

# QUETTA VOICE

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**PM Shehbaz leaves for Uzbekistan to attend SCO Summit**



**President terms freedom of expression, fair elections 'cornerstone of democracy'**

## Balochistan: UNICEF sets up TLCs as floods affected education of 386708 students

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) established temporary learning centers (TLCs) in the flood-hit areas of Balochistan, Pakistan's least developed province. Torrential rains and floods affected the schooling of 386,708 students in 33 flood-hit districts of the province, lagging behind other provinces in almost all key social indicators. "Floods damaged 6,565 school rooms", Abdul Rauf Baloch, the Secretary of Education Balochistan



**A damaged school: Photo UNICEF**  
However, it has also established TLCs in floods that hit the Hanna Urak area of Quetta, Pakistan's famous tourist point. Floods damaged around 3,000 government-run primary, middle and high schools across Balochistan.

**Lasbella hit hard by floods**  
The Balochistan government twice shut down all private and public schools because of floods and heavy rainfall for 14 days. According to statistics obtained by the Daily Quetta Voce, most of the schools have been damaged by floods in the Lasbella district of the province. The number of damaged schools in district Lasbella is 321, the data revealed. Floods have also

damaged 204 schools in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province.

UN Secretary-General and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visiting UNICEF TLC in Osta Muhammad Balochistan: Photo UNICEF

The education department has demanded of the Balochistan government to evolve a mechanism for the reconstruction of the damaged schools. The Secretary of Education Balochistan, Abdul Rauf Baloch has directed all concerned district education officers to assess the damages and prepare a comprehensive report about the damaged schools and their impacts on the education of the students.



said. Floods damaged around 3000 government-run primary, middle and high schools across Balochistan. This has compounded the problems of teachers and students already suffering because of the lack of basic facilities in educational institutions.

**UNICEF establishes 22 TLCs**  
"UNICEF has established 22 temporary learning centers (TLCs) so far", Naeem Khilji, one of the project officials of the children's fund for education told Daily Quetta Voce.

So far, 2220 children including 1424 boys and 796 girls have been enrolled in the TLCs, Mr. Khilji informed. The UNICEF has established TLCs in the Naseerabad division, which was completely flooded two weeks back.



## Cadet College in Awaran a major development: CM Balochistan

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo on Thursday termed the establishment of the Cadet College Awaran as a major development. Mr. Bizenjo reached his home town Awaran on his first official visit. Chief Secretary Balochistan,

Abdul Aziz Uqaili, and other high-level officials also accompanied the CM. A large number of tribal and political elders received Mr. Bizenjo in the Jhao tehsil of the Awaran district.

"We are very thankful to the Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa for the establishment of Cadet College in Awaran", the CM said. He said the Cadet College would play an important



role in the development and prosperity of the area.

CM Balochistan observed the College would play a key role in the future of the youth of the area. "Educational institutions play a key role in the development", he mentioned. The project director of the Awaran College briefed the CM about the construction process on the occasion.

Mr. Bizenjo inaugurated vari-

ous development schemes in his home district and interacted with locals of the area and listened to their issues. He also issued directives for solutions to the problems faced by the people of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, the CM stated that security forces have played an important role in the return of peace to the Jhao and other parts of the district. He said they (forces) rendered



**SAMARQAND: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets Russian President Vladimir Putin in Samarqand Uzbekistan.**

## PMC sends message to UHS to Conduct MDCAT 2022

Syed Muhammad Yaseen

The Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) has asked the University of Health Sciences (UHS) to conduct MDCAT 2022. PMC was taking MDCAT for the last three years throughout Pakistan. University of Health Sciences received the message today at the noon. After the decision of Provincial MDCATs by the Federal Health Department, the PMC has asked UHS to conduct medical entrance tests in Punjab. Before, PMC the UHS was conducting medical entrance tests in Pakistan. The MDCAT Exam 2022 will be conducted province wise on a single day. Conducting bodies in Different provinces include:

- Punjab— UHS
- Sindh— NTS/JSMU/IBA
- Balochistan—NTS/BUHMS
- KPK— ETEA
- Federal/ICT— FEDERAL

The expected Test date is in start of November and syllabus follow will



be the same. Yesterday, the Federal Minister for Health Mr Abdul Qadir Patel had asked PMC to conduct MDCAT 2022 in one day throughout Pakistan. Right now PMC is going to direct a medical university of the respective provinces to conduct MDCAT PMC lowers Passing Criteria of MDCAT.

The Pakistan Medical Commission a few days ago has lowered the passing criteria of MDCAT to 55% in MBBS and 45% in BDS for admission process. The MDCAT was delayed due to floods for the safety and security of the aspirants in Pakistan.

## President terms freedom of expression, fair elections 'cornerstone of democracy'

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said the democratic values of public participation in decision-making, human rights, freedom of expression and the principle of holding periodic free and fair elections by universal suffrage are the cornerstone of democracy.

In his message on World Democracy Day, the president said Pakistan stands firm on the commitment that true democracy is the only way forward for inclusive decision-making and policy formulation, particularly for minorities and vulnerable segments of society.

"True representation of people, fairness, equality, social justice and rule of law are at the heart of any democratic nation and Pakistan strives to garner these values through its Constitution that guarantees them," he said.

The president quoted a saying of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah that democracy is in the blood of the Muslims, who look upon complete equality of mankind, and believe in fraternity, equality, and liberty.

He said as the world stands in unison to celebrate the International Day of Democracy, Pakistan reiterates its resolve to nurture and strengthen democracy in accordance with Islamic tenets and the vision of the founder of the nation.

He mentioned that the Constitution of Pakistan is enshrined with democratic principles and a parliamentary form of government.

The preamble of the Constitution, which is a substantive part of the Constitution states it clearly that the state shall exercise its power and authority through the chosen representatives of the people, he added. INP

## Japan provides \$7 million to Pakistan for rehabilitation of flood affectees

News Desk

Japan's Honorary Council General for Quetta



Balochistan, Syed Nadeem Shah on Thursday informed that the Japanese government has given seven million dollars to Pakistan for the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people.

Talking to the media, he said that the torrential monsoon rains have caused much damage in Pakistan. Nearly one-third of the country is flooded, which has completely destroyed the infrastructure of these areas.

"The amount of damage will exceed 30 billion dollars", Mr. Nadeem Shah stated. We need aid on a larger scale for the restoration, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of the flood-affected areas.

Mr. Nadeem Shah also added that there is a shortage of food and shelter in these areas. Water-borne diseases have also broken out, and the government, private NGOs, and social activists must provide clean drinking water, tents, medicine, and medical staff to save people from diseases.

Pakistan is prone to all-natural disasters caused by climate change as it ranks 5th vulnerable country to climate change. The International community is continuously providing support to Pakistan to cope with floods and restore the damages caused by flood waves.

## PM Shehbaz leaves for Uzbekistan to attend SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has left for Samarkand, Uzbekistan, to attend the annual meeting of the Council of Heads of State (CHS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

He will be participating in the SCO-CHS on the invitation of Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who would chair the meeting being held today.

After arriving at the Samarkand Airport, Shehbaz will leave for Khizir Palace, Samarkand.

PM Shehbaz tweeted and said that he was leaving for Uzbekistan today to attend the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO.

"The global economic turbulence has necessitated the need for more cooperation among the SCO member countries. The SCO vision represents the aspirations of 40% of world population," he added.

