

QUETTA VOICE

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Maryam Nawaz acquitted in Avenfield properties corruption reference



'Let bygones be bygones': PM Shehbaz says US-Pakistan relations should not be tied with other countries

Ice Melting Quddus Bizenjo is my younger brother: Jam Kamal

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA: Former Chief Minister Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday said, "Quddus Bizenjo is my younger brother". "No intention of becoming Chief Minister this time", Jam Kamal told Daily Quetta Voice in an exclusive interview.

The ice melted between Chief Minister Mir Quddus Bizenjo and the former Chief Minister after their meeting. Mr. Bizenjo called on the former CM at his residence in Quetta. Both claimed to be presidents of the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP). The meeting between the two leaders is considered to be a major political develop-



Meeting with Quddus Bizenjo was long overdue.

Jam Kamal

"This meeting was long overdue", Jam Kamal said. He said this happens in politics and there was nothing personal with CM Balochistan Mir Quddus Bizenjo. When asked about the formation of the Hub district, Jam Kamal stated that the CM himself has also admitted that it was made in haste and that he had to consult in this regard.

In response to a question about his relations with senior Balochistan minister Sardar Saleh Bhootani, he said, "the relations are not good". Jam Kamal observed that there was no dynamic opposition in the Balochistan Assembly. He said the opposition mounts pressure on the government to improve its performance and currently

this (opposition) was missing.

Jam meets Maulana Wasey
Jam Kamal's remarks about the CM Bizenjo have come after the Jamiat ul Ulama e Islam (JUI) has announced joining the provincial coalition government in Balochistan. The party has demanded important portfolios from CM Bizenjo. Although, there has been no response from the government so far.
Jam Kamal had also visited the residence of JUI F Balochistan Amir, Maulana Abdul Wasey and offered feteiha for the departed soul of Maulana's uncle. "I just offered feteiha no political discussion", Jam Kamal said when asked about his meeting with the Maulana.

CM Bizenjo calls on former CM Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo called on former CM Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday. Mr. Bizenjo discussed the prevailing political situation with the former CM during the meeting, an official handout issued from CM Secretariat said.

Former Balochistan ministers Saleem Khoso, Arif Jan Muhammad Hassani and Prince Ahmed Ali Ahmedzai were also present on the occasion.



The two leaders also discussed the issues relating to the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and discussed ways and means to strengthen the party. The development package for Quetta was also discussed.

CM Bizenjo informed Jam Kamal Khan that relief activities were expedited in the flood-hit Lasbela and other districts of the province. This meeting has come after unfolding political events in Balochistan and the prevailing deadlock between the CM and Jamiat ul Ulama e Islam (JUI) on the distribution of portfolios.

The religious party has decided to be part of the coalition government and handed over its charter of demand to the CM. Despite three meetings, the CM and JUI are yet to reach a consensus.

Maulana Fazal and Sardar Mengal discuss Balochistan political situation

Dawood Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), Maulana Fazal ur Rehman and Balochistan National Party (BNP) Chief, Sardar Akhtar Mengal have discussed the prevailing political situation in Balochistan. The two leaders met in Islamabad to discuss the possible joining of the coalition government in Balochistan.



The Maulana visited the residence of Sardar Akhtar Mengal in Islamabad to discuss the political situation in Balochistan.

This development has come a week after the Jamiat ul Ulama e Islam (JUI) announced to formally join the treasury benches and held three meetings with Chief Minister Mir Quddus Bizenjo in Islamabad and Quetta.

"The two leaders discussed whether to join or

not join the coalition government in Balochistan", an insider of the meeting told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. No decision has been made in this regard so far, he mentioned, giving no other details. Conflicting reports about the joining of the coalition government by the two key opposition parties emerged on Thursday. However, no formal announcement has been made by either side so far.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony held by US embassy to mark completion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relation between Pakistan and US.

'Let bygones be bygones': PM Shehbaz says US-Pakistan relations should not be tied with other countries

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Pakistan's relations with the United States stood "on their own" and should not be seen through the "prism of Afghanistan" or the "lens of China".

"Let bygones be bygones," the premier said at a diplomatic reception held at the US embassy in Islamabad to commemorate the 75 years of relations between Pakistan and the US.

As I said, there will be a lot what your [US] side will want to say [...] but as long as we renew this friendship with sincere and serious dialogue, I can assure you that nothing will go wrong."

PM Shehbaz said that during the long journey of 75 years, Pakistan-US relations "touched their apex of glory but there were also several dips". "We know the reasons but this is not the right time to recall them."

"I want to say this very sincerely today that we want to build and

reset these relations back to normal on the basis of trust, respect, and mutual understanding," he said.

Shehbaz stressed that it was time for the two countries to move forward and find ways to warm up the relationship to levels seen in the past.

Talking about support and aid from the US over the years, the prime minister expressed regret that aid worth \$32 billion contributed by the country in the past was not spent "in the right direction". "Had we used this aid in a well-planned and properly supervised [manner] we would have broken our begging bowl. But then there is no point in crying over broken bowls." But now, Shehbaz underlined that Pakistan wanted to stand on its own feet now. The prime minister also recalled that during his visit to New York, he met US President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken who assured him of support for the flood-affected people. Web Desk

Age limit 43 years for government employment in Balochistan

News Desk

The government of Balochistan has increased age limit for Government jobs. "The new age limit for Government employment will be 43 years in Balochistan", Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Provincial Minister said. The decision was taken after approval in a cabinet meeting. Government is trying its level best to cope with unemployment in the province. Sardar Khetran told Media. After increasing age limit in government employment many people will be able to apply for jobs and help in reducing unemployment from the province. The unemployed youth should apply more and more for jobs opportunities in various departments, he stated.



Maryam Nawaz acquitted in Avenfield properties corruption reference

Dawood Ahmed

Four years after the trial, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) acquitted Pakistan Muslim League (N) Vice-President Maryam Nawaz and her husband Captain (R) Safdar in the Avenfield properties corruption reference on Thursday afternoon. The IHC overturned the verdict against the PMLN leader and her husband that was announced in 2018 against them.

A two-member bench, comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, presided over today's hearing during which the court heard arguments from both sides.

During today's hearing, Justice Farooq observed that the Sharif family's stance was that they had bought the properties in



2006. "Despite their admission, Nawaz is not related [to the case]," he remarked.

Justice Kayani also observed that on the basis of these documents, the NAB had prepared the entire case against Maryam. "In the entire case by the NAB, there is no [mention] of Nawaz,"

Justice Farooq noted. Justice Farooq remarked that property in a daughter's name did not necessarily mean that it was owned by the father.

The NAB prosecutor contended that the Sharif family had not submitted any documents in its defense.

