

# QUETTA VOICE

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**'War crimes cannot be hidden,' top US general says about Ukraine war**



**Blast rocks Quetta One dead and 13 Injured on Sabzal Road**

## Pakistan Iran railway track to be repaired by Sep 30th: Minister

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA: Federal Minister for Railways, Khawaja Saad Rafique on Friday said that the Pakistan Iran railway track would be repaired by September 30th. The Federal Minister arrived in this provincial capital and visited Bolan's Hirak area where a British-built ancient bridge collapsed as a result of the floods and torrential rains a few days back.

Addressing a press conference, the Minister informed that the Pak-Iran railway track Taftan was damaged in 104 locations because of floods and heavy rainfall. He however expressed the hope that the track would be restored by the technical staff of the Pakistan Railways by the 30th of September.

Other high-level railway officials also accompanied the minister during his visit to Balochistan and visited the affected sites.

"Pakistan railway suffered huge financial losses in Balochistan due to floods," Khawaja Saad Rafique mentioned. He said the restoration of train service in the rugged Bolan mountains would take some time as floods swept away tracks and bridges and the technical teams were spending days and



11-kilometers railway track flooded from Dera Allah Yar to Jacobabad

The Minister revealed that the 11-kilometer railway track from Dera Allah Yar to Jacobabad was completely flooded and it was not possible to operate the train service. "This is for the first time in the history

of Pakistan that railway suffered such losses", Khawaja Saad Rafique noted.

He however mentioned that Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps, and civil administration were extending all possible support to the Pakistan Railways staff in the restoration of train service between Balochistan and other parts of the country.

**Upgradation of Quetta railway station under consideration**

The Railways Minister said the degradation of Quetta Railway station was also under consideration in view of the growing requirements of the people. He said the railway's office was also being established in Gwadar and the department had already had 285 acres of land.

He said the railway department was in need of more than 200 acres of land in Gwadar.



## As trip concludes, PM Shehbaz calls on SCO to 'build a wall' against climate change

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Friday highlighted the devastation Pakistan has witnessed due to the recent catastrophic floods and called for "building a wall" against the menace of climate change.

"I have never before seen this kind of devastation," the prime minister said, as he addressed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Council of Heads of State (CHS) meeting in Samarkand.

In his speech, he also highlighted that abandoning Afghanistan this time around would be a "big mistake".

On the floods, he said stagnant water is causing a rise in waterborne diseases, such as malaria, he highlighted as he thanked SCO members for extending their support during this time of need.



The prime minister said Pakistan would eventually overcome this crisis as he estimated the damage to be in the "billions of dollars".

"But [...] these devastating floods in Pakistan are most definitely climate change-induced [...] Cloud outbursts, unprecedented rains combined with hill torrents, all of this put together made Pakistan look like a sea of water."

We are going to stand on our own feet but will this be the last time a country is going to fall victim to this devastation, he asked as he appealed to the SCO to "build a wall" against the menace of climate change.

But that can only be achieved through a well-thought-out and sustainable plan, he

said. "Our carbon emission is less than one per cent. Yet nature had this in store for us."

PM Shehbaz said that it would be a "big mistake to ignore Afghanistan this time around", highlighting that peace in Pakistan and Afghanistan was interlinked.

Shehbaz had arrived in the historic city of Samarkand on a two-day visit on Thursday. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif are among the officials part of the Pakistani delegation.

On the second day of his visit, the prime minister attended the close-format CHS meeting at the Congress Centre where participants were welcomed by Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Web Desk



SAMARQAND: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of China, Xi Jinping on the sidelines of SCO-CHS Summit in Samarqand, Uzbekistan.

## 'War crimes cannot be hidden,' top US general says about Ukraine war

The top US general on Friday said war crimes in Ukraine cannot be hidden, as Kyiv leveled fresh accusations against Russia following the discovery of a mass burial site in northeastern territory recaptured from Russian forces.

US Army General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he would reserve judgment as media reports emerged indicating that some bodies were found at the site with their hands tied behind their backs.

"In terms of the totality of the scale (of potential war crimes), I don't know. But I would tell you that the world will discover that. War crimes cannot be hidden, especially things like mass graves," Milley told reporters in Estonia, where he is attending a Nato gathering.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Russia was behaving "horribly" and was likely responsible for war crimes after the discovery of mass graves in Ukraine and hailed what he saw as pressure on Moscow from China and India.

"This is part, horrifically," Blinken told reporters, "of an ongoing story whenever we see the Russian tide recede from the parts of Ukraine that it's occupied."

"We see what's left in his wake. And this latest discovery of apparently 440 mass graves in Izyum is a reminder of that," he said, referring to the eastern city where Ukrainian forces have driven out Russian invaders. Blinken called on Ukrainians to maintain evidence to document atrocities, saying, "There needs to be accountability." "In many instances, these will amount to war crimes, which I think is the appropriate frame through which to look at this," Blinken said. Blinken also welcomed what he called growing pressure on President Vladimir Putin who met the leaders of China and India at a regional meeting in the Uzbek city of Samarkand. Web Desk

## 4 including 3 children dead, 3 injured in Chaman road accident

Sardar Muhammad Khundai

At least four people including 3 children died when a pickup car overturned in the Murda Karez area of Chaman. Three people were also injured in the traffic accident. The injured were rushed to civil hospital Chaman for medical treatment.

"The pickup overturned due to brake failure after high speeding", Assistant Commissioner Chaman Shahzad Ali Zehri informed.

The police and rescue teams reached the spot soon after the accident was reported. The dead bodies and the injured were shifted to the Civil Hospital Chaman.

According to the hospital authorities, the dead bodies were identified as Farid, Muhammad Sabir, and Muhammad Ramazan, and another person was unknown. The injured included Saifullah, Qudrattullah, and Jalaluddin.

## Pakistani rupee moves up a little against US dollar

ISLAMABAD: In an auspicious turn of events, the Pakistan rupee which has been witnessing an ignoble rout for the last several consecutive sessions has moved up a little against the US dollar by gaining 13 paise in its value in the interbank trading on Friday.

According to market data, the US dollar was depreciated by 13 paise during the morning trade activity by 10:00am and was traded at Rs235.75 in the interbank. The yesterday's close of the American currency was Rs235.88 which was up Rs1.56 INP

## Blast rocks Quetta One dead and 13 Injured on Sabzal Road

News Desk

One person was killed and 13 were injured in a blast on Quetta's sabzal road on Friday night. Police sources said unknown miscreants lobbed a hand grenade and left 1 dead with 13 people injured.

"Police mobile was the target of the blast," a senior police official said. He requested anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the media.

However, no policeman was harmed in the attack. The injured were rushed to Civil hospital Quetta for medical treatment. An emergency was declared in the hospi-



tal to provide basic health care to the wounded people.

Police and FC personnel reached the spot as an investigation into the incident is underway. Police sources said the attackers escaped unhurt from the spot.

The blast damaged a vehicle and a rickshaw parked on the roadside.

Eyewitnesses said the hand grenade exploded between the

rickshaw and the vehicle. The man who succumbed to injuries was stated to be the rickshaw driver.

