

QUETTA VOICE

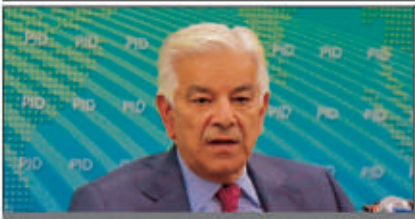
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Thursday 06
October, 2022

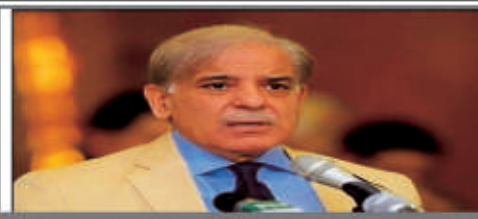
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New Army Chief will be appointed by month-end, says Kh. Asif



PM Shehbaz Sharif orders to link Thar coal mines to railway by March 2023

Balochistan reports 7000 cholera malaria cases in last 24 hours

Syed Muhammad Qaseem

Balochistan reported around 7000 cholera, malaria, gastro, and skin cases in the last 24 hours, media coordinator, Health Department Balochistan, Dr. Waseem Baig told Daily Quetta Voice on Wednesday. These cases were reported from the six districts of Balochistan i.e. Nasirabad, Jafarabad, Sohatpur, Jhal Magsi, Sibi, and Kachi. The Balochistan government has established 1621 medical camps in the above flood-affected districts of which 18 were established in one day. According to the report shared by the Health Department, 2434 malaria cases were reported from the Nasirabad division in the last 24 hours. A total number of 494633 patients have been treated in the medical camps till now, Dr. Baig mentioned. Malaria and dengue are robustly increasing in the flood-affected areas of Balochistan.

Around 7000 patients were treated in the last 24 hours

According to the statistics shared by the Health Department of Balochistan,



these camps have treated around 7000 patients in the last 24 hours. Among these 6877 patients 543 cholera, 1205 asthma, 723 skin infections, 470 gastro, 2434 malaria, 174 eye infections, 178 typhoid, and 1150 patients were of other different diseases. The current monsoon rains adversely affected the province. Many areas were flooded which gave rise to different pandemic diseases. The provincial government is providing health facilities on an emergency basis to the

affected areas to cope with the situation. "Ensuring transparency in the relief and rehabilitation of the flood affectees is the first priority of Balochistan government", Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo stated. The CM chaired a high-level meeting that reviewed the pace of relief activities in the flood-affected areas of the province.

Over 700 BHUs and RHCs were affected in Balochistan

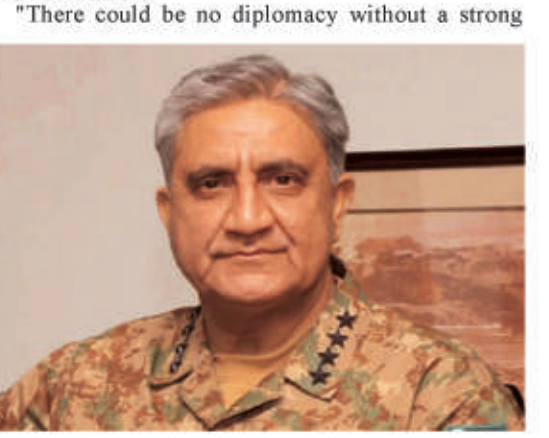
The floods affected over 700 Basic Health Units (BHU) and Regional Health Centers (RHC) in Balochistan. Out of these 700 most buildings of the BHUs and RHUs are completely destroyed and unable to be used. "Most of the patients are referred to other provinces for treatment because of the lack of beds in the hospitals", a local social worker in Nasirabad said. Many people in the affected areas of Balochistan are shelterless, which is the main reason behind the rapid increase in malaria and dengue cases, he added.

Armed forces to steer clear of politics, says Gen Bajwa

WASHINGTON: The armed forces have distanced itself from the politics and want to stay out of it in the future as well, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa said.

The statement came during the army chief's address at a luncheon at Pakistani embassy in Washington.

Gen Bajwa also reiterated his resolve to leave after the completion of his term as the army chief this November.



"There could be no diplomacy without a strong economy," said the army chief. He further stated that the nation cannot achieve its targets without a strong economy.

"Restoring the ailing economy of the country should be the priority of every stakeholder of the society," Gen Bajwa said.

The COAS is currently on a visit to the United States, where he called on US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, National Security Adviser Jacob Sullivan, and Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman.

Matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed during the meetings, the ISPR said.

General Bajwa also told the US officials that assistance from Pakistan's global partners was vital for the "rescue and rehabilitation" of flood victims.

He also thanked the US officials for their support for the flood relief in Pakistan. Both sides agreed that Pakistan and the US had a long history of bilateral cooperation and both countries shall continue to improve their economic and trade ties apart from looking for investment avenues. INP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on railway connectivity of Thar Coal Mines.

New Army Chief will be appointed by month-end, says Kh. Asif

ISLAMABAD: Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said Wednesday that the process of appointing the new army chief would start by month-end.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that five senior officers were shortlisted for the appointment of the new army chief, adding that the new army chief could be chosen from any of those officers.

"All names are sent by the General Headquarters (GHQ), and all these names are thoroughly reviewed," he added.

"A cipher is a state secret. Such confidential matters should not be made public. Imran Khan has also violated the Official Secrets Act," he stated.

"This person will surely be held accountable. He dares government to arrest him. He will come to his senses the day he goes to jail," he added.

He also said that lust for power had turned Imran Khan mad, adding that Imran Khan's mental

state was not stable. "Imran Khan should be ashamed of himself after audio leaks that have exposed his narrative of foreign conspiracy," he stated.

Khawaja Asif vowed to fight against anti-army campaign as defence minister. "We do not want any relief to Imran Khan. We will not seek political revenge, but this person is not a politician from any side. We are aware of the traditions of political workers," he pointed out.

"We will fight Imran Khan on social media, and we will take him to the courts too. I have not heard the audio leaks of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif myself. But there is no anti-state element in his talk. In the audio leaks of Imran Khan, there is a conspiracy against Pakistan," he stated.

"It can be inferred from Imran Khan's talk that the institutions have become neutral. Our institutions, army, judiciary, parliament and media are working according to the Constitution," he added. INP

Pak Iran train service restored for first time after floods

Mir Salam Jogezeai

The Pak-Iran train service was restored today (Wednesday) for the first time after the floods. In light of the special instructions of Federal Minister of Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq and Chairman Railway Balochistan Farid Ahmed, the Quetta Taftan railway track was restored for railway traffic.

The recent monsoon rains and floods were marked historic in the history of Balochistan. Flash floods destroyed the infrastructure of this province. The powerful waves of floods swept away buildings, roads, highways, and many bridges collapsed.

The government was working with robust abilities to restore the suspended railway traffic. After the completion of the Dalbandin railway, the first freight train for the flood victims from Zahedan reached Quetta with relief goods from its brother country Turkey. Two more trains from Zahedan and Taftan



will reach Quetta tomorrow with relief supplies. Today, 3 freight trains carrying 95 bogies of aid and other commercial goods left Zahedan and Taftan for Quetta. The public and railway employees expressed special gratitude to the present government and especially to Federal Minister for Railways, Khawaja Saad Rafique for restoring the train service.

Balochistan: No breakthrough as CM Bizenjo calls on Maulana Wasey

Dawood Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Differences exist in the distribution of portfolios as Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo called on Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (JUI) provincial chief, Maulana Abdul Wasey in the federal capital. Chairman Senate Mir Sadiq Sanjrani also accompanied the CM.

