

QUETTA VOICE

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Balochistan Govt imposes a ban on construction on waterways



Manchar Lake cut to release water pressure

PM announces Rs3m for flood relief workers of Balochistan

News Desk

QUETTA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday announced Rs3 million for flood relief workers in the Kachhi area of Balochistan.

The premier made the announcement during his address to the media, after reviewing rehabilitation efforts in the flood-hit Bibi Nani bridge of the province.

During his address, he directed Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Qudus Bizenjo and the secretary of the National Highway Authority (NHA) to give the prize money to deserving workers.

He also strictly instructed them to distribute the amount on a merit basis.

Shehbaz furthered that the chief minister has also announced prize money of Rs2 million for the workers.

The PM lauded the efforts of workers who worked tirelessly to restore the traffic on the Bibi Nani Bridge, in the Kachhi area of the province, within eight hours.

"I want to tell the nation that when calamity strikes the entire nation is united," he said.



"This is how a nation comes out of a calamity," he added. Shehbaz reviews rehabilitation work.

PM Shehbaz arrived in Quetta for a day-long visit earlier today to review relief activities in the flood-hit areas of the province.

He also visited the Kachhi area of the province to review rehabilitation work on the flood-affected road and railway infrastructure.

PM Shehbaz was given a detailed briefing by Chairman NHA Khuram Agha on the flood-affected roads in

Balochistan and the ongoing rehabilitation work on his way to the link bridges in Bibi Nani and Pinjara bridge.

It is pertinent to note that the Pinjara bridge was completely swept away by the floods.

During his earlier visit to the province, the PM had

announced a grant of Rs10 billion for Balochistan flood victims.

He had also appealed to the well-off people to rise to the occasion and participate in the relief efforts.

Balochistan has badly suffered from the eight monsoon spells, overwhelming in magnitude and severity. It swept away the kith and kin of the survivors, their cattle, houses and crops.

Director General Provincial Disaster Management Authority Saleh Nasar said that non-stop heavy downpours, uncontrolled waves of water and gushing hill torrents had so far claimed around 250 lives with thousands injured and displaced.

The catastrophe left some 61,718 houses damaged, 145,936 livestock dead and about 190 thousand acres of agricultural land badly affected. The province is almost cut off from Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh due to the collapse of bridges on Quetta-Zhob-Dana Sar-Dera Ismail Khan Road, Quetta-Loralai-Dera Ghazi Khan, Quetta-Khuzdar-Karachi, and Quetta-Sibi-Jacobabad Roads.

Pak Vs Ind: Pakistan defeats India in Asia Cup 2022

By: Sports Desk

Pakistan won Match against India in Asia Cup 2022. India gave a target of 182 runs to Pakistan team in 20 overs in the Asia Cup 2022.

Muhammad Asif scored one six and one four in the



second last over making it easy for Pak to chase 182 runs against India.

Rizwan had scored 71 runs in the innings. Pakistan chased a 182-run target set by India in their Super Four match of the Asia Cup 2022 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. The Green Shirts won the toss and chose to bowl first.

Navaz and Rizwan formed a crucial 73-run partnership for the third wicket that brought Pakistan back in the game. Navaz's boundary-laden 42 off 20 was pivotal as it helped Pakistan keep the required run rate in check. That said, the importance of Rizwan's 71 off 51 cannot be understated. But the diminutive keeper-batter couldn't finish and it needed late cameo from Khushdil Shah (14* off 11) and Asif Ali (16 off 8) for Pakistan to seal the match. The end wasn't without its drama as Arshdeep Singh dropped the simplest of catches of Asif to earn Sharma's wrath.

Earlier, the Green Shirts had a great start to the evening as they won the battle of coin flips but everything went south for them for a while after that.

Indian openers KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma set the tone for the night with a blistering 28 (each) a laid a foundation on which Virat Kohli, well and truly back in form, capitalised to help India post 181 for 7.

Balochistan Govt imposes a ban on construction on waterways

Syed Muhammad Qasem

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has imposed a ban on the construction of all waterways across the province. The ban would be intact for a month throughout the province, an official handout issued here on Sunday said.

The government has made

this decision after flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall washed away houses constructed on waterways across the province. "No encroachment on waterways", Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo said. In most cases, floods inflicted damage to people living on waterways in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. Floods swept



away 47 houses constructed on a waterway in Quetta's Nawab Killi area. The government has instructed all administrative officials to make sure of the implementation of the order in this regard. "No compromise over construction on waterways", Chief Minister Bizenjo told reporters the other day. He said the entire administration has been directed to use all

available resources to bring an end to the illegal construction and encroachment in Quetta and other districts. In violation of rules, scores of people made settlements on waterways in Nawab Killi, Kharotabad, Sariab and Pashtoonabad areas of Quetta. Floods claimed precious human lives and inflicted financial damages of billions of rupees in Balochistan.



QUETTA: Aerial view of flood devastation in Balochistan's Naseerabad Division.

Bilal Noorzai murder: Quetta court convicts 5 accused to 43 years RI each

Staff Reporter

A court in Quetta convicted five accused to 43 years of rigorous imprisonment each in the murder of Bilal Noorzai on Saturday morning. The additional district and session judge Quetta, Asadullah Khan Kakar announced the judgment.

Bilal Noorzai, a young man was brutally murdered in Quetta's Hazara Town area in May 2020. Noorzai's murder had sparked protests across the city with protesters demanding the arrest of the culprits involved in the cold-blooded murder.

The court convicted another two accused to 10 years RI each in Bilal Noorzai's murder case. "We will let you know about the detailed judgment later today", Advocate Kamran told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone.

Former Chief Minister



Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan had also ordered the formation of a joint investigation team (JIT) to probe into the cold-blooded murder of a young man, Bilal Noorzai. The JIT also presented its report before the provincial government.

The JIT was formed on the request of family members of Bilal Noorzai.

Army relief fund 'receives Rs417m' so far

RAWALPINDI: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar on Saturday said the nation was generously contributing to the Army Flood Relief Fund as Rs417 million was collected in it so far for the flood victims while Rs44 million was collected during the last 24 hours.

Addressing a joint media briefing along with Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, NDMA Chairman Lieutenant General Akhter Nawaz and National Coordinator National Flood Response and Coordination Centre (NFRCC), the ISPR DG briefed the media on the relief and rescue activities of Pakistan Army in the flood-affected areas.

Babar said since the beginning of the crisis caused by the recent monsoon rains, the armed forces were working day and night in the affected areas for the last two months to help their brothers and sisters.

"Every soldier and officer of Pakistan Army is trying to reduce the problems of the people by considering it as a sacred obligation rather than a duty," he said.

He continued, "This was the spirit under which Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali, Major General Amjad Hanif, Brigadier Muhammad Khalid, Major Saeed Ahmed, Major Muhammad Talha Manan and Naik Mudassar Fayyaz helped their flood-affected brothers and sisters in Lasbela (Winder) area of Balochistan last month and embraced martyrdom in a helicopter accident during the relief activities." According to army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa's instructions, he said the armed forces would not leave the people alone in this difficult time, "no matter how much time and effort it takes". At the army level, he informed that the Army Flood Relief Coordination Centre was established under the leadership of Commander Army Air Defence Command who was also performing. Web Desk

One Coal Miner killed in Harnai Coal Mine Explosion

WebDesk

At least one coal miner was killed after a gas explosion occurred in the Harnai coal mine. The incident took place in the Talib Leez area of the Harnai district of Balochistan. The explosion took place as a result of methane gas accumulation in the mine.