Home Minister Balochistan, Mir Ziaullah Langove strongly condemned the blast and directed the police to submit a report in this regard. In a statement issued to the press on Friday night, Mr. Langove said the perpetrators of the blast would be brought to justice.

Flood death toll in Balochistan rises to 299: PDMA

ISLAMABAD: With five more deaths reported from Balochistan during the last 24 hours, the death toll in the province due to rains and floods has reached 299 on Friday.

According to the statistics released by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), over 500,000 cattle have also been killed in the province.

The statistics further reveal that out of total 185,000 homes affected by the natural disaster, 65,000 have been completely destroyed.

Similarly, agricultural fields spreading over 900,000 of land have also been affected.

Over 200,000 solar plates and tube-wells have also been damaged, discloses the PDMA.

It has been further revealed that 103 dams and over 1,500 kilometers long roads have also been damaged.

The Authority says that Naserabad division and Mach district are worst-affected where people are falling prey to malaria and other contagious diseases. INP

## DG levies force Balochistan attends passing out parade in Islamabad

News Desk

The Director General Levies Force Balochistan, Qadir Bakhsh Pirani attended the passing out parade of the first batch of levies force in the anti-terrorism training school, Islamabad on Friday.

The jawans of the levies force performed their skills in front of the DG. The audience appreciated the firing skills of Abdul Salam a jawan of Balochistan Levies Force Quick Response Force (QRF).

This was the first batch of Balochistan Levies Force, which got training in this center. Levies Force, Police, ADC, CTD Police, Airport Security Force, and other law enforcement agencies took part in the training.

DG Balochistan Levies Force Qadir Bakhsh Pirani The DG Balochistan Levies Force pinned badges to the levies personnel who passed out from the ATS course. Commandant Intelligence Bureau (IB)



Muhammad Tahir distributed prizes and shields to the Balochistan Levies personnel who passed out the ATS course. The passed-out Levies personnel took a group photo along with the DG Balochistan Levies Force and the Commandant ATS presented a special shield to the DG Balochistan Levies Force Qadir Bakhsh Pirani.

## Govt approves countrywide army deployment for Chehlum security

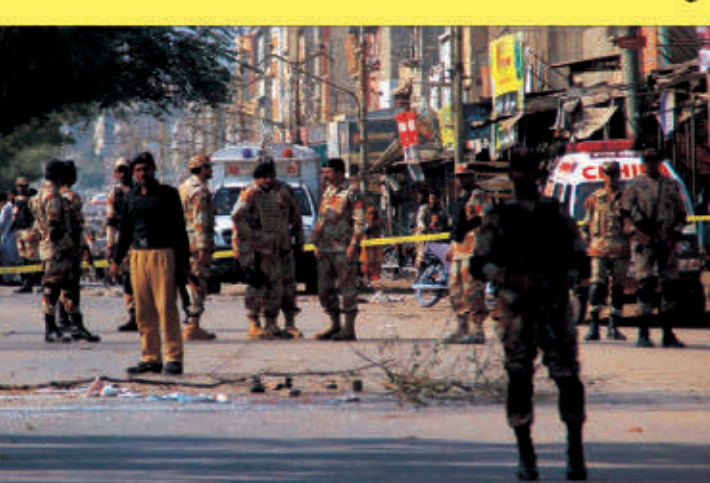
ISLAMABAD: The federal government has approved the deployment of Pakistan Army troops along with civil armed forces to ensure security on the occasion of Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), which is being observed across the country.

The Army troops will be deputed in all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir under Article 245 of the Constitution. The government gave approval on a summary of the Ministry of Interior and a notification for the deployment of forces was issued Friday evening.

Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah said that the military will perform security duties to assist the civil government on the occasion of Chehlum, saying Rangers, Frontier Constabulary and other forces will also provide security services.

The interior minister said that the soldiers of the Pakistan Army were already engaged in helping and rehabilitating the flood victims and army would simultaneously provide security to Chehlum processions.

The minister said that all forces were being deployed for maintaining law and order, saying all processions and security matters will be monitored from the Central Control Room established at the



Ministry of Interior.

He said that special measures were being taken for the security of Chehlum processions, routes and Imambargahs.

Also read: IGP asks DIGs to pull up socks for Chehlum

According to the notification, the home departments of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, "Azad Government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir" and office of the chief commissioner of the Islamabad Capital Territory had requested the federal government to deploy army and civil armed forces."

"Federal Government, in exercise of the powers conferred under Article 245 of the Constitution is pleased to authorise deployment of Army troops/assets and Civil Armed Forces troops/assets under section 4(3)(i) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 in all provinces including AJ&K, GB and ICT during Chehlum, 2022 in aid of civil power," read the notification.

The exact number of troops of army and civil armed forces, assets and dates, area of deployment will be worked out by the provincial governments, AJK, G-B and ICT administrations in consultation with General Headquarters (GHQ) and civil armed forces' authorities.



## QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

### Balochistan floods: Govt and friendly opposition missing

The disastrous situation developed in the aftermath of heavy rainfall in Balochistan demands the provincial rulers and 'friendly opposition' to spend their days with flood affectees. However, the situation is quite different here.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo once visited the flooded Lasbela district in a helicopter and then visited Killa Saifullah along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The cabinet members are hardly seen in the flood-affected areas. The friendly opposition has also preferred to be mum when it comes to supporting the flood-affected people and criticizing the government.

Flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall have wreaked havoc across Balochistan. Floods and rains claimed precious human lives, destroyed standing crops, killed livestock, and swept away bridges, dams, and roads throughout the province.

The 30-year average rainfall record has been broken. A statement from the climate change ministry said that the 30-year average for rainfall in Balochistan and Sindh had been broken. In Balochistan, the destruction caused by floods is beyond imagination.

The Balochistan government has declared an emergency in 26 out of a total of 34 districts of Balochistan. Some deputy commissioners have performed well when it comes to rescue and relief operations. Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps have extended all-out support to the provincial government in evacuating the stranded people.

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

The Balochistan government should take the lead. Nevertheless, it is the core responsibility of the Balochistan government to get a leading role in the rescue and relief operations. The CM and cabinet members should come out of their offices and support the people on the ground and encourage the rescue workers to evacuate the people.

The damages are beyond comprehension. Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili has comparatively performed well when it comes to monitoring the situation and directing the concerned quarters in supporting the flood affectees. A comprehensive and fair survey of the damages needs to be conducted to ensure compensation to the affectees across Balochistan. The provincial government should also seriously approach the federal government to announce a special package for the rehabilitation of affectees, growers, and farmers of Balochistan.

### The king's burden

By Mir Adnan Aziz

White, is also known as the intellectual father of the IMF and World Bank, the excruciating neo-colonial tools of today.

In 1943, the Keynesian policy had Churchill divert India's food stocks to Europe. In what gained notoriety as the Bengal Famine, British estimates put the resulting deaths at three million, Indian estimates say seven million perished. The surviving millions faced severe malnutrition and impoverishment. It remains one of the most horrific atrocities of British rule.