"No breakthrough has been made about the joining of JUI in the cabinet", sources close to Maulana Wasey told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. They requested anonymity. This is the fourth meeting held between the CM Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo and Maulana Abdul Wasey about the religious party's expected joining of the provincial coalition government.

"CM has sought one day more time to respond to the charter of demand", the sources mentioned. The religious party has already handed over its charter of demand to the Chief Minister as a condition for join-



ing the government. Another well-placed source close to the CM said that Balochistan National Party (Mengal) was also considering the option to join the coalition government. However, no decision was made so far. The central executive committee of the party was likely to meet to discuss the option of joining the provincial government, the source said. "JUI F and BNP Mengal both may join the coalition", the source concluded.

ADB announces \$2.3-2.5bn to support flood relief efforts in Pakistan

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday announced it would provide aid of around \$2.3-2.5 billion for relief operations in the wake of devastating floods that have caused catastrophic damage in Pakistan.

According to a press release issued by the Finance Division, the announcement was made during a meeting between Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and ADB Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye.

During the meeting, Ye congratulated Dar on assuming office and expressed sympathy for the loss of lives and properties due to the floods.

The ADB country director said that \$1.5bn from the announced aid will be allotted to the Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme and the proposal will be put before the bank's board this month.

"He also apprised the meeting of ongoing and future projects of ADB in different sectors including social protection, food security and energy sectors.



"Regarding the Country Partnership Strategy for Pakistan 2021-25, it was shared that this strategy is in line with the vision of the government of Pakistan," the press release reads.

It added that the finance minister welcomed the delegation and appreciated ADB's role and support in promoting sustainable development in the country.

Dar also apprised the delegation of the losses from the flood and their economic impact.

He further stated that the economy faced huge challenges assuring that the government had arrested its decline and set the economy on the right trajectory with its "pragmatic policy decisions".

The finance minister also shared the government's priorities with the ADB delegation. "In the end, the finance minister expressed gratitude to the ADB delegation for their persistent support and assured them of full cooperation by the government for swift execution of the ongoing and future programmes," the press release added. Web Desk

QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

Disturbing scenes of flood affectees in Naseerabad Balochistan

Long queues of flood-affected people in general and women in particular around trucks carrying relief goods pain every sane person. Disturbing scenes of affectees trying to get relief goods have been witnessed in Balochistan's Naseerabad and Jaffarabad districts.

Floods wreaked havoc in 26 districts of Balochistan and especially the Naseerabad division was the worst hit area. Why do crowds suddenly gather around trucks and aid workers carrying relief goods? The answer is simple, the government and donors' supply of relief goods doesn't meet the growing demands in flood-hit areas.

Over half a million homeless in Naseerabad Division

For instance, floods left over half a million people homeless in Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Sohatpur, Jhal Magsi and Kachi. Nevertheless, the United Nations (UN) aid agencies, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and governments provide commodities for a few thousand people.

This has also compounded the problems of local implementing partners engaged in the distribution of relief goods provided by the UN agencies, governments and INGOs. Yes, there has to be a strong mechanism of transparency for the local implementing partners (IPs) when it comes to the distribution of relief items.

This daily continues to receive complaints from flood-hit people in the Naseerabad division about the lack of basic facilities in the makeshift camps. Floods destroyed the homes constructed in decades, schools, health units and swept away roads and affected the communication system.

Balochistan needs a long-term response

The reconstruction process would definitely take more time. The Balochistan government should take the lead in the reconstruction process and the rehabilitation of the affectees. However, the UN agencies and INGOs should also pump more resources since the aid should not be short-term but rather long-term till complete rehabilitation of the affectees.

This process of long queues and humiliation should be ended and the locals of the areas and local organizations should be taken into confidence while framing any reconstruction policy.

To be precise, the international community, UN agencies, and INGOs should not abandon the flood-hit people of Balochistan since they need long-term support.

Climate reparations

By Daniel Willis

A rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future.

That's the sobering assessment made by scientists on the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which earlier this week published its latest report, on the impacts of the climate crisis. In it, the IPCC argues that roughly 3.5 billion people – 45 percent of the world's population – currently live in areas of 'high vulnerability' to climate change, meaning they will be heavily impacted by floods, droughts or extreme weather in the decades to come.

Yet even more striking than the sheer scale of these impacts is their inequality and unfairness. The vast majority of those 3.5 billion people are in 'west-, central- and east Africa, south Asia, Central and South America, small island developing states and the Arctic'. These regions – which have some of the lowest per capita carbon emissions in the world – are now suffering the effects of a crisis that has been driven and exacerbated by the looting of their lands for wealth and natural resources.

Not only are these countries and communities faced with displacement, food shortages,

water insecurity and more, unless there is concerted global action, the report also asserts that many losses are already happening now, and are irreversible. This situation is a result of the failure (or perhaps more accurately, refusal) of rich countries to support the Global South against the climate crisis in UN negotiations. Not only have these 'Annex 1' countries, including the US, UK, Canada, Australia and most of the EU, repeatedly resisted ambitious, binding targets on emissions reductions, they have also repeatedly broken promises on financial assistance.

Last November, at COP26 in Glasgow, the Global South had three key demands on finance: greatly increased climate finance grants; far more funding for climate adaptation; and a new pot of money to compensate for the loss and damage already being suffered by frontline communities. This week's report highlights that, despite a 2009 pledge (at COP15) to commit roughly half of \$100bn a year in climate finance to adaptation, only 4-8 percent of funding has supported projects that help vulnerable communities live with the impacts of the climate crisis (and some of those projects actually increase climate vulnerability). Those communities are

now being sacrificed to the selfishness of rich governments that resist paying for the crisis they have caused every step of the way.

The demand for loss and damage compensation has also been heavily resisted at every previous COP. At COP26, the establishment of a new funding pot was rejected and almost all references were removed in the final agreement, the Glasgow Climate Pact. Campaigners have hailed the promise for further discussions on loss and damage as a small win, and will push hard to make it a key issue at COP27 in Egypt this coming November. Yet, insiders have now raised concerns that there was significant pressure from the Biden administration to remove any mention of loss and damage from the latest IPCC report.

Meanwhile, frontline communities, such as in Sub-Saharan Africa, South East Asia and small island states in the Pacific and Caribbean, continue to lose homes, livelihoods and families to the climate crisis. For example, just before Christmas, while it was dealing with a steep rise in COVID-19 infections, the Philippines was hit by super typhoon Rai (also called Odette), which displaced half a million people and impacted nearly five million in total.

A fragile economy

Pakistan's economy is under extreme pressure to avoid default. Even though the danger of default has somewhat decreased, the economic conditions are still deteriorating. The country's debt burden is at its peak, and the recent devastating floods have multiplied the existing financial problems.

Price hikes have played havoc with the economy, and inflation is nowhere under control. The depreciation of the Pakistani rupee is another issue causing problems. Prospects of substantial investments from foreign countries to support the deteriorating economic conditions are also quite low. Dwindling exports and the rising current account deficit and low foreign exchange reserves have also raised alarm bells. We are to go by the book; otherwise default is imminent.

We are pinning hopes on the return of Ishaq Dar as finance minister, but he is no panacea for the economic ills Pakistan is currently facing. There is an immediate need for a more coherent policy and a long-term strategy to cope with the situation. All previous governments, especially the government of Imran Khan, relied on foreign loans to support the economy. This policy of getting loans to pay back the existing loans is detrimental to our economic health. No one can support it. But the most important question

is: how to change and what to change to put the economy back on track and avoid the threat of economic default?

