

# QUETTA VOICE

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**Ishaq Dar massively slashes petrol price by Rs12.63 per litre**



**Blast kills 2 injured 20 in Kohlu Balochistan**

## Balochistan reports over 20000 malaria cases in a month

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA: Balochistan reported over 20,000 malaria cases in less than a month. Most of the cases were reported from flood-hit districts of Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Lasbela, Khuzdar, Kachhi, Jhal Magsi, Sohbat Pur and other areas.

"Naseerabad is the worst hit district by malaria", Hafiz Muhammad Tahir, the Health Secretary Balochistan told Daily Quetta Voice. He said a major part of the population in Naseerabad was suffering from malaria. Raging floods wreaked havoc in the Naseerabad division and left a large number of people homeless. The Secretary of Health however said medical camps were established in the affected areas to provide timely health care to the patients.

**"Hot in the day and cold in the night", a flood affectee complains**

"During the day people are exposed to hot weather whereas at the night people are exposed to cold weather", Aziz Ahmed Umrani, a resident of the Dera Murad Jamali said. Independent sources the



number of malaria patients is much higher than what is being quoted by the officials. The Balochistan health minister Syed Ehsan Shah reveals, "60 percent population of Naseerabad is suffering from malaria".

Despite repeated attempts, the Quetta Voice failed to get details about the malaria cases in Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Chaman, Quetta and other flood-hit districts of Balochistan. "Simply, we have no proper data about the rising malaria cases", an official of the health department told this scribe. He requested anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Raging floods unleashed by torrential rains have been followed by the outbreak of cholera, dengue, gastro and

malaria in various parts of Balochistan. Women and children are in desperate need of support in the flood-affected areas. Most of the cases are going unnoticed. "There is no panadol tablet here", Ayub Bhangar, a resident of the Dera Allah Yar lamented.

**50,000 cases of cholera, malaria, dengue, gastro reported in Balochistan**

As per the statistics obtained by the daily, the Balochistan health department said more than 50,000 cases of cholera, dengue, malaria, and gastro have been reported till September 23rd. So far the health department has focused on some specific areas and far-flung areas of Balochistan are still out of the radar of the department. "We are getting an increasing number of laboratory tests of malaria and dengue every day", an owner of the private laboratory on Quetta's Jinnah Road said. He preferred not to be named.

In most of the areas, when contacted by this scribe, the people demanded special sprays to stop the spread of malaria and other diseases.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being briefed on Bara Kahu Bypass Project.

### Son convicted to death sentence for killing parents in Dukki Balochistan

Syed Kaleem Shah

A court in Balochistan's Dukki district convicted a son of the death sentence for killing his parents. Additional session Judge Dukki, Muhammad Umar Khokar sentenced the accused to the death sentence after being found guilty of the crime of the murder of his parents.

A pistol was also recovered from the accused due to which he will be sentenced to five years in prison extra.

According to the prosecution the accused Muhammad Usman had killed his father Baz Muhammad and mother Zardana Bibi by opening fire in the Killi Sadozai Forest area of Luni. This incident occurred last year on July 19, 2021.

After the incident, the complainant, Muhammad Yaqoob Luni,



who is the brother of the accused, and the Levies Force filed a case number against the accused. Muhammad Yaqoob filed the case in the Manzai police station and levies presented the challan in court. Muhammad Usman was sentenced to death after being found guilty of double murder. After the sentence was pronounced, the accused was shifted to jail.

### Blast kills 2 injured 20 in Kohlu Balochistan

Mir Salam Jozezai  
Asif Kareem Khetran

A powerful blast killed 2 people and injured 20 in Balochistan's Kohlu district on Friday. Levies sources said a powerful blast rocked Kohlu bazar. The bomb went off inside a sweet's shop. Some injured are critical and rushed to district headquarters hospital Kohlu for medical treatment. An emergency was declared in the hospital to provide medical treatment to the injured by the blast. Doctors and paramedical staff were called to make sure of timely treatment for the injured by the blast.

**Balochistan education minister reaches the hospital**

Balochistan education minister, Mir Naseebullah Marri reached the hospital and directed the hospital administration to make sure better treatment of the injured.

Video footage of the blast shows



thick smoke rising from the spot of the blast. A large number of the people gathered to shift the injured to the hospital. Police and frontier corps personnel reached the spot after the blast.

**The nature of the blast is yet to be ascertained.**

Home Minister condemns the

blast

Home Minister Balochistan, Mir Ziaullah Langove strongly condemned the blast and directed the deputy commissioner Kohlu to submit a report in this regard. In a statement issued after the blast, Mr. Langove said the perpetrators of the blast would be brought to book.

### President thanks the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for helping flood victims

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed long-standing fraternal ties rooted firmly in the common religion, shared values and culture and have stood by each other through thick and thin regardless of the changes in leadership. He stated that the people and the Government of Pakistan deeply appreciated the support provided by Saudi Arabia during difficult times especially the help provided by it during the recent catastrophic climate change-induced super floods in the country. The President expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Mr Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Malikiy, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The President said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had enjoyed close political ties over the years, however, both countries needed to take meaningful and effective steps to significantly increase the existing bilateral

trade volume of US\$ 4.6 billion in the year 2021-22 as it did not fully reflect the depth of bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. The President appreciated the role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to highlight the issues of Palestine and Kashmir as well as the matters related to Afghanistan. He also appreciated KSA's support in providing an air bridge for delivering relief assistance to the flood affectees in Pakistan and the role played by the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre in providing relief assistance to the flood victims. While highlighting the colossal loss of lives, livestock and infrastructure, the President said that the devastating floods had affected more than 33 million people all across Pakistan, killed more than 1500 people, over 1 million livestock were lost, and damage to the economy was estimated around US\$ 30 billion. INP

### Ishaq Dar massively slashes petrol price by Rs12.63 per litre

ISLAMABAD: Newly appointed Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday slashed the price of petrol by Rs12.63 per litre, giving massive relief to the inflation-stricken people of the country.

Addressing his maiden press conference as the finance minister, Dar said that the decision to reduce the prices of petroleum products has been taken after consultation with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

It should be noted that the new prices will come into effect at midnight tonight.

Following the changes in the prices, petrol will now be available for Rs224.80 per litre from October 1.

Meanwhile, there is also a decrease of Rs12.13 in the price of high-speed diesel, after which the new price will stand at Rs235.30 per litre. The price of light diesel oil will be Rs191.83 after a decrease of Rs10.19 per litre.

Moreover, the finance minister also announced a 31-day extension to the date of filing tax returns.

Later, a statement issued by the Finance Division, mentioned that the government decided to decrease the prices of petroleum products in the wake of the reduction of petroleum products prices in the international market and with a view to providing relief to the consumers. Web Desk

### Balochistan youth joining Pak Army FC to defend motherland: IG FC

News Desk

QUETTA: The passing out parade of 339 recruits belonging to Balochistan was held in the Baloch training Centre. A large number of military officials and families of the recruits participated in the event. Inspector General Frontier Corps (North) Major General Chaudhry Ameer Ajmal was the special guest at the event.

Major General Ameer Ajmal praised the standard of training and parade. "Balochistan is a big and important province of Pakistan" Major General said.

Allah has enriched this province with natural resources, the FC Chief said. In the future new ways of development will be opened through the resources of Balochistan, he mentioned.

Today, the brave sons of Balochistan are

responding to the voice of the country. "I am proud that the youth of Balochistan are ready for the protection of the motherland", the IG FC said.

