment. Whilst the Prince is madly in love with this fearless and bold girl and wants her hand in marriage, Cinderella has a bigger agenda! She aims for the stars and hence becomes the voice of all the surrounding women who, because of the patriarchal society, suppress their ambition for the ultimate truth i.e. marriage.

Cinderella does, at the end, marry the Prince but not at the cost of her passion. She wants to set an example for other women to follow. She wants to contribute to the society in a positive and constructive manner and for that she is willing to forgo a life of ease and luxury.

The film is not the only effort of recent times to address the

power of women. The global Me Too movement as well as the Aurat March organised in Pakistan are all monumental efforts towards changing the society's outlook about women.

The Me Too movement provides a platform for empowering women, especially women who are 'weak'.

The Me Too movement urged women to come out of their complacency and speak up about their 'bad' experiences with men! With evolution and change, no doubt the outlook has changed, but it's not true for everyone. What happens inside is a story no one can unlock. What appears on the surface may not be true and for this reason, the Aurat March and the Me Too movement are important. It brings into play modern women supporting the cause of poor women. Educating them in their rights is what matters.

## Collision with happiness

M Bilal Lakhani

Every morning I wake up and ask myself if I'm happy.

This is a terrible habit for my mental health but over the last few weeks, the answer is that I'm actually happy. This is a strange and out of body experience because this hasn't been the case for the majority of my life. As little as six months ago, I was feeling unhappy every morning, bordering on restlessness and flirting with sadness.

What turned things around and is this happiness sustainable? Six months ago, I was on paternity leave and had made big plans to pursue long term professional goals that I never had a chance to pursue because of my full time day job. I thought the extra time I had on paternity leave would allow me to pour myself into those goals but week after week, I was literally doing nothing to move the needle on that front. Instead, I was finding happiness in spending time with my daughter, wife and parents. As well as the joy of doing nothing. But I was trying to fight this feeling, rather than embrace it.

All my life, being a type A personality, happiness was married to my professional life. The paternity leave was a strange window into realising it's possible to be

unhappy professionally but happy personally.

Perhaps this sounds obvious to most people but it was a profound realisation for me. I'm also the kind of person who likes to reinvent his life every few years and by that I mean change everything. Originally, I had planned to use the paternity leave as an opportunity to reinvent myself. But the burden of this reinvention was weighing me down because of the lack of progress rather than exciting me.

So I started experimenting with doing something different half way through my paternity leave. Instead of changing everything at once, I started changing one thing a week and tried to chew on small pieces of it daily. For background, I wanted to start two side gigs, play tennis three a week, get closer to religion, make a new YouTube video every day, re-evaluate my purpose in life and take care of my new born baby during the paternity leave. The expectations were crushing me instead of inspiring me. So I started doing something radically simple. For one week, I told myself the only way I'd evaluate whether my day is a success is if I woke up in the morning and did a gratitude exercise, where I'd write down three things I'm grateful for in my diary. That's it. That's the only

thing I'd evaluate myself on. Everything else could wait. I was on leave after all.

The gratitude exercise had a transformational impact not just on my week — because I focused on what I was grateful for rather than what I didn't have or was behind on — but it also had a snowball effect that would rip through the existing pillars of my life. The following week the gratitude exercise became easier to do because it was turning into a habit so I decided to take on one more task. Setting up a tennis date for next week. One date instead of three. The next week I played tennis. The following week I increased the frequency to twice a week. I felt so energised and excited at the end of my games and the morning after.

Week by week, I added a new habit or goal I wanted to achieve and because I was setting expectations so ridiculously low, I was actually able to achieve change and feel happy about my progress rather than denigrating myself for not making progress. Fast forward six months and my life stands transformed. I'm now playing tennis regularly, having dinner with a friend every week, reading the newspaper, doing gratitude exercises and getting closer to God. I didn't start two side gigs.

## Nurture a healthy heart to live wisely

Durdana Najam

World Heart Day is celebrated on September 29 to remind the public about the importance of keeping our hearts in good shape.

Metaphorically, the heart connects us with our surroundings and the Almighty. It all flows from the heart. The purification of the heart is obtained both spiritually and physically. What we eat affects the flesh part of the heart, and what we think affects its spiritual side. So, if tobacco blackens the arteries, stress tightens them to hamper the smooth flow of blood, putting in peril the very survival of the heart. One has to be goodhearted and at peace with oneself to live longer and healthier.

Every year 18.6 million people die of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) globally, caused by smoking, diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, air pollution, Chagas disease and cardiac amyloidosis.

Asia has the highest number of patients with CVD. Of the 18.6 million CVD deaths worldwide in 2019, 58% occurred in Asia. Nearly 39% of these deaths were premature.

According to research published in the Journals of the American College of Cardiology (JACC): "The increasing CVD epidemics in Asia are likely the consequence of complex effects from changes in socioeconomic, living environments, lifestyles, prevalence of CVD risk factors and absence of capacities to

prevent and treat CVD."

In Pakistan, the CVD mortality is 152 per 100,000 population (22.7%), translating to about 200,000 deaths annually.