Bards of the Empire eulogize the imparting of civility and bettering lives in the Subcontinent, a land that boasted sophisticated civilizations thousands of years ago. Renowned economist Utsa Patnaik's research published by Columbia University Press draws on two centuries of detailed data. It reveals that from 1765 to 1938 the "bestowing and benevolent" colonists extracted a mind-boggling 45 trillion dollars from the Subcontinent. This was when the average annual salary in England was around 36 pounds.

In the 18th century, when Britain began its putsch in the Subcontinent, the latter contributed a quarter of the world's GDP. When the British finally departed in 1947, this lay deci-

mated to less than 1 per cent. Belgian economist Paul Bairoch's detailed study of world economy in his book 'Economics and World History: Myths and Paradoxes' claims that the Subcontinent was the largest global economy for 1700 of the past 2000 years. The missing 300 years being those under British rule. This has also been substantiated by a study initiated by the Paris based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In 'Crimes against India', Stephen Knapp writes that in 1832 the then governor general William Bentinck initiated a plan to totally dismantle the Taj Mahal and ship it to Britain. Word from London said that there had been scant response to the envisaged auction of the marble pieces. This is how the fabled monument survived its fragmented journey to the capital city of the rapacious empire, London's Victoria and Albert Museum alone holds over 40,000 art items from the Subcontinent. This led to TV show host John Oliver saying that "all our greatest possessions are stolen" adding that "the entire British Museum is basically an active crime scene".

As the British initiated their scramble back

home, Queen Victoria's great grandson Lord Mountbatten tasked Cyril Radcliffe to draw the partition line. The dice were totally loaded against Pakistan due to the known Mountbatten, Edwina, Nehru friendship. The mindset of the empire can be well gauged from the fact that Radcliffe, a lawyer who had never been to India and was absolutely clueless about its geography, was given five weeks to complete the onerous task.

In a famous 1976 interview with veteran Indian journalist Kuldip Nayyar in London, Radcliffe called his effort a "shoddy affair" that could have been handled better had he been given "two to three years". He told Nayyar "I nearly gave you (India) Lahore but then I realized that Pakistan would not have any large city as I had already earmarked Calcutta for India". Among others, he gave Muslim majority Gurdaspur, a direct conduit to Jammu and Kashmir, to India. In 1948, this enabled India to occupy Kashmir which it brutalizes to this day.

The partition of Punjab and Bengal too was criminally biased. In a Daily Telegraph article of February 24, 1992, Christopher Beaumont, secretary of the Radcliffe Commission, confirmed that the frontiers had been

secretly redrawn to favor India. The "shoddy affair" proved to be a harrowing tragedy. Over 90,000 women were abducted, almost two million people perished and over 15 million were displaced. The scars are carried by generations; the resulting acrimony between Pakistan and India threatens the globe.

The year 1992 saw the end of the marriages of three of the late Queen's four children, including that of the present king and Lady Diana. A fire at Windsor Castle also caused damage to the tune of 60 million pounds. Queen Elizabeth famously dubbed the year as her "annus horribilis", Latin for 'a horrible year'. If these setbacks made the late Queen's year horrible, one can well imagine the sentiments left behind of the millions who suffered and perished at the hands of the British Empire.

Rudyard Kipling extolled the empire to civilize the half devil half child savages terming it the white man's burden. As the crown is placed on King Charles's head, the burden of history shall be far heavier and telling than the Kohinoor that adorns the royal crown; this shall be the King's burden. Known to have strong views on interfaith dialogue and other important issues.

### Climate challenge

Long denied and then ignored, climate change is now taking a toll in Pakistan as the country sits at high risk of being run out of water and braces for intense and unprecedented weather patterns.

Pakistan is breaking its own records of being one of the worst-hit countries by climate change, almost every year. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan ranked eighth most vulnerable country in the world. In May, the UN enlisted Pakistan among the top 23 countries facing drought emergencies over the past two years. Between 1998 and 2018, the country is estimated to have lost nearly 10,000 lives to climate-related disasters and suffered losses amounting to about \$4 billion from 152 extreme weather events.

Analysts have estimated Pakistan's climate migrants over the past decade at around 30 million people. Severe weather patterns coupled with lack of readiness are not only endangering lives of millions of residents but also leading to food insecurity and dwindling economic outlook.

Although heatwaves had started impacting the country for the last many years, this year's premature heatwave has made ripples, forcing millions to readjust or reduce their daily workload or life pattern. The unprecedented and

intense heatwave that began in as early as April also sent shockwaves to the country's economic outlook, especially to Punjab. The province produces more than 50 per cent of the total wheat of the country, but the premature heat resulted in early harvesting that led to missing production targets.

Punjab witnessed an unprecedented and premature rise in temperature varying from 41 degrees C to 47 degrees C in different parts, shaving off the spring season completely this year. It is not that 47 degrees C in the country is an abnormal temperature; the problem is that wheat and other crops need certain temperatures at a certain time for their growth. The extreme heat episode in March and April led to a significant reduction in the per acre yield from over 40 mounds to 28 mounds. In May, the federal government decided to import three million tons of wheat from the international market to meet domestic needs.

This year's intense and blistering heatwave didn't spare mango production either, as the country faced nearly a 50 per cent drop in mango production. Punjab alone, which produces 70 per cent of the total mangoes, faced a 60 per cent drop in mango production during the 2022 season. The ideal temperature for good flowering of

mango must be 13 degrees C to 30 degrees C, but this year the temperatures in those days hovered around 40 degrees C.

Year-on-year temperature increases have brought plague after plague in rural and urban areas. In 2020, Punjab faced the most devastating locust infestation in nearly 30 years, which affected 15 per cent of the area of the province. Experts believe that the rising temperature of the Indian Ocean is one of the main reasons for the invasion of locusts in the South Asian region.

Also, increasing temperature is one of several reasons for deadly air pollution in the country. According to experts, rising temperature is intricately linked with the climate crisis because warmer temperatures create an environment for smog formation and can lead the air to stagnate - preventing dirty air from leaving an area. Air pollution thus exacerbates existing inequalities and paves the way for human rights violations.

Deteriorating air pollution is also leading to indirect costs such as lower labour supply and productivity, migration of skilled labour, and volatility in the financial sector.

Rising temperatures are not an exclusive or sole reason for low yield of several crops in Pakistan, but prolonged droughts and below-normal rains have their part

to play as well. Despite having one of the world's largest irrigation systems, water channels across Pakistan confronted acute water shortages due to less or below-normal rainfall from February through June of this year. Water reservoirs remained unfilled or partially filled leading to hampering economic activities.

Before the recent rains brought relief for the residents of Cholistan, Thal and other desert areas of the country, life was upturned, forcing hundreds and thousands of people to migrate with their cattle to greener pastures and urban centres in desperate search for water. Although all provinces confronted acute water shortages as of late June, Sindh faced the worst of it with a record 40 per cent shortage.

The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) expected a 22 per cent water shortage for the Kharif season, but it turned out even worse with a water shortage of 38 per cent.

Prolonged drought eventually ended with the beginning of the monsoon season in July, but heavy rains made things look even worse. Flash floods caused by abnormally heavy monsoon rains have killed over 550 people so far, with Balochistan among the hardest hit.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), July turned

By Dr Ameena Tanvir

out to be the wettest month since 1961, with 181 per cent more rain than average. Balochistan received 450 per cent and Sindh 308 per cent more rain than the annual average, the disaster agency said.