Major General Chaudhry Ameer Ajmal said that "it is a matter of pride that the Baloch Training Wing has so far trained 9296 soldiers who were trained in various branches of the Pakistan Army". He stated that there has been a substantial increase in the proportion of Balochistan men in the Pakistan Army who will play an important role in the development of Balochistan in the future. The enemy is hindering the development of Balochistan while



the people of Balochistan have completely rejected the anti-State elements. With the timely completion of CPEC, the entire region will enter a new era, he expressed hope. The development of Balochistan is

our first priority and the future of our children is bright. At the end of the function, the FC Chief distributed prizes among the soldiers who had demonstrated the best performance.





## QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

## Education of 386000 students at risk in Balochistan

The education of 3,86,000 students is at risk in flood-affected areas of Balochistan. Floods and heavy rainfall damaged around 3,000 government-run primary, middle and high schools across the province.

The damage to schools across Balochistan has affected the schooling of 3,86,000 students. This figure is as per the data shared by the Balochistan Secondary Education Department. Although, the independent sources put the number of students and damaged schools higher than what is being quoted by the officials.

Floods damaged this school in interior Balochistan: Photo provided by UNICEF

The out-of-school children ratio in Balochistan is already higher than in the rest of the country. The education department admits that still, over 1 million children are out of school in the province, lagging behind other provinces of Pakistan in all key social indicators.

Reconstruction of schools a major challenge for the government. The recent monsoon has further compounded the problems of students. The number of government-run primary, middle and high schools in Balochistan is over 15,000. The reconstruction of 3,000 damaged schools is a major challenge for the provincial government, which appears to be least bothered about the state of education in the province.

So far, the data is only shared at the departmental level. The government has not spoken about the reconstruction of damaged schools and resuming educational activities there. UNICEF has only established 22 temporary learning centers (TLCs) with over 2,000 enrollments. This is simply nothing as compared to the number of students deprived of education.

Govt, opposition solely focusing on PSDP. The provincial coalition government and the 'friendly' opposition have solely focused on their schemes in the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) 2022-23. They want to get the schemes completed and implemented by hook and crook and uttered not a single word about the reconstruction of damaged schools.

The reconstruction of schools and ensuring the availability of basic facilities would require billions of rupees. The lives of students should not be put at peril to study in damaged classrooms as anytime the damaged rooms and walls can collapse. So no risk should be taken in this regard.

The Balochistan government, UNICEF and other non-governmental organizations on national and international levels working for the promotion of education should take notice of the situation and ensure the reconstruction of damaged schools. Then, the students should be allowed to keep continue their stalled studies.

## Drinking Water Quality Status And Its Sources Of Contamination

By Aryal Khan Panizai



Due to intimidating increase in population and rapid-fire industrialization, drinking water quality is being deteriorated day by day in Pakistan. This review sums up the issues of colorful exploration studies conducted for drinking water quality status of different areas of Pakistan by taking into account the physicochemical parcels of drinking water as well as the presence of colorful pathogenic microorganisms. About 20 of the whole population of Pakistan has access to safe drinking water.

The remaining 80 of population is forced to use unsafe drinking water due to the failure of safe and healthy drinking water sources. The primary source of impurity is sewerage (fecal) which is considerably discharged into drinking water system inventories. Secondary source of pollution is the disposal of poisonous chemicals from artificial backwaters, fungicides, and diseases from husbandry sources into the water bodies.

Anthropogenic conditioning beget waterborne conditions that constitute about 80 of all conditions and are responsible for 33 of deaths. This review highlights the drinking water quality, impurity sources, sanitation situation, and goods of unsafe drinking water on humans. There's immediate need to

take defensive measures and treatment technologies to overcome hygienic condition of drinking water inventories in different areas of Pakistan.

Drinking water is mainly taken from surface and underground aquifers near rivers and canals. Surface water quality is rapidly declining due to the addition of raw municipal and industrial wastewater as well as agricultural runoff to the water source. When river water flow is at its maximum, it contains a highly concentrated suspension. Most rivers are long and thin and do not support aquatic species.

It is clear that these waters are contaminated with faeces and need to be treated appropriately to remove the contaminants for human consumption. In Pakistan, four major cities use surface water; these are Islamabad, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Hyderabad. The main cause of

microbiological contamination is the mixing of the common sewer with the domestic water supply. In most rural areas of Pakistan, surface water is used for drinking after slow sand filtration, and chlorination is not performed at filtration stations. In most rural areas, there is no pre-treatment facility for water purification. All this deficiency is due to microbial contamination and poor water quality.

Sources of Contamination: Microbiological Contaminants:

In Pakistan, microbial pollution has been discovered as one of the serious problems in rural as well as urban areas. This is due to the leakage of pipe, pollution from sewage lines intrusion into drinking water supplies, and so forth.

Chemical Contaminants: Chemical pollutants that come from industries, soil sediments and agricultural

runoff, i.e. pesticides and fertilizers, enter water sources. In Pakistan, the use of fertilizers and pesticides is around 5.6 million tons and 70,000 tons respectively according to gross profit (GOP) figures.

These chemicals, usually insecticides, leach into groundwater by mixing with irrigation water and rainwater. Between 1988 and 2000, about 107 samples were taken from groundwater, and 31 samples showed clear pesticide contamination above the limits set by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO. Another significant problem for groundwater in Pakistan is higher salt concentration, which is mainly caused by irrigation activities, salt dissolution in soil, seawater intrusion and chemical industries. Salinity affects major areas of Balochistan, PK and Punjab.

Wastewater from industries and households has high levels of arsenic,

becoming a serious problem. In the major cities of Sindh and Punjab, about 16% of people were exposed to more than 50 ppm of arsenic. Fluoride concentrations above the permissible limit cause problems in the main regions of Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh. Dental fluorosis is common in Sindh, Punjab and KPK.

Floods Cause Major Damage to Drainage System: In Pakistan, floods have created serious environmental problems. They damage pipes and eventually cause sewage to overflow into water bodies. Severe flooding destroyed buildings and crops. All these substances can cause toxic chemicals and oils to be discharged into rivers, streams, lakes... and can lead to the death of aquatic organisms. Many chemical pollutants enter floodwaters in their path. Current severe floods (2010) and heavy rains have damaged 80% of Nowshera, destroying 40% of infrastructure. The total number of houses destroyed and damaged

Human Health Impact: Due to the poor sanitation system, treatment, and monitoring, drinking water quality deteriorates. The presence of toxic chemicals and bacteria in drinking water causes adverse effect on human health. Due to the fecal contamination, people have been suffering from waterborne diseases.

## Audio leaks implosion

By Raouf Hasan

A large number of audio leaks have surfaced chronicling conversations that took place in the Prime Minister's Office, mostly discussing policy matters that involved members of the cabinet and other senior officials of the state.

According to Open Source Intelligence Insider (@OSINT Insider on Twitter), the released audios are part of conversations spread over 140 hours, comprising 100 files of 8 GB size. The alleged hacker is demanding \$3.45 million for dispensing with the entire recordings which have been available for sale since August 20. @OSINT Insider has also claimed that the conversations were not secured by telephone. These were recorded live inside the Prime Minister's Office. Some of these recordings have now been released through social media platforms for the consumption of ordinary people. The hackers have further claimed that similar recordings are available involving the heads of some institutions of the country.

The episode raises serious concerns about the security of the Prime Minister's Office. This security failure should be condemned in the strongest possible terms. It must also be ensured that those found responsible for this grave dereliction are held to account.