It's not the first time that a person dies of a gas explosion in Harnai or any other part of Balochistan. The coal miners of Balochistan are at

risk of life every time they enter the mine. This is because the miners are not given basic awareness to be safe from gas mine explosions and are left ignored by the mine owners.

The dead body of miner was brought to district health hospital and handed over to relatives of the deceased. The government of Balochistan and mine owners should organize awareness sessions for coal miners in order to prevent such incident taking lives of many miners in the province.



Manchar Lake cut to release water pressure

JAMSHORO: Government authorities made a cut at Manchar Lake on Sunday in a desperate attempt to protect villagers in Sindh.

The situation at Manchar Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in Pakistan, is becoming critical with each passing day, threatening the lives and assets of the residents of five union councils of Jamshoro district.

The Sehwan Airport, an installation of an oil company as well as Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah's home village, are located in the five Union Councils (UCs) -

Bubak, Aarazi, Wahar, Jaffarabad and Channa.

Jamshoro Deputy Commissioner Capt (ret'd) Faruddin Mustafa on Saturday had issued evacuation orders for the people of the five UCs, saying that they should move out to safer places. The water level at the lake had further increased to 123 Reduced Level (RL) amid strong winds. During his recent visit to Manchar Lake, the Sindh chief minister had said that the water level in the lake would be dangerous if it reached 123 feet, which at that time was 120.75 feet. Web Desk

Mohenjo Daro may be removed from world heritage list, warns official

LARKANA: The department of archaeology has called for urgent attention towards conservation and restoration work at Mohenjo Daro apprehending that the site may be removed from the world heritage list if such work was not carried out.

Sources said on Saturday that archaeological ruins of Mohenjo Daro had received record rains, measured at 779.5mm, which continued from Aug 16 to 26. It resulted in considerable damage to the site and partial falling of several walls, including the protection wall of the stupa dome.

It was learnt that the curator of the site in his Aug 29 letter to the director culture, antiquities and archaeology said "we have put in efforts to protect the site with our resources". The role of other departments — irrigation, roads, highways and forest — was quite essential for safeguarding the world heritage site, as landlords and farmers had not only inserted pipes and given cuts to canals and roads to release water into Mohenjo Daro's channel. However, due to negligence on the part of above-mentioned departments, the rainwater from nearby agriculture lands had filled disposal channel, the sources said.

This caused delay in driving out water from the site, the letter said, adding that water had entered even into the campus. After rains, the official concerned at the site had said: "We are facing another emergency in the shape of a constant rise in the Indus level." Walls of several structures crumbling after rains; urgent repair required, authorities informed. Although water level in Indus is low, due to the construction of metal road on the protection dyke near Mohenjo Daro. Web Desk

Quetta Jacobabad highway reopened for traffic after floods

Nashad Baloch

SIBI: The Quetta-Jacobabad highway at Bolan was reopened for traffic on Saturday after floods had swept away various portions of the road. The National Highway Authority (NHA) officials claimed to have reopened the highway for traffic.

Traffic remained suspended on the highway linking Balochistan with Sindh after flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall this week. The Bibi Nani Pinjra Bridge on the National Highway was washed out by the recent heavy rains and floods.

NHA made hectic efforts to restore the highway

The Chairman NHA Khuram Agha and other officials made hectic efforts for the restoration of the Quetta-Jacobabad highway. Flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall swept away various portions of the highway linking Balochistan with Sindh province. The passengers suffered a lot as a result of the damages inflicted on the highway.



Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo appreciated the efforts of the NHA and hailed the efforts made by the technical staff of the authority. "We hope the NHA would ensure smooth flow of traffic between Balochistan and other parts of the country", the CM said in a statement issued on Saturday evening.

PM had also directed NHA to reopen highways

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had also instructed the NHA to make sure a smooth flow of traffic and open all roads damaged by the floods. Floods have also paralyzed life in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. The people are without gas supply for the last seven days.

Despite the Quetta Electric Supply Company's (QESCO) statement, the power supply to Quetta and other parts of Balochistan is yet to be restored. The QESCO claimed to have restored the power supply to the affected areas.

Balochistan remained disconnected from the rest of the country for the last ten days since floods swept away bridges and roads linking the province with Sindh and Punjab.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

Balochistan prone to natural disasters

Balochistan, the country's largest province in terms of the area is prone to almost all types of natural disasters. Quetta, the provincial capital and various parts of the sparsely populated province have suffered natural disasters including drought, floods and earthquakes during the last one and half decades.

A recently mild earthquake measuring 5.4 on reactor scale in the province's Washuk district near the Iranian border is yet to send any alarm bells in the power corridors. The tremors felt a couple of days ago in the wee hours damaged around 300 mud-walled houses in Killi Sajid area of Basima tehsil of Washuk district.

The provincial disaster management authority (PDMA) announced sending relief goods to the displaced people. Fortunately, no human loss was caused when earthquake tremors jolted one of the backward areas of the province since people were sleeping outside their rooms owing to scorching heat. The earthquake has almost gone unnoticed as no provincial minister or any high-level government official has visited the area to meet the earthquake survivors and people displaced. The media too gave cold-shoulder to the damages. Torrential rains also claimed 13 lives in Dera Bugti, Jhal Magsi, Jaffarabad and other districts of Balochistan. 907 houses were damaged, 3 water dams burst, 2 bridges and 10 communication roads were also damaged as a result of heavy rainfall. Similarly, floods in Naseerabad, Jaffarabad made half a million people homeless and destroyed over 2,000 houses during 2012. A strong earthquake in Pakistan's one of the famous tourist areas i.e. Ziarat killed over 200 and injured more than 300 on October 29, 2008. In April 2013, an earthquake in Mashkail near Pak-Iran border killed dozens and injured over 100. In September 2013, a powerful earthquake measuring 7.7 on the reactor scale killed 328 people in Balochistan's Awaran. Thousands were displaced when the powerful tremors jolted the area. In 1935, the deadliest earthquake razed the entire Quetta city to the ground. After the earthquake, the British rulers introduced a building code, which fixed 30 feet height for buildings in the city. For some time, people followed the code. But, gradually, people violated the code and constructed more than 300 tall buildings, plazas, shopping malls, markets in the heart of Quetta city. Based on past experiences and looming future threats of natural calamities, the Balochistan government needs to chalk out a comprehensive strategy to cope with any emergency situation. The scale of the natural calamities cannot be predicted at this point in time. However, what is humanly possible that should be done. We have to learn a lesson from Japan, Turkey and other countries when it comes to earthquakes and other natural calamities.

Mere providing relief goods, tents and blankets do not offer any solution rather a comprehensive strategy needs to be made to tackle future situations. Building code in Quetta city, which is located in the earthquake sensitive zone should be implemented strictly. Populations living in floods danger zones or water-ways should be evacuated and settled in safer places.

Above all, the PDMA should go beyond distributing relief goods and the authority should engage geologists, environmentalists and researchers to analyze, assess and review future climate dangers to sensitize policymakers.

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 Gwadar 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.

What floods can't wash away

There is something decrepit and old in rural Pakistan that the floods have not washed away. So, will it be any different when the waters that have drowned entire settlements in one-third of the country finally recede and the everyday existence of the people is gradually restored?

What evidence we have is compelling: the social degradation and subjugation of the poor has remained intact through our repeated upheavals. The state of misery and deprivation that the present floods have brought to the surface is the same or even worse than the condition that had emerged during the 2010 floods.