Growers demand Balochistan Govt to waive off power bills for 1 year

Musavir Khan Bareech

QUETTA: The growers' action committee Balochistan has demanded of the Balochistan government to waive off power bills for one year after the flood wreaked havoc across the province. The growers' action committee staged a protest demonstration outside the Balochistan Assembly to mount pressure on the government to waive off electricity bills.

Haji Abdul Rehman Bazai, Syed Abdul Qahar Agha, and others led the protesters. The growers were demanding of the Balochistan government to announce a special package in the aftermath of recent floods.

Growers suffer huge financial losses:



Shahwani "Growers suffered huge financial losses", Malik Naseer Shahwani, the parliamentary leader of the Balochistan National Party (Mengal) said. He said the opposition parties

and the coalition government were making hectic efforts to provide relief to the affected growers. "Federal government should announce a special package for the flood-affected people of Balochistan", Mir Asadullah Baloch, the Provincial Minister for Agriculture said. He said the compensation to the affected growers was beyond the capacity of the provincial government.

The growers chanted full-throated slogans against the government for its failure to provide relief for the growers. Later on, the provincial ministers Mir Asadullah Baloch, MPAs Asghar Tareen, Malik Naseer Shahwani, Hamal Kalmati and others met with growers. The lawmakers assured the protesting growers about the resolution of their problems.

In a victory for PML-N, IHC sets aside Maryam and Capt Safdar's 2018 conviction in Avenfield case

Four years after their conviction, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz and her husband Captain (ret'd) Safdar were acquitted in the Avenfield properties corruption reference after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) overturned the July 2018 verdict on Thursday.

In a brief order, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, the court said: "For the reasons to be recorded later, the instant appeal is allowed and the judgement dated July 6, 2018, is set aside."

It added that Maryam and Captain Safdar's convictions have been set aside and they have been acquitted of the charges in the reference.

Speaking outside the court, the PML-N leader hailed the verdict and said that Mian Nawaz Sharif stood "vindicated".

She started her media talk while speaking on the phone to her father and paused midway to receive another from her uncle Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, both of whom congratulated Maryam on the victory.

Separately, PM Shehbaz said the "edifice of lies, slander and character assassination" had come crumbling down.

"Maryam's acquittal in the Avenfield reference is a slap in the face of so-called accountability system that was employed to target the Sharif family. My congratulations to Maryam beti and Safdar," he said.

Nawaz as saying that the cases against him and his daughter were "base-



less". "The sentences were announced hastily to prevent us from participating in the 2018 elections," he said to his aides, according to the publication. Based on today's verdict, Maryam is now eligible to contest elections.

In her media talk, Maryam appeared to evade questions about her taking part in the next general elections. "Party head Nawaz and PM Shehbaz will decide when and where I will contest," she said, adding that the party would take a decision in this regard.

Legal eagles weigh in
Lawyer Maryam Ali Abbasi called the verdict "quite damning" for the accountability watchdog which she said was "already moving towards heavy regulation or redundancy". Lawyer Mirza Moiz Baig while talking to Dawn.com said "a person who has been convicted of a crime involving corruption or moral turpitude is disqualified from contesting elections unless a period of five years has lapsed since their release." While the Supreme Court has, in the case of Samiullah Baloch, held that a disqualification under Article 62(1)(f) continues for life, a disqualification under Article 63(1)(g) isn't incurable," he explained. "Maryam Nawaz, unlike her father, was never declared to fall short of the requirements enshrined under Article 62(1)(f). To the contrary, the only bar to her contesting elections was her conviction in the Avenfield reference. Web Desk

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan Education Sector Plan, Go beyond words

Much has been said about the Balochistan Education Sector Plan (BESP) 2020-25 on the official level and among the academia and international donor agencies. Undoubtedly, some officers of the education department and donor agencies deserve appreciation for preparing the Plan.

The estimated cost of the five years BESP is Rs. 72 billion as per the data shared with journalists during a function in this regard in Quetta the other day. Attractive banners, books, and brushes with the best paper quality were given to the participants of the function held at Quetta's luxury hotel. As usual, very few individuals bothered to read the information in bags given to them by organizers of the function.

The Secondary Education Department had prepared the BESP 2020-25 in collaboration with European Union, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and UNICEF. Thanks to these organizations for extending support to the Balochistan government in improving the quality of education. Nevertheless, these international donor agencies should also go beyond words and ensure sustainable efforts to improve the state of education in Balochistan.

Most of the teachers, parents are unaware of BESP 2020-25. When educationists, academicians, bureaucrats, ministers, and representatives of donor agencies were addressing the BESP function, parents and teachers in remote remained unaware of the Plan. This daily asked some teachers and parents about the BESP 2020-25. They simply said, "What is this?"

Subsequently, the target group is unaware of the BESP 2020-25 and the multi-billion rupees spending on the Project. Most of the speakers spoke about the quality of education. In reality, speaking about the quality of education is like daydreaming in Balochistan, lagging behind other provinces of the country in terms of key social indicators.

Over 6,000 schools with one teacher in Balochistan. The education minister Naseebullah Marri lamented that 70,000 teachers and the quality still low. Palvasha Jalalzai, the education specialist of UNICEF put some critical questions about the one-teacher one-school, teachers training in Balochistan.

To be very precise, the government and donor agencies should come out of Quetta's only luxury hotel and mobile teachers, parents, political people, media, and religious scholars at the district level to improve the state of education in Balochistan.

Balochistan University Kharan sub campus at the verge of collapse ?

By Imtiaz Baloch

Kharan: The only university sub-campus in the entire region of the Rakhshan division is on the verge of closure due to the negligence of authorities. Lying in the southern part of Balochistan the Rakhshan division is one of the most backward and deprived regions of the country in terms of education and economy. A huge bulk of the region's youth is already compelled to seek higher education in the other province of the country.

On Monday, people from Kharan town and surrounding areas gathered to record their protest against the dilapidated condition of the university of Balochistan's sub-campus and the negligence of authorities that have brought the only higher education institutions to the verge of closure.

From its first day, the University campus in Kharan has confronted many issues.

Mahboob Shah an organizer talking to the Quetta Voice said that this rally was called out by the civil society and other student organizations to address the issues of the University



campus in Kharan. He said that the university campus was established in 2017, and from its first day it has confronted many issues, such as a lack of classrooms, a lack of hostel for students and teachers, and no new departments have been opened since then. Shah said that the main issue that needs to be solved on a priority basis is the issuance of the notification of Rakhshan University, on which the provincial Assembly passed a resolution however, its passage into action is still awaiting.

People from different walks of life-powered the streets of Kharan to demand their right to higher education. Shah told that civil society started this movement named Save university sub-campus Kharan a month ago and from the day first it has come forward with these demands and the civil society is determined to continue its movement and struggle until all issues are resolved.