The JACC report tells us that dietary changes from traditional Asian to westernised food have had a detrimental effect on the health of Asians living in resource-deficit countries. A recent publication in the Global Burden of Disease provides further insight into food patterns in Asia: for the five unhealthy foods — red meat, processed meat, sugar-sweetened beverages, trans-fats, and sodium — all Asian regions consumed the most sugar-sweetened beverages and sodium. Among the 20 most populous countries, China has the highest age-standardised rate of diet-related CVD deaths (299 per 100,000 population) while Pakistan has the highest proportion of diet-related CVD deaths (152 per 100,000 population).

Prof Nawaz Lashari, Chair of Cardiology at Dow University, stresses healthy physical activity for cardiac health, advising 45-minute walk daily. Pakistan Hypertension League General Secretary Dr Mohammad Ishaq says exercise strengthens the heart. According to Dr Ishaq, 20% of Pakistan's population suffers from high blood pressure, 10% has diabetes, and 30% is obese. "These ailments lead to heart diseases," he warns. In the context of World Heart Day, a leading

pharmaceutical company has arranged special events in Karachi, lighting up the city's landmark buildings in red in collaboration with the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Karachi Metropolitan Corporation. The events will commemorate World Heart Day and pay tribute to frontline healthcare workers, including cardiologists working tirelessly to save lives during Covid-19.

The company has worked with Cardiology institutes throughout Pakistan to introduce cost-effective and efficacious treatments for blood pressure, cholesterol, angina, and heart failure, as well as world-class medical devices for cardiac interventions.

The high prevalence of CVD in Pakistan is mainly the result of our sedentary lifestyle, increased consumption of inorganic and fatty food, coupled with stress and genetic factors. While increasingly effective medicines and devices are continually being introduced, there is absolutely no substitute for prevention through exercise and a healthy diet. Ignoring such preventive measures increases the burden of heart disease and the cost of healthcare in Pakistan.

Experts insist we have to change our way of thinking and our approach to public health if we want to help people live longer and healthy lives. In this respect, public policy interventions guided by experts in the fields of preventive cardiology and public health,

including education and awareness campaigns, should be conducted regularly to motivate people to exercise and eat healthy food. Only preventive measures can reduce the burden of disease and reduce the excessive reliance on medicine.

On this World Health Day, let us resolve to nurture a heart clean of impurities of food and thought because, as Charles Dickens said, "A loving heart is the truest wisdom." The JACC report tells us that dietary changes from traditional Asian to westernised food have had a detrimental effect on the health of Asians living in resource-deficit countries. A recent publication in the Global Burden of Disease provides further insight into food patterns in Asia: for the five unhealthy foods — red meat, processed meat, sugar-sweetened beverages, trans-fats, and sodium — all Asian regions consumed the most sugar-sweetened beverages and sodium. Among the 20 most populous countries, China has the highest age-standardised rate of diet-related CVD deaths (299 per 100,000 population) while Pakistan has the highest proportion of diet-related CVD deaths (152 per 100,000 population).

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## Transcending limits

Ali Hassan Bangwar

Historic moments warrant introspection and reflection. The contemporary pandemic-ridden world seems to be at the crossroads. The prevailing onslaught of Covid-19 against humankind calls for a comprehensive contemplation on what went wrong in our quest for modernisation. The pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented crisis, the likes of which the world has not seen since World War II. Rather than fleeing it as a traditional view, we need to mull over the lessons the pandemic is trying to teach us. When deliberating, one may be forced to conclude that something is wrong with what we have been doing. We shouldn't be oblivious of an inevitable principle: one gets what one gives. When we harm nature, nature harms us back.

Among all creatures, humankind is high up the evolutionary ladder due to unmatched cognitive abilities and intellectual prowess. These intellectual abilities were inherently aimed at distinguishing good and evil, and regulating life on earth in a manner that benefits not only humans but their surroundings. Paradoxically, humans have outstepped and outreached their assigned authority and overestimated themselves as an omnipotent entity enjoying complete impunity of all their activities

regardless of their impacts. Rather than running the affairs and utilising the intellect and bounties in a just and sustainable manner, men have badly embezzled with nature's resources at the cost of destruction of other forms of life and of natural ecosystem. The recently released UN IPCC's terrifying sixth assessment report on the anthropogenic destruction of global climate is but a single instance of mankind's high-handedness against their surrounding environment. Even men didn't spare his fellow beings.

A few in the world hold majority of the wealth — the result: millions of people are currently consumed by poverty, hunger and disease. The rich-poor divide widens as time passes by. Global poverty and wide-scale inequality are on the rise. Laws are made and broken for and by the rich, while the poor remain entangled in them. Merciless pogroms are a norm. The week dies of being preyed and consumed by capitalist predators. The tyranny against the weak, and the atrocities of rulers over their subjects have surged as time passes by. The growing scourge of terrorism and extremism, rising populism and demagoguery, and fascist political leadership is the new normal. Mass adulteration, hoarding, black-marketing, organised crimes, cheating, lying, manipulating, exploiting have all

become common traits of our culture.

There is an ever-rising trend of flattery and hypocrisy, while everything remains centered around material success. Morality, ethos, empathy and compassion are all considered as outdated notions. One might wonder how is NASA even thinking of colonising Mars if we have utterly failed to learn to live peacefully on earth despite being here for millenniums.