Unusual and torrential rainfall in Karachi caused havoc, forcing residents to stay at home during weekdays. The provincial government also announced a day off to cope with the heavy rainfall challenge. During the second spell of monsoon rains, the city received more than an entire summer's worth of rain in one day. Over 50 casualties have been reported in Sindh.

Successive governments, on their part, avowed to mitigate climate challenges and keep the issue as one of the top priorities. But little has been done in this regard due to lack of funding, attention and will power.

This year's devastating floods have inflicted immense damage to the infrastructure of Balochistan and Sindh. It will take the government years to rebuild resilient infrastructure since it is barely surviving a default-like situation currently. Lack of awareness among people and the absence of sustainable policies are some other factors that will keep Pakistan's fight against the looming climate change challenge unaddressed at least in the foreseeable future.

### Climate affairs

By Chloe Atkinson

Scientists have long clamored that human activity on Earth has led to the calamitous weather changes we are witnessing today. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed that climate change makes heatwaves hotter and more frequent. According to the research, greenhouse gas emissions have heated the planet by an estimated 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.16 degrees Fahrenheit) over the last two centuries.

The Nature journal published an article this month detailing what its authors say is proof that heatwaves in Europe have increased three-to-four times faster than in other northern mid-latitude areas such as the United States. The reason for this, according to the article, is due to the fast west-to-east air stream, or atmospheric circulation, which is carrying hot air across the northern atmosphere.

Most scientists appear to agree that temperatures will continue to rise unless humans cease adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Without a drastic change in the way mankind conducts its business, heatwaves are predicted to worsen. Tackling climate change should be a top priority for every country today. Heatwaves that occurred once every decade are now happen-

ing at three times that rate. The 2015 Paris Agreement and last year's Glasgow climate conference were intended to bring the issue to global attention and generate movement on the ground. But current climate policies are not sufficient to avoid the dangerous effects of global warming. More must be done.

Today, wildfires are raging in Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, Morocco and Italy. Over one thousand people have died so far and many thousands more have been evacuated from their homes out of concern for their safety. Climate change plays a significant role in the cause of wildfires since it increases the hot and dry tinderbox conditions that help fires start and then spread quickly. Less precipitation means dry land and vegetation. This means that when a fire starts, it burns faster and more intensely. Hot and dry conditions are a perfect recipe for a massive inferno.

However, it is important to note that not every fire is caused by climate change. Forest management programs, which deal with how forests are maintained specifically to prevent massive infernos, are often insufficient. In addition, it is often careless people who ignite fires through arson or simply by barbecuing. Human fire starters aside, they don't cause the actual heatwave. Individuals are not responsible necessarily but since mankind is col-

lectively composed of individuals, it does fall on each and every one of us to take steps to minimize our carbon footprint. There is a reason why famed reality star Kylie Jenner was slammed on social media for posting a photo of her private jet parked next to boyfriend Travis Scott's plane, asking "You wanna take mine or yours?" And she was slammed again for taking her jet in the end for what turned out to be a paltry 12-minute flight.

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### Global energy security

By Maximilian Hess

Not since World War II has the threat to global energy security been as severe as it is today.

Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine and the consequent geo-economic war between the Kremlin and the West disrupted global gas markets at a scale unprecedented in recent history. The Kremlin's use of its power over energy markets as leverage - and Europe's efforts to wean itself off of Russian natural gas and avoid a massive shortage this winter - are triggering price hikes and rerouting flows around the world.

No one is left unaffected, even those who thought they had prepared for every eventuality. For example, Pakistan, which had secured several long-term natural gas import contracts to increase its energy security in recent years, has seen partners break those deals to send their gas to new clients offering to pay more. The coffers of both the developed and developing world are being drained. Meanwhile, the Kremlin is using the global energy crisis it created to sustain its economy in the face of severe international sanctions. Moreover, it is weaponising Europe's dependency on Russian natural gas to try and break Western resistance to its ambitions in Ukraine. Earlier this week, Moscow tried to tighten its squeeze on

Europe further, saying it plans to reduce gas supplies through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany to just 20 per cent capacity. In response, European Union energy ministers swiftly announced an agreement for the bloc's members to gut gas usage by 15 percent this winter. This was an attempt by Europe to show it would not give in to Russian pressure and abandon Ukraine in order to fill up its gas reserves. Such conflict-driven demand reduction, however, means that an already likely recession is now all but guaranteed. Following Gazprom's latest cuts, analysts already predict the EU will not be able to reach its own target of refilling gas storage to 80 percent capacity by winter. Now that Europe made it clear that it is finally - and perhaps much belatedly - ready to take the steps to cut its need for Russian gas at any cost, the Kremlin will do everything it can to inflict maximum pain on Europe in the short term, while the dependency remains.

A recent German poll found that at the moment, 58 percent of the population is supporting sanctions against Russia despite potential negative impacts for Germany. Russian President Vladimir Putin is working to bring that number down - down to the point that it becomes untenable for Germany's leaders to push for policies to support Ukraine and help the West win its confrontation with Russia. The waning of public support for the sanctions regime in the face of economic difficulties is an equally significant risk for other European governments.

Europe's leaders are now facing the herculean task of simultaneously helping their industries survive on a reduced energy supply, supporting Ukraine's war effort and maintaining public support for the sanctions regime amid a cost-of-living crisis largely manufactured by Russia that seems to have no real end in sight.

Energy is perhaps the most consequential front in the ongoing geo-economic battle between Russia and the West, and thus Europe needs to strengthen its hand there first.

After moving to address the demand side of the equation, now it needs to address the supply side of the problem to be able to shore up its economy to the furthest extent possible, and insulate public support for Kyiv and the sanctions regime against Russia.

There are some obvious steps that European governments can take - but have been reluctant to in fear of domestic backlash - to resolve the supply issue swiftly. The Netherlands, for

example, can pump billions of cubic metres of extra natural gas across Europe by increasing production at the Groningen gas field. Bewilderingly, however, it is still planning to take the entire operation offline next year over the risk of minor earthquakes in the surrounding area and some pushback from environmentalists. Germany can also increase its future capacity to supply energy simply by extending the lifespan of its nuclear power plants that are meant to come offline at the end of the year. The governing coalition said it is now considering this option, but the Greens - including Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock - continue to resist the move. The party's stance on this issue is somewhat understandable - after all, Germany's Green Party was in large part borne out of Germany's Cold War-era anti-nuclear movement. Nevertheless, by blocking a relatively straightforward and low-risk solution to a major problem facing the nation, it risks failing the test of being a responsible government partner at a time of war, less than a year after its best-ever election result. Beyond increasing their own production capacity by any means possible, European nations should of course also work on forming new

partnerships with suppliers outside their region. The global gas crisis and its impacts are by no means limited to Europe. It is therefore imperative that Europe seeks to bring together the international community to coordinate global supply.