Prime Minister said that Pakistan reiterates its com-

mitment to 'Shanghai Spirit'. "Mutual respect & trust can be the bedrock of shared development & prosperity. The SCO has a great potential to chart a way forward at a time of deeply worrying transformation in the geo-political & geo-economic fields," he said.

Leaders of SCO members and observer states as well as heads of SCO organizations and other special guests would attend the meeting. At the forthcoming event, the SCO leaders will deliberate on important global and regional issues, including climate change, food security, energy security, and sustainable supply chains. They would also approve agreements and documents that would chart the future direction of cooperation among SCO member states. Besides attending the summit, the Prime Minister would hold bilateral meetings with other participating leaders on the sidelines of the Council of Heads of State meeting. INP

## Corps Commander Balochistan visits Gwadar reviews CPEC security

News Desk

Corps Commander Balochistan Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor visited Gwadar and reviewed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) security and other development projects at the national level.

General Officer Commanding (GOC), Major General Inayat Hussain briefed the Corps Commander about various welfare projects of the Pakistan Army i.e CPEC security, Gwadar, and the coastal belt for the welfare of the local people. The Corps Commander appreciated the coordination of all stakeholders and the performance of the Special Security Division for lasting peace and prosperity in the region.

DG GDA briefs the Commander  
Director General Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Mujibur Rehman Qamrani gave a detailed briefing about the progress on various development projects going on in Gwadar in a meeting with the Corps Commander. On this occasion, the Corps Commander said that Gwadar Development Authority is playing an important and effective role in making Gwadar Smart City.

"CPEC and other development projects will open new avenues of devel-



opment for the youth of Balochistan in general and Makran Division in particular", Lt. General Asif Ghafoor said.

Emphasizing the importance of educational opportunities for the youth and public health sector, the Corps Commander also issued instructions to complete the ongoing development projects in Gwadar, including clean drinking water supply projects.

Lt. General Asif Ghafoor held a meeting with the civil administration. Corps Commander Balochistan also held a detailed meeting with officials of civil administration and other institutions during the visit. On this occasion, the Corps Commander reiterated the determination of a peaceful Pakistan and a prosperous Balochistan.

"The people of Balochistan have always played an important role in the development and prosperity of Pakistan", the Corps Commander stated. Pakistan Army will continue to provide full support to other state institutions and civil administration for the welfare of backward areas of Balochistan.

Corps Commander Balochistan also conducted an aerial survey of New Gwadar International Airport and East Bay Expressway. The concerned authorities gave a detailed briefing to the Corps Commander on the under-construction Gwadar International Airport and related ongoing projects.

## QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

## QLF a vibrant platform for birthing new ideas

The Quetta Literary Festival (QLF) has proved to be a vibrant platform for birthing new ideas and it must be supported in a nascent democracy. Leading authors, writers, poets, novelists, etc spoke candidly about the factors, which shape the sociopolitical landscape in all 46 sessions during the historic festival.

Despite all odds, the organizers, faculty members, and students of the Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) were able to hold the third QLF on June 27 and 28.

Thousands turn up to participate in all 46 sessions

In a province where an open expression has become rare, the QLF provided an opportunity for all dissent voices to freely express their opinion without fear and being censured. They spoke with full freedom and shared their ideas. Crowds of the audience attended all 46 sessions held on the premise of the BUITEMS, which is considered to be the educational face of Balochistan.

Also, Read Balochistan University: 85-year old man completes Ph.D. degree

A total of 150 delegates including leading authors, poets, writers, artists, musicians, and journalists from across the country participated in the two-day event. As per rough estimates, around 20,000 people visited the QLF. This was overwhelming keeping in view the narrative of troubles and security issues of the province.

Literature and culture gathered to promote a soft image of Balochistan. Literature and culture were brought together and a soft and true image of Balochistan was promoted in all 46 sessions. The organizers had to cancel a Qawali program because of an unruly crowd entering the hall. Youth gathered outside the hall were asked to peacefully disperse.

The message of love and peace in Balochistan and Pakistan was echoed in all sessions. This gave hope to the youth of Balochistan, a bright future without violence, and a sense of deprivation.

This was the third QLF. The provincial and federal governments should encourage the organizers, faculty members and students of other universities and colleges in Balochistan to organize such events to give a learning and exposure opportunity to the students.

## Multivariate Aspects of Climate Change in Pakistan

Syed Mansoor Ahmed

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

Climate Change and Agriculture in Pakistan

In addition, Pakistan is a semi-arid country. The focal and dependent source of water is from the snow-covered Himalayan and the Karakorum in the Northern Areas, Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and the Sutlej rivers flow through this area. Within the water calculus, the country's entire agriculture is dependant on water flow from the Indus river. Glacial flood outburst also poses a serious threat to the country's climate in the Karakorum range. The sole aim was reaching and understanding the possible nodes of surge-type glaciers, which are characterized by unsteady movements and frequent frontal advances of glaciers. As result, it causes natural



hazards by obstructing river channels, forming ice-dammed lakes, which will ultimately cause GLOFs and pose threats downstream of the water. After meaningful analysis, it revealed that a surge between 1998 and 2002 generated 6 GLOFs Damages by Climate Change.

Meanwhile, rigorous critical exploration of the Attabad Lake of Hunza Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan is the distinctive event to justify the future threats of climate change in the center of freshwater. The lake flooding displaced more than 6,000 people from upstream villages and inundated over 19

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

Karakorum Range 39 glaciers are responsible for ice-dam formation. On the other hand, 36 glaciers build ice barriers in the running rivers due to frontal advance, near to the densely populated areas of the Karakorum region. By constant observation of the prevailing and growing threat of climate change, it is ailing the endless future threat only due to the GLOFs. For instance, the Indus River System (IRS) is the jugular vein of irrigation in Pakistan. It is providing water for almost 90% of the food product in Pakistan. The ice-dam formation due to the GLOFs will slow

down the water flowing pace downstream. And could raise a deep impasse among the units for water distribution formula. In the end, it will ultimately surface the challenge of food insecurity in Pakistan.

The Karakorum Range, more importantly, is the home of the anticipated One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR) by giving with a potential corridor through the Karakorum Highway from Khunjerab to the seaport at Gawadar in Balochistan (CPEC) on the Indian Ocean.

Therefore, the smooth running of the traffic on the roads is the keynote for progressive economic development. While the ice barriers in rivers due to frontal advance could inundate the blacktops of the Karakorum Highway. The dislocation and dissolution of roads will give birth to never-ending challenges due to the factor of GLOFs. In the same run, these lakes and GLOFs attracted media, political, and scientific attention because of the repeated outburst of floods. So, it needs the heart blood as well as collective effective efforts to bring down the scale of the future threat without causing infinite miseries.

## The sacralization of politics

By Hussain H Zaidi

A cult leader is regarded by his/her followers as the epitome of virtue and wisdom and thus a complete stranger to the intellectual or moral lapses which ordinary mortals are subject to.

While at times the leader may appear to have gone over the line, there's always a hidden - verging on the esoteric - meaning to such acts, which can only be discerned with the eye of faith. Not surprisingly, the cult leader's words and deeds themselves become the criteria for judging right and wrong, good and evil.

Promoting an idealized image of a leader to defend their 'inalienable' right to rule goes back to antiquity. In Egypt, the king was treated as a divine being, whom the subjects owed total submission, not as a matter of expediency or pragmatism, but as the supreme religious obligation. It's said that Alexander the Great was so thoroughly swept by this mystical doctrine that he proclaimed himself to be a god after he had visited the temple of Amun Ra, the chief god in Egyptian pantheon, following the conquest of Egypt.