Though heinous acts may go unattended or unpunished by our judicial system, we must realise the earth has its own system of justice. Floods, droughts, forest fires, heat waves, tsunamis, epidemics, earthquakes, torrential rains and violent volcanic eruptions are just a few of the consequences that have come about due to our actions. COVID-19 among other cataclysms questions the sustainability of the existing global order and the underlying principles of globalisation. The pandemic has given humankind the opportunity to rethink and reform existing socio-political and economic orders in line with principles of egalitarianism, eco-friendliness, compassion and empathy. Rather than wasting resources on weapons, we must utilize it for the underprivileged, the poor and the weak. Since we have already prospered materially, we now need to invest in humanity if we want to shield ourselves from nature's



## Air varsity symposium on 'Quantum computing' on Sept 20

ISLAMABAD: Air University, Islamabad, is organising the first international symposium on September 20, in which national and international renowned scientists, academicians and other important personalities will address.

According to the spokesperson of the university, the symposium titled "Quantum computing" will be held at 9:00am at the AU auditorium, Sector E-9, Islamabad.

The Computer Science department of the Air

University has arranged the symposium while vice chancellor Air Marshal (Retd) Javed Ahmed (Hilal Imtiaz Military) is patronizing it.

Prominent scientist and educationist Pervaiz Hodbhai, eminent educationist Dr Ayesha Khaliq, professor of Luxembourg University Dr Junaidur Rehman and professor from South Korea Dr Anand Payol and others will address the symposium. Officials of the Ministry of Defence, PAF, Ministry of Information Technology

and Telecom, Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan Software Export Board, Deans of various major universities of the country and heads and teachers of various departments will also participate in the ceremony.

The preparations for the symposium have been finalized and all the arrangements have been completed in this regard.

According to the spokesperson, invitations have also been sent to important personalities to participate in the symposium. INP

## Rain adds misery to flood-ravaged Sindh

KARACHI: Sindh which is already facing unprecedented floods owing to torrential rains in different parts of the country for the last two and a half months, was once again lashed by a new round of heavy downpour on Monday aggravating the already pathetic situation.

Heavy rain barreled different areas of Tharparkar including Mithi, Deeplo, and Kloi.

Two young men named Muhammad Musa and Yaqoob died when lightning struck them in Kandaro Lind village in Tehsil Deeplo.

Rain also lashed Tandowala and its adjoining areas. Skies over Umarkot were overcast.

Intermittent rain was hitting the coastal belt of Chohar Jamali.

The monsoon downpour was soaking Nawabshah and Goth Pir Bakhs Zardari.

Rain also pounded different areas of Karachi as an Airblue flight coming from

Islamabad could not land at Karachi Jinnah International Airport due to heavy downpour.

Two cuts made to Dadu canal to save city from inundation. Earlier, in order to save Dadu city, the authorities on Monday administered two more cuts in the city canal to divert the course of floodwater that was rushing swiftly to deluge the city.

The assistant commissioner reached the canal with necessary equipment to administer the cuts. He said that after administering these breaches, the city had been saved to a great extent. He said the direction of flood water was diverted to the river.

Meanwhile, 250 villages were inundated when a 500-foot breach occurred in the Ring embankment of Dadu.

Hundreds of families have started evacuating their areas.

Another breach was occurred in Juma canal which sub-

merged more than 20 villages including Allah Bachhayo village in Umar Kot. The flood torrent has destroyed crops.

Two children were drowned in the floodwater in Meed Shaheed village in tehsil Warah in Qambar district on Sunday.

The flood torrents have wreaked havoc in Sindh as the authorities have found four dead bodies in Khairpur floodwater.

A human tragedy is being unfolded in the wake of unprecedented deluges that have hit various areas of the country. One such disaster comes in the shape of loss of lives as almost every day the authorities are fishing out floating bodies from the floodwaters.

The rescuers today found four bodies floating in Khairpur floodwater but the dead could not be identified so far.

The officials shifted these bodies to the city morgue after declaring them unclaimed. INP



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial presiding over the meeting the ceremony of New Judicial Year 2022-2023 at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

## Kiwi fruit has potential to be another cash crop for farmers: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Promoting the high-value kiwi fruit farming can provide a stable source of income to Pakistani farmers. The delicious fleshy fruit has enormous economic and nutritional importance. As a result of the numerous trials conducted in various locations, Pakistan is one of the many countries that have been cultivating it due to its rich flavour and economic significance.

Talking to WealthPK, Dr Nurullah, a senior scientific officer at the National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad, said, "Kiwi is a costly fruit, but once the farmers have the resources to grow it they can make

good incomes as it is a potential cash crop."

He added that Pakistan has experimented growing the fruit in its fertile soil. "The yielding age of kiwi is seven to eight years and it bears fruit in four to five years." Trials for cultivating kiwi, also known as Chinese gooseberry, in northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in the Hazara division, have been ongoing for the past three years at a huge facility created by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), he said. He further added, "Environmental factors, such as temperature, soil aeration, soil moisture content and drought have a

significant impact on kiwi growth."