When the world last faced such a major energy crisis, the Allies had significant control over the world's oil supplies. British Petroleum and its predecessors, and the forefathers of the modern United States energy majors, controlled most of the Middle East's petroleum at the dawn of World War II. Britain established the Petroleum Warfare Department and the Petroleum Board - which brought together all allied energy firms, including US ones even before Pearl Harbor brought the US into the conflict directly - to coordinate supplies for the war. Today, ownership of global energy supplies is far more diversified. And while the US has pledged to use its role as a liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter to support Europe, a fire this June at its flagship liquefaction plant in Freeport, Texas has seen export capacity fall by some 17 percent. Thus addressing global gas shortages will require a coming together of key public and private players from across the world to develop a strategy for this winter.

### Inequality and hunger

By Chuck Collins

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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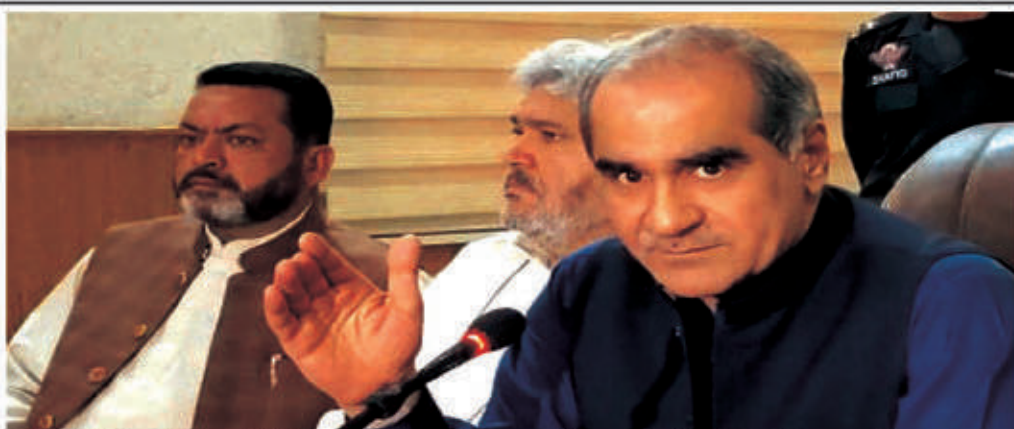


## Karachi: AVCC recovers eight-year-old boy from Pehalwan Goth

KARACHI: Anti-violent crime cell (AVCC) of Sindh police on Friday recovered eight-year-old abducted boy from Karachi's Pehalwan Goth area on Friday.

As per details, the Sindh police anti-violent crime cell (AVCC) in a successful operation in Pehalwan Goth recovered a eight years old youth, who was abducted from Surjani Town Sector 4-A on September 13. The AVCC also arrested three

abductors, who were demanding ransom from the parents of the child. According to SSP AVCC Amjad Hayat, Abdullah was abducted from Surjani Town and was kept at a flat located in city's Pehalwan Goth area. On September 14, the abductors demanded Rs3 million from the parents of the child, the SSP added. Amjad Hayat said the specialized team of AVCC traced the called and took prompt action



QUETTA: Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique addressing a press conference.

## 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-four degree centigrade, Lahore twenty-five, Karachi twenty-eight, Peshawar twenty-six, Quetta twelve, Gilgit fourteen, Murree seventeen and Muzaffarabad twenty-one

degree centigrade. According to Met Office forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, cloudy weather with chances of rain, wind and thundershower is expected in Srinagar and Anantnag and Leh while partly cloudy weather with chances of rain, wind and thundershower in Jammu, Pulwama, Shopian and Baramulla.

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## Islamabad reports 113 new dengue cases, tally crosses 1000

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital reported 113 more dengue cases in the last 24 hours taking the total tally of cases to 1056 in the current season, District Health Officer (DHO) Zaem Zia said on Friday.

According to the statistics provided by the DHO Islamabad Dr. Zaem Zia, 58 of the total 113 cases were reported in rural areas of the capital while the rest 55 were reported from urban premises.

The total number of dengue cases has gone up to 1056 cases while four people have lost their lives to the viral disease.

Thursday, the federal capital had reported 72 dengue cases, taking the tally to 943.

Dr. Zaem told that 11 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, 5 in DHQ Rawalpindi, 3 in CDA Hospital while 12 dengue patient was reported from the Poly Clinic Islamabad.

Another 60 dengue cases were reported from private laboratories. INP

## Karachi registers 192 more cases of dengue fever

KARACHI: Cases of dengue virus continue to witness sharp increase in Sindh including Karachi as the provincial capital has registered as many as 192 more cases of the vector-borne viral disease on Friday.

According to the provincial health ministry, district Korangi remained the most affected with 63 cases reported in a day, followed by 45 cases from district East, 35 cases were reported from district South, 26 from district Central, 14 from Malir and six and three cases respectively from Keamari and West.

The provincial health department has so far reported 1,620 dengue fever cases in the ongoing month in Karachi with annual tally crossing 3,287.

The other parts of the Sindh province that are hit by devastating floods have reported 4,320 cases during the ongoing year.

Sindh government has claimed to have taken measures for dealing with dengue fever in the province after most of the province is under flood water while urban centres have also received record rainfall during the monsoon spell. INP

## Pakistan, Turkiye agree to work on gas supply project from Russia

SAMARKAND: Pakistan and Turkiye on Friday have agreed to carry out work on Stream Gas Pipeline project from Russia to Islamabad.

According to details, the understanding came during a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, PM Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President agreed on promoting the bilateral trade and implementation of large-scale projects including the gas supply.

Speaking on the occasion, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan noted that part of the infrastructure for Pakistan-Russia Stream was already in place in Moscow, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

The president said he considers Pakistan as the country's preferred partner in Asia, expressing satisfaction at the positive trajectory of bilateral relations in diverse areas.

Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz Sharif extended his gratitude to President Erdogan and to the people of Turkiye for their solidarity and generous

support in the wake of devastating floods in Pakistan, caused by climate change.

Highlighting close fraternal ties between the two countries, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of various bilateral institutional mechanisms, in particular the High-level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC), which served as the leadership-level platform to provide strategic direction to this abiding partnership.

While welcoming the recent signing of "Trade in Goods" agreement between both countries, the premier expressed the confidence that optimal utilisation of the agreement would boost bilateral trade and act as a catalyst in further cementing bilateral economic and investment relations.

The two leaders decided to maintain close contact and continue high-level exchanges to further enhance the multi-dimensional strategic relations between Pakistan and Turkiye.

A day earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met today on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand,

Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, Putin said that pipeline gas supplies to Pakistan are possible, and that part of the necessary infrastructure is already in place. Both personalities discussed the bilateral relations and the ways to further strengthen the cooperation.

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## SIC chief Hamid Raza holds talks with Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) chief Sahibzada Hamid Raza had a special meeting with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan during which both leaders discussed the issues of mutual interest and the political situation of the country on Friday.

Sahibzada Hamid Raza strongly condemned the alleged tactics of the ruling party to incite religious hatred against the PTI chairman through state resources.

"The ruling alliance, consisting of criminals and corrupt characters, wants chaos on the basis of religion in the country," Sahibzada Hamid Raza

said. "The PTI chairman's services against Islamophobia, and his efforts for the protection of the honour of Holy Prophet (PBUH), are unparalleled and praiseworthy," he added.

"The ruling alliance, suffering from continuous defeat in politics, has resorted to such mean tactics to save its politics," he pointed out.