We do have a weakness of not being able to learn our lessons. That is how we did not take many preventive measures that could have reduced the impact and the pain of this unprecedented monsoon tragedy. But I am thinking more about the fragility and the state of the human rather than the physical infrastructure.

Let us look at the snapshots that portray the state of rural society. Elected leaders and local landlords are obliged to be seen on the scene, in the midst of their constituents and, in a sense, their 'ryot'. Every such encounter underlines the gap between the

feudal lords and the 'wretched of the earth'. As if they live in separate worlds - which they do.

In recent days, the magnitude of the disaster Pakistan is now suffering has excited global concern. It has become evident that this catastrophe has exceeded the damage that the floods of 2010 had wrought. And the havoc caused in 2010 was in itself monumental, the kind that would provoke the nation to learn many lessons.

I remember spending much time in a large relief camp set up near Khairpur during those floods by an NGO with which my wife is associated. The state of those internally displaced persons, who came from a rather distant location, was pitiable. For example, there were children not going to schools. Women seemed to be totally marginalized. There were other attributes of a quality of deprivation that comes from a criminal lack of social development and a negation of social justice.

Incidentally, one knew the leader who had been elected by these people and had seen the glimpses of the life he lived. The idea here is not to be specific about how a number of feudal lords have been negligent about the fundamental needs and rights of the

poor people who survive under their patronage. With whatever improvements that have been made in some sectors, the social subjugation of the poor has remained the same.

The point I am making is that natural disasters tend to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of a society and test the capacity of a system to deal with the havoc that is created. At the same time, disasters provide an opportunity to rebuild many structures 'nearer to the heart's desire'.

An already impoverished country like Pakistan has suffered an unbearable loss in a disaster that observers have noted is of biblical proportions. Very tough times are ahead and the political whirlwind that is rising will make it harder for the coalition government, also burdened with economic stringency, to manage this crisis.

In this situation, inflation has hit the people like another storm. Food shortage in the near future is possible. There is also a threat of public disorder and widespread social unrest. Destitute people who seek food and shelter have the potential of disturbing the equilibrium of a society.

One silver lining is that philanthropic organizations, civil society activists and

concerned citizens have come out in a big way to provide relief to flood victims. They are doing this with a passion that restores one's confidence in the social commitment of our people. This is one area, philanthropy, in which we excel. The official agencies are also in the field - and they bear a larger responsibility and have greater resources to rescue and protect the displaced families.

Eventually, those who have suffered the most in rural settlements will need to be empowered with education and human dignity and a sense of freedom to live their lives as they wish. For too long have they suffered subjugation and exclusion and neglect, undermining our ability to deal with natural disasters and to confront other challenges to national cohesion.

It would be expected that the massive dislocation that the floods have caused will also sow the seeds of social change. A dominant aspect of that change should be the mainstreaming of the marginalized and the emancipation of the suppressed sections of our society, mainly the women. And this has to be done across the entire spectrum of the body politic.

But the focus on the agricultural communities and rural settlements is dictated by

By Ghazi Salahuddin

the plight of those who have been affected by the floods. They are in such a state of misery that they hardly have any strength left to fight for their survival. The landowners - a part of the ruling elite that has usurped the wealth of this nation - have a vested interest in maintaining this relationship of social and democratic inequality.

Talking about this feudal class, I am reminded of the apparently subversive views of a former country head of UNDP. I have previously quoted him from an interview that was published some years ago after his departure. Its heading was: 'Pakistani elite needs to decide whether or not they want a country'.

The concluding paragraph of that interview said: 'I have visited some very large landowners who have exploited the land for centuries, paid nearly zero money for the water and how they almost sometimes hold people in bondage. And they come to the United Nations or other agencies and ask us to invest in water, sanitation, and education for the people in their district. I find that quite embarrassing.' Ah, but the capacity of our 'very large landowners' to be embarrassed is as limited as the lives of their constituents.

US gun violence

By Belen Fernandez

On July 27, two top executives from prominent US gun companies - Marty Daniel of Daniel Defense and Christopher Kilroy of Sturm, Ruger and Co - appeared before the United States House Committee on Oversight and Reform chaired by New York Democrat Carolyn Maloney. The hearing came on the heels of the latest succession of massacres - the Buffalo supermarket, the Uvalde elementary school, the Highland Park July 4 parade - that have come to define life in America.

As the Guardian noted, this "marked the first time in nearly two decades that the CEOs of leading gun manufacturers testified before Congress". The CEO of Smith and Wesson Brands - which according to the committee earned at least \$125m in 2021 alone from the sale of assault-style rifles, a frequent prop in mass shootings - had declined to participate in the attempt at oversight.

But the two willing invitees presumably spoke for the US gun industry as a whole when they shot down the notion that their products and aggressive marketing practices have anything to do with rampant killing. Kilroy insisted that a firearm is an "inanimate object" that cannot accrue responsibility, while Daniel - whose

firm manufactured the inanimate object that slaughtered 19 school kids and two teachers in Uvalde - maintained that the blame must be assigned to the individual 'murderers'. In Daniel's view, "these murders are local problems that have to be solved locally".

For her part, Maloney took the opportunity at the hearing to express her "hope [that] the American people are paying attention today", noting "it is clear that gun makers are not going to change unless Congress forces them to finally put people over profits".

But were we Americans really paying attention, we would have noticed long ago that our country is entirely predicated on putting profits over people - from the corporate destruction of the environment to the manic incarceration of poor minorities to a healthcare system that is decidedly ill. This is not to mention US behaviour abroad, where the "war on terror" and other forms of military slaughter with US-made weapons have also produced many, um, "local problems".

In her initial invitation to the three arms executives to testify before the House committee, incidentally, Maloney encouraged them to "explain to Congress and the American people why they continue to sell products to civilians that

are meant to be used in the battlefield".

Which brings us to the following question: When the US converts the world into a battlefield, how do Americans know where to draw the line? More precisely put, it is not immensely shocking that a country that incalculates its citizenry with a macho, shoot-'em-up attitude vis-a-vis other human populations might end up with some, well, "murderers" on its hands - particularly when the domestic panorama is one of dystopian capitalism and acute alienation.

As for the culpability of US gun manufacturers in scenes of armed sociopathy from Buffalo to Uvalde, there is no denying that the industry itself is morally depraved - and yet it is merely fulfilling a nefariously lucrative function made possible by general systemic depravity. The fundamental blame for mass shootings does not lie with the CEOs of Daniel Defense and Sturm Ruger - just as the blame for US-bound migrant deaths does not lie with oft-scapegoated human smugglers, whose reprehensible business is only made possible by America's brand of deadly capitalism and profit-driven border militarisation schemes. On July 29, two days after the House Committee on Oversight hearing, the US House voted to ban assault weapons.

Deepening the Zia dictatorship

In my last article, 'Remembering 1977' (Aug 29), I highlighted how the year 1977 became a turning point in Pakistan's history. Within 40 days after his military coup on July 5, General Ziaul Haq started targeting the PPP while giving favourable overtures to the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA), which had demanded the removal of the Bhutto government after the general elections in March 1977.

General Zia emerged as an all-powerful chief martial-law administrator (CMLA) with his deputy martial-law and sub-martial-law administrators perched at lower administrative tiers. His spectacle of barbaric punishments took off; lashes inflicted publicly on political activists and leaders became common. His machinery started working on dismantling the largest political party in the country - in the same manner in which General Ayub Khan had done 20 years earlier and General Musharraf did 20 years later. PPP leaders at the local and provincial levels were easier to entice or threaten.