"Its plant grows well in the area with an annual rainfall of 1,500 millimeters. A temperature between 20 and 30 degrees Celsius is ideal for kiwi plant growth, while temperatures between 10 and 35 degrees Celsius greatly inhibit its growth." Nurullah maintained that kiwi plants require well-aerated soil and are sensitive to waterlogging. "It thrives on inclined upland areas where there is no risk of waterlogging. It also thrives in acidic soil." Given the last three years of experience with kiwi, it is evident that the fruit grows vigorously and has a better survival. INP

## More hospitals to be added to health card panel in Punjab

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Monday has decided to add more hospitals to the panel for the provision of standard health treatment to the people having Sehat Insaf Cards.

According to details, Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi held a meeting, which decided to extend the Health Card programme in a further improved manner.

The meeting approved the inclusion of more hospitals in health card panel in order to facilitate the people of the province. The meeting also decided to add cyberknife - an advanced surgery technology - to the health card programme.

"The provision of free healthcare to the marginalised section of society is the foremost priority of the government," CM

Punjab said, vowing to add more facilities to the health card panel.

Earlier in July, Punjab CM Pervaiz Elahi decided to further expand health card scheme, launched by former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan.

According to details, the decision was taken during a meeting held under the chairmanship of Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi.

During the meeting, the chief minister approved the upgrading of emergency wards of all hospitals in Punjab including Wazirabad Institute of Cardiology. He also directed the officials to end the shortage of doctors and staff in Wazirabad Institute. "The provision of free healthcare to the marginalised

section of society is the foremost priority of the government," CM Punjab said, vowing to add more facilities to the health card panel.

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## COVID-19 cases in Pakistan continue declining trend

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan continues to witness a decline in Covid-19 cases as the country lodged 105 fresh infections during the past 24 hours, show statistics of National Institute of Health (NIH) on Monday.

According to the statistics issued by the National Institute of Health (NIH), a total of 13,533 Covid-19 diagnostic tests were conducted, of which 105 samples came back positive. Meanwhile, no deaths were reported during the same period.

Following the detection of new cases, the COVID-19 positivity ratio stood at 0.78 percent, moving down from 0.89pc, recorded a day earlier.

The NIH, in the statement, said almost 94 coronavirus patients were being treated in the Intensive Care Units (ICU) across the country at different medical facilities.

It is pertinent to mention here that a total of over 1.5 million Covid-19 cases have been reported in Pakistan so far, while the total number of coronavirus-related deaths has reached 30,601. INP

## Seven-year-old boy mauled to death by ten stray dogs in Mailsi

MAILSI: A seven-year-old child died on the spot after being attacked by ten stray dogs on Monday.

As per details, the minor named Muhammad Tayyab, a resident of Basti Riazabad on Sargana Road in Mailsi, was playing outside his house when he was bitten by a pack of 10 stray dogs. The blood-thirsty dogs dragged the innocent child to the nearby field and mauled him to death.

However, Panic spread among locals after the tragic accident. They expressed their annoyance over the incident and demanded that authorities must constitute dog shooting teams to get rid of the stray dogs. INP

## IMF loan foundation to improve country's economy: Abbasi

KARACHI: Former Prime Minister and senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that country is suffering due to the wrong policies of past four years. Talking to the media in Karachi, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that everyone gets worried when Finance Minister. INP



ISLAMABAD: Police personals stands alert outside ATC court during former Prime Minister Imran Khan appearing before the Anti-Terrorism Court in Federal Capital.

## Gastro claims one more life in flood-hit Garhi Khairo

JACOBABAD: A patient of gastroenteritis dies in Garhi Khairo here in the flood-affected area on Monday.

The number of dead by contagious diseases at Taluka Hospital Garhi Khairo has reached to seven, hospital sources said.

It is to be mentioned here that in flood emergency situation most of the doctors have been absent at Garhi Khairo hospital. "The hospital have overall 16 doctors, two of them have been absent for long, one doctor on leave and only three to four attend their duties from remaining 13 medicals," according to hospital sources.

Sessions Judge Jacobabad has expressed disappointment over absence of doctors in hospital and directed the medical superintendent to ensure presence of doctors on duty in the hospital.

District Judge has also directed the Civil Judge to visit the hospital daily and submit report to the court about presence of doctors at Garhi Khairo hospital.

In an alarming media report, it was said that over one million people in flood-affected areas of Sindh have been infected by various diseases.

According to the statistics issued by Sindh Health Department, as many as 1,079,000 people were suffering from infectious diseases after heavy rains and subsequent floods wreaked havoc in the province.

For 24 hours, 12,819 cases of asthma and various chest diseases were reported across the province. Moreover, 14,339 cases of skin diseases were recorded in the same period.

The officials recorded 15,844 cases of diarrhoea, 2,310 cases of Malaria, 104 cases of dengue

virus, four cases of snakebite and 13 cases of dog-bite. Meanwhile, 19,179 people reported with various eye diseases. District Judge has also directed the Civil Judge to visit the hospital daily and submit report to the court about presence of doctors at Garhi Khairo hospital.

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According to the statistics issued by Sindh Health Department, as many as 1,079,000 people were suffering from infectious diseases after heavy rains and subsequent floods wreaked havoc in the province.