The problem with the present government is that it has inherited an IMF programme with the toughest conditions. It also has to accept more such conditions to avoid default. The Extended Fund Facility (EFF) of the IMF is not a viable solution to our economic woes. It is a self-contained problem, but the issue with us is that we have no other choice. At least for the time being, we have to go with the IMF programme and comply with the stringent conditions to support our economy.

Another problem with the present political dispensation is that it is a weak coalition government. The ruling coalition is in no mood to go for fresh elections before completing its remaining term possibly because of the rising and unprecedented popularity of Imran Khan. The government has already earned a bad name due to the rising inflation and price hikes partly contributed by the tough conditions attached to the IMF programme. What options does the government have?

First, we need short-, medium- and long-term strategic policies to correct the historical wrongs of totally relying on foreign loans and aid programmes. We need to impose an economic emergency through consensus by taking into

confidence all stakeholders including but not limited to political parties, business owners and other non-political forces. We need to implement a long-term economic strategy, and, if needed, we should pass a constitutional amendment to effectively enforce this strategy. The planning and finance divisions should spearhead this campaign of strategic policy formulation to get rid of foreign loans. The policy should also cover industrial promotion to enhance exports and discourage non-essential imports. Export promotion should be the cornerstone of this new policy.

The second most important thing is to ensure peace and security in the country to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). We must provide an investor-friendly atmosphere to encourage investors to bring their capital in Pakistan. The Board of Investment (BoI) should be strengthened and reinforced with a new dynamic professional management, facilitating both investors and business owners. The BoI needs to act on the policy of investment promotion through simplification of procedures implementing and ensuring ease of doing business in Pakistan. The present BoI setup is incapable of attracting any sort of investment in the country. It needs structural reforms and change in

management to become an effective institution. But the fact is that peace and security is the prime factor to attract investment and businesses. The third important thing is political consensus and stability, which is a must to implement economic policies ensuring security in the country. Political stability through a strong political system will ensure a successful transition to economic stability and robust economic growth to avoid economic default. We need a mature political leadership to avoid imminent default. The government has to initiate steps to convince the opposition to sit on the table to get out of this mess.

The nature of the politics of former prime minister Imran Khan is confrontational, and such behaviour indicates that we are not going to get political stability in Pakistan in the near future. The economy will remain disturbed during such political confrontations. But Pakistan needs relief from political fights to get rid of economic problems. The solution for the current political instability lies in holding fresh elections, but the government is in no mood to go for early elections, and this will remain a cause of hyperbolic economic issues.

The devastating floods in Pakistan have added to the woes of ordinary people. The government is in search of relief for the poor affected by the

floods. The international community has shown a lot of sympathy and support in this time of crisis. Pakistan is also expecting the relaxation of loan repayments and debt servicing. The prime minister of Pakistan is quite active these days to get this relaxation. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is also a dynamic minister, trying hard to get in touch with all stakeholders to get relief for Pakistan's debt rescheduling. The young foreign minister, Bilawal Bhutto, is also making efforts to get relief for the poor affected in floods. There is a lot of hope that Pakistan may get relief in debt repayments by rescheduling outstanding loans from G20 countries and the Paris Club.

The best way to avoid default is to devise proper well-structured consensus-based short-, medium- and long-term strategies. Practical steps should be taken to get the economy back on track. A visionary leadership can help support and gather a political consensus for such a strategy to help Pakistan fight this immediate risk of default. It is believed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has the capability to withstand pressures and the capacity to come out of his political nest to approach Imran Khan for a political consensus on this issue. This is the best way forward to get out of this crisis.

Balochistan floods: The tale of pain and destruction

QUETTA: (APP): By Abdul Shakoor Khan



Technical staff engaged in clearing of the highway in Bolan Balochistan: Photo taken from social media

Balochistan faced the brunt of floods

Balochistan province, having the title of almost half of Pakistan had badly suffered from the eight monsoon spells, overwhelming in magnitude and severity. It swept away the kith and kin of the survivors, their cattle, houses and crops.

"It was unprecedented. We had never even

thought of such a disaster," said 70 years old Abdul Ali, a resident of the Pashtoonabad area in Quetta. "I spent my life here. We came across many calamities. But, it was disastrous."

He appealed to the federal and provincial governments for early relief as hundreds of thousands of people were forced to stay under the open sky direly needing food and shelter.

Director General Provincial Disaster Management Authority



Naseer Ahmed Nasar stated that non-stop heavy downpours, uncontrolled waves of water and gushing hill torrents had so far claimed around 250 lives with thousands injured and displaced.

Agriculture sector destroyed

The catastrophe left some 6178 houses damaged, 145936 livestock dead and about 190 thousand acres of agriculture land badly affected.

"The loss only incurred to the agriculture sector

with international support. That raises a compelling question on Pakistan's ability to mobilize resources domestically to overcome future risks to the country's stability. With millions of rural dwellers deprived of their belongings of a lifetime, there is a fast growing sense of deprivation across the flood-hit regions. That danger is set to become far more acute if the victims are left unattended and forced in large numbers to head towards urban centers in search of a living, no matter how meagre. Caught in a race

against time, Pakistan must immediately take urgent steps to mobilize its own resources combining the best abilities of the state along with the civil society and the large community of non profit organizations. Going forward, Pakistan's success in overcoming two inter related challenges will define the fate of its relief and rehabilitation plans.

First, Pakistan must immediately appoint a powerful focal person to coordinate the assistance already promised by donors from within and outside the country. In recent years, Pakistan has witnessed periodic criticism under successive governments over its failure during periods of calamities to improve coordination between different layers of government. Consequently, gaps have been highlighted such as cases of too much aid flowing to one geographical area while other deserving regions getting left behind. The need to appoint a focal person is not just for meeting the immediate challenge following the devastating floods this year. This must be considered for the longer term to facilitate philanthropy without reference to a specific calamity.

Razaq, a government official in Quetta said.

It is yet another dilemma that most parts of the province are without gas, electricity, internet and

cellular services. Rain and floods have damaged two out of the total three fiber optical cables, 24-inch wide gas main pipeline and 132 KV Quetta-Sibi and 220 Dadu-Khuzdar electricity towers rendering people helpless.

Bizenjo says floods incurred losses of Rs.200bs

"Heavy downpour and floods have incurred losses of over Rs 200 billion to the province," Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Qudus Bizenjo said. "The volume of calamity is colossal and we do not have enough resources to fight it, compensate the affected population and restore the damaged infrastructure."

"It may take years for the provincial government to repair and rehabilitate the damaged infrastructure," he told media recently. "We are in dire need of help to relieve our people from this calamity," he said urging international financial institutions, donors and humanitarian organizations to lend a hand with the federal and provincial governments in relief operations for the calamity-stricken people.

Bizenjo acclaimed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's personal endeavors for speedy relief, as well as the announcement of compensation for the affected families as the Prime Minister and Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa personally, visited the affected areas to share the grief of affected people. "The compensation and relief announced for the Balochistan people are welcoming. It will mitigate the suffering of the people and help carry on relief operation," he said.

Though the monsoon spells are over, the misery and plight are not yet. Calamity-stricken people need immediate relief and rehabilitation of infrastructure thereon to bring normalcy to their lives. Let us all join hands in this hour of need.

Focus on philanthropy?