Balochistan assembly also passed two different legislative bills regarding the establishment of medical colleges in Kharan and Naseerabad on 19

November 2019, represented by the constitutional representative Sanaullah Baloch. On 3 March 2019, the Balochistan assembly also passed a resolution establishing Rakhshan University in the Kharan district.

Former district chairman Nooruddin Nosharwani addressing the protesters announced that he is willing to bear the expense of a few students in a personal capacity to meet the criteria of requisite enrollment which is mandatory for the functioning of the institution.

Moreover, he also offered accommodation to the teachers who are willing to serve in Kharan city.

People of the Kharan division demand education.

People also stormed social media to ensure their demands reached a wider audience. Shahjahan Baloch sharing his views on Twitter said that "people believe Balochistan is under the clutches of anti-progress chieftains who are the biggest hurdle in the way of education and progress. Whereas the fact is contrary to perceptions people are taking roads and asking for education, they demand institutions' protection of existing ones."

While another user Habeeb Kareem said, "do not snatch the right of education from us, do not close our institution. He asked us trivial thousands of kilometers to seek education in the institution of Punjab. Firstly, we are deprived of the basic right to education. Then we are taunted for utilizing scholarships. We don't ask for charity, but our right 'Prominent journalist and host Saleem Safi praising the protest said that this is how civilized people record their protest."

Climate change: common enemy of Pakistan and India

Imran Jan

There are situations where the enemy of your enemy is also your enemy. Nothing would fit that description better than climate change for Pakistan and India. Pakistan is the 8th most vulnerable and India the 7th most vulnerable country to the ravages of climate change. Climate change is a global threat. Nevertheless, how nations would guard against it makes it a very country-specific threat. The devastating results of it are very much specific to nationality, class and race. Poorer nations, lower classes and discriminated races are affected by climate change worse than others as if climate change had a human mind filled with all the prejudices our societies have conjured up, lived with and died for.

The news headlines or social media memes about this year breaking the previous records of excessive heat do not become obsolete and can be used every year. No need to delete those memes because the year ahead would be hotter than the one we are in right now and so on and so forth.

This March, heatwaves in India broke a 122-year record. A farmer in the Punjab region of India

interviewed by The New York Times said, "We used to wear jackets in March." Well, now they wear blankets of heat. Pakistan saw a cholera outbreak in Sindh this year while also grappling with multiple wildfires including in the supposedly cooler capital city of Islamabad. India is the major grain supplier of this region and supplies food rations to its farmers as well. With as much as 30% reduction in wheat yield, the longstanding concerns about food security have resurfaced in India and the region, including Nepal and Bangladesh, which rely on India for wheat imports.

In August 2020, right during the height of the pandemic, the climate change driven extreme monsoon rains in Pakistan drenched Karachi in a 19-inch rain, which usually drowns a city with no functional drainage system. Thousands of homes of the poor were destroyed. More than 100 people were killed. The Marriott bombing in Islamabad killed about 54 people. The Mumbai terrorist attack killed 164 people. In 2015, the heatwave in Pakistan Sindh province killed more than 1,000 people. Between 1998 and 2018, Pakistan has lost over 10,000 lives due to climate change. Pakistan has suffered

more than \$4 billion losses since 1998 due to climate related events.

The floods in Assam this year affected more than half a million people across 1,000 villages. The Modi-led government has tried to remove from Assam the Bangladeshi immigrants using faith-based discriminatory law called the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). I can confidently state that the Bangladeshi immigrants did not affect more than half a million people across 1,000 villages. According to the Assam state water resources department, every year Assam loses nearly 8,000 hectares of land due to the expanding Brahmaputra river caused by climate change. Karachi's severe monsoon rain of 2020 led to the submerging of the markets and warehouses, causing a damage of \$150 million. Karachi came to a standstill for about a week, which caused the country to lose \$449 million daily. Do the math. And that does not include the massive off the grid economy, which we all know is much larger than the official one.

Excessive heat has been found to bring the work performance down among people. India loses 259 billion work hours annually due to excessive heat. It translates as worth roughly \$622 billion Purchasing

Power Parity.

When I think about the heat, fire, glaciers and water, I want to let the Pakistanis and the Indians know not to fear the missiles we both have made but rather the cars we drive and the electricity we consume. Fear the fire and the water. One doesn't kill the other. They are both killing us. The chances of an Indian dying at the hands of a Pakistani are much smaller than from heat or by drowning. And vice versa.

This March, heatwaves in India broke a 122-year record. A farmer in the Punjab region of India interviewed by The New York Times said, "We used to wear jackets in March." Well, now they wear blankets of heat. Pakistan saw a cholera outbreak in Sindh this year while also grappling with multiple wildfires including in the supposedly cooler capital city of Islamabad. India is the major grain supplier of this region and supplies food rations to its farmers as well. With as much as 30% reduction in wheat yield, the longstanding concerns about food security have resurfaced in India and the region, including Nepal and Bangladesh, which rely on India for wheat imports.

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It's come full circle

By Faizaan Qayyum

With one foot on a banana peel, we are standing at an abyss. PM Shehbaz Sharif and the PML-N face mortal political and economic challenges, and the government has shown little resolve to confront them head-on. Domestic petroleum prices are up more than 40 per cent within the last few days, and energy prices have quickly followed suit.

It is morbidly satisfying that Shehbaz Sharif and the PML-N - of motorway, flyover, and underpass fame - should face rising fuel prices in their ultimate battle for political survival. For decades, our cities have facilitated private car owners at the expense of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. The Shehbaz Sharif model of urban development, albeit with different speeds of execution, pervades other political parties and leaders as well; large-scale gray infrastructure like signal free corridors, flyovers, underpasses, and ring roads of obscene levels of service have become the norm in cities around the country. Cities, from Islamabad to Turbat, have become sprawling sites of speculatively held vacant plots in shady housing schemes.

This is our real tragedy. Our current economic crisis is our own Frankenstein's monster staring right back at us. Consider these examples: Capital Smart City Islamabad is approximately 40 kilometres from Blue Area. DHA City Karachi is over 60kms from Frere Hall. These and other projects exclusively target car owners; only the most influential five per cent of our urban population.

So what to do when the most influential people's financial and residential interests move 50kms from the city's economic hubs? Build expressways, signal-free corridors, ring roads, Lyari Expressways, and Leh Expressways to coddle them. These projects help the elite bypass the city's congestion, often by taking a longer route. Sometimes flyovers and underpasses help address particular points of congestion in the city's road network. As these projects materialize, the richest few begin to travel more and more to reach their workplaces, meet friends, or for other everyday tasks. Because there's no public transit - and whatever transit exists is class incompatible - people drive, often in their sparkling new SUVs.