The recordings have also come as a blessing in disguise as the treachery at play at the hands of the partners in the criminal cabal in managing the affairs of the state has been embarrassingly laid bare. Some of the key subjects about which conversations have been released include the return of Ishaq Dar as finance minister of the country and the way it was managed and why, concessions granted to the cigarette industry owing to the interest of the

spouse of a sitting member of the cabinet, import of industrial machinery from India and Maryam Nawaz's insistence on it because it is needed for the factory of her son-in-law, blatant duplicity regarding increase in oil prices, discontinuing the Health Card facility introduced by the PTI for poor people, media management, and conspiracy shrouding the acceptance of resignations tendered by PTI MNAs and the criminal role of the chief election commissioner (CEC) in this regard.

Collectively, the tapes made public so far reveal the worst of politics practised in the country by a variety of parties, most notably the PML-N. They have always practised politics by bartering in human conscience in exchange for inducements of multiple forms, be they moral, material or financial. The core purpose of their entry in politics was to build family fiefdoms that would forever rule the country by enslaving it in their clutches. That is why the traditionally dominant players in the political arena malevolently tailored a system that would serve their intrinsic interests. The cruel excesses of the system have only aggravated with the induction of their progeny.

The system in its present form is more Machiavellian than Machiavelli himself, more criminal than crime itself, and more self-serving than human imagination can fathom. This comes across so vividly in the conversations which have already been made public. In the one between Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz discussing petroleum prices, the latter advises her uncle to increase the rates which she'll oppose on social media. In another one, Maryam tells the prime minister that the Health Card is the

"only strong point" the PTI has and that he should discontinue the facility. The prime minister agrees saying that he would cite economic difficulties as the reason for doing so. There is much more which further exposes the sinister motives of these criminals, the way they have practised politics, and why Pakistan remains one of the most underdeveloped countries in the world, virtually on the verge of bankruptcy.

In any civilized democracy, these tapes would have been enough reason for the government to tender its resignation paving the way for either someone else within the ruling coalition to form the next administration, or holding general elections and seeking a fresh mandate. For obvious reasons, none of these democratic options would be pursued. Instead, attempts will be made to douse the seriousness of the matter by resorting to multiple devious tactics including the formation of an investigation committee which shall declare as it is ordered, pinning the blame on everyone other than the prime minister and members of his team.

This embarrassing episode takes us back to the original question which has been raised a million times in the past weeks: what was that unmanageable and pressing need which made the induction of a cabal of criminals to rule the country essential as an integral part of the dubious process of executing a foreign-dictated and locally-collaborated conspiracy to remove Imran Khan's government?

Hypothetically, even if Khan had to go because his fight for asserting Pakistan's freedom to formulate policies that would promote its interests was not acceptable, were there no decent people left in the nation-

al political domain who would be credible as compared to this bunch of inveterate criminals who have proved their dubious credentials by sitting on judgement on their own grievous crimes and securing relief by amending the NAB laws and other rules and regulations which incriminated them?

As a first step to celebrate the fulfilment of this sinister plan, the absconder former finance minister, Ishaq Dar, who was helped to flee the country in his official plane by the then sitting prime minister, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, is back to take oath both as senator and finance minister. Has anyone ever seen such horrible travesty perpetrated in any democratic polity where an alleged criminal would take oath as the prime minister and hold the system hostage to ensure that all his colleagues are washed clean of their sins? Well, it is happening in Pakistan with none within the gravely complicit power echelons even blinking an eye.

Pakistan has been properly secured in the lap of crime which is now the only safe thing to pursue in this country. Commit whatever crime may fancy you, a way would be found to help the individual walk free of any charges and even be inducted back into the alleys of power to keep dispensing to others what he received as reward for his not-so-edifying services, courtesy the system that rules.

So, Khan's battle is not just for securing victory. It is for a decisive victory that will enable him to make necessary amendments in the constitution and help the system on way to major reform and reorientation. That is the minimum for the country to survive the existential challenges that it is so inextricably entrapped in at this juncture.

## Climate affairs

By Chloe Atkinson

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

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

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

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

Today, wildfires are raging in Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, Morocco and Italy. Over one thousand people have died so far and many thousands more have been evacuated from their homes out of concern for their safety.

Climate change plays a significant role in the cause of wildfires since it increases the hot and dry tinderbox conditions that help fires start and then spread quickly. Less precipitation means dry land and vegetation. This means that when a fire starts, it burns faster and more intensely. Hot and dry conditions are a perfect recipe for a massive inferno.

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

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

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## Thinking about a charter of economy

The economy is a way of creating and distributing wealth and opportunities and is closely linked with the wellbeing of the people. The system of how the economy is organized determines whether the outcome will be wealth concentration or a more egalitarian or inclusive system. The state's responsibility to prevent wealth concentration is enshrined in the constitution. This should be the starting point of any charter of economy.

History tells that religious leaders, thinkers and philosophers have always promoted the concept of equality/'masawat'. Technological advancement has increased the productive capacity of the world to such an extent that it is inexcusable to have poverty and hunger anywhere in the world. On December 12, 1974, the UNGA adopted resolution 3281, containing the 'charter of economic rights and duties of states'. But, it was more like a wish list. So, let's focus on Pakistan.

If Pakistan's vision is to create an egalitarian society, its goals should be to decrease income and wealth inequality, end poverty, uplift living standard, promote human development, end oppression and exploitation of people, and empower citizens.

Let's have a look at the main drivers of this agenda:

Industry: Pakistan is much behind in the race to industrialize. In the past, wherever industrialization happened, it was initially due to the state's direct involvement. The private sector also rose with the support of the state. In Pakistan, the private sector has neither the will nor the resources to take any initiatives. The state has to facilitate this sector and control the commanding heights of the economy. The textile sector accounts for 60 per cent of our exports, mainly to the US and the UK. The country needs to broaden its product range for exports and diversify export destinations. Only the state has the resources, capacity and ability to get involved in riskier ventures.

Agriculture: it is the second largest sector in Pakistan and contributes 21 per cent to GDP, employing 45 per cent of the total labour force in the country. By improving this sector, we can uplift a large section of the population.

According to the Pakistan Business Council, due to outdated methods, the yield of five basic crops is 50 per cent of the global best. Livestock and dairy is largely on a subsistence basis with poor yield. Horticulture needs more attention.

Water scarcity and climate changes are looming challenges. Food insecurity is a big issue, which can also lead to

social unrest. There is an urgent need to invest in technology, upgrade techniques, water infrastructure and new seeds, and strengthen research in this sector whose optimal performance will not only reduce the need for imports but also increase exports.

Land: it is a strategic asset for any country. In Pakistan, however, it is not only a source of food, shelter or various public use but also a source of oppression, exploitation and wealth and power inequality, leading to economic, social and political superiority of the landowners. Land ownership has created a class with a feudal mindset which claims a much larger share in the country's wealth, power and decision-making. It is a remnant of colonial times and it is time to abolish it.

Land speculation has driven land prices to a level where home ownership has become a dream for even the middle class, let alone the working class. Private investors prefer investing in land instead of technology and industry. The land mafia, which is willing to take lives over land disputes, is a result of this. There is an urgent need to develop a comprehensive land policy, keeping in mind future needs as well.

Human development: over two-thirds of Pakistan's population is under the age of 30 -

mostly uneducated, unskilled and unemployed. Even those with higher degrees are finding it difficult to get appropriate jobs; this could be due to poor-quality education. Most of Pakistan's overseas labour force is unskilled. The educational system needs a complete overhaul with a focus on critical thinking, open-mindedness and ability to question existing dogmas. With two million young people entering the workforce annually, job creation has to be made a priority. Without gender parity in education and jobs, any charter of economy will have little value. Directionless, frustrated and angry youth is a threat to national security and a cause for social unrest rather than a promise for progress.