Former ministers, MNAs, and MPAs started parting ways with the PPP. For example, former ministers Arbab Jahangir and Mir Afzal, and former speaker Sahibzada Farooq Ali Khan resigned or became inactive. Liaquat Jatoi resigned from the PPP and joined the PNA, those who resisted became a direct target of the dictatorship. Bhutto was increasingly being isolated.

The first Ramadan

under General Ziaul Haq witnessed all cafes and hotels closed during the daytime. Anybody found drinking or eating was liable for punishment; religiosity was being imposed on the people. No wonder in 40 years we have moved even faster on that road.

On August 22, 1977 - just six weeks after Bhutto's removal from power - the state machinery managed to extract confessions from some Federal Security Force (FSF) officers for the murder of Nawab Muhammad Khan. Bhutto had created the FSF as a new security apparatus to apply its own laws and dispense justice. The FSF had become notorious for its high handedness and brutal handling of anyone who Bhutto considered disrespectful or undesirable. The force had committed numerous crimes, with or without Bhutto's knowledge, and it had tarnished his image as a politician.

As time passed, General Zia proved to be even more ruthless. The brutalization of society gained momentum by each passing week. On August 24, in Multan - for the first time in Pakistan's history - a person accused of rape received lashes publicly. Irrespective of the quick dispensing of justice and regardless of the religious justification for this punishment, such public display of violence instilled fear among citizens. The way any state inflicts punishment shapes the way people behave and society reacts to violence. The process of desensiti-

zation towards agony and pain took a sharp turn.

The signal was sent, and the next day on August 25, former director of the FSF Masood Mahmood found himself arrested in the murder case of Nawab Muhammad Khan. Two days later, Gen Zia had a detailed meeting with Bhutto who was his usual confident self. Reportedly that meeting convinced Gen Zia that Bhutto would remain defiant as he still insisted that he was the elected prime minister of Pakistan and the toppling of an elected government was unconstitutional. Perhaps Bhutto also reminded Gen Zia that staging a military coup was a serious violation of the constitution punishable by death.

Gen Zia expedited investigation in a murder case against Bhutto. In the meantime, the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) found a golden opportunity to woo the dictator who could implement its agenda for a theocratic state. As Mian Tufail Muhammad of the JI kept hobnobbing with Gen Zia, then emir of the JI Maulana Maudoodi demanded that the state prosecute Bhutto and his associates swiftly. Mian Tufail's birthplace Kapurthala and Zia's Jalandhar were just 20 km apart in eastern Punjab. Now Gen Zia also started using the accountability card - shamelessly used even before and after Zia to target political opponents.

He announced that he would not allow those who had accumulated

wealth by illegal means to contest elections in October. All candidates had to present their wealth statements and justify their source. Simultaneously, the military government also started giving back factories to their previous owners who had lost their assets under Bhutto's "nationalization" programme. This is how Gen Zia tried to win over Bhutto's victims, so they could stand in good stead. Flour and rice mills were the first ones to change hands from the state to their private owners.

After his release from detention, Gen Yahya Khan became a free citizen and that pleased those who considered Bhutto more responsible for the breakup of the country. At the same time, Gen Zia also came in close contact with the Saudi government and tried to please it by changing the names of Lyallpur to Faisalabad and Karachi's Drigh Road to Shahrah-e-Faisal - named after the late king Faisal of Saudi Arabia. On September 3, 1977, the military government again arrested Bhutto from his residence in Clifton, Karachi; his freedom of 35 days came to an end, and the FIA became active in recording Bhutto's statement.

Bhutto's arrest elicited a subdued response from the people as the dictator had already established the terror of lashes. To further cow him down, Masood Mehmod was sentenced to six months imprisonment on contempt of court. That served as an arm twisting so that the former director of the FSF could submit

By Dr Naazir Mahmood

to testify against Bhutto. In the first week of September - two months after his usurpation of power - Gen Zia, for the first time, hinted at postponing the elections by saying that elections would be held if there were no unexpected developments in the country.

This was a prelude to his departure to Saudi Arabia where he met Shah Khalid, the Saudi monarch. After a week, Bhutto obtained his bail and became free again just for a while. Gen Zia strengthened his international credential by visiting Iran and meeting the Shah. Keeping in view that both Iran and Saudi Arabia were close allies of the US, the American hand in the deepening of the dictatorship in Pakistan was clearly noticeable. Zia's desire to hang Bhutto manifested itself in his interview where he said that Bhutto and his people would not be able to escape punishment.

Just three days after his release on bail, the military government arrested Bhutto and the top leadership of the PPP again. Zia openly gave a statement against Bhutto much in the same fashion as General Ayub Khan used to do against Suhrawardy and other politicians. Zia called Bhutto an extremely unprincipled person and claimed that there were incontrovertible proofs against him.

September 22, 1977 was another fateful day for the judiciary in Pakistan. General Zia sent then chief justice of Pakistan Justice Yaqub Ali

Selling lies

By Nick Licata

We are in an era of disinformation. That term is thrown around by all political persuasions to accuse their opponents of not being truthful. The systematic dissemination of disinformation, however, is more than just lying. It is a political strategy in a war to take control of public power. Its intended purpose is to create confusion, which leads to rejecting government institutions entrusted to deliberate over verifiable facts.

There is a significant difference between lying about a particular action or product and a disinformation campaign to undermine public trust in a democratic republic. A classic example of the former is how the tobacco industry lied or created doubt about scientific findings that demonstrated that smoking caused lung and cardiac diseases. Up to the mid-Fifties, the tobacco industry had succeeded in elevating smoking to be one of the most popular, successful, and widely used items of the early 20th century.

In response to the mounting evidence that smoking cigarettes damaged one's health, the tobacco industry hired the nation's lead-

ing public relations firm. The industry followed the consultant's advice and focused its efforts on disrupting the usual processes of knowledge production in medicine, science, and public health. Consequently, the leading tobacco companies embraced the scientific discourse that assumes there is always more to know. The tobacco industry's strategy was to exaggerate that principle in order to spread doubt and uncertainty about the known facts. The tobacco industry's campaign did not attack the validity of scientific institutions to analyze the facts; instead, they accused scientists of not wanting to find the correct data.

Eventually, the tobacco industry lost its battle by paying over \$206 billion through a court settlement. However, that punishment was only achievable because it was delivered by an independent court system that fairly weighed the facts.

Borrowing a page from the tobacco playbook, Donald Trump has not directly attacked the concept of democracy; instead, he undermines the credibility of democratic institutions by accusing them of not treating him and his supporters fairly. For example, he

attacked Congress for not throwing out Biden's electoral votes, and he condemned the courts for their tossing out his 60 cases challenging the outcome of the election. His repeated message was that the election was rigged.

All politicians and political parties can be justly accused of lying from time to time about their accomplishments or their intent to accomplish things they have no power to do. However, past efforts from major political players have stayed within a sandbox of playing with democratic institutions.

Trump stepped outside that sandbox on the night of the 2022 presidential election when he tweeted, "This election is a total sham and a travesty. We are not a democracy!" He mistakenly thought that Obama had won the election without the majority popular vote.

Four years later, Trump won his presidential election without winning the popular vote, but he didn't mention that fact. Instead, when the polls indicated that he might lose the 2016 election to Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton, he claimed it would have been rigged if she had won. Then,

Flood victims surround PPP Sindh president Nisar Khuhro

LARKANA: Flood victims on Sunday surrounded PPP Sindh President Nisar Ahmed Khuhro after he went to address a press conference at Larkana Press Club.