The same logic has unfortunately extended to inter-city travel. We have prioritized motorways and highways over railways. Our railways network has shrunk from over 8500kms of tracks in 1950s to around 7,800kms today. This has been accompanied by a drastic drop in the railways' share of traffic: while the service carried over 86 per cent of all freight traffic in the 1950s, its current share stands at a meager 4-6 per cent. Similarly, Pakistan Railways has gone from the single largest carrier of passenger traffic in the 1970s to carrying less than 10 per cent of all passengers today.

This drastic decline is not coincidental. According to one estimate, the state spent three times as much on intercity road infrastructure than it did on railways. The uniformed state's patronage of entities has combined with private car owners' interests to completely overpower socioeconomic efficiencies associated with rail travel. All these developments are brazen examples of elite capture. Only around 10 per cent of all urban households own cars, and yet all of our cities have seen massive infrastructural investments that favour private car travel.

Media and Planning

By Aurangzaib Kasi



The technology revolution has achieved a new stage of human development. It has astonishing and tremendous effects on human behavior, thinking and attitude. Unprecedented developments took place in the field of communication due to which, for the first time in human history, the field of information has achieved immense importance, therefore, the 21st Century is also called the century of Information Technology.

With the increase in the sources of information, consequently, research and analysis have become more important. The overflow of information has compelled people to differentiate between

relevant and irrelevant, positive and negative news. In this age of technology, the subject of information has become a science and now Information Literacy is included as a subject in the course of universities of the developed countries.

"We have to equip students, teachers, and officials to handle an overflow of information"

Today it is not enough to decorate our educational institutions, offices, homes, and libraries with electronic technology, rather we will have to equip our students, teachers, officials, and others with the capability to appropriately handle this overflow of information.

In comparison with the Information coming from the conventional sources i.e., the teacher, books, etc, today information is flooded in the market by the internet, as a result, it becomes very difficult for students

and others to distinguish between fake and real, wrong and right, good and bad news. It is the time when you need the adequate capabilities to select the news as per your requirements for the purpose. Information literacy is used as a proper method to practice access to information and analyze and organize it.

In this atmosphere of hybrid war, it is necessary for media workers in general while the media managers, in particular, to abundantly equip themselves with information literacy

An information literate person is supposed to have the capacity and capability to select suitable sources of information, which are beneficial and in accordance with the fixed targets. Information literacy is actually the ability to fully understand the whole system of information. In this atmosphere of hybrid war, it is necessary for media workers in general while the

media managers, in particular, to abundantly equip themselves with information literacy. Workers in the media industry must realize the challenges as well as the opportunities in the ever-changing situation of information.

As media managers of the government, it is our duty to understand the positive and negative aspects of the propaganda / information, so that we can adopt a competitive media plan to achieve our required targets of national interest and importance.

World powers taking a keen interest in Balochistan, especially Gwadar. At the end of the 20th Century, the situation of the world and particularly of this region became reshaped. After the fall of the Soviet Union and the freedom of Central Asian States, the regional scenario was changed and the geographical and strategic importance of the coastal

belt of Balochistan particularly Gwadar was enhanced by many folds. It is common to say that the power of the 21st Century will go to the country which controls the energy corridor. In this rapidly changing situation, all powers/forces are taking a keen interest in Balochistan and particularly Gwadar. The situation has created challenges and opportunities at the same time. The media has got important responsibilities to differentiate between wrong and right tendencies, help analyze the situation and promote a development-friendly action plan. To attain this purpose, a comprehensive media plan is required to be prepared and implemented.

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Preparing for the grind

By Humayun Gauhar

Watching events unfold over the last few weeks has been painful, primarily because Pakistan's priorities are all wrong.

We are glued to our phones and television screens, anxiously waiting for more chaos and drama. With all these distractions like long marches, conspiracy theories, and mindless mudslinging, we are losing sight of reality. And the reality is that Pakistan is on the verge of bankruptcy, closer than it has ever been before. The education system not only lacks structure, it is completely outdated, and the water shortage is extremely alarming. While we are caught up in this political tug of war, Pakistan is rapidly nose-diving. Instead of focusing on the political circus, let's discuss the most pressing issue Pakistan currently faces.

The first course of action should be to stabilize the economy. Thankfully, the government slashed the subsidy on petroleum products. This is not a long-term solution, but it needed to be done in order to regain stability. While Pakistan must continue to engage with the IMF, it is also important to plead their case smartly during negotiations. One could argue that this deal fails to take context into account. With the withdrawal of

American forces from Afghanistan and the war in Ukraine which has sent the global economy into a tailspin, the IMF should seek to take context into consideration, especially for third world countries. However, one has to be realistic. The IMF will continue to be harsh on Pakistan unless we show evidence that we are working towards restructuring our economy.

In order to become a globally competitive economy, Pakistan must introduce market-orientated reforms. There is so much talk about Pakistan's weak export performance. Upon examination, it is clear that the export market is subpar due to deep structural issues. Pakistan's exports have continually fallen behind its South Asian competitors since the early 1990s. Since 1990, Bangladesh's exports have increased 6.2 times compared to Pakistan's, measured in terms of exports per capita.

To strengthen the export market, the current and future leaderships have to make unpopular decisions and stick to them. Over the years, governments have continued to dole out large export subsidies without a shred of evidence that these subsidies have helped boost exports. Going forward, governments have no choice but to bite the bullet and say no to special interests. For

example, instituting a land tax and rationalizing agriculture to create efficient farming choices can be done. However, sticking to the policy and carrying through requires courage from the government, and support from the public. To achieve long-term economic stability, Pakistan must have the will to put the interests of the people ahead of the privileged few. That means taking bold decisions, like removing land subsidies and charging for excessive water use.

We also know that the economy cannot be restructured if political instability continues. Now more than ever, principles need to be put above petty political feuds. Pakistan must take a leaf out of Bangladesh's book, as it shows that you don't need complete, but just semi political stability and continuity to achieve economic growth. For that to happen, Pakistan needs to get past the first hurdle. Political tumult and confrontation has done nothing but create hardship and upset. The people have had enough.

Pakistan needs to prepare itself for a hard grind. With the steep rise in inflation, there is bound to be more social unrest around the corner. It is highly doubtful that the politicians will tone down their rhetoric and work together.

NEPRA reduces KE power tariff by Rs 4.87

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Thursday approved dropping the power tariff for K-electric consumers by Rs4.87 per unit.

Chairman NEPRA said that the government is bearing a loss of Rs15 per unit, which the consumer ultimately pays. However, the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) recommended that NEPRA raise the power tariff by Rs0.22 per unit in fuel adjustment charges for August.