Environment: in 2018, the Global Climate Risk Index ranked Pakistan as the fifth most vulnerable country to long-term climate change effects. The recent floods are proof of this. Climate change is a global problem, but Pakistan faces two existential dangers: water scarcity and deforestation. The most important area that is being neglected is public education to create awareness about citizens' role in conserving water. We need to pay attention to reducing water losses due to unlined canals and wastage, conserve rainwater by building small

dams and water reservoirs and make large water filtration plants to provide clean drinking water. Deforestation is a result of poverty as 69 per cent of the population is dependent on wood for daily energy source; this has been made worse by the population explosion. The timber mafia has been cutting trees illegally with impunity and needs to be controlled.

Labor policy: one fundamental reason for poverty is the below-subsistence minimum wage. The concept of a living wage has replaced the minimum wage worldwide. This along with state-sponsored education, healthcare and other basic facilities is the starting point towards a more level playing field. Strengthening trade unions will help workers negotiate better wages and other rights for themselves. Taxation system: Pakistan's regressive tax system is perhaps one of the most complex systems in the world. The ratio of indirect taxes has to be reduced to ease the burden on people. The issue of tax on agricultural income has to be addressed. Many experts including Dr Ikramul Haq have presented proposals to improve this, but due to lack of political will, nothing has changed.

Banking sector: it is perhaps the most exploitative system at the national and international levels.

## Preemptive action

By Dr Ramesh Kumar Yankwani

It is Pakistan's fault that it has never prioritized climate change and environmental issues since its creation 75 years ago. Whether the climate crisis is due to natural calamities or mistakes made by humans, it is now negatively impacting the national economy, and the people at the bottom are bearing the brunt of such effects.

Pakistan is among the countries that make strategies after having witnessed the loss of life and damage of property caused by large-scale disasters. Excessive rainfall is one of the dire consequences of climate change facing the world, and Pakistan's neighbouring countries have not been affected by such terrible situations as severely as Pakistan. Even in Afghanistan, people trapped in flood water were rescued. India managed to reserve water in its timely built dams and barrages. Bangladesh, which was once the victim of the worst floods, is now providing humanitarian aid to Pakistan.

Surprisingly, we define 'rescue services' as a task to find bodies of unfortunate people who lose their lives in a disaster. If we had followed in the footsteps of other countries and properly planned the trajectory of the water of our rivers, which originates from the

northern regions and passes through various regions including Sindh, there would not have been such a disastrous situation.

Pakistan has been included in the list of countries severely affected by climate change for the last two decades. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan is the eighth most vulnerable country affected by climate change. Environmental experts frequently warn us about the dangers of pollution, rapid population growth and deforestation, but no government has ever shown seriousness in this regard. We did not learn anything from the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 floods; the consequences of which we have to suffer in the form of destruction caused by the heavy rains and floods in 2022. There is a serious risk of natural disasters in the future as well.

A World Food Program report has identified six major international conflicts that can cause disaster at a huge level across the globe. A large population of the world, including developed countries, may face food shortages, non-availability of clean drinking water and energy crisis. At the diplomatic level, the world is moving towards a new cold war in which, as in the past, some countries are supporting Russia, while the US and Western coun-

tries are with Ukraine. Similarly, tensions between China and the US are increasing over the issue of Taiwan.

I believe that the most vital challenge we are facing today is to prioritize our national interests. Although provincial governments, after the 18th Amendment, are autonomous in most of their affairs, we should devise a joint strategy to deal with disasters at the national level. Last month, we celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Independence with great passion and zeal, but I would be happier if our rulers had given us a road map for national development and prosperity like the one that Indian PM Narendra Modi has announced across the border.

India, 17 years ago, constituted a special force called the 'National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)' to counter the challenges emerging due to threatening disaster situations under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. Reportedly, the NDRF, operating under the National Disaster Management Authority (India) with the Indian prime minister as chairperson, is a force of 16 battalions, organized on paramilitary lines. These NDRF battalions, in consultation with state authorities, are located at different locations in the country based on the disaster threat levels.



## Use of Afghan soil by terrorists against Pakistan condemned

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for activities against Pakistan and expects that the interim Afghan Government will not allow conduct of such activities, in future.

On Thursday, terrorists from inside Afghanistan across the international border, opened fire on Pakistani troops in general area Kharlachi, Kurram District. Own troops responded in a befitting manner.

As per credible intelligence reports, due to fire

of own troops, terrorists suffered heavy casualties. However, during the fire exchange, Sepoy Jamshed Iqbal (age 27 years, resident of Chiniot), having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat.

Pakistan Army is determined to defend Pakistan's borders against the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

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ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan Adam Mulawarman Tugjo called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf at Parliament House.

## Four die of gastro and malaria in flood-hit Qambar

SHAHADKOT: Four more people including children died of gastro and malaria in Qambar area of Shahdadkot on Friday.

Gastro is a gastrointestinal infection disease commonly known as gastro. The rate of deaths due to different diseases in flood-affected areas as well as in residential areas could not be arrested.

According to sources, the deaths due to gastro and malaria are increasing day by day. The total number of deaths in one day reached six. This time all four deaths including three children took place within five hours in the camps of flood victims sitting on the roads.

The dead include two-year-old Shazia, eight-year-old

Ayem, nine-year-old Muhammad Magso and 55-year-old Bagan Khoso.

The management of Qambar has so far been unsuccessful in providing medical aid to the flood affectees.

Kashmor hospitals run out of beds to accommodate patients.

Almost all hospitals at Tangwani in district Kashmir, Sindh are filled with malaria and gastro patients as sharp rise has been noticed in the population of mosquitoes in the area in the wake of recent monsoon floods.

And to make matters worse, the administration of district Kashmir has failed to take any step to remedy the situation as several low-lying areas are still under knee-deep

water while the absence of anti-mosquito spray has led to unchecked growth in the population of mosquitoes.

People of the area have demanded the authorities to take steps on a war footing so that precious human lives could be saved.

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Almost all hospitals at Tangwani in district Kashmir, Sindh are filled with malaria and gastro patients as sharp rise has been noticed in the population of mosquitoes in the area in the wake of recent monsoon floods. INP

## Hina Rabbani, high officials pay tribute to outgoing Foreign secretary: FO

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar and officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs paid tribute to outgoing Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood for his stellar diplomatic career, sagacity, foresight on foreign policy and his humane and humble nature, Foreign office told in weekly briefing on Friday.

In routine briefing Foreign office told that the Prime Minister along with Foreign secretary and other minister visited New York from 19 to 23 September to attend the high-level segment of the 77th UNGA Session. During the visit Prime Minister drew attention of the international community to this calamity in his address to the UN General Assembly and urged mobilization of resources for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction for Pakistan devastations. He underlined that this disaster was the impact of climate change to which Pakistan has contributed minimally.

On the sideline meetings Prime Minister attended several high-level meetings and events, held bilateral meetings with Heads of

State/Government of key countries, including France, Iran, European Union, Japan, Spain, Austria, Belgium and others, attended a reception hosted by President Biden and met the UN Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, as well as the Managing Director of the IMF and President of the World Bank. Prime Minister conveyed the same message in all his interactions and advocated the need for global action to halt climate change and to compensate developing countries for loss and damage from climate impact.

There were very positive responses from several of the Prime Minister's interlocutors and heads of international bodies. They all agreed to help Pakistan mobilize international support.

He drew attention to the grave situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the fact that this dispute was the main source of tension between Pakistan and India, he told UNGA, to resume a dialogue and ease tensions, India should reverse its illegal and unilateral actions taken since 5 July 2019. The PM invited India to work for peace and allow

both countries to focus on the alleviation of poverty, disease and hunger.