Henceforth, Alexander commanded his troops to deify him, which marked the beginning of the deification of kings in the West. Julius Caesar, the next great conqueror, was also profoundly

impressed with the god-king idea. He had his statue set up in a temple with the inscription: "To the unconquerable god." The following year the self-proclaimed god-king was assassinated.

The divinity of kings took a milder form in Medieval Europe in the shape of the theory of divine rights. Though he was not deemed to be a god, the king was believed to rule by divine right, which meant that he could be judged only by God and wasn't answerable to the people. In the words of England's King James, the office of the monarch is a mystery into which no mortal may inquire.

With the advent of the Renaissance in the 15th century, European thought began to assume a secular streak. However, political cultism remained a potent force in both theory and practice. Machiavelli, easily the most representative political theorist of the new age, in his seminal work 'The Prince', provided a complete recipe for establishing and maintaining a political cult and exercising untrammelled powers without postulating divine sanctions for the right to rule. His ideal prince, inter alia, is a dab hand at pulling wool over people's eyes by presenting a false image of his religiosity and morality.

With the growth of democracy, the political leader began to be

regarded as an ordinary mortal, with limited powers, for which they were answerable to the people, and a shelf life, after which they may be shown the door. The end of the First World War saw the resurgence of cult politics in the form of fascism in Italy and national socialism in Germany. But both varieties of fascism eclipsed as quickly as they had risen. However, in the East, cultism, drawing sustenance from the corresponding cultural ethos, has remained virile.

Sociologist Max Weber identified three sources of authority or leadership: traditional, legal-rational, and charismatic. Political cults fall in the third category. As opposed to the other two foundations of authority, charisma entails obedience to a person. The cult leader has an inde-feasible and unrestrained right to govern, because they are seen to have been endowed with some superhuman, or at the very least superior, qualities.

For example, in the context of Pakistan, if most other politicians are allegedly corrupt, the cult leader is regarded as thoroughly clean. If others are deemed fickle, the cult leader is treated as a man of principles. Whether in fact the cult leader is a cut above the rest is beside the point. What counts is his larger-than-life and

holier-than-thou image. This makes effective propaganda - these days an adroit use of digital platforms - the key to the making of a cult leader.

Effective governance essentially entails having that exceptional - in fact, a messianic, godlike - person at the helm and letting them rule without let or hindrance. The conflicting claims to power often pit the cults against the law of the land as well as long-standing political conventions, with the cult showing at best a conditional respect for the legal-cum-institutional framework.

Political cults, like their religious counterparts, function like a creed. At the apex is the charismatic leader, whose word is absolutely binding regardless of its content. At the bottom are the followers, who are supposed to obey the leader's command mindlessly, blindly, and slavishly. Between the two are a brigade of advisers, spokespersons, propagandists, and media persons, who are tasked with cementing or maintaining the bond between the leader and the followers. Unlike followers, these intermediaries aren't necessarily emotionally attached to the leader but behave as if they were.

As creeds have doctrines, cults have narratives, which, in a word, promise to create a heaven on earth. The narratives may change

according to the circumstances - an anti-corruption narrative may give way to an anti-state one, a pro-establishment narrative may be replaced with one which is anti-establishment - but the essential messianic message remains the same. In this way, a community of emotionally charged but mentally dumb followers, who have a chip on their shoulder, comes into being. The opponents of the cult are ostracized, demonized, and stigmatized as thieves, traitors, foreign agents, enemies of the people, and what not, with whom no dialogue, no compromise, no detente is possible.

The stage is set for sacralization of politics in which one is either a believer or a heretic, either clean every inch or corrupt to the bone, either a saint or a sinner, either an angel or a demon. Anyone hoping to engage the cult followers in a decent debate will soon realize they're fighting a losing battle, because the cult is essentially an irrational contrivance and thrives on irrationality. Challenged with facts, the cult will throw facts on scrapheap; show them that their arguments are illogical, the cult will dismiss reasoning and argumentation as a sign of moral weakness; point out to them the untenability of their position, the cult will hit back at the messenger.

## Lessons in school reforms

By Kamila Hyat

Pakistan has struggled to maintain any kind of standard at both government and private schools across the country. While private schools often claim to offer the best education and learning in English to their students, they are not always successful.

The kind of education that many children receive is based on rote learning and cramming - similar to how they would learn at most government schools. The only difference is that parents pay exorbitant fees for their children's education at private schools. Only high-tier elite schools - which charge high fees and are accessible to only a tiny minority - can claim to offer education which matches international standards.

According to the available surveys, a majority of Grade-5 children at both government and private schools are unable to write a complete sentence in either English or Urdu. The conflict of the languages adds to the problem. At English-medium schools, children are taught in English and barely understand the content they have been taught. When the same content is provided to them in Urdu, their eyes light up. Children who have never been exposed to English at their homes and have received no specialized English tuitions

at their schools begin to understand the concepts.

It is unclear why the country has not chosen to follow models from other countries where children are first taught in their mother tongue so they can understand the content, and then in later grades, they are taught English as a skill they will need for employment opportunities.

In our country, the situation is dismal. In Punjab, the education authorities have neglected Punjabi; this has added to the problem. Punjab is the only province which does not offer primary-level education in the native tongue of most children, often leaving them blank in the class, unable to comprehend what they are learning. The only option for them is to cram what is put before them to pass the exam.

Pakistan does not need just major education reforms. The Single National Curriculum (SNC) offered by the PTI government solved no problems and, in some way, added more to them, further emphasizing cramming and taking away from a child's intellectual ability to develop skills. This is a deeply rooted problem and should be solved if the country is to progress and grow in any direction.

So, how do we go about it? One method would be to study the example of Vietnam, a desperately poor country in the 1990s, whose per

capita income has now grown massively; the Vietnamese government thinks it can grow further if education is massively reformed through the re-teaching of teachers and other methods. Such strategies help education become child-centred, based on the capacity of children to learn and then acquire places in universities and gain jobs.

In Vietnam, the emphasis is not only on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects but also on development of other skills. These reforms have been massive, and in some schools, classes were shut down for some days to allow teachers to be trained in the new method required for teaching.

The same happened in Japan, and since the 1990s, the Japanese committee responsible for education has recognized that cram learning is not helpful. Japan adopted and introduced an approach centred on child-based learning and the individual ability of children at schools one by one. This initially resulted in a steep fall in education standards as measured through global academic benchmarks. But Japan has since then caught up and retained its policy of training children not to cram, not to depend entirely on teachers, and to further their skills through their own initiatives and learn through these rules.

## Mad, bad and dangerous to know

By Dr Naazir Mahmood

When Lady Caroline Lamb described Lord Byron - one of the greatest English poets - as "mad, bad, and dangerous to know", she was of course sharing her personal impressions of Byron.

This expression comes to mind when you look at today's Pakistan and find an entire breed of people who seem to be 'mad, bad, and dangerous to know'. For ease of conversation, let's call them MBD here. There are multiple factors that have contributed to the emergence of this phenomenon among some Pakistanis living at home or abroad. They have made plenty of observers seem clueless about what shape this anomaly would take next. They let rip at the slightest provocation - or even without it. Mostly they are instigated by their leaders who are equally clueless and ready to let rip. What they did in Madina on April 28 is just one example of their uncontrollable behaviour that they have become prone to display.