The per unit price of coal-produced electricity was Rs20.54, furnace oil Rs35.61, local gas Rs10.49 and power produced using RLNG cost Rs24.72 per unit. Multiple power sources cumulatively produced a total of 13.638 billion units of electricity in August, the CPPO application read. The average production cost for August was Rs10.11 per unit, and the reference fuel cost was Rs9.89.

KP to improve secondary healthcare system with help of donors: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government will upgrade its secondary healthcare system with the help of various international donors, especially the Asian Development Bank, WealthPK reports. The funds received from various international will be utilised to provide the latest equipment to hospitals and basic health units in rural areas of the province. The upgradation of health facilities will help doctors and other supporting staff to provide better services to people after the recent floods that caused outbreaks of different diseases in the affected areas.

healthy individuals and mothers are weak themselves, essential opportunities are missed out by both," he said. Dr Shakaib said that people in developing countries like Pakistan suffered from chronic malnutrition and their children could not develop to their full bodily potential. "This costs Pakistan in terms of shortage of fully developed human capital," he added. He said that human capital was very important for economic growth and development. He said that human ingenuity was responsible for innovations. Innovation is the most essential aspect of competitive advantage in the present globalised world.

has been eradicated around the world but Pakistan is one of the few countries where poliovirus is still in circulation. Several other diseases, which hamper the full utilisation of the mental and physical capabilities of a child, are also the result of malnutrition and improper growth. According to media reports, Asian Development Bank has approved the disbursement of \$100 million to improve the delivery of health services at secondary hospitals by modernising infrastructure and equipment; ensuring implementation of clinical protocols, standards, and guidelines; and improving human resources planning and medicine supply chain management in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



QUETTA: Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Jabbar Baloch alongwith Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan President, Rahim Agha addressing a press conference.

Farmers warn of country-wide blockade, give 2-hour ultimatum

ISLAMABAD: The protesting farmers, under the umbrella of Kissan Ittehad, on Thursday warned of 'jamming' the whole country, giving a two-hour ultimatum to authorities for negotiations. According to details, thousands of protesting farmers continued their sit-in for the second day at the edge of Islamabad's Red Zone for the fulfillment of their demands. The protesting farmers have reached Jinnah Avenue and were marching towards D-Chowk, Red Zone for the fulfillment of their demands. Meanwhile, heavy traffic jams were witnessed on Express Road and adjacent highways due to the sit-in. The farmers were demanding the restoration of the previous tubewell electricity tariff of Rs5.3 per unit and abolishing all

taxes and adjustments. The demonstrators demanded an end to the black marketing of fertilisers and reduction of urea rate. They also demanded that agriculture should be given the status of industries. The Kissan Ittehad has vowed to continue the protest till the fulfillment of demands, warning of staging a sit-in at D-Chowk. In a statement, the police said that the farmers would not be allowed to enter the Red Zone as the demonstrators may have batons or other weapons. The representatives of protesting farmers had assured to stage sit-in in F-9, the police said, adding that the protesters were now determined to march towards D-Chowk. The spokesperson assured that the police and administration would try

to negotiate as much as possible, vowing that action would be taken against those who damage property. He further said that the police and administration would take measures to disperse the protesters. The demonstrators claimed that the government has not yet sent any delegation to negotiate with them and only local administration approached them to negotiate for providing a place for the sit-in. However, the police officials said efforts were being made by senior officers of the capital administration and police to negotiate with them but their leaders categorically refused to cooperate. Meanwhile, the protesting farmers warned of 'jamming' the whole country, giving a two-hour ultimatum to authorities for negotiations. INP



MUZAFFARABAD: Former Prime Minister and PTI chief Imran Khan inaugurating Pannah Gah. Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas and minister also present.

PAKISTAN NAVY CELEBRATES WORLD MARITIME DAY

Islamabad: Pakistan Navy celebrated World Maritime Day (WMD) 2022. The theme of WMD for this year is 'New Technologies for Greener Shipping' which reflects the need for greener transition of maritime sector for its sustainable future, in line with the UN sustainable Development Goals. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in his message on World Maritime Day highlighted that greener shipping calls for new technologies that enable production of clean, cost effective and energy efficient fuel. The Naval Chief underscored that the newer technologies must also aim to reduce impacts on

marine environment which requires close collaboration between Governments, industry, academia and maritime sector. On the occasion, Pakistan Navy organized a range of activities to highlight the significance of maritime sector. Major events include a seminar organized at Pakistan Navy War College Lahore under the auspices of Maritime Centre of Excellence. Seminar was attended by students and faculty of various universities and think tanks. During the seminar, prize distribution for 3rd Inter University Essay Competition was also held. Other activities across PN units included awareness walks, Karachi harbour cleaning, mar-

itime awareness lectures at Bahria Colleges/ Universities and Essay competitions at Field Commands. A comprehensive media awareness campaign on World Maritime Day was also launched highlighting the theme and potential of maritime sector of Pakistan. Events organized on World Maritime Day play an important role in enhancing maritime awareness among the masses. Pakistan Navy is fully cognizant of the importance of creating maritime awareness and exploiting full potential of Blue Economy. On this important day, PN pledge to optimally contribute towards sustainable development of maritime sector in Pakistan. PR

Small farmers can't afford the agri loans at 15 percent KIBOR; says PBF

LAHORE: Pakistan Business Forum said over 205,000 tons of wheat seeds would be required to tackle with the needs of the farmers of flood affected areas in the country. In this regard special arrangements must be made for the sowing of Rabi crops, particularly cultivation of wheat in flood hit areas in the country as wheat was the major cash crop and vital source to fulfill the dietary needs of local population. The floods have damaged more than 8 million acres of crops including rice, cotton, pulses, oil seeds and vegetables, and inflicted losses of over

Rs320 billion. Talking to press, PBF Vice President JahanAra Wattoo said despite agriculture sector devolved to provinces in 18th amendment still major relief areas of the agriculture still with the federal government. She demanded to reduce the power tariff, regretting that the government had raised the electricity to Rs36 per unit. Government may provide them electricity at the discounted rate of Rs5.35 per unit which farmers got earlier. She said subsidies on fertilisers while taxes on agricultural machinery and tractors should be abolished.