The residents of the Bakrani area staged a protest and surrounded the PPP president outside the press club over lack of food, tents and medical facilities to the flood victims.

The protesters blamed that the elected representatives and officials of the local administration are nowhere to be seen in the

testing times of the flood victims.

Nisar Khuhro assured the flood victims of resolving their issues. Later talking to media, he said that the monsoon rainfall has devastated the province with millions of people displaced from their homes. "The Sindh government is assisting the flood victims and providing them with whatever facilities we have with us so far," he said. This is not the first time that a PPP leader has been surrounded by flood victims rather multiple footages have emerged showing people protesting

on the arrival of PPP leaders in flood-hit areas, blaming them for lack of relief activities in the affected areas. Sindh remained the most-affected in the flood-hit areas and according to a report, heavy monsoon rains and subsequent flash floods have affected almost 10 million people and killed almost 518 people in Sindh. According to details, at least 518 people have lost their lives while 15,051 people sustained injuries in flash floods triggered by heavy rains across Sindh. INP



RAWALPINDI: Families sitting in a helicopter placed at Ayub National Park ahead of Defence Day on 6th September, in the city.

Met Office predicts more rains from today till Sept 6

ISLAMABAD: Rain-wind/thundershower (isolated heavy falls) is expected in Kashmir, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, upper Punjab and Gilgit Baltistan while hot and humid weather is likely to prevail elsewhere in the country.

Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecasted that monsoon currents from Arabian Sea are penetrating upper and central parts of the country which subsequently cause rain-wind/thundershowers with isolated heavy falls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, Northern Punjab, and Gilgit Baltistan & AJK from Sept 5 (Saturday) to Sept 6 (Tuesday).

Rain-wind/thundershower (with isolated heavy falls) is expected in Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Attock,

Chakwal, Jhelum, Sialkot, Narowal, Lahore, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sheikhupura, Mianwali, Khushab, Sargodha, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Jhang and Faisalabad from Saturday (night) to Tuesday.

Also, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Malakand, Bajaur, Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda, Swabi, Nowshera, Kurram, Kohat and Waziristan may receive Rain-wind/thundershower (with isolated heavy falls) on Sunday and Monday.

Hot and humid weather is likely to continue in Sindh, Balochistan and south Punjab during next three to four days.

Rawlakot
Rawala Kot city is experiencing heavy rainfall inundating low-lying areas.

Lahore There is no rain prediction in Lahore metropolis in the

next 24 hours.

Synoptic Situation

Continental air is prevailing over most parts of the country. Moist currents from Arabian Sea are penetrating central and upper parts of the country and likely to strengthen from tonight.

Saturday

Mainly hot and humid weather is likely to prevail over most plain areas of the country. However, rain-wind/thundershower is expected at isolated places in Kashmir, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and north-east Punjab.

Past 24 Hour Weather

Hot and humid weather prevailed over most parts of the country. Rainfall: Rawalakot 06 and Narowal 02. Today's Recorded Highest Maximum Temperature's (°C): Noor Pur Thal 42, Nakkundi and Chilas 41. INP

Evacuations ordered as several Sindh cities face new flood threat

KARACHI: Evacuations were ordered as several Sindh cities including Badin and Juhri faced with new flood threat on Sunday.

The destruction caused by floods persisted in Sindh as several cities are reeling from fresh threat of flood while many are still inundated.

A massive torrent of about 600,000 cu feet of floodwater from Indus River has been passing through Mud Mangi near Nawabshah for the past 24 hours.

After 25 hours, the water level has started to decrease. However, the administration is on high alert and the river embankments are being monitored.

The swollen Manchar Lake also sent flood warnings to many cities including with Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro Faeed Uddin issued an order to evacuate the area.

According to the official directive, the banks of Manchar Lake were likely to burst any time, so people were requested to leave.

"There is pressure on the dam of Manchar Lake and the water level in the lake started to rise. The situation in Manchar Lake has reached an extremely dangerous level due to high

level of water," it added.

The people have been requested to evacuate as soon as possible and take safety measures.

The house of Sajid Ali Sajid, the famous singer of Kot Faqir, has also been swept away in flood which has now entered Badin, causing people there to leave their houses and live under the open sky.

Gambit city has also become a picture of helplessness.

In the recent rains and floods, the second major specialised commando training centre of Sindh has been submerged.

Boats are being rowed in the commando centre that is submerged in seven to eight feet of water. 1,350 under-training police commanders from all over the country have been sent to their native towns. The Warah tehsil of Qambar district has also been severely affected by the flood water from canals. Several roads have been disconnected. A massive torrent of floodwater is passing through Khairpur Nathan Shah.

There is also no boat service of the local administration to help the victims, according to 24NewsHD TV channel.

Mehar residents plug canal breach on their own

Due to strong winds, the water pressure on the embankment near Mehar city bypass increased significantly.

The risk of embankment collapsing increased, and the citizens kept praying God in the distressed condition.

However, the residents of Mehar city plugged a canal breach and saved the city from flooding. A video of their efforts for plugging the breach went viral on social media.

A large number of the residents of Mehar city reached the point of canal breach after the news about canal breach spread on social media.

They reached the spot of canal breach through social media live service and helped themselves to plug the breach.

95pc houses in Mohenjodaro village collapse
On the other hand, 95 percent of the houses collapsed in Dandhi village near Mohenjodaro in recent rains and floods. People saved their lives by taking shelter in the parking lot of Mohenjodaro.

Over 2,000 villages in Tando Allahyar destroyed

There rules an eerie silence in Tando Allahyar as more than 2,000 villages in the area have been submerged in floodwater. INP



DADU: Army personals are taking the flood-affected people to a safe place with the help of a boat in the flood water in Khairpur Nathan Shah area.

China asks Pakistani side to provide a list of urgently needed supplies

BEIJING: Luo Zhaohui, Director of China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) announced that China will provide another 300 million yuan of relief supplies to Pakistan.

He announced the message while meeting with Chairman National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan Lieutenant General AKhtar Nawaz via video, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

Luo Zhaohui requested the Pakistani side to provide a list of urgently needed supplies at an early date and determine the mode of transportation so that the Chinese assistance can reach the flood victims as soon as possible.

He highlighted the higher-than-mountain, deeper-than-sea, and sweeter-than-honey all-weather

friendship between the two countries, recalling that during the Wenchuan Earthquake in China in 2008, Pakistan sent all its tents in stock to the stricken area.

At the onset of the flood in Pakistan, Chinese military aircrafts carried 3,000 tents for assistance. China has also raised 200 tons of onions as needed by Pakistan, which will arrive in Pakistan via the Karakoram Highway within a week.

The China Meteorological Administration has also been providing real-time weather forecasts to Pakistan. Ordinary Chinese people, enterprises and local governments are also raising donations in cash and kind, manifesting the iron-clad friendship between the two countries. He said that in

the next step, China is ready to share the experience in disaster relief and provide support in post-disaster reconstruction.

Lieutenant General AKhtar Nawaz, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan, thanked Chinese leadership and Chinese people for their assistance.

He briefed that the first batch of tents provided by China has reached the flood-stricken areas.