MBD is not a new phenomenon; we have seen such cases both nationally and internationally. The trick of their leaders is to make such behaviour appear perfectly normal. Some commentators have made comparisons with fascist and Nazi tendencies in Italy and Germany in the first half of the 20th century. We may also recall the Altaf-Hussain times in Karachi, when he unleashed a reign of terror on all who disagreed with him or dared to raise a voice of dissent. The prime span of fascism and Nazism was

nearly 25 years, after which their steam was snuffed out. Nearly all followers of these ideologies were mad, bad, and dangerous to know. They wreaked havoc within their homelands and on their own people, and they would have continued with their destructive behaviour for decades to come. Even after an end to their violent extremism, their remnants are still around and reemerge here and there with their fossilized thinking patterns and a potential to erupt any moment.

Specific to Pakistan, this intolerance was pioneered by the state itself. A curious and dispassionate reading of history makes facts clear, which Pakistan Studies textbooks tend to hide. Though it will be a slight exaggeration to blame everything on the state, there is ample evidence that state policies and practices cultivate - to a great extent - ideas of self-righteousness and narcissism among common citizens, through education and propaganda. The state loves to nurture birds that fly blind, and this light leads them to mostly wrong destinations. Authoritarianism or pluralism, democracy or dictatorship, humility or hubris, prejudice or tolerance - all are there to crush or groom. The state makes most decisions about where to lead the nation. There are bursts of affection for certain personalities that develop personality cults.

Does this have anything to do with dogmas, religiosity and sectarianism? Of course. The more dogmas are propagated,

the more intolerant people tend to become. Dogma means a blind faith in unquestionable ideologies and personalities. If there is one ideology you can't question, there will soon be more of the same ilk. When you revere a personality at the cost of a more balanced assessment of personal traits, there are greater chances of more leaders emerging with the same claims of infallibility. It becomes a kind of a crusade for their followers to defend their leader at all costs, no matter how destructive or dumb that person may be.

The question is: why does a state nurture or tolerate such mad, bad, and dangerous behaviour? Perhaps the answer lies in understanding the nature of the state itself. In countries such as Pakistan there is always a cosseted elite embedded in the state itself. This elite comes from diverse sections of society: bureaucrats, capitalists, feudal lords, generals, industrialists, judges, and many more. If they are not from the existing elite, the state co-opts them for its own and their benefit. They are mostly complacent in their own attitudes and want to keep the people engaged in one preoccupation or the other.

These elites are safe in their own guarded compounds and their well-defended capital - or they think so. The country carries on its downward spiral from which it always struggles to emerge. When people are exposed to excessive chauvinism, ideological and narcissistic overdoses, religiosity, sectarianism, and xenophobia, they seldom think about their real problems such as illiteracy, unemployment, lack of public healthcare, and shortage of power and water. The elite that composes the state itself is unaffected by these problems and sits comfortably while the people are fed with personality cults and chant slogans against purported enemies. Gradually, malign forces in society take a deep hold of the people who fail to understand the real conspiracies within - while believing in imaginary conspiracies from outer lands. It may be Afghanistan, America, India, or even Iran, hatching sinister plans against Pakistan while our own elite is safe and sound; bunting up nearly all sectors of society from education to health to power to security and water and sanitation, and what not. That's how the mad, bad, and dangerous behaviour thrives. There are segments of society that pose a lingering threat to the constitution, democracy, financial stability, and overall health of society but the elite in power does not consider them a threat to itself. Amid this chaos emerge authoritarian personalities who may be from civilian or military backgrounds. They offer precise solutions to imprecise challenges. Such leaders master the art of grabbing people's attention without disabusing them of their false notions. People tend to overlook their leaders' abusive language, their acerbic tongues with brimstone rhetoric. Once these leaders come to power, they try to stack

## Bureaucratic varsities

By Dr Faizan Naqvi

Public-sector universities are the only hope of those from the middle class for a better future in Pakistan. However, across Pakistan, varsities are facing financial cuts and their autonomy is continuously impeded by predatory governments.

University of Karachi, one of the biggest and oldest varsities, is worst affected. Catering to 40,000 students and more than 50 disciplines this once-topnotch university is going through a brain drain. Unending delays in the process of hiring and promoting faculty members take six to eight years to complete while other universities in Sindh take between six months and a year to do the same. Underfunding, lack of accountability and disregard of standards allow bureaucratic delays, frustrating KU faculty that now stands at the brink of disorder. Faculty with over 25 years of service are retiring as assistant professors.

Attempts were made to reform governance and the Sindh Universities Amendment 2018 simplified the process of recruitment but

Karachi University continues without policy reforms. Over 400 faculty members applied for the next cadre in 2019, scores have retired and hundreds will superannuate in next five years but are denied the right to present their case to the Selection Board. Recently Dr Zafar Iqbal of Environmental Sciences retired after 25 years of service as assistant professor despite a court order to hold his Board. Similarly, Dr Ameer Ahsan of Pharmacy is to retire in October after serving Baqi, Ziauddin and lastly Karachi University while waiting for a Board.

Universities only need to follow the University Act that requires three experts with eight board members to select a suitable candidate. Instead Karachi University allows deans, chairpersons, foreign expert reports and secretary boards and universities to further the red-tape in the process.

The University of Karachi needs an overhaul of the existing bureaucratic mindset and to get rid of the assumption that red-tape is a substitute for standards. Discrimination against varsities and within a varsity must end by

following same procedures of hiring.

As reported in this paper recently, KU faculty members have extended their protest from demonstrations to a hunger strike onto death. This escalation not only highlights the sense of frustration amongst the faculty but also shows the blatant disregard for faculty by the KU administration and the Sindh government. The protesting faculty say this is the time for policy reforms that abolish the hindrances and speed up the already delayed processes.

Varsities should be a benchmark for academic standards, hubs of knowledge, and arenas for debate and disagreement with a sense that changing the world is possible. Instead, the varsity bureaucracy has abandoned research and replaced it with a business sense where research culture is shamelessly suppressed and denied official support and the only function of the administration is to ensure salaries.

When teachers turn to hunger strikes to press for their demands, society at large must acknowledge its disbelief at the state of affairs of what should have been a centre of excellence.

## Islamabad reports 72 more dengue cases, tally reaches 943

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital reported 72 more dengue cases in the last 24 hours taking the total tally of cases to 943 in the current season, District Health Officer (DHO) said.

According to the statistics provided by the DHO Islamabad Dr. Zaem Zia, 48 of the total 72 cases were reported in rural areas of the capital while the rest 24 were reported from urban premises.

The total number of dengue cases has gone up to 943 cases while

four people have lost their lives to the viral disease.

Yesterday, the federal capital had reported 128 dengue cases, taking the tally to 871.

Dr. Zaem told that 39 patients were admitted to the PIMS hospital Islamabad in the last 24 hours, 3 in Federal General Hospital, 14 in the Holy Family Hospital, 5 in BBH Rawalpindi, 4 in DHQ Rawalpindi, 3 in CDA Hospital while 1 dengue patient was reported from the Poly Clinic

Islamabad.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq chaired the meeting of National Coordination Committee on Foreign-Funded Projects (NCC-FFP) pertaining to Water sector (Federal) at the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

## Water level receding at Kotri Barrage

KOTRI: The water level is continuously receding in Indus River at the point of Kotri Barrage on Thursday.