For 24 hours, 12,819 cases of asthma and various chest diseases were reported across the province. Moreover, 14,339 cases of skin diseases. INP

## ATC extends Imran Khan's bail in terror case till Sept 20

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad granted on Monday an extension in the pre-arrest bail plea of PTI Chairman Imran Khan till September 20, in a terror case for allegedly threatening Additional Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry during a public rally in Islamabad on August 20.

Khan was booked in a case under sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) for making threatening remarks against an additional sessions judge and senior officials of the Islamabad Police in his speech at a rally.

The party had moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to grant Khan transit bail till August 25, but the court had directed the former premier to approach an ATC as it was a terror case.

The FIR registered against Khan states that he threatened Additional Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry and police officers at a rally in F-9 Park to "terrorise" police officials and the judiciary.

The main aim was to prevent the police officers and judiciary from carrying out their legal obligations, states the FIR. The FIR was registered on the complaint of Magistrate Ali Javed in Islamabad's Margalla Police Station under Section 7 of ATA. Following the adjournment of the hearing for a short while, the PTI chair appeared before the court amid strict security. INP

## Fawad Chaudhry challenges ECP's authority to send contempt notice

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former federal information minister Fawad Chaudhry challenged on Monday the jurisdiction of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to send the contempt of commission notice.

The former minister submitted his response to the commission saying that the notice under the provisions of the Contempt of Court Act cannot be issued or that such powers cannot be exercised by the ECP unless the commission were to be a court.

The allegations of using intemperate, unparliamentary and contemptuous language have been categorically denied for being untrue and factually incorrect, Chaudhry maintained.

He stated that under Article 19 of the constitution every citizen has a right to freedom of speech, therefore the notice should be withdrawn.

Earlier this month, the ECP had issued contempt notices to PTI leaders Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar for levelling allegations at the electoral body and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja.

However, Fawad Chaudhry had approached the Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi Bench against the electoral watchdog's contempt of commission notice. INP



FAISALABAD: Traders are burning tyres during a protest rally in favor of their demands at District Council Chowk, in the city.

## Pakistan's shift towards EVs slower than required: WealthPk

ISLAMABAD: Electric vehicles (EVs) are considered to have played a significant role in reducing CO2 emissions and oil demand. According to the Net Zero Emissions Scenario (NZE) of the International Energy Agency (IEA), reducing fossil fuel consumption by 75 percent by 2050 will be necessary to meet the net-zero goals.

Talking to WealthPk, Policy Manager at the Engineering Development Board of Pakistan (EDB) Engr. Asim Ayaz said, "The Engineering Development Board has granted licenses to 12 companies out of 21 enterprises to manufacture and assemble electric vehicles in Pakistan."

"The current adoption rate of EV policy is 2.2% for two and three-wheelers and 0% for four-wheeler vehicles. However, license is being granted to a company - DICE and MG Motors - to explore the market in four-wheeler modifications," he said. Furthermore, Asim said, "The main reason behind the low adoption rate is that companies do not have proper knowledge related to policies and procedures. For example, the participating companies are not fully prepared to fulfill the requirements of charging stations [installation] and their successful working. There are several incentives given, which are specified in the EV policy document, to increase EV manufacturing. Moreover, licenses are also given to some companies which are going to work on hybrid-based models.

Talking to WealthPk, Director Center for Business and Economic Research at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Dr. Junaid Alam Memon said, "National Electric Vehicle Policy is achievable because EVs are much simpler. They are easier to produce, have fewer parts, and require fewer personnel on the assembly line lowering labor expenses. EVs are simpler to maintain and are less expensive for buyers."

The majority of the world's oil is consumed in transportation. In order to intensify reduce oil usage to achieve climate targets, the transportation industry should be decarbonized. As a result, the auto industry must convert from using fossil fuels to sustainable energy sources. Electric vehicles, which use clean electricity, are the best method to achieve this goal. Pakistan implemented an ambitious National Electric Vehicles Policy (NEVP) in November with goals and incentives targeted at capturing 30% of all passenger vehicle and heavy-duty truck sales by 2030 and 90% by 2040. It sets even more challenging objectives requiring 50% of new sales for two- and three-wheelers by 2030 and 90% by 2040. In Pakistan, where there are 32 million households and 17.5 million motorcycles on the road, motorcycle ownership rose from 41% in 2015 to 53% in 2018. Pakistan ranks after China, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam as the fifth-largest motorcycle market in the world. INP

## Pakistan needs effective strategy to enhance trade with ASEAN under CPEC: WealthPk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needs to chalk out an effective and result-oriented strategy to enhance trade ties with the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), WealthPk reports.

CPEC has provided Pakistan with a great opportunity to attract investment from different countries including the members of ASEAN. Various projects under CPEC have the potential to increase trade between Pakistan and ASEAN

countries. According to ASEAN Committee Islamabad (ACI) Chairman Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong, trade between Pakistan and ASEAN countries reached approximately \$11 billion during the previous fiscal. He said that ASEAN and Pakistan had undertaken a joint feasibility study for a free trade agreement to enhance and expand the overall economic engagement.

"There is a huge economic potential to be realised through the regional comprehensive economic partnership.