By Farhan Bokhari

Yesterday's appeal from the United Nations seeking \$800 million to help Pakistan tackle the catastrophe caused by devastating floods this summer falls far short of the financial gap suddenly heaped upon the country.

Pakistan's disaster coincides tragically with a global economic downturn, pressing the once relatively generous international community to first focus on its own needs at home. In other words, the global community appears to be fatigued even before the UN and others stepped forward on Pakistan's behalf.

Meanwhile, the global diplomatic spotlight remains primarily focused on themes far away from Pakistan such as the US-led Western confrontation with China or the crisis in the heart of Europe following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Though floods in Pakistan have grabbed some global headlines, more tangible and timely action to help meet the needs is waiting to come. The expected cost of around \$30 billion or more for Pakistan's flood related losses is nowhere even close to being met

with international support.

That raises a compelling question on Pakistan's ability to mobilize resources domestically to overcome future risks to the country's stability. With millions of rural dwellers deprived of their belongings of a lifetime, there is a fast growing sense of deprivation across the flood-hit regions. That danger is set to become far more acute if the victims are left unattended and forced in large numbers to head towards urban centers in search of a living, no matter how meagre. Caught in a race

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Understanding the music

By Menin Rodrigues

The article below was written three years ago in response to the various versions of the anthem posted on social media by anyone who could sing, play an instrument, or make a video!

In my humble opinion, based on the anthem's origin, facts and circumstances, the original version will be a 'forever version' when played instrumentally or sung vocally. Video versions will be novel presentations where a screen or digital platform is available for public viewing.

Every year when Pakistan's Independence Day draws near, we get emotional, and rightly so, about our 'one and only' national anthem and, in our enthusiasm, create our versions of the sacred song to stake a claim in its hallowed history and bask in its glory.

Usually, it is the ever-energetic youth of our country, popular crooners, bands, instrumentalists, recording artists, digital experts and special-event planners who, out of exuberance, introduce multiple variations of the anthem to the delight of their 'live and virtual' audiences. It is a credit to their talent and patriotism that these warped versions – sung or played – are indeed beautiful. So, here is my point, qualified and quantified: This day, August 14, 2019, the 72nd Independence Day of Pakistan, I came across numerous versions of the anthem on social

media, as well as animated versions presented at special events, and thought it was necessary to throw light on some technical aspects and appropriate facts.

All variations of our national anthem are beautiful, but the original musically composed version can only be played instrumentally by a full component of a brass band when a variety of reed and blowing instruments, each playing its dedicated part, come together in a symphony to proclaim the masterful arrangement of the notator.

Therefore, it sounds musically correct when a military brass band of any country (and they don't need to know the tune) reads the notated music on the sheets, and plays the parts as arranged by a skilful composer of orchestrated music. Recently, I heard the military bands of the US, Malaysia, and Turkey, play our national anthem correctly; neither did they know the words or the tune but played what was musically notated. The music (complementing the composed tune) of our national anthem has been notated, separately, for each instrument of a brass band. When it is played together and ably conducted by a music director in the know-how of orchestral compositions, it harmonizes into a symphony that musically heralds our anthem. This is how it was composed and notated in 1949 and supposed to have been played, officially and for all time's sake.

Countries don't change

Understanding the music

By Menin Rodrigues

'the music' of anthems to suit their fantasy. Some adjustment in lyrics is possible; it is because the words and music of the anthem are sacred to the sovereignty of the land.

The instruments in a brass band ensemble of 50 musicians or more, include, trombone (2 or 4), trumpet (up to 12), cornet (up to 4), B-flat clarinet (6-8), E-flat clarinet (2-4), alto-saxophone (2-4), tenor-saxophone (2), French-horn (2), side-drums (up to 12), bass-drum (one) euphonium (2) and the tuba (one). Even the 'triangle' and the 'cymbal' must know when to strike. If you take away a notated part of any one instrument, there is no anthem, just a tune which anyone can strum, blow, serenade, hum, or whistle. I played the tuba in a brass band and was responsible for its own notated part of the anthem. Therefore, I can say it confidently, in as much as anyone in a brass band who plays the same instrument would vouch, that if the tuba's part is 'not played' – there is no anthem. Whenever our anthem is played by a brass band, I can literally hear the part of my instrument supporting the harmony and when required, leading the crescendo, like the trumpets which I am sure, everyone can hear.

Then, my friends, is the background of the music of the national anthem of Pakistan. I hope the real value and nuances of the music is understood in the right context and appropriately respected.

Therefore, it sounds musically correct when a military brass band of any country (and they don't need to know the tune) reads the notated music on the sheets, and plays the parts as arranged by a skilful composer of orchestrated music. Recently, I heard the military bands of the US, Malaysia, and Turkey, play our national anthem correctly; neither did they know the words or the tune but played what was musically notated. The music (complementing the composed tune) of our national anthem has been notated, separately, for each instrument of a brass band. When it is played together and ably conducted by a music director in the know-how of orchestral compositions, it harmonizes into a symphony that musically heralds our anthem. This is how it was composed and notated in 1949 and supposed to have been played, officially and for all time's sake.

Countries don't change

Pakistan can repay half of its foreign debt through gold

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Muzammil Aslam has claimed that Pakistan can repay half of its foreign debt if it sells the gold held and jewellers' gold. The PTI leader took to Twitter to present his solution to half of our foreign debt, Muzammil Aslam wrote, "Pakistan can repay half of its foreign debt through gold."

With 5 gram average of 600 tons. With a 1 gram average of 120 tons. "Which number do you pick?", he added. Muzammil said that there are about 40,000 jeweller shops operating in the country. If each shop holds 1 kg gold then it is estimated to have 40 tons of gold posses by Goldsmiths. The PTI added that if one ton of the precious metal costs \$58mn. Then each 100-ton worth is \$5.8bn. Assuming we have 1200 tons, then the

value is \$69.6bn, 600 tons then \$34.8 if 120 tons the \$6.96. Goldsmith alone holds 40 tons which is \$2.32bn. Pakistan can repay half of its foreign debt through gold. The precious metal rates in Pakistan on Tuesday moved up despite the appreciation of the rupee against the US dollar. According to the All-Pakistan Jewellers Manufacturers Association, the price surged by Rs2,150 per tola to settle at Rs148,450. INP

Tea plantation to help Pakistan reduce import bill: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can reduce its import bill by exploiting its great potential for growing tea on a large scale, WealthPK reports. Tea is one of the most important high-value cash crops. Despite its low cost, tea is the most popular beverage in Pakistan. The country has great potential for tea plantation on a large scale. Abdul Waheed, Director of National Tea and High-Value Crops Research Institute Shinkari, told WealthPK that the current rate of population growth showed that demand for tea would continue to increase over time, putting a strain on limited foreign exchange resources. He said that Pakistan's total import bill for tea in the fiscal year 2022 was more than \$590 million. According to a recently-conducted survey, there is a huge potential for tea cultivation in Pakistan. It says that 158,000 acres of land in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 4,000 acres in Azad Jammu and Kashmir are suitable for tea planta-

tion, which can not only meet the local demand but can be also exported to other countries. Abdul Waheed said that more than 15 tonnes of locally produced and processed green tea was exported to Japan during the last three to four years. "Tea plants can be raised both from seed and cuttings. In Tea World, tea has initially been raised through seeds because of the economic ease with which its plantation is expanded," said the director of the research centre. Many countries like China, India, and Sri Lanka, the world-known tea producers for centuries, still raise more than 75% of tea through seeds. Due to high population pressure coupled with the low economic condition, Pakistan presently needs to grow tea. The country also needs to increase the yield of all agricultural commodities. "Historically speaking, nations of the world have always gained self-sufficiency in quantities first before becoming quality conscious. Thus, tea quantity in the short-

est possible time can be economically obtained from tea seeds and not from cuttings," Abdul Waheed told WealthPK. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, tea is one of the most important cash crops and plays a significant role in rural development, poverty reduction and food security in exporting and developing countries. It is a principal source of livelihood for millions of people. "Tea plants can be raised both from seed and cuttings. In Tea World, tea has initially been raised through seeds because of the economic ease with which its plantation is expanded," said the director of the research centre. Many countries like China, India, and Sri Lanka, the world-known tea producers for centuries, still raise more than 75% of tea through seeds. Due to high population pressure coupled with the low economic condition, Pakistan presently needs to grow tea. The country also needs to increase the yield of all agricultural commodities. INP



ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader in the Senate Dr Shahzad Waseem presenting a letter written by PTI Chief Imran Khan for Chinese President Xi Jinping to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong.

SC wonders whether it could order re-enactment of law after its repeal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday said what it could do when the parliament itself had done away with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law. During the hearing of former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan's petition against amendments introduced by the coalition government in the NAB law, the SC wondered whether it had ever ordered re-enactment of the law after it was repealed by the parliament. A three-member bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial, heard PTI chairman's petition. Counsel for the NAB, on the occasion, submitted to the court in writing the statement in which the bureau said that it was in complete harmony

with the attorney general of Pakistan's stance on the case. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked that Imran could have raised his voice against these amendments in the National Assembly (NA) since masses had also returned him and other members of PTI to the NA. "Why did Imran and other party members of the NA resigned from their seats without taking their electorate into confidence?" he questioned, and added it would have been better if he had raised his voice from the floor of the House. Khawaja Haris, Imran's lawyer, replied that the PTI's decision that its lawmakers would resign from their seats en masse was a political one. He reminded the apex court that it had declared in its previous decisions that corruption was like a 'cancer' for the country. "How sad it is that

instead of further improving the NAB law, the present government preferred to weaken it," he regretted. Imran's lawyer also reminded the SC that, in one of its decisions, it had ordered re-enactment of the law which had been repealed in 1990. Justice Ijazul Ahsan remarked that parliament was not above the laws of Shariah as well as the constitution. "Accountability is the basic tenet of Islam," he said. Khawaja Haris told the court that as per the changes, the principle of 'plea bargain' had been done away with. "Now a suspect, taking advantage of amendments in the NAB law, can also ask for the return of the amount he or she has deposited after striking a plea bargain deal," he disclosed. CJP said if that happened, the state would have to pay billions of rupees. INP

World Teachers' Day observed

LAHORE: The World Teachers' Day was observed Wednesday across the globe aimed at expressing gratitude for the contributions of teachers. The theme for World Teachers' Day 2022 was "The change of education begins with teachers". The Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi while saluting all the teachers with respect for their efforts and contributions in society, said that teachers rekindle our minds, and help us become a better person. My teachers have played a huge role in where I am today. He said that "Mentorship, friendship, endless support and kindness, these are the words I associate with teachers." Chief Minister Punjab further added that teachers are the benefactors of the nation and our pride. Today, we have to reiterate our commitment that honor and respect for the teacher will be ensured in every case. INP

National Assembly session called on Friday

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly (NA) session has been convened on Friday October 7, 2022. According to details, the session, which has been convened under section 1 of the Article 54, will start at 10.30 in the morning at the Parliament House building. INP

Toxic gas kills four workers in Nawabshah pickle factory basement

NAWABSHAH: Four workers of a factory died by inhaling toxic gas while going downstairs to the basement of the premises on Wednesday. Two sons and a father were among four victims died by the lethal gas in the incident at a pickle factory in Hashim Town area of Nawabshah, police said. The victims named Nasir, his two sons Danish and Salman and another factory worker Qasim, according to police. According to eyewitness account, the workers gone to the downstairs in the basement one after another for helping their colleagues in distress. The workers lost their senses one after another, as the cellar was filled with hazardous gas, which killed them in the tragic incident. INP

Section 144 violation case: Murad Saeed gets bail extension till Oct 12

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Wednesday granted interim bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Murad Saeed in a case pertaining to the violation of Section 144 in the federal capital during the party's rally on August 20. According to details, Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal of the district court in Islamabad heard the application filed by Murad Saeed for an extension in interim bail. After hearing the arguments, the sessions judge extended the PTI leader's interim bail till October

12 and also issued notice to the police. On September 30, an additional district and sessions court in Islamabad granted bail to former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in the Section 144 violation case. During the hearing, Imran Khan's counsel said that the case was registered only on a revenge basis. To which, the judge said that the prosecution has to present evidence to seek any against the former prime minister. After hearing the arguments, Additional Sessions Judge Zafar

Iqbal granted bail to PTI Chairman Imran Khan. "Violating Section 144" The Islamabad police had filed a case against PTI chief Imran Khan and other party leaders for violating Section 144 during their rally in Islamabad held last month. According to the first information report (FIR), the police had made announcements through loudspeakers that Section 144 was imposed in the city, however, the rally had continued. The party leaders had participated in the rally to protest PTI. INP

Interviews for NBP president halted: Sources

ISLAMABAD: The interviews of shortlisted candidates for President National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) were halted as the government failed to appoint bank's head on Wednesday, sources said. According to details, the federal government has failed to appoint the NBP president despite shortlisting 10 candidates in August 2022. The candidates were shortlisted by former finance minister Miftah Ismail, who stepped down on September 25. Sources further said that the federal government will shortlist new candidates for the appointment of NBP president. The ruling coalition failed to agree on the previous 10 shortlisted candidates, they added. A permanent head for the National Bank could not be appointed since February 2022. The appointment of National Bank Board Chairman has also been stalled since April, informed sources claimed. Earlier in August, it was reported that the federal government delayed appointment of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) president following differences among the coalition government. INP



RAWALPINDI: Activists of Punjab Teachers Union shouting slogans during a protest rally in favor of their demands outside Press Club in the city.

India denies permission to Janata Dal leader for travel to Pakistan

NEW DELHI: India's Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and Rajya Sabha MP Manoj K Jha has said that he has been denied "political clearance" by the Ministry of External Affairs to travel to Pakistan to attend a conference later this month on 'Crisis of Constitutionalism in South Asia' organised by the Asma Jahangir Foundation. Jha was invited by the Asma Jahangir Foundation, the Pakistan Bar Council, the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan and AGHS Legal Aid Cell to attend the fourth Asma Jahangir Conference as a guest speaker for the closing session themed 'The Role of Political Parties in Upholding Democratic Rights' on October 23. Speaking to The Indian Express, Jha said he received a letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs Monday giving approval to his online application for prior permission under Section 6 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 to accept foreign hospitality during his visit to Lahore for the two-day conference. However, he said the Ministry of External Affairs rejected his application for "political clearance" without assigning any reason. The Indian Express reached out to MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi but he did not respond. INP