"We warn the government alliance that we will never allow such tactics to succeed," he declared. "Due to their incompetence, the country has already been stuck in the quagmire of anarchy and economic misery," he censured. "We are an ally of Imran Khan and will

continue to support him in his 'real freedom movement'," he vowed. On the occasion, PTI chairman Imran Khan thanked Sunni Ittehad Council chief Sahibzada Hamid Raza for his support.

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HYDERABAD: Flood affected woman taking care of her child, who is under treatment from Malaria and Gastro at Sehwan Hospital.

## Sino intercropping tech may help Pakistan reduce soybean import bill

ISLAMABAD: A Consultative Session on Growing Soybean under Strip Intercropping Technology with industrialists and farmers of Bahawalpur organized by the Islamabad University of Bahawalpur (IUB) in collaboration with Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held at Baghdad-ul-Jadeed Campus, IUB.

According to Friday on Governor Muhammad Ali Raza, Director, National Research Center of Intercropping, gave a detailed briefing on the cultivation of maize and soybeans through strip intercropping technology.

"By cultivating 20% of the area through intercropping of soybean with maize and sugarcane in spring, Pakistan could reduce its soybean import bill by 30% within one season.

In addition, in the same year, adopting soybean-wheat strip intercropping technology on 10% of the wheat cultivated area, Pakistan could reduce another 15% of its soybean import bill.

All in all, Pakistan can reduce 45% of its soybean import bill within one year by just adopting this technology on its 10-20% area," he analyzed.

Maize-soybean intercropping has significant potential to increase local soybean production in Pakistan without reducing the existing maize production.

"From the successful experience from Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU), China, high yielding soybean varieties can be obtained, which will save valuable foreign exchange spent on importing edible oil and poultry feed," Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza

said. "The information related to the Chinese experience is very valuable, and it is very gratifying that the intercropping experience has been carried out by China's Sichuan Agricultural University under the leadership of Prof. Yang Wenyu.

This project has also been included in the CPEC projects, thanks to which new development opportunities will be available for Pakistan," Hafiz Muhammad Younis, President of Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry said. He also appraised Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, IUB Vice Chancellor's vision to strive to improve the country's agriculture and economy. It's learned that a consultative meeting between farmers and industrialists regarding soybean. INP

## Armed men loot aid truck in Umarmkot

UMARKOT: A truck carrying relief goods worth lakhs of rupees was looted at gunpoint in Umarmkot on Friday. Police, however, recovered one motorcycle and three ration bags during their hunt to trace the aid vehicle.

According to details, the Mazda truck was carrying rations and other relief goods for flood affectees and was on its way near Samaro Tehsil in Umarmkot, when it was looted by armed gunmen.

The gunmen stopped the truck on Kot Ghulam Muhammad Road and drove away the truck carrying the relief goods. After looting 400 ration bags and goods worth Rs1.3 million, they returned the Mazda truck to its driver.

A case has not yet been registered but Umarmkot police recovered a motorcycle and three ration bags from a nearby village.

Moreover, the truck and its driver were taken to the police station for further investigation.

According to police officials, the incident occurred late Thursday night and due to darkness, the police could not carry further investigation. However, it will take further action today. INP

## CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF VISITS FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS OF SUJAWAL

Karachi: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi visited flood affected areas of Sujawal to review flood relief operations by Pakistan Navy.

A comprehensive briefing was given to the Naval Chief regarding on-going rescue and relief operations. During the briefing, Chief of the Naval Staff was apprised with detailed review of inundated areas and on ground flood situation as well as ongoing relief and rehabilitation operations by Pakistan Navy.

Speaking on the occasion, the Naval Chief underscored that heavy downpours during ongoing monsoon season had cost human losses and damaged infrastructure. The Naval Chief urged the commitment to overcome the challenges posed by natural disaster with continuous efforts and support. The Admiral interacted with troops deployed in flood affected areas and appreciated their professional prowess and dedication for ensuring timely assistance and help to the flood affectees. Chief of the Naval Staff also appreciated the efforts put in by Pakistan Navy along with civil administration and various philanthropist organizations providing continuous assistance to our aggrieved brethren. INP



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari handing over municipal tax cheque to KMC Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab.

## Scholars call for flood victims' help in Friday sermons

ISLAMABAD: Ulema and Mashaykh belonging from all schools of thought called for flood victims' help in their Friday sermons across the country.

On the call of Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC), the scholars urged the philanthropists to extend all out support to the people facing critical situation due to monsoon rains and flash floods in various areas of the country.

Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East and PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said the winter season was near the corner and the flood affected people were left to live under an open sky.

He said it was a high time to seek the blessings of Allah Almighty by helping the people in need as "service to humanity is a service to God."

Appreciating the religious organizations carrying out welfare work in the flood-hit areas, Ashrafi urged them to accelerate the relief and rehabilitation activities in a bid to get them back to a normal life as soon as possible. He also appealed the 'Sahib-e-Nisab' to pay their Zakat in advance to support the affected people as they were under severe financial crisis due this natural calamity.

"Allah Almighty would reward the philanthropists twice, first for paying their Zakat and second for helping their fellow beings at this trying time," he added.

Ashrafi also urged the people who want to perform Naflı worships such as Umrah, Hajj or pay homage to other sacred places abroad to donate their savings for relief and rehabilitation of their flood affected brethren.

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## Sindh CM, Mailana Asad held meeting to discuss construction of Motorway

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah Asad Mehmood and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah held a meeting here on Friday at Shabbaz Building to discuss the construction of Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway.

The federal minister informed that the road was being construct on Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

According to him, the cost of the project would be Rs1.37 trillion. The minister said all the projects executed or to be executed under National Highway Authority

(NHA) in Sindh were the government's priority.

The CM Sindh said M6 Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway was a very important road but it was ignored because it was not included in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

"We want to see the center expedite work on this project," the CM underlined. He observed that the federal Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) also included construction of a bridge on River Indus and a 190 kilometers road.

Shah pointed out that

construction of a interchange on M5 Sukkur-Multan Motorway at Mirpur Mathelo and connecting the motorway with the National Highway were also approved projects.

The study for building a bypass in Kambar-Shahdadkot district, Sukkur-Rohri bridge and Lyari Elevated Front Corridor were some other federal projects awaiting execution, he said.

He requested the federal government to speed up all those projects. The CM said leaving aside Hyderabad-Sukkur motorway, all other motorway projects had

been completed. He pointed out that the M6 connected 6 districts of Sindh.

"The people of Sindh are facing problems in travelling because the motorway project hasn't been completed," he told.

He apprised that keeping in view the delay in the project he wrote a letter to Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif.

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The study for building a bypass in Kambar-Shahdadkot. INP



HYDERABAD: Federal Minister for Telecommunication Moulana Asad Mehmood talking to media persons along with Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon after a meeting at Shabbaz Hall, in the city.



# 'Act now': PM Shehbaz tells SCO as he calls for action on climate change

SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday called for action against climate change that has caused cataclysmic floods in Pakistan as he said that "it's time to act, act now." The prime minister was addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Council of Heads of State (CHS), where he spoke about the climate catastrophe that has devastated Pakistan and killed hundreds. The prime minister added that the floods — which have caused damages amounting to billions of dollars — make Pakistan look like "a sea of water".