East Asia is Pakistan's primary trading partner due to the growing trend of globalisation. With an emphasis on enhancing trade, investing and collaboration in various industries, this transition from geopolitics to geo-economics has been evident in recent years," said the ambassador.

ASEAN has become a 10-member vibrant organisation. Its members include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, with an overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

of more than \$3 trillion. ASEAN is now the fifth largest economy in the world. It is expected to become the fourth largest economy by 2050.

A research fellow at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, who wished not to be named, told WealthPk that ASEAN encouraged collaboration with Pakistan particularly in the areas of trade and investment, education, human resources development and tourism. "Pakistan and ASEAN countries share many commonalities including a strong affinity for culture and religion though Pakistan

has not benefited to the desired level from trade with the members of ASEAN despite liberalising its economy," she said.

The research fellow said that Pakistan could attract adequate investment from the members of ASEAN by promoting CPEC and offering them a variety of favourable proposals under different schemes of the mega project. "As soon as Gwadar is completed, Pakistan will have a deep-water port that can serve as a gateway to landlocked Central Asian countries. Later on, they may use INP



QUETA: Aurut Foundation member Yasmin Mughal addressing a press conference.



## Weather to vary in different parts of country with rain forecast for several areas

ISLAMABAD: Weather is likely to vary in different parts of the country with the forecast of rain with thunderstorms for some areas, met office forecast on Monday.

**Islamabad Weather**  
Heavy winds and rain with thunderstorms are likely in Islamabad, according to the Meteorological Department.

**Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Weather**  
Weather is expected to remain partly cloudy in most districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Meteorological Department said. Rain with strong winds and thunderstorms is expected in Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Kohistan, Swat, Chitral, Dir, Buner, Mardan and Charsadda. Areas including Peshawar, Kohat, Kurram, Waziristan and Dera Ismail Khan are expected to experience rain with strong winds and thunderstorms.

**Punjab Weather**  
Weather is expected to remain partly cloudy in most districts of Punjab, the Meteorological Department said. There is a possibility of rain with strong winds and thunderstorms in Pothohar, Khushab, Mianwali, Sargodha, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot and Narowal.

Moreover, areas including Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Gujrat, Lahore, Faisalabad, Okara, Sahiwal and Vehari are likely to experience strong winds and thundershowers. Also, there is a possibility of rain with strong winds and thundershowers at some places in Bhakkar, Layyah, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar and Rahim Yar Khan, the Meteorological Department said. **AJK and GB Weather**

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) are likely to experience thundershowers, according to the Meteorological Department.

**Balochistan Weather**  
Weather will remain hot and dry in most districts of Balochistan, according to the Meteorological Department. However, heavy winds and thundershowers are expected at a few places in Barkhan, Zhob, Kalat, Khuzdar and Lasbela.

**Sindh Weather**  
Weather will remain hot and humid in most districts of Sindh, according to the Meteorological Department. Rain is expected in Sukkur, Khairpur, Ghotki, Mirpur Khas, Thatha, Badin, Mithi, Umerkot and Tharparkar. INP



QUETTA: Chairman of Pakistan Flour Mills Association (Balochistan Region) Badar-ud-Din Kakar addressing a press conference, in Provincial Capital.

### IHC adjourns hearing on Shahbaz Gill's post-arrest bail petition till Sept. 14

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday adjourned the hearing on a post-arrest bail petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill in the sedition case till September 15 on the request of special prosecutor.

Special Prosecutor Raja Rizwan Abbasi appeared before the court.

"I came to know that the case was scheduled for hearing on September 14. But, late night, I found out that the case was scheduled for hearing today," he admitted before the court.

"Give me some time for preparation," he pleaded with the court which then adjourned the hearing on the bail petition in the sedition case till September 14.

IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case. INP

### IHC says suspended ECP's notification only in PTI MNA Abdul Shakoor case

ISLAMABAD: While hearing a petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Abdul Shakoor Shad against the acceptance of his resignation, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday remarked that the notification of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was suspended for Abdul Shakoor.

"The petitioner was Abdul Shakoor Shad, and therefore, the notification is suspended for one Member of Parliament only," the court explained.

IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the petition of Abdul Shakoor Shad and said, "The notification was not suspended for all the members who resigned."

The counsel of Abdul Shakoor Shad told the court that the ECP had issued a notification for 11 Members of Parliament.

"Yes! But this notification is suspended for one member only," the IHC chief justice replied and adjourned the hearing of the case. INP

### LHC disposes of GCU students' plea seeking fee waiver

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has disposed of a petition filed by the flood-hit students of the GCU seeking to waive their admission fee. The court sent the matter to the university's vice chancellor.

LHC Justice Sajid Mehmood Sethi on Monday heard a petition filed by Government College University, Lahore student Aqsa Bibi and others.

Rafiq A Sheikh advocate appeared before the court on behalf of petitioners.

He told the court that the petitioners who belonged to the flood-affected areas of South Punjab were studying in GCU. The university administration is demanding admission fee from its students but the petitioners whose houses have been washed away in the recent floods are unable to pay their fees, the lawyer said.

He contended that the Allama Iqbal Open University had also waived fee of students hailing from the flood-affected areas. He beseeched the court to order the GCU administration too to waive fee of the petitioner.