Pakistan records uptick in coronavirus infections

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported an uptick in coronavirus infections a day after reporting lowest cases in many months. Pakistan on Tuesday reported just 16 Covid-19 infections reflecting the pandemic is taking last breaths in the country. The statistics of the National Institute of Health (NIH) which were released on Wednesday morning showed that Pakistan has recorded 57 coronavirus infections and one fatality during the last 24 hours (Tuesday). The death toll in the country climbed up to 30,620 while the number of total infections now stood at 1,572,835 after adding the fresh 57 cases. During the last 24 hours (Tuesday), 13,021 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio nearly doubled to 0.44 percent to previous day's 0.23 percent. The number of patients in critical care was recorded at 46. New Zealand could face another Covid-19 wave According to Xinhua news agency, New Zealand could be hit by another Covid-19 wave before the end of the year, a COVID-19 modeler warned. Prof Michael Plank of the University of Canterbury called on Kiwis to get boosted if they haven't been, according to a report in the New Zealand Herald. COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have been increasing in European countries such as Germany, Denmark, Belgium and Britain, Plank said, citing this as an example of another imminent pandemic wave. Factors such as waning immunity and new Omicron sub-variants BQ.1.1, a BA.5 descendant, and another sub-type, BA.2.75.2, have been combined to contribute to the forming of another wave in the future, he said. "So whatever happens in the Northern Hemisphere, I'd expect something similar to happen here — maybe in a matter of weeks," said Plank, quoted by the New Zealand Herald. He noted that many New Zealanders were no longer masking up and the border already opened up last month. New Zealand recorded 9,975 new community cases of COVID-19 and 33 more deaths from the pandemic last week, the Ministry of Health said on Monday. On average, new cases per day reached 1,422 over the last week. The country has seen the number of daily cases going down steadily from over 10,000 cases nationwide in early July. INP



FAISALABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Investigation Captain Retired Muhammad Ajmal addressing a press conference at Police Line in the city.

High costs, complex procedures hinder fixed broadband development: WealthPk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan lacks a business model for inter-sectoral infrastructure sharing for deployment of fiber-optic cable, forcing each telecom company to build its own network and bear all the costs of getting approvals and construction, thus lowering the efficiency and increasing the costs of fiber-optic cable construction, reports WealthPK. According to a report by the China Academy of Information Technology (CAICT), currently, the high costs and complex approval procedures have affected the telcos' will to roll out fiber-optic cable and therefore hindered the fixed broadband (FBB) development in Pakistan

in the long run. "This could be attractive to incumbent telcos that want to provide a more universal service. For alternative telcos, deploying Fiber to the Home (FTTH) based power networks may provide access to better products and more attractive pricing. It can also stimulate competition in a way that benefits the policymakers," the report says. The Pakistan government seeks to promote IT infrastructure sharing. As per Telecom Policy 2015, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) is to develop the necessary regulatory instrument to encourage, facilitate and standardize infrastructure sharing in consultation

with the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) and stakeholders. To that effect, the PTA is developing infrastructure sharing guidelines based on the principles of neutrality, non-discrimination and equal access. The guidelines will provide a mechanism for licensees and other stakeholders to share their telecom and other infrastructure facilities that would include space, electrical power, air conditioning, security, cable ducts, space on antenna and towers, etc. The report says the FTTH in Pakistan mainly covers densely populated areas such as Karachi and Lahore. Its construction pace. INP

Minister rules out any violation of IMF agreement

ISLAMABAD: Hours after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) insisted on sticking to policy commitments made by Pakistan, a top government official has said that the country had not breached the agreement with the Fund, saying "any shortfall in petroleum levy will be adjusted in coming months". According to a media report, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghous Pasha gave the statement on the floor of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance. The committee dis-

cussed the burning issue of currency manipulation by certain banks and whether the State Bank of Pakistan had taken any action to correct the course. However, neither the central bank nor the Ministry of Finance gave a satisfactory reply about the action taken against the banks. Earlier, a foreign media quoted the IMF's country representative Esther Perez as saying that there were no changes in the conditions agreed between Pakistan and the fund. "Policy commitments made by the Pakistani authorities as part of the

seventh and eighth reviews under their IMF-support programme continue to apply," she told Reuters. She said policy discussions, including how to target support to those affected by the floods while maintaining macro-economic stability, will commence in the coming weeks after the damage assessment report becomes available. The IMF official made the comments in response to a question if the recent reduction in fuel prices had been discussed with the lender. The international lender's statement came

after Finance Minister Ishaq Dar reduced the prices of all petroleum products for the next fortnight by around five per cent — reversing a policy of raising prices monthly through added levies to ensure enhanced revenues as agreed with the IMF. Dar reduced the levy to Rs32.42 on petrol but increased the rate to 12.58 per litre on diesel. Cumulatively, the rate on the two products should have been Rs55 per litre against the current Rs45 per litre rate. "We have not violated the agreement with the IMF," the state minister said and added, "We still have

time till December to recover any shortfall against the petroleum levy target." She was responding to a question by MNA Dr Ramesh Kumar who raised the issue of a statement given by former finance minister Miftah Ismail who termed Dar's move "reckless", saying it may carry adverse implications for the IMF programme. Dr Pasha said lower rates can be adjusted till December this year. Finance Secretary Hamid Yaqoob Sheikh revealed that the government collected only Rs22 billion on account of petroleum. INP



FAISALABAD: A leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) addressing a press conference in the city.

Imran should have raised concerns against NAB amendments in parliament instead of SC, observes Justice Shah

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah of the Supreme Court said on Wednesday that former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan should have approached the parliament regarding his reservations against recent amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) ordinance instead of bringing the matter to the apex court.

Justice Shah is a part of the three-member Supreme Court bench — also comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and Justice Ijazul Ahsan — that took up Imran's plea, which claims the new NAB laws are a "violation of fundamental rights".

During the hearing today, Justice Shah said that the public had trusted Imran by electing him a member of the National Assembly. "Why did he leave the assembly without the wish of the people of his constituency?" he inquired, adding that the PTI chief could have raised his objections against the NAB ordinance in the parliament as well.

At the outset of the hearing today, Imran's lawyer Khwaja Haris presented his arguments before the bench, claiming that the new amendments had rendered the accountability law "ineffective".

"In the past, the Supreme Court had declared corruption cancer for the country," he recalled. "Public officeholders were never given exemption in any accountability laws that were made."

"And the law for them [public officeholders] has been the same since 1949," Imran's counsel argued, adding that holding a public office was a "sacred responsibility".

At this, Justice Shah said that the court could not do anything if the parliament had abolished a law. "Has

the court ever restored a repealed law before?"

Haris replied that in 1990, the court had restored a repealed law. At one point during the hearing, CJP Bandial remarked that the parliament was only submissive towards the Constitution and sharia.

Justice Ahsan concurred and said that accountability was a fundamental principle of Islam. Continuing his arguments, Haris said that important changes had been made to the accountability laws regarding plea bargains. "Those who do not pay instalments of the plea bargain have been facilitated [under the new law]."

The lawyer contended that earlier, action was taken against those who failed to pay the plea bargains. "After the amendment, the plea bargain of the non-payer will expire," he said, adding that if the corruption case was regarding an amount of less than Rs50 million, the charges against the accused would be automatically removed.

"Under the amendment, the accused can claim the amount of plea bargain deposited after being acquitted," he pointed out. "A person who has paid the full plea bargain amount can also ask for the money deposited."

Here, Justice Bandial observed that this way the state would have to pay billions of rupees. Justice Shah also wondered if taking money from the accused under pressure was correct. To this, Haris replied that the plea bargain was only approved by the accountability court.