"The devastating floods in Pakistan are most definitely climate change-induced. It is the result of climate change, cloud outbursts, and unprecedented rains, combined with hill torrents coming down. All this put together makes Pakistan look like a sea of water," the premier said.

Noting that he has "never seen this kind of devastation" before, the premier called on the organisation to "build a wall" against the menace of climate change. The premier stressed that the SCO should make a plan for the coming generations.

PM Shehbaz, along with leaders of the eight-member SCO, attended the close-format CHS at the Congress Centre, where he was welcomed by President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Uzbek President Mirziyoyev, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, and



SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacts with Russian President Vladimir Putin during Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Heads of states in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also attended the session. Record monsoon rains in the south and southwest Pakistan and glacial melt in northern parts triggered the flooding that has impacted nearly 33 million people in the 220 million South Asian nation, sweeping away homes, crops, bridges, roads and livestock in damages estimated at \$30 billion.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reported 1,508 deaths including 536 children and 308 women. Hundreds of thousands of people who have been displaced are in dire need of support in terms of food, shelter, clean drinking water, toilets, and medicines. Many have been sleeping in the open by the side of elevated highways, with water-borne diseases spreading among people and affecting thousands. The torrential monsoon, which submerged huge swathes of Pakistan, was a one in a hundred-year event likely made more intense by climate change, scientists said on Thursday.

"Big mistake! At the outset of his speech, the prime minister noted that it was imperative to ensure that peace prevailed in Afghanistan as peace in Kabul meant there would be peace in Islamabad. The premier added that it would be a "big mistake" to ignore Afghanistan this time around as the Taliban-ruled nation battles terrorism and poverty. "As you know Pakistan is a neighbouring country of Afghanistan, and peace in Afghanistan will ensure peace in Pakistan. In other words, what is good for Afghanistan, is good for Pakistan and vice versa," he said. The prime minister said that the global community should work to support "good initiatives" in the war-torn country. INP

## PM, Azerbaijan president express resolve for cooperation in trade, energy

SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on Friday expressed their mutual resolve to enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse areas including trade, energy and defence.

In a meeting held on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Heads of State meeting in Samarkand, the two sides also emphasized strengthening the links in the fields of education and people-to-people contacts.

PM Sharif underlined the importance of unlocking the existing potential in the relationship by boosting bilateral engagement in the fields of trade, investment, agriculture, information technology and tourism.

He expressed his gratitude to Azerbaijan for its support and solidarity with Pakistan as well as provision of generous financial assistance for the flood affected people.

He highlighted that the massive natural disaster caused by climate change called for urgent action by the international community to address this global threat.

The prime minister said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan had exemplary relations, deeply embedded in common history, faith and culture.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's principled support to Azerbaijan on Nagorno-Karabakh and congratulated on the historic success in liberation of its occupied territories.

The prime minister also expressed condolences on the recent martyrdom of 71 Azeri servicemen in an unprovoked attack by Armenia. INP

He reiterated support for Azerbaijan's right to self-defence in accordance with international law and in protection of its territorial integrity.

Both leaders extended an invitation to each other for visits at an early date.

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## Punjab govt to lend free agricultural lands to 20,000 farmers of Cholistan

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Ellahi on Friday announced to lend agricultural lands to 20,000 farmers of Cholistan through a draw.

CM Punjab Chaired a high level session of the Punjab government in which he approved the plan to lend agricultural lands to 20,000 landless farmers of Cholistan. People of Cholistan have equal right to their lands, said CM Punjab.

In the first phase 5000 farmers would be allocated the lands for five years through a lucky draw, organised under the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB). Another 5000 farmers would be facilitated in the next phase of the project.

The CM said that they are determined to resolve Cholistan farmers' issue on priority basis. People of Cholistan have the first right to their lands, and this scheme would facilitate and uplift the poor landless farmers of the area, he added.

Special Assistant to the CM Dr. Muhammad Afzal, MPA Muhammad Ahsan, and Seniors members of the Board of Revenue attended the meeting, while Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur joined in via video link. INP

## Modi govt crossed all limits of barbarity, state terrorism in IIOJK: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, made it clear that the Narendra Modi government crossed all limits of barbarity and state terrorism in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, however she added that these brutal and inhuman acts would serve no purpose but would further augment the thirst of undeterred Kashmiris for independence.

Mushaal, wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, in a statement on Friday vowed that the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) would not give up their freedom struggle come what may, said a press release here Friday.

She said that they could not be deterred from their ultimate goal, which was freedom, and they

would take the freedom fight to logical ends despite all odds.

She said that despite the continued incidents of Indian state terrorism and granting of voting rights to Indian citizens in the internationally recognised disputed territory, the world powers observed criminal silence.

The world community ignored the horrors committed against Kashmiri people, while the relevant human rights organizations remained silent, she lamented.

Mushaal stated that the unabated Indian military violence and bloodshed posed a serious existential threat to the Kashmiris reeling under India's brutal suppression for the last seven decades.

The Hurriyat leader lamented that Indian fascist government continued killing and arresting of civilians as part of its systematic and nefarious genocide. INP

## Pakistan should integrate with \$20 trn SCO economy: FPCCI President

KARACHI: President FPCCI Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has emphasized that Pakistan should aggressively promote its trade, investment and economic ties with the SCO nations noting the formidable bloc has a cumulative gross domestic product (GDP) of \$20 trillion.

He stated this while representing Pakistan in the board meeting of the high-powered business council of SCO held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, said in statement from Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry here on Friday.

He said this would mean broadening of export markets, becoming part of major supply routes of the world, major joint ventures, transfer of technology and foreign direct investment by major retail groups and industrial conglomerates from Shanghai Cooperation Organisation countries.

President FPCCI noted that Pakistan had many close allies in

SCO and these bilateral and multi-lateral relations should be translated into economic relations through people-to-people, business-to-business and chamber-to-chamber relations, and, joint trade promotion activities.

An economic bloc with a GDP of \$20 trillion could uplift Pakistan out of all its economic shortcomings provided serious efforts were taken to tap the opportunities and potential that SCO offers. Being the President of country's apex trade body, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh represented Pakistan in SCO and apprised the audiences of the economic aftermath of the most devastating floods of Pakistan's history and the need for the international community to swiftly provide the much needed relief and assistance. He elaborated that the extent of damage is so much that Pakistan would need funds worth of \$15 billion for rehabilitation of the affected. INP

## PAKISTAN AIR FORCE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION FLOOD RELIEF CAMPS-2022

The recent monsoon rainfall and the emerging situation of national level flood disaster are demanding national level efforts and support for saving the humanity throughout the country.

Pakistan Air Force Women's Association (PAFWA) being a welfare organization has always stepped forward for conduct of relief activities to alleviate the suffering of those affected by disasters and natural calamities. In the same pursuit, Pakistan Air Force Women's Association under the dynamic leadership of President PAFWA Begum Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, joined by PAFWA members of Community Center AHQs Islamabad, Begum Chairman PAC Board Kamra along with Wives Managing Directors.