But the judge referred the matter to vice chancellor of the university while disposing of the case. INP

### Sh Rashid predicts PDM will crumble before elections

ISLAMABAD: Former interior minister and Pakistan Awami League Chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmad has predicted that the PDM would be crumbled before the elections.

In his tweets posted on Monday, Sh Rashid wrote: "Miftah's crying will not fix the economy. The UN address is an excuse. The real reason behind the visit is to coax Nawaz Sharif. The politics of 'N' and 'S' will be divided and the PDM will crumble before the elections. INP

### ECP reserves verdict in contempt case against Imran, other PTI leaders

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has reserved its verdict in the contempt case against PTI top leaders including its Chief Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar.

A four-member bench of the ECP headed by Nisar Durrani conducted the proceedings on Monday.

The PTI lawyer Faisal Chaudhry appeared before the commission. He contended that the ECP did not specify the violation purportedly committed by the PTI leaders in its notices. The commission, however, said that it had specified the violation committed by the PTI leaders.

On this, the PTI lawyer alleged that the notice was not issued by the ECP adding that the ECP could not issue notices. He said the notice was very ambiguous.

On this, the ECP member asked him to first submit the PTI leaders' replies on the notices then the commission would hear him out.

Faisal Ch, however, reminded the commission that the high court had already barred it from issuing the final order in the contempt proceedings.

The ECP member said that they were not issuing the final order. The lawyer also raised objection to the ECP bench saying that ECP member Nisar Durrani was mentioned in the speech of PTI leaders and 'a member who somehow relates to the case, cannot sit in the bench'. During the hearing, the PTI lawyer submitted Fawad Ch and Asad Umar's replies. The commission said that it would announce its verdict after examining the replies and if Imran also submitted. INP

### Shehbaz's London visit actually to pacify Nawaz: Sh Rashid

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AMLP) leader Sheikh Rashid Ahmad on Monday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's United Nations (UN) visit is just an excuse as he actually visiting to pacify Pakistan Muslim League Supremo Nawaz Sharif.

In his tweets posted on, former interior Minister Rashid said that Finance Minister Miftah Ismail's crying will not fix the economy.

He has predicted that the Pakistan Democratic Alliance (PDM) would be crumbled before the elections.

"The politics of 'N' and 'S' will be divided and the PDM will crumble before the elections. If the floodwater is not

drained within 2 months, then crops of wheat, cotton and sugarcane could not be sown. What will a farmer do in this scenario? Food crisis will emerge," he said.

Rashid went on to say, "Setting the price of wheat in the range between Rs2,000 and Rs4,000 per maund means to force the poor to eat grass. The gas shortfall has already started even before the winters."

"The UN Secretary-General was assured about the transparency of the flood donation. No foreign (financial) aid has poured in and there is no trust in the transparency of domestic donations. There is also a ban on showing Imran Khan's telethon," he concluded. INP

### CSCEC contributes to Pakistan's flood relief efforts

ISLAMABAD: A team of Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (PKM) led by China State Construction Engineering Group Co., Ltd (CSCEC) is massively contributing to Pakistan's relief efforts, Gwadar Pro reported. After knowing the devastating flood situation in different parts of Pakistan, the team promptly purchased a large number of local necessities such as rice, grain, oil and sugar, and distributed the relief food to 800 nearby poor victims free of charge, thus relieving the urgent needs of local people. The PKM project team prepared about 500 boxes of various kinds of drugs for treating post-disaster epidemics, organised medical teams to visit nearby villages for free diagnosis, and carried out free medicine delivery activities to equip local villagers with the knowledge of post-disaster disease prevention, thus avoiding the occurrence of infectious diseases, and

ensuring the physical health and food safety of the people in the flood-hit areas.

The first and second divisions of the PKM project, while completing their own rescue and relief efforts, and figuring out the local flood situation, sent a disaster relief team of 25 people, carrying 11 sets of large machinery and equipment, including loaders, dump trucks, excavators and pumps, to help nearby villages repair roads and divert floods. After several days of emergency repairs, 30 kilometres of water-damaged roads were opened in four nearby villages to ensure unimpeded access to local disaster relief channels. The PKM project also has managers on duty 24 hours a day to patrol the surrounding dangerous areas and help local victims out of trouble.

Amanullah, a flood victim, was extremely touched to see the busy figure of the relief team. INP



QUETTA: An artist is busy in painting on a wall alongside a road, in Provincial Capital.

## Two more cuts administered in Dadu canal to save it from inundation

DADU: In order to save Dadu city, the authorities on Monday administered two more cuts in the city canal to divert the course of floodwater that was rushing to deluge the city.

The assistant commissioner reached the canal with necessary equipment to administer the cuts. He said that after administering these breaches, the city had been saved to a great extent. He said the direction of flood water was diverted to the river.

Meanwhile, 250 villages were inundated when a 500-foot breach occurred in the Ring embankment of Dadu.

Hundreds of families have started evacuating their areas.

Another breach was occurred in Juma canal which submerged more than 20 villages including Allah Bachhayo village in Umar Kot. The flood torrent has destroyed crops.

Two children were drowned in the floodwater

in Meed Shaheed village in tehsil Warah in Qambar district on Sunday.