In his petition, Imran Khan had claimed that the amendments to the NAB law were made to benefit the influential accused persons and legitimise corruption. Web Desk



LAHORE: A teacher of United social welfare society teaching her disable student on the eve of World Teachers' Day at a bricks kiln in the outskirts of Provincial Capital.

APTMA announces nationwide closure of textile mills from Saturday

FAISALABAD: All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) has decided to shut down textile mills across the country on Wednesday.

"The textile mills of the country will also be shut down from Saturday, 1,600 textile mills have already been closed down," the APTMA said.

"Five million employees will lose their jobs and 30 million people will be affected due to the closure of textile industries," it added.

"The government has withdrawn competitive power rates for textile industry. The closure of textile industry will deal a heavy blow to the domestic exports," it stated.

"Increasing exports is very important and the only way-out for the economy of the country. The government must provide electricity and gas at competitive rates to textile industry. It should also ensure continuous power and gas supply to textile industry," it demanded. INP

Flood victims in Sindh continue to fall prey to infectious diseases

HYDERABAD: Now when it has been close to a month that it has not rained anywhere in Sindh, infectious diseases are on the rise in the flood-affected areas of the province as 187 cases of skin diseases and 127 of diarrhea were reported only from the relief camps set up in Hyderabad during the last 24 hours on Wednesday.

The health department said seven cases of eye infection and 94 suspected cases of malaria were also reported during the aforementioned period. "As many as 306 people were diagnosed with different diseases in these camps," it disclosed, adding of these, 237 experienced breathing problems. INP

Earthquake jolts felt in Gilgit Baltistan

GILGIT: Earthquake tremors of magnitude 3.3 jolted Gilgit Baltistan and adjoining areas on Wednesday.

According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC), the epicentre of the earthquake was 11 kilometres northwest of Gilgit. The depth of the earthquake was 29 km, and its magnitude was 3.3 on the Richter scale.

No casualties have been reported due to the earthquake as of now. On September 29, earthquake tremors of magnitude 3 jolted Chitral and adjoining areas.

According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC), the epicentre of the tremors was 45 kilometres north of Chitral. The depth of the quake was 33 km, and its magnitude was 3 on the Richter scale.

In another similar incident on September 27, earthquake tremors of 2.9 intensity jolted multiple areas of Azad Kashmir including Mirpur.

According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC), the epicentre of the earthquake was 9 km northeast of Jund. The depth of the earthquake was 35 km and its magnitude on the Richter scale was 2.9. INP

Karachi: Two Rangers personnel injured in firing

KARACHI: Two personnel of the Sindh Rangers were injured in firing by unidentified assailants near Karachi's Manzil Pump on Wednesday.

According to details, the incident took place near Kohi Goth Nadi when four unidentified assailants opened fire on Rangers personnel and escaped.

The injured personnel were shifted to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) while the law enforcement agencies reached the spot and cordoned off the area.

Taking to media, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Malir Irfan Bahadur noted that the Rangers personnel were performing their duty when they signalled four people riding a motorcycle to stop. INP

Armed forces continue rescue, relief operations in flood-affected areas

RAWALPINDI: Armed forces including Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force continue carrying out relief and rescue operations in flood-affected areas of the country.

Pakistan Navy's four flood relief centres and 18 central collection points have been established and distributed over 2063 tonnes of food, 7479 tents, and 7,40,318 litres of mineral water among flood-affected people.

According to the National Flood Relief Coordination Centre (NFRCC) at least 31,529 people have taken refuge in 22 Navy camps. At least 15,568 people have been rescued by 23 emergency response teams of the Pakistan Navy, the NFRCC told.

The Emergency Response teams of the Pakistan Navy have 54 motorized boats, and 2 hover crafts, while two helicopters are assigned to rescue people in Sindh.

The NFRCC told that a total of

479 people have been rescued via 70 flights of the Navy helicopter while 5333 ration bags were also distributed using it.

Pakistan Navy also established 100 medical camps which have treated over 1,19,615 patients so far, the NFRCC told.

A total of 147 relief camps, over 300 medical camps, and 157 relief collection points have been established across the country, NFRCC said. Over 11,36,643 people have been treated in the medical camps so far, and patients are being provided 5-day medicine, it added.

The NFRCC reported that over-collection points have received over 9981.7 tonnes of food items while 1775.9 tonnes of food items have been distributed in the country. In total 11.41 million medicine were collected while 11.40 million have been distributed among flood-affected people in the county, it added. INP

Karachi: Another 264 dengue cases reported in 24 hours

KARACHI: Dengue fever has gripped Karachi following the heavy rains this monsoon season as another 264 cases were reported in the city during the past 24 hours on Wednesday. According to details, as many as 264 cases of dengue virus were reported in Karachi, taking the total number of cases in October to 760. Data released by the Sindh health department showed that so far, almost 9,240 dengue cases were reported across the country this year.

Meanwhile, the viral disease has claimed 38 lives in the province, out of which 36 deaths occurred in Karachi. On September 30, the local administration launched an Islamabad-like anti-dengue campaign as the cases of dengue virus were spreading rapidly across Karachi. According to

details, medical teams from Islamabad and Lahore started giving training to doctors and other staff of the provincial health department. The anti-dengue campaign was first launched in District East — the most affected by the virus.

District Health Officer (DHO) East Dr Naeem Sikandar has informed that anti-dengue spraying was conducted in the houses of patients and 20 surrounding residential facilities to eliminate the virus.

Dr Naeem Sikandar further said that the administration was mapping the areas from where the cases are being reported.

"So far, over 1800 cases of dengue have been reported in the district east," the DHO said, adding that almost ten patients have succumbed to the virus. INP

Sukkur: SHC expresses dissatisfaction over facilities in tent cities

SUKKUR: Sindh High Court (SHC) circuit bench on Wednesday expressed dissatisfaction over facilities in tent cities for flood victims.

A division bench, comprised of Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput and Justice Shamsuddin Abbasi, heard petitions with regard to floodwater drainage and providing relief to affected people.

Deputy Commissioner Khairpur and officers of revenue, irrigation departments, SCARP and PDMA appeared in the case hearing.

"In Gambat's tent city a medical camp was established but the staff is unavailable," the court said while expressing dissatisfaction over facilities in tent cities.

"The photos submitted, are of a medical camp in a house, when people are living in tents, why the doctors not sitting there," Justice Zafar Rajput

remarked.

The bench resented over mis-reporting to the court about the medical camp and ordered suspension of the Assistant Commissioner and Mukhtiar Gambat. The court also suspended the District Health Officer (DHO) Khairpur over failing to provide medical facilities.

The bench also ordered inquiry against the AC and Mukhtiar Gambat. The high court bench directed Secretary Health to initiate an inquiry against DHO Khairpur.

DHO Khairpur, AC and Mukhtiar Gambat tendered apology to the court. The bench granted the apology and withdrawn suspension orders of the officers.

"Earlier, people were dying by water and now they will die by diseases," Justice Rajput remarked. INP

Pakistan needs JVs to boost aviation sector: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needs joint ventures (JVs) in the aviation sector, as these have become increasingly common and proven successful worldwide, reports WealthPK.

The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), regarded as the large 'sleeping giant' of Pakistan's aviation sector, needs joint ventures to operate on professional lines and come out of the list of top 10 loss-making state-owned enterprises (SOEs), said a research economist from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

The JVs can contribute significantly towards improving the quality of human capital, knowledge transfer, and development of local talent, bringing international expertise, experience and training standards into the local market, Saddam Hussein said.