The Foreign Minister also had an extensive program. He attended various high-level meetings and events including the Closed-Door Leaders' Roundtable on COP-27, the Food Security Summit co-organized by the EU, AU and the US, the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, OIC Contact Group on Muslims in Europe, the OIC Committee of Six on Palestine, the Ministerial Meeting of the UN Group of Friends of Mediation, and the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI). The Foreign Minister also chaired the Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM) of the OIC Foreign Ministers, as well as the G-77 and China Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers, as you know Pakistan is chairing both the forums, and hosted a meeting of Young Foreign Ministers, and a High-Level Event on 'Loss & Damage: New and Additional Financing' organized by Pakistan. The Foreign Minister also held bilateral meetings with a number of his counterparts, and had extensive INP

## Rs75 commemorative banknote is available from today

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan on Friday issued a commemorative banknote of Rs75 to mark the 75th anniversary of Pakistan's independence.

According to the central bank, the commemorative banknote will be available for general public from SBP Banking Services Corporation (BSC) offices and branches of commercial banks from Sept 30, 2022.

The SBP has directed that this banknote is a legal tender and can be used as a medium of exchange for all transactions across Pakistan.

According to the press release issued by the SBP, the

design of this commemorative banknote was unveiled on August 14, 2022, during a ceremony at SBP headquarters in Karachi. This is the second commemorative banknote issued by the central bank after the issuance of first commemorative note issued to mark the 50 years of independence of the country in 1997. The themes and concepts for both the obverse and reverse sides of the banknote were developed by the SBP and local artists. The commemorative banknote has been designed to pay tribute to the leaders contributing towards creation of Pakistan and create awareness about

climate change and its impact on our environment.

Accordingly, the obverse of the banknote is graced with the portraits of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Sir Muhammad Iqbal, Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah and Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. The reverse of the banknote highlights our national commitment towards climate change and its repercussions for Pakistan, which has gained added urgency in the light of unprecedented loss caused by the recent torrential rains and flooding in large parts of Pakistan. The images of national animal Markhor and national tree Deodar. INP

## Imran Khan appears in Judge Zeba's court to tender apology

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan, former prime minister and the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), appeared Friday before the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry to apologise to her personally in the judge threat case.

Judge Zeba Chaudhry was, however, not present in the court as she was on leave, at which Imran Khan addressed the reader and the steno and asked them to tell the judge that Imran Khan had come to tender apology to her.

Earlier, Imran Khan told the Islamabad High Court (IHC) that he was willing to apologise to Judge Zeba Chaudhry for his controversial remarks. "I am ready to apologise to the female judge," Imran Khan had told the court.

"The court thinks that I have crossed a line. My intention was not to threaten the female judge. If the court says so, I am ready to personally go to the judge and apologise," he had said.

Also on Friday, the District and Sessions Court of Islamabad accepted the bail of Imran Khan in the case of Section 144 violation. On the occasion, strict security arrangements had been made outside the court. INP

## JUI-F moves Shariat Court against transgender persons act

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) on moved Federal Shariat Court against the Transgender Persons Act 2018, claiming that the law is in contradiction with Islamic principles.

According to details, the JUI-F has filed a petition in Federal Shariat Court, challenging the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

The law should be declared against Shariat, the petition stated, maintaining that no law can be passed in the country that contradicts with Holy Quran and Sunnah.

The Federal Shariat Court will take up the petition on October 3. In a statement, the JUI-F spokesperson said the party would continue its struggle against this act on every platform.

Earlier, Senator Mushtaq Ahmed of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) had filed a petition in the Federal Shariat Court against the Transgender Rights Bill 2018, claiming it's in contradiction with the Islamic principles of heredity. INP



QUETTA: Sarafa Association Balochistan president Muhammad Hussain saraf addressing a press conference.

## Newly elected SCCI's chief demands a special relief package for flood-hit business community

PESHAWAR: Muhammad Ishaq, the newly elected president of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), demanded of the federal and provincial governments to announce a special relief package for flood hit business community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Instead of putting additional burden on existing taxpayers, he emphasized that steps should be taken to bring new people under the tax net.

Ishaq called for revising unprecedented hikes in power tariffs. He also demanded smooth supply of gas to industrial, commercial and domestic as it is the first right of the gas producing region under article 158 of the constitution. Government

should formulate business friendly policies and provide special incentives/facilities to the business community to boost industrial, trade and commercial activities, he stressed. He said SCCI believes in selfless service to the traders' community. Ishaq was addressing the Annual General Meeting of the SCCI held here at chamber's house on Friday. Leader of Businessman Forum, former senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour, Chief Minister Focal Person on Ease of Doing Business and Investment and former FPCCI president Ghazanfar Bilour, outgoing President Hasnain Khursid, SVP Imran Khan Mohmand, VP Javed Akhtar, newly elected senior vice presi-

dent Shahid Hussain and Vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, members election commission Malik Niaz Ahmad, Abdullah Yousafzai and Haris Multfi, former presidents, newly elected members of the SCCI's executive committee, industrialists, presidents and general secretaries of traders' bodies, members of business community in a large number were present on the occasion.

The newly elected president paid rich tribute to business community for its resilience during Covid-19, flood and terrorism scenarios. He said provision of relief and incentives to flood and terrorism-hit business community are amongst his topmost priority. INP

## Imran Khan says will soon give protest call

PESHAWAR: Former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan Friday announced that he would soon give a call to his supporters to pull country out of the crisis.

Addressing a ceremony at Lahore's Edwards College in Peshawar, Imran Khan said he will not allow dacoits to loot resources of the country and will fight them even if he has to do it alone by himself. He asked the masses to come out for real independence and give a message to everyone that they will not be a slave to any superpower. Imran Khan said properties of the Sharif family were unearthed in Panama Leaks but the 'biggest dacoits' are being given NRO, he claimed. The former prime minister said societies cannot prosper without rule of law in the country. The law and justice system should be the same for rich and poor, he added. On the economic situation, Imran Khan said the rupee has devalued over 30pc against US dollar since the ouster of his government and said the masses are facing the worst inflation in the history of Pakistan. INP



QUETTA: Special persons Balochistan ithtiad hold protest outside QPC.

## Iran arrests women for eating out without hijab: Sister

TEHRAN: Iran has arrested a woman who was shown eating out without a headscarf in an image that went viral on social media during the protests over the death of Mahsa Amini, her sister said on Friday.

The picture showed Donya Rad sitting in a traditional Tehran restaurant apparently eating breakfast, in the company of a female friend who is also without a headscarf.

The image was widely shared on social media by users, who applauded the two women for their civil disobedience in the face of the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women.

Amini died earlier this month following her arrest by the country's strict morality police who enforce the rules for the obligatory hijab.

"Yesterday after this photo was published, the security agencies contacted my sister Donya Rad and asked her to give some explanations," her sister Dina wrote on Twitter. "Today, after going where she was told, she was arrested. After a few hours of silence, Donya told me in a short call that she was transferred to ward 209 of Evin prison," she said, referring to a notorious wing of the Tehran jail which is reputedly run by the intelligence ministry. "Our family is very concerned about her well-being," she added. Persian media outside Iran have over the last few days pointed to growing images of civil disobedience, with women in Iran sharing images of themselves walking, shopping or in cafes without headscarves. "They just went to get breakfast without headscarves. They were arrested. This is how bru-

tal/sick the hijab policy is in Iran," commented prominent US-based campaigner and journalist Omid Memarian on Twitter.