He introduced in detail the latest situation and relief efforts in Pakistan, shared specific needs in the following step and expressed readiness to cooperate with China in distributing relief supplies.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, Consul General in Karachi Li Bijian, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque. INP

Despite increased tests, most corona indicators are steady in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Despite gradual increase in the number of everyday tests, all the coronavirus indicators in Pakistan remained steady as the country registered another 228 infections and three deaths during the last 24 hours (Saturday), showed the statistics released by the National Institute of Health Pakistan on Sunday morning. As per the NIH data, the death toll in the country has risen to 30,590 with the addition of three new fatalities while the number of total infections now stood at 1,570,016 after adding the fresh 228 cases. During the last 24 hours (Saturday), 19,041 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio stood at 1.20 percent. The number of patients in critical care was recorded at 114. New coronavirus variants are most likely to emerge this winter but existing vaccines should protect people from serious illness and death, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) said on 3 September. The following comment arrived after the 27-nation European Union prepares to roll out a booster campaign ahead of a feared wave of new coronavirus cases later this year. "It will include a mix of newly-approved jabs adapted for the now dominant Omicron strain, and the original vaccines developed to fight the virus that first emerged in China. INP

Faryal Talpur asks PPP female MPs to work for flood relief

LARKANA: An important meeting of PPP female lawmakers was convened by Pakistan People Party Women Wing President and MPA Faryal Talpur on Sunday, to review the ongoing flood situation and relief activities in Shahdadkot.

According to details, the meeting was held at Naudero House in Larkana and Sindh Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Imtiaz Ahmed Sheikh, Sohail Anwar Sial, and Qamaruddin Gopang while former Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah, Mir Nadir Magasi, Amir Magasi, and Burhan Khan Chandio were also present.

The meeting was held in order to review the flood situation and ongoing relief activities in Qambar Shahdadkot district.

Faryal Talpur directed party's elected representatives to work under a comprehensive strategy for the relief of the victims and the rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas.

"All resources will be used to control the flood situation in Qambar," she further directed the representatives. INP



HYDERABAD: Displaced people from flood lives in newly built Tent City, organized by Sindh Government and PDMA at Labor colony.

MoU signed to strengthen Sino-Pak coop in buffalo business

BEIJING: Royal Group, China, and JW Holdings, Pakistan, in the spirit to enhance cooperation in buffalo business between the two countries, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as a side event of the 2022 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS).

China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

According to the MoU, the two companies will deepen cooperation in buffalo farm building, buffalo dairy products deep-processing and other related projects.

"We and JW Holdings will jointly invest USD 100 million, to develop buffalo breeding and buffalo milk and meat products processing industry in Pakistan, build a number of modern large-scale buffalo disease-free pastures, dairy processing plants and slaughterhouses, and jointly promote and sell buffalo milk and meat products produced in Pakistan to ASEAN countries and the Middle East region," said Teng Cuijin, deputy president of Royal Cell Biotechnology Corp., while taking an exclusive interview with CEN.

Also, "we will deepen cooperation in research and development of buffalo germplasm, standardized feeding and deep processing of dairy products," she told the reporter, adding that Royal Group has accelerated the implementation of its cooperation project with Pakistan's buffalo business since 2021.

As per Teng, the project is based in Punjab, one of Pakistan's major

agricultural provinces that enjoys a similar climate with south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, in which Royal Group is based. And that, she added, makes it more feasible when introducing quality Pakistani buffalo germplasm to China.

Pakistan itself is a big animal husbandry country. "They have a quality germplasm of buffalo, but they mainly raise them in a free-range way."

While China has rich experience in buffalo farming, management and intensive production,

which can be shared with our Pakistani friends," Teng told CEN.

With the signing of the MoU, "we will train local talents, improve local agricultural technology and promote the development of local industries in Pakistan. At the same time, the introduction of quality germplasm from Pakistan to China will promote the development and upgrading of China's dairy industry," Teng Cuijin pinpointed. Themed "cooperate for better development, innovate for a greener future. INP

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Planning & Urban Department Kalat Division invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2022 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Bid Security 4% and Tender fee Rs. 3,000 PKR for the work.

TSE-222309120923

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/ Cost
1	Solar Based Water Supply scheme in Khalifa Dimarud Baloch Goth Mouza Khatol Tehsil Sonmiani Lasbela	9,905,000

1. Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. 2. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List or The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan or Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required or The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work or Turn over of at least 6,933,500 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm.

Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 4% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. 5. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 3,000 PKR. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 23 September, 2022 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 23 September, 2022 till 12:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM. Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, UP&DD Kalat Division main PCMD road Khuzdar. Phone no: 0848413467 Fax no: Email: nil@gmail.com.

Executive Engineer
Urban Planning Kalat Division

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Currency fluctuations hurt FDI in Pakistan: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Foreign investors are reluctant to invest in Pakistan due to rupee's volatility against dollar, thus depriving the cash-strapped country of a potential source to absorb the financial shocks to its struggling economy, reports WealthPK.

In the given scenario, there is a strong need for foreign direct investment (FDI) to boost the economy and increase foreign exchange reserves, said an expert.

Talking to WealthPK, Director General of the International Institute of Islamic Economics (IIIE)

of International Islamic University (IIU) Professor Dr Abdul Rashid said two main advantages of FDI are economic growth and increase in foreign exchange reserves. He said the current situation of economy was unsatisfactory. Low economic growth and continuous depreciation of foreign exchange reserves require a huge inflow of FDI, he added.

Dr Rashid further said FDI in Pakistan averaged \$158.21 million from 1997 to 2022. It was \$1.87 billion in the year 2022 and less than the

previous years. In 2020, the FDI was \$2.06 billion, 7.92% less than that in 2019, whereas in 2019, it was \$2.23 billion, 28% higher than that in 2018.

"FDI produces a positive effect on economic growth in host countries. One convincing argument is that it consists of a package of capital, technology, management, and market access. The other positive impact is that it increases the host country's exports to a maximum level and decreases imports to a negligible level", Dr Rashid said.

He further said

Pakistan was basically an agricultural economy and its industrial capacity was less to process the locally produced agricultural raw material. This makes it imperative for the government to improve the country's manufacturing capacity. In order to achieve this objective, however, changing industrial policies have been implemented in different times with a changing focus on either the private sector or the public sector.

"Investors would not want to invest in a country where the economic fundamentals are so weak

that it is unpredictable what the government would do next to prop up a sagging economy. In countries of high economic strength, investors are assured of growth in economic strength and increased opportunities for business," Dr Rashid added. He said there were many reasons behind the decrease in FDI, with the rapid depreciation of rupee against dollar as one for the last couple of years. Pakistan's policies on foreign investment are not much attractive, he said, adding that availability, reliability, and cost. INP

Bentley stolen from London, registered in Sindh, recovered from DHA house

KARACHI: In what could be described as a bizarre case of theft, tax evasion and illegal registration of a luxury car, customs officials raided a house in Defence Housing Authority and recovered a Bentley Mulsanne allegedly stolen from London and registered here with the Sindh excise and taxation department, it emerged on Saturday.

Sleuths of a foreign country tracked down the exact location of the car and informed customs authorities here, who also took into custody two persons from the

DHA house and lodged an FIR. The excise department was accused as a 'facilitator' in evading taxes amounting to over Rs300 million as the provincial government registered the luxury vehicle, whose assessed value at the time of import was shows as Rs41.43m, without permission of the foreign ministry and a no-objection certificate from the customs.

According to the FIR lodged against the held suspects — Jameel Shafi, Naveed Bilwani and an unidentified facilitator of the Sindh Excise and Taxation

Department and other persons — the Collectorate of the Customs Enforcement Office received a 'credible' information from the intelligence agency of a friendly country that a Bentley had been stolen from London and their intelligence agency indicated that the said vehicle was suspected to be parked in a house (15-B, South, 10th Street) in DHA, Karachi.