As per the official sources, the water inflow at Kotri Barrage is 525,696 cusecs upstream, whereas, the water outflow at the barrage is 508,981 cusecs downstream.

During the last 24 hours, 49,839 cusecs of water has receded at Kotri Barrage. However, high level flood situation persists at the barrage.

On the other hand, diseases are spreading in the flood-hit areas of Sindh. Gastroenteritis has gripped Khairpur, for all the hospitals in the district have been filled with children suffering from gastro.

It is to be noted here that as many as 100 children have died of gastroenteritis in 20 days in the flood-hit areas of Sindh.

In Khairpur Nathan Shah, the problems of the flood victims have increased as the relief activities could not so far be started in the area. People, suffering from hunger and thirst, are dying due to the lack of medicines. A person named Muhammad Juman Gaadhi died in suburban village Mir Hassan Gaadhi. And a woman named Sarah, the mother of three children, also lost her life due to hunger and thirst. The locals shifted the bodies to a hospital. It merits a mention here that 15 people have so far lost their lives in Khairpur Nathan Shah, and more than a dozen people are missing. Also, 40 people from Khairpur Nathan Shah are forced to live in a roofless house in Karimabad Colony near Tando Muhammad Khan.

The affected people said that everything had been washed

away in the flood. "There is no ration to eat. There are no clothes to wear. There is no place to sleep," they added and appealed for aid.

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It merits a mention here that 15 people have so far lost their lives in Khairpur Nathan Shah, and more than a dozen people are missing. INP

## 34 flood affectees rescued, 16.4 tonnes of relief goods distributed in 24 hours: NFRCC

ISLAMABAD: At least 34 were rescued, and 16.4 tonnes of food were supplied to flood-affected people in the last 24 hours, the National Flood Response Center (NFRCC) reported.

According to the NFRCC report southern and eastern parts of Sindh, Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and North Eastern Punjab received heavy rainfall while the rest of the country faced hotter temperatures in the last 24 hours with Turbat experiencing the highest temperature with 42-degree celsius, 41 degrees in Sibbi and 41 degrees in Nokundi.

The weather would remain hot and dry in most plains of the country for the next 24 hours while Upper Punjab, Upper KP, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir could experience some rainfall.

The NFRCC reported that no infrastructural damage was caused by rains in the last 24 hours. However, 12,718 km of roads and 390 bridges have been damaged due to floods amid heavy rainfall and floods in the country, they added.

Army Aviation helicopters have taken 526 flights for flood-relief operations rescuing 4604 stranded people, the NFRCC told. 34 people were rescued, and 16.4 tonnes of relief goods were supplied using the Army Helicopters in the last 24 hours, it added.

A total of 147 relief camps, over 300 medical camps, and 284 relief collection points have been established across the country, NFRCC said. Over 1,26,365 people have been treated in the medical camps so far, and patients are being provided 5-day medicine, it added.

The NFRCC reported that over-collection points have received over 8498.8 tonnes of food items while 8219 tonnes of food items have been distributed in the country. In total 7.89 million medicine were collected while 7.75 million have been distributed among flood-affected people in the country, it added.

Also Read: NFRCC devises strategy for resettlement of flood victims.

A total of 16,031 people are residing within 9 camps established under the Pakistan Navy,

NFRCC reported. 23 Emergency Response teams of the Pakistan Army have rescued 15,174 people so far, it added.

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## Karachi police recommend deportation of illegal Afghan immigrants

KARACHI: The Karachi police on Thursday recommended the deportation of Afghan immigrants, illegally residing in the city.

According to details, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Sohrah Goth, Sohail Faiz, has penned down a letter to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) East, recommending deportation of illegal Afghan immigrants. In the letter, SDPO Sohrah Goth claimed that the Afghan nationals were involved in anti-national activities, land grabbing, murders, drug trafficking and street crimes.

The police officer noted that

few days earlier, the Super Highway was blocked. "Five cases were registered against suspects in East district including Sohrah Goth," the letter pointed out.

"Three days ago, the police had arrested dozens of illegal Afghan immigrants residing illegally in the city," it stated, adding that cases have been registered against the arrested immigrants under Foreign Act.

SDPO Sohail Faiz, in the letter, maintained that the Afghan nationals have been deported before, asking for permission for deportation amid rising criminal activities.

It is pertinent to mention here that the city police arrested as many as 26 illegal Afghan immigrants in Karachi's Al-Asif Square for illegally crossing the border.

According to details, the Sohrah Goth Police Station carried out an operation near the service road at Al-Asif Square and arrested 26 illegal immigrants.

A police spokesperson said that the raid was conducted by a patrolling officer. The Afghan nationals failed to show their Pakistani citizenship and relevant travel documents, they added. INP



QUETTA: Unemployed candidates' standing outside Balochistan Assembly for job test.

## England cricketers arrive in Karachi for first Pakistan tour in 17 years

KARACHI: England's cricket squad touched down in Karachi on Thursday on their first tour of Pakistan in 17 years.

England last played in Pakistan in 2005 and were due to visit last year until pulling out at short notice after New Zealand also cancelled a tour citing safety concerns.

The move infuriated the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), who called it "dis-respectful".

Following a 2009 attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore, Pakistan were forced to play international matches at neutral venues such as the UAE, where they hosted England for series in 2012 and 2015.

Over the past five years, international cricket has gradually returned to Pakistan and earlier this year Australia toured successfully for the first time

in nearly a quarter of a century.

The PCB said that the Australia series had "demonstrated our event planning and operational skills" and expressed confidence that the England games will also pass off safely.

On match days, roads between the England team hotel and Karachi's National stadium will be sealed off and under armed guard. A helicopter will monitor their journey and shops and offices overlooking the stadium will be ordered to shut.

The last time England toured Pakistan, the government was waging a battle with militants. The security situation has vastly improved since then, but there has been an uptick in attacks since the Taliban stormed back to power in neighbouring Afghanistan.

The tour also comes as Pakistan grapples with catastrophic flooding that has left nearly a third of the country under water and affected at least 33 million people.

Last month the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said the team were "desperate" to play in Pakistan despite the humanitarian disaster.

"I think hopefully us going out there and playing will be a positive for what's been a pretty harrowing time for the people of that country," said managing director of men's cricket Rob Key.

The 19-man England squad, captained by Jos Buttler, will play seven Twenty20 games against Pakistan in Karachi and Lahore from September 20 to October 2 as both teams tune-up for next month's T20 World Cup in Australia. INP

## Mainly hot, dry weather likely to prevail over most plain areas

ISLAMABAD: Mainly hot and dry weather is likely to prevail over most plain areas of the country during the next twelve hours. However, rain with wind and thunderstorm is expected at isolated places in north Punjab, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir. Temperatures of some major cities recorded this morning: Islamabad twenty-two degree centigrade, Lahore twenty-seven, Karachi twenty-eight, Peshawar twenty-four, Quetta thirteen, Gilgit fifteen, Murree sixteen and Muzaffarabad twenty degree centigrade. According to Met Office forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, partly cloudy weather with chances of rain, wind and thundershower is expected in Srinagar, Jammu, Pulwama and Baramulla while partly cloudy weather in Leh, Anantnag and Shopian. Temperature recorded this morning: Srinagar, Pulwama and Anantnag fifteen degree centigrade, Jammu twenty-seven, Leh ten, Shopian and Baramulla fourteen degree centigrade. INP

## Three kids climb electricity pylon to escape flood

KHAIRPUR: In order to save their lives from ravaging floods, three kids in Khairpur Nathan Shah climbed up the top of an electricity pylon and stranded there for two days before being rescued on Thursday.