According to WealthPK research, in a typical joint venture, the parent company holds minority shares, while the local owners hold the majority stake, thus combining local knowledge with world-class aviation expertise. It is common for almost all countries in the world to follow the same foreign direct investment (FDI) policy in aviation, allowing up to 49% foreign ownership.

The National Aviation Policy 2019 of Pakistan states that to promote the participation of Pakistani nationals in the aviation sector, the airlines will be encouraged to be owned by Pakistani citizens.

The foreign equity partnership in domestic commercial air transport carriers shall not exceed 49 percent or to the extent where controlling interest remains in the local hands. At the same time, Pakistani nationals will be encouraged to invest in the aircraft manufacturing industry. However, the

FDI and JV will also be permitted and encouraged.

In March this year, Air Arabia and Lakson Group JV revealed their brand identity as 'FJ' (Fly Jinnah) incorporated in Pakistan as a company owned primarily by Pakistani citizens that sponsors one of Pakistan's most diversified and leading companies. It was established to create new jobs and support the core sectors such as tourism and hospitality and also contribute to the growth of the economy.

Chief of Asia-Pacific & Africa Investments at Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) Sheikh Faisal Bin Thani Al Thani has also shown keen interest in investment in different sectors of Pakistan, especially in the airport infrastructure and energy sectors.

Many factors have contributed positively to Pakistan's aviation sector, including the high proportion of young people (63 percent of the total population) the growing middle class, the GDP growth of 5.97 percent in the fiscal year 2021-22, and the government's increasing awareness of the importance of aviation to the country.

While there are still bottlenecks, the ease of doing business in the country has improved in recent years. Looking at the current macro-environment of Pakistan's aviation sector, structural reforms and economic policy adjustments are necessary to uplift the sector.

The Qatar Investment Authority has also expressed keen interest in the aviation sector due to the country's investment climate. Moreover, the recent joint venture between Air Arabia and the conglomerate Lakson Group is paving the way for a better and more sustainable future for the country's aviation industry. INP

NTDC slapped with another Rs10 million fine

ISLAMABAD: Hardly a day had passed since the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) had imposed fine to the tune of Rs10 million on the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC), the latter again invited the wrath of the Authority on Wednesday when it was again fined Rs10 million for failing to restore the power supply in some parts of the country on time after some of the electricity towers were uprooted due to strong winds.

According to the statement issued by the NEPRA, two towers of 500 KV of Dadu-Jamshoro transmission line and six towers of Port Qasim-Mataryari line in Sindh had been uprooted due to strong winds in May 2022 following which 1,320 megawatts of electricity had exited from the system, which had resulted in a partial power breakdown in the country.

The statement said that it took the NTDC 10 days to restore power supply in the areas where there was a blackout, prompting the NEPRA to initiate an inquiry into such an inordinate delay. "And it was after the inquiry was over that the Authority first issued a show-cause notice to the NTDC, and when the latter did not respond to the notice on time, the NEPRA slapped fine on it," read the statement. INP

PM Shehbaz inquires after Zardari's health in phone call to Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday called up PPP Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and inquired from him about his father former president Asif Ali Zardari's health.

In a tweet uploaded on Wednesday, the prime minister said he also conveyed his prayers and best wishes for early recovery and complete health of PPP Co-Chairman Asif Zardari. INP

PTI MNAs approach IHC over acceptance of resignations

ISLAMABAD: In the latest political move, PTI approached on Wednesday the Islamabad High Court (IHC) through a petition filed for the approval of the resignations tendered by the party law makers following Imran Khan's ouster as prime minister.

All the PTI MNAs resigned en masse on April 11, two days after PTI Chairman Imran Khan was ousted as the prime minister through a no-confidence motion moved by the opposition. Former deputy speaker Qasim Suri — who was performing his duties as acting NA speaker after Asad Qaiser resignation — had accepted all the resignations on April 15.

However, once Raja Pervez Ashraf was elected as the speaker, he decided to verify the resignations by interviewing lawmakers individually.

Later, the resignations of PTI mem-

bers were de-sealed and Raja accepted 11 of them.

The joint petition, filed by 10 out of the 11 lawmakers, states that the NA speaker "unlawfully" declared them as having resigned, which led to the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) notification to de-seat them.

The petitioners requested the court to direct the NA speaker to summon "112 MNAs" and petitioners for an inquiry whether the resignations were "voluntary and genuine", and fulfilled the criteria laid out under Article 64 of the constitution.

The party appealed to the court to declare the speaker and ECP's order on their seats "illegal", issued "without lawful authority and of no legal effect. They also stated that the orders were in violation of the Constitution and the law settled by the Supreme Court. INP



Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presided over a meeting on gas supply during winter, at Finance Division.

Two brothers murdered for honour in Talagang

TALAGANG: Two brothers were killed in the name of honour in Talagang on Wednesday.

According to initial reports, the incident of double honour killings happened in Phatar area in the jurisdiction of Tamman police in which two brothers — Sajid Shah and Mehboob Shah — were killed by firing in the name of honour while two others — Amir Shah and Zulquernain Shah — were seriously injured in the incident.

Upon receiving information, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Talagang Mazhar Ahmad Gondal and Station House Officer (SHO) of police station Tamman Tariq Mehmood along with a heavy contingent reached the spot and cordoned off the area.

The aforementioned team was formed on the instructions of District Police Officer Chakwal Kamran Nawaz Panjtoha.

The dead bodies were taken into custody by the police which sent them to Tehsil Headquarters (THQ)

Hospital Talagang for post-mortem while the injured were rushed to THQ Hospital for emergency medical treatment.

The Crime Scene Unit and Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSa) teams were also called to collect evidence in order to proceed further in the investigation.

According to the SDPO, raids are being conducted to arrest the assailants and soon the suspects will be arrested and brought to justice.

"All technical resources will be utilized to arrest the accused," he added.

A youth was shot dead and another was seriously injured after a fight broke out between two groups over a minor issue in Gujrat on Wednesday.

As per details, the two groups clashed over construction in the street in Muhallah Rehmanpura area of Gujrat that led to a full-fledged gunfight between the two sides.

Resultantly, a young man, identified as Adeeb, was killed by the firing of the rival group and another was seriously wounded. INP

Javed Latif wants to see Imran Khan behind bars

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Javed Latif on Wednesday hit out at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan stating: "This person should be arrested and punished."

Addressing a press conference, he questioned: "In what capacity is President Arif Alvi brokering negotiations in the President's House? For what purpose is the oath being taken from people in Peshawar?"

He further questioned: "Fawad Chaudhry says the government should be part of the negotiations. Tell us! Against whom are these Jihadists taking the pledge of Jihad from people? In what capacity are you talking about making us sit in the negotiations?"

He added: "Imran Khan has carried out an unconstitutional struggle. Can negotiations be held with those who wish to address institu-

tions? This person [Imran Khan] should be arrested and punished."

He stated: "What Imran Khan had said about the integrity, stability and economy of Pakistan cannot be forgotten. Nawaz Sharif faced prisons, and he had undergone strict accountability."

He also said: "We have never called any watchman, Mir Jafar or Mir Sadiq. We identified the wrong persons in the institutions which was our obligation."

He noted: "The nation cannot bear it anymore that he [Imran Khan] should further be pampered. Nawaz Sharif suffered injustice in courts. We do not want injustice with anyone, but he should be dealt with according to the law and Constitution." He also pointed out: "If everyone is not made to start from zero in the race, it will not be called a level playing field." INP



Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif addressing a Press Conference in Islamabad.