Wattoo urged the government to fix the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat at Rs4,000 per maund. Similarly to decrease the prices of pesticides with proper monitoring of the pest companies to ensure quality. PBF Vice President further told government needs to take effective steps to stop the black marketing of fertilisers including agriculture loans should be provided to them at a low-interest rate. She even questioned how small farmer can afford the loan at 15 percent KIBOR? Currently unaffordable price hike in fertilizer, electricity bills, and other agriculture inputs has made INP

CPPA advises NEPRA to raise power tariff by Rs. 0.22

ISLAMABAD: The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) on Thursday recommended the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) raise the power tariff by Rs0.22 per unit in fuel adjustment charges for August. According to the application by CPPA, 38.10% of electricity in August was produced using hydraulic power, while 15.39% by coal, 7.27% of electricity was produced using furnace oil, 12.49% by RLNG, 13.34% by Nuclear power plants, and 9.36% by using local gas. The per unit price of coal-produced electricity was Rs20.54, furnace oil Rs35.61, local gas Rs10.49 while power produced using RLNG cost Rs24.72 per unit. A total of 13.638 billion units of electricity were produced in August, the CPPO application read. The average production cost for August was Rs10.11 per unit and the reference fuel cost was set at Rs9.89. However, the CPPA has now advised NEPRA to raise the fuel tariff by Rs0.22 considering the fluctuation of fuel prices in the international market. Earlier on 20 September, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) rejected a revised power tariff for telecom companies. Telecom companies moved NEPRA to revise industrial tariffs for the sector. INP



QUETTA: Azfar Mahesar DIG Quetta along with Irfan Bashir SSP Traffic addressing a press conference.

Pakistan keen to boost trade ties with South Korea: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is keen to enhance and strengthen bilateral relations with South Korea to maximize investment opportunities in various sectors. According to Sohail Nisar, Chairman of Pakistan-Korea Business Council of FPCCI, South Korea, the world's ninth largest economy, is a reliable and strong partner of Pakistan. Over the past 60 years, South Korea has increased its GDP by 410 folds. Very few countries have posted such an enormous and persistent economic growth. "The South Korean government is interested in investing at least \$1 billion in Pakistan. There are many benefits to be gained for the two economies if they make efforts to improve bilateral trade in accordance with their true potential," Suh Sangpyo said. Talking to WealthPK, Senior Executive Officer of FPCCI Mehreen Razzak said, "Pakistan has the untapped potential for diversifying its economy and becoming more integrated with the global economy. Instead of concentrating on its geostategic location, Pakistan needs to push up trade, economic, and investment relations through people-to-people contacts, expert to expert contacts. There is a need to create favourable conditions for FDI and connect B2B via organizations and business associations," she added. "South Korea is ranked among the

world's most export-oriented large economies. Its rapid industrialization and technological advancement make it one of the most important countries in the region for a free trade agreement because the country's economic growth and industrialization are comparatively higher than Pakistan," she said. "On the contrary, in Pakistan - a semi-industrialized country - agriculture and manufacturing are the two major export sectors, while heavy manufacturing and petroleum products are the two major import sectors. To satisfy domestic demand and earn from exports, Pakistan needs investment in heavy industry products. Additionally, export of agricultural products and IT services can assist Pakistan in stabilizing its depreciating currency," Mehreen said. "Pakistan should take concrete steps to remove trade and investment bottlenecks and ensure easy tariff structures in order to enhance bilateral economic cooperation and ease of doing business. The country should introduce investment-friendly policies and provide all possible support for local and foreign investors in investing in all sectors of the national economy," she suggested. According to COMTRADE, Pakistan imported \$1.5 billion worth of South Korean products in 2021, while the exports were worth \$400 only. INP

GRADUATION CEREMONY OF 146th GD(P), 92nd ENGG, 102nd AD, 92nd & 94th ROYAL SAUDI AIR FORCE ENGG CADETS' COURSES HELD AT PAF ACADEMY, ASGHAR KHAN

The Graduation Ceremony of 146th GD(P), 92nd ENGG, 102nd Air Defence, 92nd & 94th Royal Saudi Air Force Engg Cadets' Courses were held at PAF Academy Asghar Khan, Risalpur today. General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was the Chief Guest on the occasion. On arrival at the Academy, the Chief Guest was received by Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Qaisar Janjua, Air Officer Commanding, PAF

Academy Asghar Khan. A total of 115 Aviation Cadets, 10 Gentleman Cadets and 22 Royal Saudi Air Force Cadets graduated at the passing out parade ceremony. The Chief Guest awarded branch insignias to the graduating cadets and Trophies to the Distinction Holders. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Trophy for the best performance in General Service Training was awarded to Aviation Cadet Academy Under Officer Saibeh ud Din, whereas Chief of the

Air Staff Trophy for best performance in Engineering discipline was awarded to Aviation Cadet Squadron Under Officer Muhammad Saqib Sher. Chief of the Air Staff Best Pilot Trophy for outstanding performance in Flying Training was awarded to Aviation Cadet Ahsen Ali Khattak. Best Allied Cadet Trophy for 92nd Royal Saudi Air Force Cadets' Course was won by Royal Saudi Air Force Cadet Fahad Mobarak Al Johani whereas, Best Allied Cadet Trophy for

94th Royal Saudi Air Force Cadets' Course was awarded to Royal Saudi Air Force Cadet Waleed Khalid Abdullah Al Turki. Sword of Honour for overall best performance in College of Aeronautical Engineering was won by Aviation Cadet Squadron Under Officer Muhammad Saqib Sher, whereas Sword of Honour for overall best performance in College of Flying Training was awarded to Aviation Cadet Squadron Under Officer Saad Mohammad. While address-

ing the audience, the Chief Guest said, "Pakistan is a peace-loving country that stands committed to the ideal of mutual respect and peaceful co-existence. Pakistani nation and our Armed Forces have rendered great sacrifices in the quest of regional stability and global peace. We are fully cognizant of the evolving regional and global dynamics and shall not let any country to exploit the volatile regional situation against Pakistan." Addressing the graduating cadets, PR



QUETTA: Activates of Balochistan Professor and Lecture Association hold protest outside QPC.

ADB to mobilize over \$2b to support Pakistan's post-flood relief measures

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will approve funding of over \$2 billion to support Pakistan's post-flood relief and resilience activities by the end of current year, ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Eugene Zhukov told a virtual press conference from Manila on Thursday.

Expressing sympathies and grief over the huge devastation caused by the recent floods and torrential rains in Pakistan, he said the ADB had already provided \$3 million grant for the immediate purchase of relief goods such as food supplies and tents.

The press conference was arranged as part of the 55th annual meeting of ADB.

Zhukov said the ADB was also aiming to mobilize a \$500-700 million package for the much needed immediate relief assistance, early recovery and rehabilitation, and reconstruction. The package would be approved by the end of current year.

"The ADB is processing another \$1.5 billion countercyclical support to mitigate the impacts of rising food prices and other external shocks on the poor and vulnerable in Pakistan," he added.

ADB to mobilize over \$2 bln to support Pakistan's post-flood relief measures

He said the ADB had been providing unprecedented support of \$100 billion to deliver climate financing to its developing member countries from 2019 to 2030.