In Khairpur Nathan Shah, problems of the flood-hit people show no sign of abating as the people there are struggling very hard to survive in the disastrous situation.

Reportedly, three children in Khairpur Nathan Shah saved themselves from drowning by climbing up the top of an electricity pylon and staying there for two days.

After the information about them reached authorities, they were rescued and moved to a safer place. The heartbreaking picture of them, stranded on the top of an electricity pylon, have gone viral on social media.

It merits a mention here that 15 people have so far lost their lives in Khairpur Nathan Shah, and more than a dozen people are missing. INP



ISLAMABAD: Vice President of Pakistan Muslims League (N) Maryam Nawaz leaving Islamabad High Court after attending her hearing, in Federal Capital.

## NPMC reviews prices of essential commodities

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday directed the concerned stakeholders to ensure the smooth supply of essential commodities in local markets and there should be no speculations to disturb the market.

The minister issued these directions while chairing a meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC).

The meeting reviewed the progress on supply of different essential commodities after recent flash floods in the country.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Economist, Chief Secretary Punjab, representatives from FBR, PBS and Ministry of Food Security and Industries.

It is noted that in order to ensure the supply of edibles commodities and to maintain their prices after the floods in the country, the Ministry of Planning Commission took a lead while activating the NPMC last week.

On a weekly basis, the NPMC reviews prices of essential items and ensuring that there should be no speculation over the hike of prices in the market and distribution of essential commodities should not be delayed.

The minister directed the concerned stakeholders to take stern action against the responsible who are involved in hoarding in the market.

The minister also directed the chief secretaries of all provinces to ensure that there should be no hoarding of essential items particularly wheat.

The minister was informed that after the import of tomatoes and onions the prices have decreased in the market. It was further informed that from next week the prices will further decrease in order to facilitate the masses.

The minister also directed the Ministry of National Food Security and Industries to immediately take the steps to reduce the prices of Palm Oil.

"The results are not seen on the ground after the decrease of Palm Oil prices results should be seen," he remarked.

The minister directed the Ministry of National Food Security and Industries to engage Palm Oil manufacturers and take immediate steps to reduce the prices so relief could be ensured to the common man. The minister also directed the concerned stakeholders to engage AJK, GB and State Bank of Pakistan. INP

## Pakistan posts over 100 more coronavirus cases, one fatality

ISLAMABAD: A day after World Health Organisation's statement that an end to the Covid-19 pandemic is in sight, Pakistan has reported another 117 coronavirus infections and one fatality during the last 24 hours, showed the statistics released by the National Institute of Health (NIH) on Thursday morning.

According to NIH data, the death toll in the country has risen to 30,604 while the number of total infections now stood at 1,571,530

after adding the fresh 117 cases.

During the last 24 hours, 18,785 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio stood at 0.62 percent. The number of patients in critical care was recorded at 82.

During the last 24 hours, another 279 patients have recovered from the Covid-19 in Pakistan and the number of total recoveries now stood at 1,535,388. As of Thursday, the total count of active cases in the country was recorded at 5,538.

As many as 593,867 coronavirus cases have so far been confirmed in Sindh, 521,917 in Punjab, 224,053 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 139,358 in Islamabad, 35,980 in Balochistan, 44,309 in Azad Kashmir and 12,046 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

As many as 13,611 individuals have lost their lives to the pandemic in Punjab so far, 8,238 in Sindh, 6,362 in KP, 1,031 in Islamabad, 793 in Azad Kashmir, 378 in Balochistan and 191 in Gilgit Baltistan.

The number of newly

reported Covid-19 cases has dropped dramatically, the World Health Organization said Wednesday, urging the world to seize the opportunity to end the pandemic.

Newly reported cases of the disease, which has killed millions since being identified in late 2019, last week fell to the lowest level since March 2020, said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"We have never been in a better position to end the pandemic," he told reporters. "We are

not there yet, but the end is in sight."

But the world needed to step up to "seize this opportunity", he added.

"If we don't take this opportunity now, we run the risk of more variants, more deaths, more disruption, and more uncertainty."

According to WHO's latest epidemiological report on Covid-19, the number of reported cases fell 28 percent to 3.1 million during the week ending September 11, following a 12-percent-drop a week earlier. INP



ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad former Minister for Interior meet PTI chief and Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan at Banni Gala.

## IHC seeks report from JIT in Imran Khan terrorism case

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought report from JIT on the petition seeking dismissal of terrorism case against PTI chairman Imran Khan.

The case came up for hearing before division bench of IHC comprising Chief Justice (CJ) Athar Minallah and Justice Saman Rafat Imitiaz here Thursday.

Suleman Khan appeared in the court on behalf of Imran Khan while special prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi from federation and investigation officer appeared in the court.

The CJ IHC remarked he had said in last hearing Imran Khan should join the investigation.

Special prosecutor told the court Imran Khan has joined the investigation.

The court remarked "we had said the investigation officer would tell does the terrorism clause stand applied to it or otherwise."

The investigation officer told the terrorism clause is applicable to it.

The CJ IHC inquired is something more there than his speech. Terrorism clause should not be undermined that its fear stands purged out from the minds of people. This allegation is of serious nature. Supreme court decision is there. I had asked on previous hearing how the terrorism clause stands applied. Contempt of court case is separate case from it. The things be not mixed.

Prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi read out text of Imran Khan speech.

The CJ IHC remarked how can the terrorism case be made against Imran Khan on making speech. Supreme Court has defined the terrorism related cases. Don't apply terrorism clauses the very way that its effect fades away.

olice prosecutor said Imran Khan said Judge Zeba Chaudhry we will see you too. Imran Khan speech was provocative and it comes upto the terrorism clause 6.

The CJ IHC remarked as per text of Imran Khan speech terrorism clause cannot be applied to him. Is IG so much weak that speech led to foment terrorism. There is effect if the one who has delivered speech is former or coming prime minister. Did Imran Khan attack after delivering speech.

The prosecutor said it makes difference if one is former prime minister or prospective prime minister of future.

The CJ IHC remarked Imran Khan appeared before police and joined investigation later. Was any attack made during this time. Several policemen were martyred in terror attacks. We are here for the protection of our judge. A regular contempt of court proceedings is running in this matter. Don't bring terrorism offence to such small level.

Special prosecutor told the court JIT meeting has to be held and they will resolve in this meeting.

The CJ IHC remarked we had ordered tell the court today.

Special prosecutor said the accused joined the investigation late.

The CJ IHC remarked an IG should not be so weak that he should be deterred or become upset due to speech. The speech was very wrong and the words were inappropriate. But terrorism clause can not be applied to it. After holding JIT meeting the court be informed till Monday.

Special prosecutor said I will be busy on Monday.

The CJ IHC remarked then let the members of JIT appear in the court on Monday.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case till September 19. Online



SAMARQAND: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets Iranian President, Ibrahim Raisi in Samarqand on the sidelines of SCO-CHS.

### LHC issues notice to cane commissioner on contempt of court plea

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday issued a notice to Punjab Cane Commissioner Husnain Bahadur on the contempt of the court petition filed against him.