Ladies at PAF Regional Air Commands and PAF Air War College Institute and Chairpersons PAFWA at Bases

have established PAFWA Relief Camps at Marakaz-e-PAFWA at all PAF Bases to collect financial donations, clothing items and medicines for those in need.

Untiring efforts of Pakistan Air Force Women's Association and active participation of PAF Women folk has resulted in collection of large quantity of gents, ladies, children clothing items, blankets / quilts, beddings and medicines. Donations are being dispatched in Flood Relief Camps established by PAF at the flood affected areas throughout the country for further distribution among the needy. Flood relief campaign carried out by Pakistan Air Force Women's Association has also managed to collect an amount of Rs 28.3 million till date. Financial amount collected by PAFWA has been further deposited in "PAF Flood Relief Fund", Air Commodore Shahid Raza Khan, SI(M) INP



SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a bilateral meeting with President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the 22nd SCO Council of Heads of State in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

## Punjab govt lessens property transfer fee to 1%

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Ellahi on Friday consented to reduce the property transfer fee to 1%.

According to details, CM Punjab Chaired a high-level session on Friday and sanctioned reducing the property transfer fee to 1%. Senior Member Board of Revenue Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Principle Secretary to the Chief Minister participated in the session.

The CM approved reducing the property transfer fee to 1% claiming the decision would result in increasing the revenue of the provincial government. Registries would spike following the property fee drop, he added.

Earlier on June 29, the Capital Development Authority decided to launch a biometric system for the buying, selling and transfer of property.

According to details, CDA has collaborated with National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) to launch a biometric system, which will be used for the buying, selling and transfer of any property in the capital territory. INP

## 2 female workers die in Raiwind factory bus crash

RAIWIND: At least two female workers died and four other people were injured when a factory bus met an accident due to brakes failure in Raiwind on Friday.

According to details, the accident took place on Manga Road in Raiwind when a factory bus turned turtle due to failure of brakes, resulting in death of two female workers and injuries to four other people.

The factory workers, out of their mental agony, demanded justice and staged a protest outside the factory by blocking Raiwind Road.

Due to the prolonged protest, long queues of vehicles and thousands of commuters remained stuck in the traffic jam. INP

## Flour price jacked by Rs8 per kg

LAHORE: The Atta Chakki owners have increased the price of flour to Rs116 per kilogramme (kg), jacking up the price by Rs8 on Friday.

According to details, the Atta Chakki owners in Lahore have increased the flour price by Rs8 per kg, taking the price from Rs108 to Rs116.

In a meeting of the association, it was decided to justify the price of flour, following an exorbitant increase in price of wheat in the open market.

Earlier on Tuesday, Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Ellahi said that the federal government was 'behaving like a stepmother' toward the Punjab government, especially on the wheat provision matter.

Wheat price fixed at Rs3000 for the

rest of the fiscal year 2022-23, CM said. Chief Minister Punjab, in a session on Tuesday, ordered to register an official protest against the federal government for the ill-provision of wheat to the most populous province of the country.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Punjab Food Department has decided to take strict measures to curb inter-provincial flour smuggling.

According to details, the provincial food department has decided to take strict measures including action against traders and flour mills to curb the inter-provincial smuggling of the commodity.

Sources told that a huge contingent of police have been deployed at Sadiqabad and Peshawar check posts to curb the commodity's movement. INP



SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on the sidelines of SCO-CHS in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

## BISP on forefront to ensure optimum support for poor, vulnerable segments: Shazia Marri

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Ms. Shazia Marri Friday said BISP was on the forefront in extending optimum support to poor and vulnerable segments in the country.

Expressing views in a meeting with Headquarter of World Bank at BISP Headquarters, she said BISP had disbursed Rs. 27,645 million to 946,967 flood affected families in recent floods across the country.

The delegation was briefed on the multi-component social protection strategy and widespread operations of BISP.

Since the launch of Benazir Kafaalat Programme, Rs. 1,309 trillion had been disbursed to 7.9 million beneficiaries, she said and added Rs.

40 billion had been disbursed to 8.04 million children under Benazir Taleemi Wazaif.

She pointed out Rs. 20.5 billion had been disbursed for 92003 Benazir Undergraduate Scholarships and Rs. 833 million had been disbursed to 196,989 beneficiaries under Benazir Nushonuma Programme. Currently Benazir Nushonuma Programme is operational in 29 districts and more Facilitation Centers are being established in other districts of the county to address the issue of stunting growth among pregnant, lactating women and their children of under 2-year of age. Shazia Marri appreciated the role of the World Bank, as a major development partner in providing continuous and valuable support to BISP for strengthening the social protection system in Pakistan. INP

## Sindh govt decides to recruit paramedical staff in flood-hit areas

KARACHI: Sindh government has decided to recruit paramedical staff on temporary basis in 23 flood-hit districts of the province to deal with the outbreak of water-borne and other viral diseases.

According to a notification issued by the provincial health department, 600 medical officers, 400 lady doctors, staff nurses and technicians each, 250 midwives and 500 vaccinators will be recruited on a temporary basis. The recruitment will be made after consultation with a committee comprising deputy commissioner of the concerned district, director general (DG) health, and other related officials. Sindh province is among the worst affected in the floods and a recent report highlighted that over one million people are infected with infectious diseases in the province.

According to the statistics issued by Sindh Health Department, as many as 1,079,000 people were suffering

from infectious diseases after heavy rains and subsequent floods wreaked havoc in the province.

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

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## Speeding bus runs over factory workers in Kot Radha Kishan

KOT RADHA KISHAN: A woman died and several other factory workers were injured as a speeding bus ran over them in Kot Radha Kishan, Punjab, rescue workers said on Friday.

The horrific accident took place in Kot Radha Kishan, when a speeding bus of a factory ran over the workers due to brake failure.

As a result, a woman lost her life on the spot, while several others sustained wounds. The injured were rushed to the nearby hospital for medical treatment.

Last year on November 7, a passenger coach ran over a motorcycle rickshaw near New Saeedabad in Matiani district leaving 11 passengers dead and three injured.

The accident took place at Barocho Bagh near New Saeedabad when a Mianwali bound speedy coach had crashed into the rickshaw on the National Highway while trying to overtake.

All eleven deceased and three injured were in the rickshaw, which was carrying labourers to their workplace in Katicha area. INP

## South Waziristan's first polio case takes this year's tally to 19

WANA: Another polio case has been confirmed in the country, this time from South Waziristan, taking the number of total cases reported this year to 19, it has been reported on Friday.

As per the official sources, a six-month-old child in South Waziristan has been found infected with poliovirus, becoming the first child from South Waziristan to be infected with the virus this year.

Earlier, a polio case had been reported from South Waziristan in June 2020. Besides, 16 polio cases have so far been reported from North Waziristan and two from Lakki Marwat this year.

The polio case from South Waziristan had been confirmed by Pakistan Polio Laboratory and the National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad.

On the occasion, spokesperson for the polio programme said that eradicating poliovirus in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was a priority.

"Under a new strategy, polio vaccine is being administered to the children through injections," he added. "Due to the floods, the polio campaign did not take place in 23 districts of Balochistan and Sindh," he stated.

"The next polio campaign will be started in October next," he declared. INP