Some on social media compared Rad's actions to those of Rosa Parks, the American civil rights activist who resisted segregation on buses, putting together images of Parks on a bus with Rad in a cafe. Prominent songwriter and poet Mona Borzouei was also arrested, activists said, after she posted a video of herself reading a poem declaring: "We will take this homeland back from your hands." Activists say Iran is in the throes of one of its most ferocious crackdowns in years to suppress the protests that erupted in the wake of Amini's death, with some

two dozen journalists rounded up as well as activists and cultural figures.

Former Iranian international football player Hossein Manahi was arrested on Friday after supporting the protests on his social media accounts, the state-run IRNA news agency said.

Security forces also arrested singer Shervin Hajipour, whose song "Baraye" ("For") made up of tweets about the protests went viral on Instagram, the rights group Article 19 and Persian-language media based outside Iran said.

His song, which racked up millions of views on Instagram and prompted many to comment that it moved them to tears, has now been removed from his account. Online

## COMSTech launches S&T Cooperation Program with Nigeria

ISLAMABAD: OIC's Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTech) launched COMSTech-Nigeria Science and Technology Cooperation Program in a press conference which has also been attended by senior diplomats of various OIC countries, officers of ministries of foreign affairs and science and technology, academicians and Nigerian students studying in local universities.

Coordinator General, COMSTech, Prof Dr M Iqbal Choudhary and the High Commissioner of

Nigeria, H.E. Mr Mohammed Bello Abioye jointly addressed a press conference at COMSTech Auditorium, said a press release issued in Islamabad.

Prof Choudhary said that COMSTech continues to serve member states in the sphere of Science & Technology as its mandate and strategic vision. He said COMSTech has conducted a large number of activities for Science & Technology and Health Care capacity building along with fostering international linkages. He said many new initiatives have been launched including fellowship program in the

OIC system, Health Africa initiative, S&T profiling of the member states, and research projects support programs.

He said that COMSTech launches a purposeful COMSTech-Nigeria S&T Cooperation Program for capacity building of the brotherly state. Prof Choudhary thanked the Government of Nigeria for accepting proposed collaborative program and constituting an inter-ministerial committee to explore the implementation of this initiative. The Raw Materials Research and Development Council, (RMRDC), Abuja, Nigeria

is focal organization to implement the program. He said that Nigeria is a growing economy which can play a leading role in the development of the other African countries. Prof Choudhary informed that the purpose of this collaboration is to help the Nigerian S&T institutions for capacity building for socio-economic uplift of the country making to business with The High Commissioner of Nigeria, H. E. Mr. Mohammed Bello Abioye appreciated the efforts of COMSTech and offered full support from his office to COMSTech-Nigeria S&T Cooperation. He

assured that Nigeria would also help the other African OIC countries for their uplift. HE Ambassador Askar Mussinov, Assistant Secretary General Science and Technology OIC addressed the session online. He said OIC General Secretariat is working closely with COMSTech on several major initiatives and programs. He also appreciated efforts of Coordinator General COMSTech for taking a large number of activities for science and technology and healthcare capacity building and for fostering international linkages, specially Palestine. INP

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Superintendent Govt Dairy Farm, Quetta invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. Bid Security 480,000 PKR and Tender fee Rs. 1000/- for the work. TSE-222309126811. Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required.

**S.No Class of Object**

1 Animal Food & Medicine (Total Item(s) Count: 4)

1. Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Turn over of at least 10,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Must agree to Supply the Feed Items within 07 days after issuance of supply order Feed Samples 10kg of each feed item Must unconditionally agree with all the instructions, terms & conditions specified in the bidding documents & contract agreement. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of amount 480,000 PKR specified above in the name of the Under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk. Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk. Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 17 October, 2022 till 02:00 PM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 03:00 PM on EPPS System. Address: Office of the Superintendent Govt Dairy Farm Livestock and Dairy Development Department Brewery Road, Quetta. Phone no: 0333780445 Fax no: Email: support.dairyfarm@gmail.com

Supervisor  
Govt Dairy Farm, Quetta

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## Pakistan urges mobilization of world support for crises-hit developing

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called for the mobilization of all possible resources to help developing countries eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to offset the devastating impact of the increase in food, fuel prices and the decline in economic growth on the large segment of the world's population.

Speaking for the Group of 77 (developing countries), Ambassador Munir Akram said the international community and institutions should revitalize global development cooperation and invest in sustained growth for reducing inequalities and enhancing the well-being of all.

The Pakistani envoy was addressing the UN General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural), which opened its 77th session Thursday, with the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a resurgence of conflicts and the climate emergency driving its general discussion.

Pakistan is the current chairman of G-77 and China, which now has 134 members and is the United Nations' biggest intergovernmental group of emerging countries.

The developing countries needed financial support of at least \$3.3 to \$4.5 trillion per year to achieve the SDGs within the given timeline, Ambassador Akram said, adding resources must be mobilized from all possible sources: fulfillment of the 0.7 percent ODA (Official Development target); redistribution of the \$650 billion new SDRs (Special Drawing Rights); and concessional finance from the multilateral institutions and

development banks.

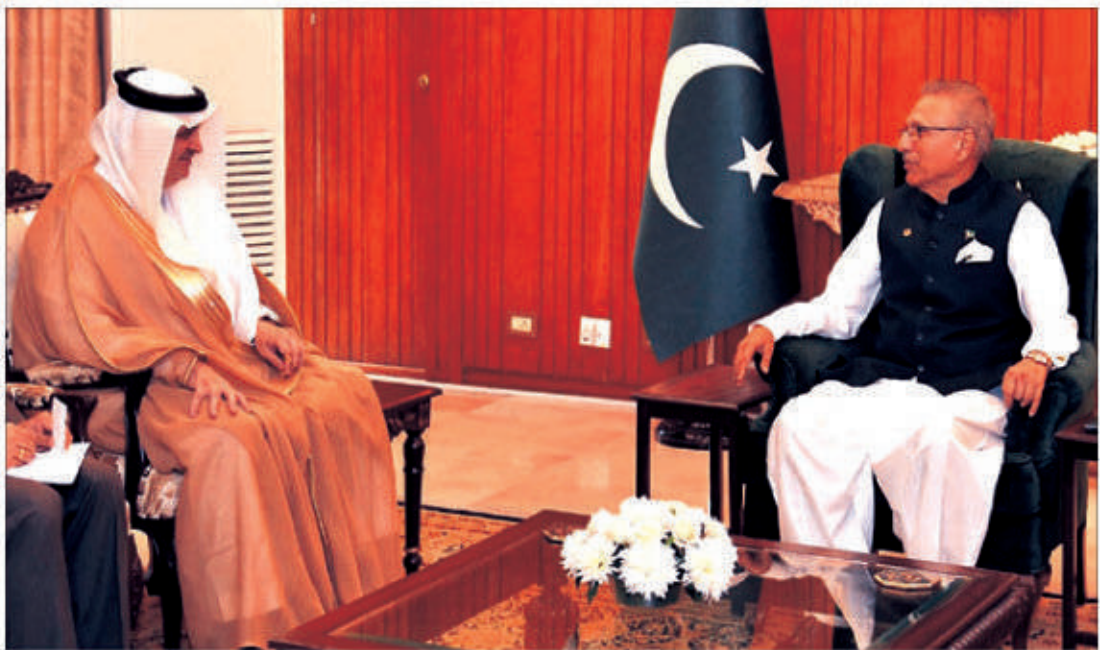
At the same time, he said, there was a need to take coherent and coordinated actions and innovative measures to promote vaccine equity, build better health systems, and improve early warning and monitoring systems for pandemic preparedness at the global, regional and national levels.