Four bodies recovered from Khairpur floodwater

The flood torrents have wreaked havoc in Sindh as the authorities have found four dead bodies in Khairpur floodwater.

A human tragedy is being unfolded in the wake of unprecedented deluges that have hit various areas of the country. One such disaster comes in the shape of loss of lives as almost every day the authorities are fishing out floating bodies from the floodwaters.

The rescuers today found four bodies floating in Khairpur floodwater but the dead could not be identified so far.

The officials shifted these bodies to the city morgue after declaring them unclaimed.

Later, the Farooq Azam Boy Scouts buried them after performing the rite of Ghusul (bathing). INP

### Terrorism case against Imran Khan a big joke: Asad Umar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Umar on Monday said that a terrorism case against former Prime Minister Imran Khan is a big joke.

While talking to media here, the Secretary General of PTI, Asad Umar said that Imran Khan has not committed terrorism. "What should he be sorry for? Do you think Imran Khan is a terrorist," he questioned.

Asad Umar said that the Pakistani bond prices in global markets collapsing. This is scary as it's happening after International Monetary Fund (IMF) board approval and release of tranche. He also said that markets believe Pakistan has high risk of default even after the IMF approval. INP

### Youth killed in Swabi as groups clash after Asia Cup final

SWABI: One youth was killed on the spot while four others were seriously wounded when two groups clashed with each other in Swabi following Pakistan's humiliating defeat to Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final on Sunday, police said on Monday.

The dead was identified as Sajjad while those who were injured were Irfan, Ijaz, Tahir and one other.

Police said they had taken four people into custody, registered an FIR and begun a probe into the incident. INP

### Four terrorists killed in Lakki Marwat

LAKKI MARWAT: At least four terrorists of banned outfit were killed during a joint operation conducted by Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and police personnel in Lakki Marwat on late Sunday night.

According to details, the CTD and police personnel conducted an intelligence based operation (IBO) in Takhti Khel area in the jurisdiction of Naurang Police Station in Lakki Marwat during which terrorists hiding in the area opened fire. INP

### ECP decides to hold by-polls on one NA, three PP seats on Oct 9

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Monday decided to conduct by-elections on one seat of the National Assembly and three seats of Punjab Assembly on October 9 next.

As per the official sources, the decision was made during an important ECP meeting with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja in the chair.

According to the details, the ECP decided to conduct by-election in Multan's NA-157 constituency and Sheikhupura's PP-139 constituency on October 9, 2022.

Similarly, the ECP decided to conduct

by-election in Bahawalnagar's PP-241 constituency and Khanewal's PP-209 constituency on October 9, 2022.

The ECP also summoned a meeting on September 14 for reviewing by-polls in nine constituencies of the National Assembly.

The ECP also sought a report on the second phase of local bodies elections in Sindh and the holding of elections at some polling stations in specific districts of Balochistan from the respective governments so that the elections that had earlier been deferred due to floods could be held as early as possible. INP



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Imran Khan speaks to media persons after appearing before the Anti-Terrorism Court in Federal Capital.

### Mariyum dubs arrogant and egotist Imran 'dangerous'

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb has dubbed PTI Chairman Imran Khan 'dangerous' because of his arrogance and narcissism.

In a statement issued on Monday, the information minister said that the former premier did not feel sorry when he uttered swearing words against the head of an institution or a judge.

The courts by now should know that Imran is neither ashamed nor does he feel sorry for what he said about a female magistrate during a public rally, Ms Aurangzeb added.

She went on to say that he was the same person who ran a malicious campaign against the Shuhada on social media for his political aggrandizement.

"A coward, an egotist, a narcissist and an arrogant man is always dangerous," she asserted.

Lashing out at Imran's political maneuverings, the minister said that this obdurate person always told lies and was doing politics even on floods.

She appealed to the nation and media that instead of paying heed to what Imran was saying, they should concentrate on the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people. She lamented that Imran was even doing politics on flood.

He is trying to play with the emotions of flood-hit people in order to create anarchy in the country, she added. Ms Aurangzeb deplored that the PTI chief sometimes tried to stop the IMF loan programme for Pakistan or sometimes he attempted to hamper the flood donation. INP

### Thunderbolt claims two lives in Tharparkar

THARPARKAR: In an incident of thunderbolt during rainfall in Diplo taluka here two herdsmen were killed on Monday.

The relatives of the two missing men, initiated search to trace them, found their bodies, which were burnt in the thunder strike after night long search.

In a similar incident in Kambhar-Shahdaktot district during the rainfall three persons were died last month.

The deceased in thunderbolt incident in Waggan area of Kambhar district, were identified as Ishaq and Muhammad Khan, two brothers, and their cousin Ameen. "The deceased were sitting under a tree at an agriculture farm to take meal, when thunderbolt struck them," rescue sources said. Sindh has received unprecedented rainfall in this monsoon, which has claimed hundreds of human lives and losses in live-

stock above one hundred thousand animals.

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

Four people were also injured in different incidents of thunderbolts in Tharparkar.

Moreover, 80 animals were also reported killed in different areas of Tharparkar district due to unprecedented incidents of lightning bolts in desert region.

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