'Owner' failed to produce legal papers of luxury car tracked down by foreign authorities.

Accordingly, the customs officials carried out surveillance and



after fulfilling legal formalities visited the house along with a lady officer and identified the vehicle parked there. The officials asked the 'owner', Jameel Shafi, to provide legal doc-

uments of the vehicle upon which he, instead of producing legal documents, gave the statement that the said vehicle had been sold to him by a person named Naveed Bilwani with terms of agreement that Mr Bilwani would bear all liabilities to clear required documentation from the concerned authorities till November 2022.

"As his statement was not satisfactory and he could not produce the document of the said vehicle therefore, the vehicle was taken into possession accordingly," according to the FIR Web Desk



DADU: A melancholy view of unexpected flood disaster where damage houses and mosque submerged in water after deadly flash flood hits the area in Shah Khairpur Nathan (KN) Shah.

Jehangir Tareen donates Rs100 million for flood affectees

LODHRAN: Dissident PTI leader and business tycoon Jehangir Khan Tareen on Sunday announced Rs100 million donation for the flood affectees.

The relief assistance worth Rs100 million donated by the Punjab politician include: ration, tents, mosquito nets, sanitary items for women and cash.

Talking to media in Lodhran, Tareen called upon all the well-to-do and rich people to come forward and extend help to the flood-hit people. He was of the view that a national effort was needed to mitigate the sufferings and loss of the flood-ravaged people. He said they must perform our national duty, he added. INP

Umarkot DC removed for sloppy flood efforts

UMARKOT: The Sindh government on Sunday removed Umarkot Deputy Commissioner Tahir Memon for showing slackness in flood relief efforts.

He has been replaced by MD Sindh Small Industries MB Dhareejo who has been appointed new DC of Umarkot.

Mr Memon has been directed to report the Services General Administration and Coordination Department.

The SGA&CD has issued notification in this regard. INP

Two die as relief truck overturns in Badin

BADIN: A truck loaded with relief supplies for the flood victims overturned in Badin on Sunday, resulting in death of two people.

Rescue officials said that the accident occurred on Karachi Street in Badin where a truck carrying relief goods overturned.

"Two people died while three people were seriously injured and were rushed to the Badin DHQ hospital for medical treatment," said rescue officials.

The deceased were identified as Shahzeb and Muhammad Younis and all the victims of the accident were travelling to Badin from Karachi. INP

Several villages flooded after breach in Meeru Khan canal in Qamber

LARKANA: The kachta area of Kot Durrani Mehar has completely submerged as the flood situation has become serious in Qamber Shahdadkot district.

According to details, a 70-foot crack occurred in the Khosa Simm Canal in Meeru Khan, Tehsil of Qamber Shahdadkot after rising in Indus River.

In order to deal with any possible disaster and save their homes, the residents of the area are busy closing the crack of the canal on their own.

After the Khosa Simm Canal burst, water quickly entered the adjacent villages.

Apart from this, a large number of fish died due to sewage water in Kandhkot, rain and sewage water from the city was released in the village Muhammad Siddiq Sabzoi, as a result of which millions of fish in the fish farm died. According to details, a 70-foot crack occurred in the Khosa Simm Canal in Meeru Khan, Tehsil of Qamber Shahdadkot after rising in Indus River. In order to deal with any possible disaster and save their homes, the residents of the area are busy closing the crack of the canal on their own.

After the Khosa Simm Canal burst, water quickly entered the adjacent villages. Apart from this, a large number of fish died due to sewage water in Kandhkot, rain and sewage water from the city was released. INP

Tourists' entry banned in flood-hit Mohenjo-Daro

MOHENJO-DARO: keeping in view that the heritage site Mohenjo-Daro situated on the right bank of Indus River is facing the danger of obliteration after braving the monstrosity of recent flash floods and torrential rains, the administration on Sunday banned the entry of tourists to the place.

The recent heavy spell of rains and concurrent floods which have ravaged large swathes of Sindh, have also taken a very heavy toll on the mounds and ruins of 5000-year-old historic city of Mohenjo-Daro.

The authorities fearing its annihilation has put a ban on the entry of tourists to the place.

It is expected that UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will visit the archeological site during his visit to Pakistan on Sept 11.

In a statement, the UN said that Secretary-General Guterres will travel to Pakistan for a solidarity

visit given the "tragic situation facing millions of men, women, and children impacted by historic floods." The Secretary-General is expected to arrive in Islamabad on Sept 9 and will then travel to the areas most impacted by the unprecedented climate catastrophe. He is expected to be back in New York on Sept 11 but before wrapping up his visit, he is also expected to visit Mohenjo-Daro.

Mohenjo-Daro - a group of mounds and ruins on the right bank of the Indus River in northern Sindh - lies on the flat alluvial plain of the Indus, about 50 miles (80 km) southwest of Sukkur. The site contains the remnants of one of two main centres of the ancient Indus civilization (c. 2500-1700 BCE), the other one being Harappa, some 400 miles (640 km) to the northwest in Punjab province. The historic site also called City of Dead has received torrential rains and floods. INP

Pakistan must lower tariff barriers for Egypt, Nigeria, S Africa: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has significant trade potential with Egypt, South Africa, and Nigeria, which can be expanded by lowering non-tariff barriers, reports WealthPK.

Sajid Ali, Research Associate at Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), said while talking to WealthPK that Pakistan has significant trade potential with these three countries, which are contributing more than 70% to Africa's gross domestic product (GDP).

He added that Pakistan is not achieving its true trade potential because of high non-tariff measures with these countries.

Sajid Ali said that Pakistan's trade volume was recorded at \$2.2 billion in FY22 with these countries, which can be further enhanced.

Data from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) shows that Pakistan's trade volume with Egypt was recorded at \$386.16 million, South Africa at \$1.7 billion, and Nigeria at \$117.411 million in fiscal year 2022.

Sajid said Pakistan's exports to Nigeria are concentrated mainly in textile and pharmaceutical products. He said products such as cereals, man-made fibres, and tractors have a lot of export potential. He added that diversification from textiles to machinery would help Pakistan to enhance export revenue and increase the trade volume with Nigeria.

In the first month of the current fiscal year (July FY23), exports to Nigeria stood at \$1.998 million compared to \$2.097 million in July 2021. This shows a decline of 4%, data from the SBP shows. INP

Pakistan Pavilion set up in China Int'l Fair for Trade in Services

BEIJING: A Pakistan National Pavilion being set up in the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) for the first time, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

The 2022 CIFTIS witnessed the flourishing business of these Pakistani merchants. With this platform, they are logging their growing appetite for the Chinese market.

"How about this necklace? It's more stunning than the former one. Yep dear all from Pakistan! Quality ones!" In front of the Pakistani jewelry stall stands a Chinese buyer who is in a video call with his wife, holding his mobile phone to shoot the gems shining in the booth.

"It's the very first time I participate in CIFTIS. This year we are looking to understand

more about the Beijing market," Pakistani jeweler Aqeel Ahmed Chaudhry told CEN. He is also the founder of WINZA from Pakistani gemstone firm Cosmo Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.

Shanghai, the first stop for this Pakistani brand to shine in China, nourished its business and now, next destination - "next year we plan to open our next retail store in Beijing," Muhammad Kamil Khan, CEO of Pak Link Enterprises, has been participating in the fair for two consecutive years. He told the reporter that his stall to showcase high-end Pakistani handicrafts is much bigger than last year.