Expressing concern over the lack of satisfactory progress on social development, the G77 chairman said conflicts, volatile financial markets, high rates of unemployment, humanitarian emergencies, corruption and climate change, to name a few, impeded the progress in the fulfilment of social objectives.

In this context, Ambassador Akram reaffirmed that international development cooperation – especially North-South cooperation – remains a fundamental catalyst to sustainable development.

Expressing support for developing countries in implementing their social development agenda, he called on the states to invest in family-oriented programmes for fighting poverty and inequality, promoting the empowerment of women and girls and advancing inter-generational solidarity.

The Group of 77, he said, "recognizes the valuable contribution of older persons to the development of societies, and, therefore, calls for action to address protection gaps, and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older persons". INP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Maliki, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

### Punjab CM meets GCUL VC, discusses promotion of higher education

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and former Federal Minister Moonis Elahi met with the Vice Chancellor Government College University Lahore (GCUL) Dr. Asghar Zaidi on Friday and discussed the promotion of higher education in the province.

In the meeting held in the Chief Minister's House, Punjab CM directed to make a comprehensive plan for the promotion of higher education.

In this regard, Pervaiz Elahi said that GCUL is a prestigious educational institution of Pakistan and he was much inclined towards further increasing the educational facilities for students in the institution.

The problems being faced by the institution will be resolved on priority basis, he said. INP

### Mass marriage of 24 flood-stricken couples held in Qambar

QAMBAR: Twenty-four couples from flood-affected areas were wedded in a mass marriage ceremony held at a relief camp in Qambar on Friday.

As per details, the district administration organized the mass wedding ceremony of 24 flood-stricken and destitute couples in Tehsil Naseerabad in Qambar relief camp and gave away a dowry of Rs100,000 to each bride and groom.

Civil society workers, locals and families of the brides and grooms attended the mass marriage ceremony and instilled a sense of joy amid destitution.

The food was also served to the guests and flood victims on this occasion. INP

### Justice Isa asks CJP to convene Judicial Commission meeting

ISLAMABAD: In order to fill five vacant seats of judges in the Supreme Court (SC), Justice Qazi Faez Isa of the SC on Friday demanded that the judicial commission's meeting be called early to address the issue, it was learnt today.

Sources said that in the letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Isa opined that the appointment of judges on these seats was must if the apex court was to reduce the backlog of cases and provide justice to litigants.

He said he was at a loss to understand why the commission's meeting was delayed after July 28, 2022. INP

### 'India hatching one after other conspiracy against freedom movement in IIOJK'

ISLAMABAD: India is hatching one after other conspiracy against freedom movement in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir as the Modi-led fascist Indian government is hell bent on erasing every symbol of Muslim identity in the territory.

The Modi regime is plotting to deprive the Kashmiris of their places of great cultural, historical and religious significance and grabbing of land of historic Eidgah in Srinagar is its latest plan to deprive Kashmiris of their spiritual and religious identity, said a report released by the KMS, today.

It deplored that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime was applying every tactic to change the demography of the territory. Even the Indian citizens are being settled in IIOJK, it added.

The reports maintained that the Indian machinations would not deter the Kashmiris from pursuing the cause of freedom and urged the conscious people to join hands with the Kashmiris to defeat India's wicked designs in the occupied territory.

It said that all tricks and plans of the RSS-backed fascist BJP regime were bound to fail in the occupied territory and the freedom movement would be taken to its logical conclusion at all costs. INP

### Farmers' protest in Islamabad enters third day

ISLAMABAD: The protest of farmers in Islamabad who have gathered under the umbrella of Pakistan Kissan Ittehad on Friday entered the third day.

The farmers are demanding the restoration of the previous tubewell electricity tariff of Rs5.3 per unit and abolishing all taxes and adjustments. The administration has summoned heavy contingents of police as the protesting farmers tried to march towards D-Chowk.

Several rounds of talks were held with the protesting farmers but remained unsuccessful. The demonstrators demanded an end to the black marketing of fertilisers and reduction of the urea rate.

They also demanded that agriculture should be given the status of industry. The Kissan Ittehad has vowed to continue the protest till the fulfillment of demands, warning of staging a sit-in at D-Chowk. Earlier, farmers led by Pakistan Kissan Ittehad staged a

sit-in at Blue Area in Islamabad after the authorities barred them from protesting before the Parliament House.

As soon as the rally of the Kissan Ittehad reached Faizabad, the local administration asked them to stage a sit-in at F-9 Park. However, the protesters insisted on moving towards Parliament House and later blocked Blue Area over refusal from authorities.

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sit-in at Blue Area in Islamabad after the authorities barred them from protesting before the Parliament House. INP

### Child among two die of malaria in flood-hit Johi

DADU: Gastro and malaria continue to spread their tentacles in Sindh as two more people have died in Johi, a town in district Dadu of the province on Friday.

The latest fatalities are those of a youth and a child. On the other hand, family members of the deceased have blamed Sindh Health Department and the district administration for the deaths.

They have said that these deaths are due to inadequate health facilities in their area. Dozens of malaria and gastro patients are still in a critical condition in this small town of Sindh where people have demanded the government to provide them more and more mosquito nets. Kashmir hospitals run out of beds to accommodate patients. Almost all hospitals at Tangwani in district Kashmir, Sindh are filled with malaria and gastro patients as sharp rise has been noticed in the population of mosquitoes in the area in the wake of recent monsoon floods.

And to make matters worse, the administration of district Kashmir has failed to take any step to remedy the situation as several low-lying areas are still under knee-deep water while the absence of anti-mosquito spray has led to unchecked growth in the population of mosquitoes. People of the area have demanded the authorities to take steps on a war footing so that precious human lives could be saved. Kashmir hospitals run out of beds to accommodate patients. Almost all hospitals at Tangwani in district Kashmir, Sindh are filled with malaria and gastro patients as sharp rise has been noticed in the population of mosquitoes in the area in the wake of recent monsoon floods. And to make matters worse, the administration of district Kashmir has failed to take any step to remedy the situation as several low-lying areas are still under knee-deep water while the absence of anti-mosquito spray. INP

### 36 Pakistani students availed Chinese Government Scholarships

ISLAMABAD: At least 36 Pakistani students are all set to leave for China to avail Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS) program 2022, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

In this regard, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) hosted a pre-departure ceremony in Islamabad, and the students were briefed on China, its culture and the institutions where they will start their studies in bachelor's and master's degrees.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong congratulated the students on availing of the prestigious scholarships and presented them with souvenirs during the ceremony. According to HEC, so far, 193 Pakistani students have

been awarded scholarships under the Chinese Govt Scholarship Programme, including 40 in 2019, 58 in 2020, 59 in 2021, and 36 this year. There are 274 Chinese universities offering scholarships under CGS for international students every year.

Prior to the ceremony, Mr. Rong called on Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed wherein the latter briefed the Ambassador on the long history of academic collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese higher education institutions.

Mr. Ahmed highlighted that Pakistan and China have constituted clusters of universities jointly working on various disciplines. INP

## Martyrdom of Kashmiris by Indian troops grave concern: FO

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office said on Friday that it was matter of grave concern that the Indian occupation forces had martyred five more Kashmiri youth in extra-judicial killings and fake encounters in Kulgam and Kupwara areas in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in the past week.