Responding to a question with respect to the post flood relief and resilience measures in Pakistan, Zhukov said, "We are working in close collaboration with the local government and other international development partners to finalize the damage needs assessment that might be finalized by mid of the next month."

He said in the agriculture sector, yields of major food crops (wheat, rice, and maize) in the CAREC (Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation) region had declined by 3-10%.

Disasters were increasing in intensity, as seen in the recent flooding in Pakistan, with 33 million people affected and over 600,000 in relief camps, and 1.7 million homes damaged, he said.

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ISLAMABAD: MPA KP Assembly Sobia Khan and Syeda Saima Jaffri Advocate Peshawar High Court presenting bouquet and extend felicitation to Federal Minister Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar on assuming Finance portfolio.

Water level in Manchar Lake recedes

BADIN: The water level in Manchar Lake has receded and reached 118RL (reduced level) on Thursday.

The floodwater in many villages has also started to drain. The Indus Highway has been cleared from Bhan Syedabad to Arazi, and the traffic has been restored partially.

The Irrigation Department has started to plug the breach at zero point of Manchar Lake. On the instructions of the Chief Minister of Sindh, relief work for the flood-hit people has been started.

The district administration also started surveying the damaged houses and villages. After 22 days, grid station of Bhan Syedabad city has been restored, and power supply has been resumed.

On the other hand, another gastro patient died in Faridabad, Mehar city. The deceased was identified as Gul Muhammad Chandio, 50.

The number of deaths due to gastroenteritis and malaria has reached 37 during the ongoing month. INP

Ishaq Dar seeks report on inflated exchange rate in LCS opening

LAHORE: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has summoned report of the matter pertaining to opening of LCS in banks on inflated rate of dollar on Thursday.

Ishaq Dar, who Wednesday sworn in as federal finance minister, replaced Miftah Ismail.

According to sources at the finance ministry, the finance minister has summoned report about the banks' practice of opening letters of credits (LCs) five to eight rupees above the exchange rate of dollars.

"Strict action will be taken against the bank officers, found to be involved in the practice in the light of the investigation report," sources said.

"The business class had to

pay crores of rupees extra for this practice of banks", sources said. "The bank officials illegally earned several crores of rupees from importers over opening LCs," according to sources.

"The banks continued this practice for several weeks," sources said. All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) chief Gohar Ejaz has already demanded of the prime minister about inquiry of this practice," sources said.

Gohar Ejaz said that the banks have earned billions of rupees with dollarization, which has overburdened the national economy and Pakistani rupee.

"Industrialists and traders are welcoming this audit inquiry," APTMA chief added. INP

Pakistan reports 67 coronavirus cases, one death in 24 hours

LAHORE: Pakistan has reported one death in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of confirmed positive cases has surged to 1,572,555. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 30,613 on Thursday.

According to the latest figures by the National Institute of Health (NIH), at least 67 persons were tested positive for COVID-19 across the country in the past 24 hours.

Pakistan has conducted 11,226 tests in the past 24 hours out of which 67 persons were tested positive for the disease. The COVID Positivity Ratio was recorded at 0.60 percent. INP

Islamabad registers 73 more dengue cases

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital has reported 73 more dengue cases in the last 24 hours taking the total tally of cases to 2,235 in the current season, says District Health Officer (DHO) Islamabad.

According to the statistics provided by the DHO Islamabad, 41 of the total 73 cases were reported in rural areas of the capital while the rest 32 were reported from urban premises.

Overall 1,336 dengue cases have been reported in rural and 899 have emerged from urban areas of Islamabad.

The total number of dengue cases has gone up to 2,235 cases while six people have lost their lives to the viral disease in the current year.

The DHO further said 32 patients were admitted to the PIMS hospital Islamabad in the last 24 hours, two in Federal General Hospital, five in the Holy Family Hospital, 5 in BBH Rawalpindi, 1 in DHQ Rawalpindi. INP

Karachi: Four children among six injured in gas leak fire

KARACHI: Six members of a family, four of them children, received burn injuries in a fire that broke out after a gas-leak explosion in their house in Miran Naka area of Karachi's Lyari on Thursday.

According to details, the explosion occurred due to accumulation of gas in the house in Miran Naka area followed by its leakage.

The injured people include four children, a woman and a police officer - identified as Arif. The police officer was posted in Security Zone-1.

Earlier in January, at least four members of a family sustained burn wounds in an explosion due to gas leakage in the SITE Area neighbourhood of Karachi. According to police, the incident occurred within the remits of Mominabad police station, where a gas explosion blew off a house in the Metroville area, resulting in injuries to four people. INP

Hareem Shah is returning to Pakistan on Oct 3 but fears arrest

KARACHI: TikToker Hareem Shah is returning to Pakistan on October 3 but she fears that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) might arrest her upon arrival.

On Thursday, the Sindh High Court heard her application requesting the court to stop the FIA from arresting her.

Hareem's lawyer said that she wants to surrender before the FIA as she is returning to country on October 3. He requested the court to stop the law enforcers from arresting her.

The court asked if a case has been registered against Hareem. The FIA has summoned her for inquiry, a case has not been registered yet, Hareem's counsel replied.

How the court can stop the FIA from arresting her if a case has not even been registered, the court said.

Stop playing games with the court, Justice KK Agha said. The court said Hareem misused the earlier order of the SHC.

The court had stopped the FIA from arresting her upon arrival but she blew up her chance, Justice KK Agha said.

Isn't she the same person who flaunted money and claimed that she laundered it? Justice Agha asked. We cannot stop the FIA from investigation, the court said.

The court dismissed the petition after Shah's lawyer withdrew the application. If she wants, she can approach the court after reaching Pakistan, the court said. INP

These are upcoming fundraising concerts for flood victims in Karachi

KARACHI: Pakistan's most loved pop and folk singers are getting ready for fundraising concerts that will donate all their proceeds to flood relief.

The tickets of the concerts are available online on TicketWala.

Some of your favorite singers will be performing live on October 2 at Karachi Gymkhana Club for the fundraising campaign for flood relief.

The artists include Young Stunners, Aima Baig, Natasha Baig, Asim Azhar and Raamis Ali.

The event is organized by Arts Council Karachi, Asim Azhar and Karachi Gymkhana Club.

KMC and Lahooti are also

organizing a fundraising event. Mai Karachi for flood relief. The event will be held on October 2, at Burns Garden Karachi.

Mai Karachi includes a concert by folk singers and folk art market, and all the proceeds of the event will be donated to the flood victims.

Founder of The Sketcher Saif Samejo and Lahooti shared the posters of the event on their Instagram accounts.