During the hearing of petition filed by Ghazanfar Ali Khan, a former Justice Shahid Waheed of the LHC also ordered the Punjab government's law officer to submit reply in the case after receiving instructions from the concerned officials.

In his petition, Ghazanfar had said that he had supplied canes to Shakarganj Sugar Mills worth Rs2.8 million, but the mill's owner did not pay him the price. "Following that, I submitted an application to the cane commissioner," he said, adding and when he did not get justice from the commissioner, he had to approach the LHC.

"Disposing of the petition, the court, on June 30, 2022, had ordered Ghazanfar to decide my application," he said, and added, "But the commissioner did not comply with the court order. Therefore contempt of court proceedings should be initiated against him." INP

### Pakistan's ex-elite umpire Asad Rauf dies aged 66

ISLAMABAD: Former International Cricket Council's (ICC) elite panel umpire from Pakistan Asad Rauf has died at the age of 66 after suffering a cardiac arrest in Lahore, ESPNcricinfo reported Thursday.

Rauf had a substantial first-class career as a middle-order batter before he turned to umpiring, appearing for National Bank and Railways, averaging 28.76 from 71 first-class matches, the publication stated.

In his career as an umpire, Rauf officiated 64 Tests, 49 of which as on-field umpire and 15 as TV umpire, 139 ODIs and 28 T20Is.

The former match official was one of the most prominent names in the mid-2000 when it comes to the umpires. He was on the ICC's ODI panel since 2004 and was elevated to the ICC's elite panel in 2006, just a year after he debuted officiating a Test match.

Along with Naem Dar, Rauf was among those who contributed to improve the reputation of Pakistani umpires prior to the neutral umpires era.

However, his career ended abruptly in 2013 when the Mumbai Police named Rauf as a "wanted to be accused" in a probe into a spot-fixing controversy in Indian Premier League (IPL) where he had been officiating the matches.

This was followed with The Board of Control for Cricket in India banning Rauf for five years in 2016 for alleged corruption and misconduct. INP

### Man shaves wife's head over suspected affair

SARAI MUGHAL: A man along with his brother shaved his wife's head in Sarai Mughal after accusing her of having illicit relationship with a man on Thursday.

Police registered first information report (FIR) on the victim's complaint who also told them about her alleged rape by her brother-in-law.

According to police, 32-year-old Asia Bibi, a resident of rural area Thatta Kamiana, in her complaint told police that her husband along with his brother shaved her head over alleged affair.

She said she kept begging her husband and her brother-in-law for mercy but they didn't stop. Following that, she was allegedly subjected to rape by her brother-in-law. She, somehow, managed to flee from the house and reached Sarai Mughal police station. The victim was in extreme mental agony and threatened to end her life by setting herself on fire along with her three children in front of police station, if justice is not served to her, said the police. However, Station House officer (SHO) of Sarai Mughal, taking prudent and timely action, arrested the prime accused Noor Muhammad. INP

### Food shortage looms in Gilgit-Baltistan as KKH remains closed for heavy traffic

GILGIT: Officials from Gilgit-Baltistan on Thursday warned of a growing food shortage in the region as heavy traffic remains suspended on Karakoram Highway (KKH) in the wake of flooding across the country.

Flash floods, which have killed nearly 1,500 people and displaced more than 33 million in Pakistan, had damaged the KKH at Kohistan on Aug 31, blocking the passage of large vehicles and causing a shortage of petroleum goods and wheat in GB.

Talking to media on Thursday, Food Secretary Safdar Khan said the movement of large vehicles remained suspended after a bridge on KKH was swept away by the floods, which was disrupting the delivery of wheat from Islamabad.

He said that citizens were complaining of a wheat shortage. "However, the delivery of wheat on a small-scale is ongoing," the official said.

GB Government Spokesperson Ali Taj, on the other hand, held the federal government responsible for the looming crisis, saying that they had reduced the wheat supply in July, August and September.

According to Taj, the previous government would supply 133,000 tonnes of wheat to Gilgit. But the new coalition government slashed the supply by 30,000 tonnes and now the region was receiving 103,000 tonnes of wheat, he said.

Opposition leader in the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly, Advocate Amjad Hussain, held the GB government responsible for the crisis, alleging that officials had illegally sold hundreds of sacks of wheat.

One resident, Mehtab Ahmed, said that he and his family had to make do without flour for 10 days each month. "The subsidised flour is not available in the market and what is being sold is too expensive," he said.

Another citizen, Mumtaz Khan, said that his family had moved back to the village due to the unavailability of flour in Gilgit city. He maintained that he had borrowed flour from his relatives to make do for the time being as his father was ill. INP

### High-powered panel and enhanced production to cover Pakistan-England T20Is

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board has put together a dynamic commentary panel for the historic seven T20 Internationals between Pakistan and England.

Renowned commentators David Gower and Mark Butcher from England, and Pakistan's cricket legends Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Amir Sohail, Bazid Khan and Urooj Mumtaz will commentate on the seven games to be played across Karachi and Lahore from 20 September until 2 October.

Throughout the series, these pundits will also provide insights in pre- and post-match shows to be hosted by famed presenter Zainab Abbas. As the board continues its efforts to enhance the TV viewership experience for Pakistan Cricket fans across the world, Spidercam will be used to bring fascinating and captivating images for the first time in an international series in Pakistan from the seven T20Is.

The production will be done through 28 full High-Definition cameras - including Buggy and Drone cameras. The production will also include a comprehensive HawkEye set-up - UltraMotion ball-tracking and UltraEdge to further enhance and aid Decision Review System.

The series marks the return of the England men's side to Pakistan after a gap of 17 years and the broadcast of this much-anticipated series will be available through PTV Sports on Linear TV and ARY Zap on livestreaming within Pakistan; Etisalat (Middle-East and North Africa), Flow Sports (Caribbean), Sky NZ (New Zealand), Fox Sports (Australia), Sky Sports (United Kingdom), Sony (South Asia outside Pakistan), Super Sports (Sub-Saharan Africa) and Willow TV (North America). INP

### PTI moves SC against IHC's verdict in MNAs' resignations case

ISLAMABAD: Two days after registrar of the Supreme Court (SC) returned Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's (PTI) petition against the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) verdict in the case of phased acceptance of the resignations given by its 123 members of the National Assembly (MNAs) with objections, the party on Thursday again challenged the high court's decision in the apex court.

Making NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and other respondents in the case, the party argued that the IHC's verdict was contrary to the facts, and that acceptance of the resignations by the NA speaker in phases was unconstitutional.

It was stated in the petition that the PTI lawmakers had resigned from their seats en masse following the passage of no-trust motion against their government on April 10, 2022 in order to seek fresh public mandate.

"And that former NA deputy speaker Qasim Suri had accepted these resignations on the floor of the House before himself calling it a day," read the petition.

Therefore, the party prayed to the court to declare the IHC's verdict in the case null and void.

Nine days back on September 6, 2022, the IHC, while rejecting the PTI's petition against phased acceptance of the resignations given by its MNAs by the speaker, had said that it was purely parliament's internal matter and the court could not interfere in it.

IHC Chief Justice (CJ) Justice Athar Minallah, in his remarks, had said that the former deputy speaker Qasim Suri had accepted these resignations by going against this court's verdict. INP



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

## Imran Khan was launched to create 'anarchy and destruction': Maryam

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz has said on Thursday that PTI Chairman Imran Khan had been launched in politics to "create anarchy and destruction".