For the 2022 CIFTIS he applied for two stalls in different exhibition areas to exhibit quality onyx handicrafts and wood carving handicrafts to Chinese customers. INP

Pakistan needs to focus on shrimp farming to increase seafood exports: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The government needs to focus on shrimp farming to increase the export of seafood from Pakistan and raise foreign exchange reserves, WealthPK reports.

The export of seafood is the fifth largest foreign exchange earner for Pakistan and shrimps are an important part of this trade. The volume of shrimp exports from Pakistan to China is currently \$400 million.

The fisheries industry is essential for the livelihoods, nutritional needs and food security of many Pakistanis, particularly those living close to the country's coast. Faisal Iftikhar, Chairman of the Pakistan Fisheries Exporters Association, Karachi, told WealthPK that fishing was an important source of income for the people living along the coasts in the Sindh and Balochistan provinces of the country.

"Exporting shrimp can generate a sizable sum of foreign exchange for Pakistan. Shrimp is also the cheapest source of protein for poor people. Since there are no fish or shrimp hatcheries in Pakistan, all of the country's aquaculture requires the import of young fish, which are then raised and used for either local consumption or export," he said.

Faisal Iftikhar said that Pakistan should focus on expanding aquaculture as it would help in increasing the profit of export. "We must start our own shrimp farming. The government should set up shrimp-producing aquaculture towns for fishermen. A one-acre farm may help fishermen to make \$25,000 per year," he added. He said that the establishment of such towns would enable farmers to

produce more shrimp and raise the export capacity of the country besides boosting the fisheries sector.

"In Punjab, we are involved in fish farming on 250,000 acres. One fish is sold for \$1 and a one-acre farm produces 1,000 kilograms of fish. However, we will get 20,000 kilograms of shrimp from a one-acre farm in a year if we switch the species and grow shrimp instead of fish. It means the production will increase by 20%. The farm gate value of a shrimp is \$5," said Faisal Iftikhar.

He said that shrimps worth \$1 billion could be exported only from Punjab in the first year if specie modification was introduced in just 10% of farms. "The previous fiscal saw a decline in the trade of seafood. To identify the reason for the reduction in quantity, we carried out a thorough stock evaluation survey. The survey showed that our high-value protein stocks were being reduced by 80%. This is because local fishing boats have been using illegal nets, capturing 80,000 to 90,000 kilograms of high-protein baby fish," he added. Faisal Iftikhar said that Pakistan's fishing industry would develop in terms of exports. He added that it was a profitable profession that could bring significant foreign cash to a country. In the first month of the current fiscal, Pakistan's seafood exports increased by 30.02%, on year-on-year basis, and reached \$18.506 million as compared to \$14.233 million in the corresponding period of the financial year 2021-22. Quantitatively, Pakistan's seafood export increased by 18.47% and reached 8,058 metric tonnes in the first month of the current. INP

ANF foils attempt to smuggle one ton of narcotics

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) personnel have foiled an attempt to smuggle more than a ton of narcotics during an operation conducted in Islamabad.

Acting on secret information, the ANF team seized a vehicle carrying refrigerator containers from Balochistan to Punjab and seized over one ton of drugs.

"Two important operatives of the inter-provincial smugglers' gang, including the ringleader, were also arrested in the operation. The recovered drugs included 1,020kg of hashish (marijuana) and 28.80 kg of heroin," said an ANF spokesman.

A case has been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act while further investigations are under process. INP

Power division directs discos to implement FAC exemption for 300 units

ISLAMABAD: Power division has written letters to the distribution companies and K-Electric to implement Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's exemption regarding fuel adjustment charges (FAC) on electricity bills upto 300 units.

The power division in its letter said that the non-protected household consumers receiving power bills for upto 300 units are given relief on FCA. It directed the companies to refrain from receiving the fuel adjustment charges in August bills.

It however, said that these charges will be collected in installments which will include recovery of Rs1.65 per unit for the six months under the FCA.

"The amount paid under fuel adjustment should be accommodated in electricity bills for September," the power division said and directed the DISCOs and K-Electric to issue revised bills and extend dates for their payment.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended the exemption for fuel adjustment charges (FAC) in August's billing to consumers using 300 units of electricity.

Addressing a meeting of party lawmakers in Islamabad, the prime minister said that the coalition government in first phase announced an exemption to power users consuming 200 units which has now extended to 300 units. INP



ISLAMABAD: A vendor is displaying kids toys and swings alongside a road at Karachi Company area in Federal Capital.

May 25 torture: police report recommends show-cause notices to cops

LAHORE: Punjab police have finalized a report into torture incidents on May 25 during PTI's long march and have recommended issuing show-cause notices to the concerned police officers.

According to sources, a four-member police team probing the May 25 incidents have concluded their investigation and endorsed the recommendations from a committee formed by the PTI.

"DIG Security Mehboob Rasheed has sent the report to DIG operation," they said, adding that officers found guilty of torturing protesters on May 25 will be initially issued show-cause notice. In second phase, the officers will be terminated from service or a case will be registered against them if they fail to satisfy the authorities over their conduct on the day. A report on August 23 revealed that the Punjab government is in ambiguous situation over filing cases against police officers allegedly

involved in violence during Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Azadi March on May 25.

According to sources, political advisors and senior officials - including the Chief Minister's Secretariat - have advised the Punjab government against filing First Information Reports (FIRs) against police officials. Sources told ARY News that the provincial government has been advised to launch departmental action against policemen instead of filing cases. Filing cases against police officers will hinder the morale of the force, sources added. Sources further claimed that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders were asking the Punjab Chief Minister to register cases against the police officers. "The issue was also discussed in CM Pervaiz Elahi's meeting with PTI Chairman Imran Khan," they added. INP

Indus in high flood at Kotri, water receding at Sukkur, Guddu

SUKKUR: Peak flood flow has approached Kotri Barrage in Indus River downstream with above 5,80,000 cusecs water at the barrage on Sunday.

The water has started receding at upper Sindh barrages in Indus River with low to medium flood at Guddu and medium to high flood at Sukkur Barrage, according to the figures shared by the water authorities.

The water inflow and outflow at Guddu Barrage has been measured 4,84,795 cusecs. The inflow of the river at Sukkur Barrage measured 5,44,650 cusecs.

The river has submerged hundreds of villages in katcha area near Kandhkot, while villagers moving from their homes by boats to safer places. The water inflow at Kotri Barrage has surged to 5,84,691 cusecs and outflow measured 5,72,436 cusecs. The canals from Kotri Barrage carrying 12,225 cusecs. The water level is

expected to further increase in Indus at Kotri Barrage.

Katcha area at Jamshoro and Kotri has submerged, while the administration has directed the people of the area to evacuate to safer places.

Standing crops at large tracts of agriculture land have also drowned in the flooding.

Indus River water inflow at Tarbela has been 1,760,300 cusecs, while outflow has been 1,45,200 cusecs. The water level at the reservoir has returned to normal.

The water inflow in river at Kalabagh has been 1,81,711 cusecs and discharge measured 1,73,711 cusecs. The water inflow in Indus at Chashma has been 2,28,310 cusecs and discharge measured 2,10,310 cusecs.

The water inflow in river at Taunsa Barrage has been measured 2,18,991 cusecs, while outflow has been 2,09,491 cusecs, according to the water record. INP



QUETTA: Provincial Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Abdul Haq Hashemi speaks during a press conference.