The singer wrote, "Join us for a one-day mega event featuring concerts, workshops and folk art market. All proceeds go towards flood relief especially artists and women artisans affected by floods." INP



ISLAMABAD: renewed Egyptian Qari Muhmmad Anwer Mehmood Ul Shahatt calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sherif along with JUI-F chief Mualana Fazrul Rehman .

Damaged infrastructure hindering flood relief in far-off areas: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The damaged infrastructure is hindering swift delivery of relief goods to some of the worst flood-hit areas in Pakistan due to battered roads and bridges.

A spokesperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) told WealthPK that far-flung areas of the country were still out of reach because of damaged roads and bridges. He said floods had snatched basic facilities of life from the people of these backward areas, including food, clean drinking water, electricity, and health.

"The floods have caused havoc in Pakistan, mostly in Sindh and Balochistan provinces, severely hitting the poor. Houses, livestock, roads, hospitals and schools have been wrecked in rural areas of the two provinces, with flood victims still waiting for food, shelter and medical supplies," the BISP spokesperson said.

He said that the government has so far disbursed more than Rs31 billion among the flood victims.

According to the ministry of planning, development and special initiatives, the damage caused to infrastructure and rehabilitation and reconstruction needs may go beyond \$30 billion.

The BISP spokesman said that the total number of casualties caused by floods had reached 1,600 and 12,850 people had been injured.

He said rescue and relief operations by NDMA, other government organisations, volunteers and

NGOs were underway in the affected areas.

The BISP spokesman said till September 22, 113,411 families had benefitted from emergency cash assistance across the country, including 111,623 families in Sindh, 983 in Balochistan, 545 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 260 in Punjab.

He said several areas were still inundated, creating hurdles in rescue and relief efforts.

"Families have lost everything in the monsoon rains and floods. The situation is even worse than the devastating floods of 2010. Millions of people need emergency food and humanitarian assistance," he added.

Faiz Muhammad, a resident of Quetta, said floods had destroyed everything from roads to mobile phone networks to houses and crops in the villages of Killa Saifullah. He said due to damaged roads relief items could not reach these areas. He asked the government to take steps on a war footing to reach flood victims.

Muhammad Israr from Lasbella district of Balochistan said flood water still stood in various areas, making it difficult for the authorities to dispatch relief items to the victims. He said there was no way to drain the flood water. He said water-borne and skin diseases were rapidly spreading in these areas. He said 12 people had died from bites by lethal insects. He requested the government to drain water from these areas and also carry out fumigation there. INP

FM Bilawal meets US Senator Van Hollen

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday met with US Senator Van Hollen during his visit to Washington DC.

According to Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson, matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United States were discussed during the meeting.

The two leaders also discussed about how Pakistan and United States can work together to address pressing regional challenges & how the US can continue to assist efforts to help those devastated by recent severe floods in Pakistan. INP

Floods: Imran Khan thanks people for generous donations

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Thursday thanked people who generously donated for the flood victims in Pakistan. PTI Senator and former BISP chairperson Dr Sania Nishtar called on former prime minister Khan to apprise him about the donations collected for the flood victims so far. Senator Shibli Faraz, chief of staff of Imran Khan and Salman Aftab were also present in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, former prime minister and PTI chairman thanked the people for generously donating for the people affected due to floods. He vowed to distribute the funds to the flood victims as the catastrophe has badly affected a large portion of the country's population. Earlier this month, former prime minister and PTI chairman khan held third telethon to raise funds

for the rehabilitation of flood victims in Pakistan. Addressing the telethon, Khan had said that never in the history, Rs10 billion were collected during five hours of two telethon. "We would be using these funds in a transparent manner and will devise a system that will bring transparency in their utilization," he had assured Senator Shibli Faraz, chief of staff of Imran Khan and Salman Aftab were also present in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, former prime minister and PTI chairman thanked the people for generously donating for the people affected due to floods. He vowed to distribute the funds to the flood victims as the catastrophe has badly affected a large portion of the country's population. Earlier this month, former prime minister and PTI chairman khan held third telethon to raise funds for the rehabilitation of flood victims. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar presiding a meeting on the revenue performance of FBR .

Indus River water level drops below low flood at barrages

ISLAMABAD: The water flow in Indus River at Tarbela has been below low flood and also returned to normal at all barrages including the Kotri Barrage.

According to the data shared by the Flood Forecasting Division on Thursday, the water inflow at Tarbela reservoir measured 71,000 cusecs and outflow has been 67,100 cusecs.

The inflow of water in downstream at Kotri Barrage has been measured 1,61,900 cusecs and outflow has been 1,30,500 cusecs.

The water inflow in river at Guddu Barrage has been 64,700 cusecs and outflow of water 49,700 cusecs.

The water inflow in river at Sukkur Barrage has been measured 45,800 cusecs and outflow 36,300 cusecs.

The water inflow at Jinnah Barrage Kalabagh has been 78,500 cusecs and outflow of water 70,500 cusecs.

The water inflow in river at Chashma has been measured 109,000

cusecs and outflow 88,000 cusecs.

The water inflow in Indus at Taunsa Barrage has been 82,700 cusecs and outflow of water 62,000 cusecs.

The water inflow of Chenab River at Head Maralla measured 26,700 cusecs and outflow of water 4,000 cusecs.

The water inflow and outflow in Kabul River at Nowshera has been measured 19,300 cusecs.

Twin menace of flash floods unleashed by unprecedented monsoon rainfall in Sindh and Balochistan, and flooding in Indus River has drowned crops and damaged thousands of houses in the area.

A huge lake created by the rainwater standing across a very large area in Sindh, displacing millions of people in the province.

As the flooding in Indus River going down, the rainwater standing in the submerged area getting passage to be discharged into the river. INP

Politics of hypocrisy', Hamza attacks Imran after alleged audio leak

LAHORE: Former Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz has attacked the former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan after his alleged audio has been leaked in which he could be heard talking about a cypher message with his key aide Azam Khan.

Criticizing the PTI Chairman Hamza said that Imran Khan's audio leak has raised curtains of his "politics of hypocrisy". He said that Imran Khan consistently lied about the cypher and did politics on it.

Member Punjab Assembly, Hamza went on to say that with this act of Imran, Pakistan's international relations have been badly affected. He said that Imran's stance on conspiracy was a "selfish act".

He also said that Imran's politics only spreads chaos and anarchy. Hamza further said that Imran Khan has gambled with Pakistan's political interests and "he (Imran) has put up false allegations on the institutes in greed of power."

On Wednesday, Imran Khan and his key aide Azam Khan's alleged audio was leaked online. According to details, in the alleged audio conversation, Imran Khan and his principal secretary could be heard discussing the US cypher, which the PTI chief claimed led to the ouster of the previous government.

In the alleged conversation, Imran Khan could be heard saying that we just have to play with it without naming United States. INP