Talking to newsmen after her court appearance here along with hubby Captain Safdar, Maryam Nawaz said "Imran Khan is not a stakeholder rather he is destruction of Pakistan."

She said the forces which funded him do not want Pakistan to progress. "Imran brought the economy on the verge of collapse and he had also violated the agreement he struck with the IMF," she added.

Calling Imran Khan a 'fitna' (mischievous-monger), Maryam Nawaz said that during his over three-and-a-half-year rule the country's economy reached the brink of destruction. She said Imran had even broken the country's deal with the IMF before leaving the office, which further exacerbated the situation.

Maryam alleged that some foreign powers had launched Imran to destroy the new generation's moral values as well as corrupt the country's politics. "These powers do not want Pakistan to progress," she opined.

Referring to Imran's statement that he had become more dangerous, she said these words were not meant for his political opponents, but for the country.

She made it clear to the PTI chairman that if he wanted general elections in the country, he should dissolve the provincial assemblies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab first.

PML-N vice president also urged the former prime minister not to use religion for politics.

She told Imran that he could not get a clean hit by putting all blame for the country's pathetic situation on the current government's shoulders. "Imran, this is your party which is in power in the flood-affected provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," Maryam said, adding, "Thereby, a greater responsibility rests on your shoulders."

"Look Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is visiting all flood-hit areas of the country despite the fact that in none of the provinces the PML-N is in power," she boasted.

Earlier, Asking what was the haste in seeing former prime minister and his father-in-law Nawaz Sharif back in Pakistan, Captain (r) Safdar, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and husband of party Vice President Maryam Nawaz, claimed on Thursday that when Nawaz, also PML-N supremo, would return to Pakistan, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan would be in jail, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

Talking to reporters at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises, he said that if former finance minister Ishaq Dar returned to Pakistan, the value of Pak Rupee against the US dollar would go up.

He added it would take a year to clear what he called the mess created by Imran when he was the country's prime minister.

Safdar also said it was The Almighty Allah and not the PML-N, who ruled the country. INP

### IMDC, ANTH donate funds, food to Al-Khidmat for flood relief

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Medical & Dental College and Dr. Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital donated funds and other goods to Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan on September 15, 2022, for providing much-needed relief to the flood-affected victims in different areas of Pakistan.

IMDC and ANTH initiated the Flood Relief Drive in the wake of recent floods in Pakistan and garnered around PKR 4 million worth of relief items including 3.25 million in cash and many other items like food, clothes and medicines. Senior management of IMDC and ANTH welcomed the visiting Al-Khidmat Foundation team led by Air Marshal (R) Farooq Habib.

Chairman IMDC, Dr. Ghulam Akbar Khan Niazi handed over the donation cheque and other items to the foundation team. The Chairman appreciated the hospital and college staff for making the initial phase of this drive a big success, further expressing that the organizations will keep collaborating with Al-Khidmat to help the needy people in flood-hit areas.

Al-Khidmat team thanked the IMDC and ANTH management for their important contribution toward the noble cause of helping the suffering humanity. INP

### 'India has deprived Kashmiris of all democratic rights'

ISLAMABAD: When International Day of Democracy is being observed all over the world, today, India continues to suppress the Kashmiris' just struggle through its brutal measures in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, said India has proved itself a fake democracy by crushing with brute force the Kashmiris' right to self-determination guaranteed under several resolutions of the UN Security Council. "Continuous denial of the Kashmiris' democratic rights has proved that India is a sham democracy," the report said, adding, "Violation of Kashmiris' fundamental human rights has exposed India's facade of so-called largest democracy." INP

## Tent city to accommodate 100,000 flood victims in Karachi

KARACHI: Sindh government has allocated 100-acre of land in Karachi's Malir area to establish tent city for flood victims.

Deputy Commissioner of Malir while sharing details of the tent city said that a piece of 100 acres of land is being allocated in the sector 18 of the Malir district. "Thousands of tents will be erected in the area, accommodating as many as 100,000 flood victims," he said.

He shared that along with accommodation, the affectees will also get other facilities in the camps.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali

Shah Thursday said the Sindh requires 1.5 million tents but only 250,000 have been arranged.

Talking to media in Thatta after visiting flood-hit areas of Sujawal, Sindh CM said that the government has so far provided 2.5 Lac tents and two Lac tarpaulin sheds to flood affected people. "Not even 33 percent flood victims provided tents due to unavailability," he said.

"We are taking things from all manufacturers in the country," Shah said. "Relief items also coming from international support," he said. INP



QUETTA: Provincial Assembly Staff Association and MPA's Hostel Welfare Association joint press conference head Zafar Rind addressing a press conference.

## Govt efforts continue to reduce number of missing persons: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday assured the participants of the cabinet sub-committee on enforced disappearance and missing persons that government's effort was to reduce the number of missing persons cases in future and get rid of this scourge.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting of Cabinet sub-committee to deliberate a policy relating to enforced disappearances.

Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation Shazia Marri, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Faizal Sabzwari, Senator Kamran Murtaza, IG Islamabad Police, DIG Balochistan, DIG Sindh, anchor person Naseem Zahra, parents of missing journalist Mudassar Mehmood Naro, Prof. Faisal

Manzoor Baloch, human rights activist Sami Baloch and daughter of missing Dr. Deen Muhammad Baloch participated in the meeting.

The Minister said that the missing persons who could be traced should have access and this cycle could be stopped in the future.

The Interior Minister said that the government fully understand the pain and sorrow of the families of the missing persons, it wanted to proceed with this issue in good faith.

Shazia Marri said that people's hopes had been restored from this committee.

Human rights activist Sami Baloch said that she had high hopes for this committee due to which the families of the missing persons ended the ongoing sit-in in Quetta.

On this occasion, the Law Minister thanked the participants of the Balochistan sit-in for ending the sit-in and trusting the committee. INP

## Textile exports increase by 4.18% in two months, 7.7% in August

ISLAMABAD: The exports of textile commodities increased by 4.18 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding month of last year. The textile exports were recorded at \$3,056.387 million in July-August (FY2022-23) against the exports of \$2,933.739 million in July-August (FY2021-22), showing growth of 4.18 percent, according to the latest data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Thursday. The textile commodities that contributed in trade growth included raw cotton the exports of which increased by 100 to \$5.63 billion during the period. The other commodities that witnessed growth in trade included cotton cloth yarn, the exports of which grew by 2.65 percent to \$377.374 million from \$367.624 million and knit wear the trade of which increased by 16.95 percent, from \$756.522 million to \$884.759 million. Likewise, the exports of tents, can-

vas and tarpaulin increased by 56.82, from \$12.250 million to \$19.210 million, readymade garments by 8.49 percent, from \$584.941 million to \$634.596 million and art, silk and synthetic textile by 2.43 percent from 69.202 million to \$70.887 million. The textile commodities that witnessed negative growth in trade included cotton yarn, the exports of which declined by 17.03 percent, from \$193.389 million to \$160.453 million. The exports of cotton (carded or combed) declined by 89.61 percent, from \$0.770 million to \$0.080 million, yarn (other than cotton yarn) by 0.81 percent, from \$7.770 million to \$7.707 million, bedwear by 3 percent from \$528.109 million to \$512.291 million, towels by 6.61 percent, from \$160.614 million to \$150.001 million, madeup articles (excluding towels, bedwear) by 13.63 percent, from \$133.356 million to \$115.183 million while the exports of all other textile materials. INP