Speaking at the weekly press briefing here, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said, "We also continue to draw attention of the international community to the deteriorating situation particularly the health of Kashmiri political prisoners including Hurriyat leaders languishing in different jails of India and we demand their immediate release." "We also condemn India's illegal and unprovoked, literally unjustified economic assault on IIOJK manifested by the recent halting of fresh fruit laden trucks from Kashmir valley by Indian occupation forces. This is kind of an undeclared economic blockade of Kashmiri fruit growers, and a deliberate attempt in our view to destroy the economy of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to punish the Kashmiri people for their struggle for right to self-determination," he added. On the floods and the ongoing international assistance and relief efforts, he said, "As we transition from rescue and relief phase of response to this unprecedented climate catastrophe, to the more challenging rehabilitation and reconstruction phase that is

upcoming, we are grateful to the unparalleled generosity and resilience of the Pakistanis who have contributed in cash and kind to help their brethren."

He said Pakistan was also thankful to international friends and partners for sending 133 relief flights, besides ships, trucks, and goodness trains to help the flood victims.

"We are determined to overcome this adversity with determination, grit, perseverance, and mobilization of national and international efforts."

"We also condemn India's illegal and unprovoked, literally unjustified economic assault on IIOJK manifested by the recent halting of fresh fruit laden trucks from Kashmir valley by Indian occupation forces. This is kind of an undeclared economic blockade of Kashmiri fruit growers, and a deliberate attempt in our view to destroy the economy of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to punish the Kashmiri people for their struggle for right to self-determination," he added. On the floods and the ongoing international assistance and relief efforts, he said, "As we transition from rescue and relief phase of response to this unprecedented climate catastrophe, to the more challenging rehabilitation and reconstruction phase that is upcoming, we are grateful to the unparalleled generosity and resilience of the Pakistanis who have contributed in cash and kind to help their brethren." INP

### Sharifs' sugar mills case: SC to hear pleas on Oct 6

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court will hear the Punjab government petitions against the relocation of sugar mills owned by the Sharif family.

The apex court has fixed the Punjab government petitions for hearing on Oct 6.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel will hear the case.

The provincial government has challenged the transfer of sugar mills belonged to the Sharif family. The Ittefaq, Hamza, and Ashraf Sugar Mills have been transferred to the cotton producing areas.

The Lahore High Court had already dismissed the petitions against the sugar mills' relocation.

However, the Punjab government and Jehangir Tareen have challenged the LHC decision in the Supreme Court. INP

### Weekly inflation spikes by 0.94pc, annual rate at 30.62pc: PBS report

LAHORE: Weekly inflation rate in the country went up by 0.94%, however, the annual inflation rate is 30.62%, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

According to the PBS report, the sensitive price index (SPI) for the current week ended on 29th September 2022 recorded an increase of 0.94%.

PBS data shows that, during the week, out of 51 items, 20 items' prices increased, ten decreased, and 21 remained unchanged.

The report shows an increase in the prices of food items such as onions (47.77%), tomatoes (30.29%), tea Lipton (2.50%), and bread (1.74%).

On the other hand, PBS data shows a drop in the prices of LPG (4.14%), wheat flour (2.99%), pulse masoor (1.59%), bananas (1.50%), cooking oil 5 litres (1.12%), sugar (0.60%), garlic (0.22%), vegetable ghee 2.5Kg (0.17%) and vegetable ghee 1Kg & potatoes (0.13%) each. INP

### Flour crisis persists in Balochistan, per kg price crosses Rs120

QUETTA: Flour crisis continues in Balochistan, as the per kg price of flour has reached between Rs120 to 125.

According to details, the prices of flour have skyrocketed in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan while the commodity was not available in most shops across the province. Meanwhile, a 20-kg bag of flour was being sold from Rs2,450 in the local market.

The 50-kg bag of flour is being sold at Rs5,900 to 6,000 in the local market. The provincial government is failing to control over sky-rocketing flour prices.

Earlier on September 13, flour mill owners blamed the provincial government for the ongoing flour crisis in the province, alleging that the food department failed to procure wheat according to the requirement for this year. Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) Balochistan chapter representatives said there was a huge gap between the demand and supply which created the crisis. They said flour mill owners were being blamed for the crisis, while in reality, the provincial government has imposed an inter-provincial and inter-district ban on the transportation of wheat during the harvesting season. INP



LAHORE: Leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Liaqat Baloch addressing to the Seminar organized by Pakistan Federal Union Of Journalists (PFUJ) at a Local Hotel, in Provincial Capital.

### UAE tops it all in sending aid to flood-ravaged Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: At least 133 planes carrying flood relief supplies from 17 brotherly and friendly nations as well as three international organizations have arrived in Pakistan so far to help flood victims; however, the United Arab Emirates alone sent 41 aid planes to Rawalpindi, Karachi, and Lahore, outpacing all other nations.

According to the spokesperson of the Foreign Office, the friendly and brotherly countries have come forward to help flood victims in Pakistan. So far, Pakistan has received a substantial amount of aid from China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, Uzbekistan, the United Arab Emirates and a number of other countries. For flood victims in Sukkur, Karachi, and Rawalpindi, America dispatched 21 aid aircraft. Turkey provided 14 relief aircraft to Rawalpindi and Karachi for the flood victims. 10 Saudi Arabian assistance aircraft arrived for the flood victims in Pakistan. Eight aircraft carrying help for the flood victims from Oman landed in Pakistan. Four and four

planes carrying supplies each from China and Qatar arrived in Pakistan. Recently, Indonesia dispatched two relief aircraft to Pakistan. Uzbekistan, France, Turkmenistan, Jordan have sent one plane each loaded with relief goods in Pakistan on humanitarian grounds. Additionally, one aid plane each was deployed to Pakistan by Nepal, Great Britain, Russia, Greece, and Italy. Three assistance planes were deployed by UNICEF, fourteen by the UNHCR, and three by the World Food Organization. Pakistan received two trucks of aid from the Turkish Red Crescent. Three emergency cargo vehicles were also sent to Pakistan by the Turkish government. A convoy of 87 vehicles carrying supplies were sent to Pakistan by Tajikistan. Moreover, Iran, Turkey, Tajikistan, Oman, United Arab Emirates also sent aid by sea.

100 tonnes of assistance from the Iranian Red Crescent were trucked to the Pakistani Red Crescent. Likewise, one ship each carrying. INP

### China's Ningxia region pledges RMB 1.75 ml for Pakistan's flood relief effort

BEIJING: People's Government of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region announced relief assistance to support the relief and rehabilitation efforts of the Government of Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

The relief items include tents and blankets needed urgently in Pakistan for RMB 1.75 million.

A formal launch ceremony of the relief goods was held on 28 September through a video link. The meeting was joined by Lei Dongsheng Member of the Standing Committee and Secretary General of the CPC Ningxia Committee, Jiang Jiang, Vice President of the Chinese People's Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries, Zhao Shiren, Consul General of China in Lahore and Bai Yuzhen, Director General of Ningxia Foreign Affairs Office.

Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Moinul Haque along with other Embassy officials also participated in the ceremony. It is to be noted that the

decision was announced last week in a special letter addressed to Ambassador Moin ul Haque by the Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

Sharing his grief and condolences with the bereaved families, Lei Dongsheng said that as an All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partner and Iron Brother, China stands with the people of Pakistan in this difficult time.

Expressing his good wishes for the early rehabilitation of the flood victims, Lei reaffirmed the resolve of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region to continue to deepen ties with the people of Pakistan.

Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Haque appreciated the urgent assistance offered by the People's Government of Ningxia, Hui Autonomous Region. Recalling that the two countries have always stood together in difficult times in the past, Haque said that Chinese assistance to Pakistan for flood victims has once again proven the unique nature of fraternal ties between the two countries. INP



LAHORE: Large number of cricket fans gathered at Gaddafi Stadium in Provincial Capital, during Sixth Twenty20 International cricket match between Pakistan and England.