

QUETTA VOICE

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COAS Bajwa, UN Military Advisor discuss regional security in US meeting



Balochistan University students injured in clashes with police

Floods cause a financial loss of Rs.300bs to Balochistan

News Desk

Balochistan has faced a financial loss of around Rs. 300 billion due to current torrential rains and flash floods, the General Secretary of Zamindar Action Committee (ZAC) Abdul Rehman Bazai told Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudous Bizenjo. The current flash floods had many adverse impacts on the Balochistan province.

The CM of Balochistan met with the representatives of the ZAC regarding the damages caused by the floods to the agriculture sector in Balochistan. They discussed the situation created by floods and the issues that the farmers are faced with.

The General Secretary of the ZAC briefed Mr. Bizenjo about the damages caused by the floods. He told that as compared to other sectors, the agriculture sector is affected the most. Mr. Bazai told that the floods damaged the canal system, tube wells, and solar systems.

Members of the ZAC meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo. Photo provided by DGPR.

The Action Committee expressed con-



cerns over the import of commodities from the neighboring countries. They said that the local farmers are affected by the import of vegetables and fruits as their products are sold at low prices in the market.

The committee demanded to waive off the electricity bills of the farmers in the affected districts. 500 hours of dozer and 250 hours of tractors for land leveling should be provided to each farmer.

Committee demanded to provide subsidies to the landowners on agricultural supplies and fertilizers at the provincial level, including the waiver of agricultural loans

for the province, and to ensure the representation of the landowners in the survey to compensate for the losses.

"Agriculture sector is the backbone of our country's economy and the employment of most of the people is also related to this sector", the CM said.

The CM of Balochistan praised the Prime Minister of Pakistan and said that during the recent floods, the PM visited the affected districts of Balochistan several times and personally reviewed the relief and rehabilitation works, which is a good gesture from the federal government.



CS Balochistan orders spray in flood hit areas to stop spread of malaria

News Desk

The Chief Secretary of Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili directed the concerned authorities at a meeting to conduct spraying in the flood-hit areas in order to stop the spread of malaria. After the passage of floods, many diseases especially malaria have broken out in different areas of Balochistan.

Stagnant water on a large scale can be seen in many areas, that provide space for the reproduction of mosqui-



toes. Health officials revealed to this daily the other day that more than 20000 people had contracted malaria during the last month in Balochistan.

CS Balochistan presided over a meeting in which the availability of tents and medicines to treat malaria were reviewed. Secretary Health, Director General (DG) Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Commissioner Nasirabad, and the deputy commissioners of the affected areas held the meeting through a video link.

"Comprehensive steps must be taken to prevent the spread of malaria, and availability of the medicines must be ensured", the CS stated.

The meeting discussed that the Doctors and paramedical staff would be deployed in three shifts. Strict action will be taken against the Doctors and para-medical staff who are absent.

The Health Department and Local Government should be completely prepared to fight against the pandemic diseases, the meeting decided.

4 terrorists killed after exchange of fire in Naseerabad: CTD

Aziz Marri, Mir Salam Jogezeai

The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed to have killed four terrorists after an exchange of fire in Balochistan's Naseerabad district on Sunday morning. CTD vehicle was on a patrolling in Notal area of Naseerabad when attacked by terrorists, CTD sources said.

They said two policemen were also injured in the exchange of fire with terrorists. A huge contingent of the police, CTD, and anti-terrorist force reached Notal in the aftermath of the incident. The dead bodies of the dead terrorists were shifted to the district headquarters hospital Dera Murad Jamali. Hospital sources said two dead bodies were identified and the two are yet to be identified.

CTD also recovered hand grenades and other weapons from the possession of the dead terrorists.

Balochistan Govt restores merger of AEOs in BCS and BSS groups

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: The Balochistan government restored the merger of Assistant Executive Officers (AEOs) in the Balochistan Civil Service (BCS) and the Balochistan Secretariat Service (BSS) on October 1st, 2022.

The AEOs merger notification has been issued under section 11-A of the Balochistan Civil Servant Act 1974, a notification issued by the Services and Administration Department (S&GAD) said. It mentioned that the AEOs were merged in the light of the order of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in March this year.

The Balochistan cabinet had also approved the merger in light of the apex court's order on September 8th. It may be



mentioned here that the BCS and BSS officers had challenged the merger of the AEOs in court.

The court had directed the provincial government to post the AEOs in planning and finance departments since they were recruited for the said purpose. However,

the AEOs challenged the court's judgment in the apex court in a review petition.

The AEOs were recruited through the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) during former military dictator General (R) Pervez Musharraf's

regime. Amir ul Mulk Mengal was the governor of Balochistan when the AEOs were recruited to strengthen the local bodies system.

However, successive governments then posted the AEOs as deputy commissioners in various districts of Balochistan.



UNITED STATES: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) called on General Birame Diop (Senegal), United Nations (UN) Military Advisor to Secretary General during an official visit to United States (US).

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 Kheekar 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 Nilli Sadooza Forest area of Lami. This incident occurred last year on July 19, 2021. After the incident, the com-



plaintain, Muhammad Yaqoob Lami, 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 Manza 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.

COAS Bajwa, UN Military Advisor discuss regional security in US meeting

New York: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa met with United Nations Military Adviser Gen Birame Diop during his ongoing visit to the United States, said Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement.

According to the military's media wing, the top military officials discussed matters of mutual interest, overall regional security as well as the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan.

The army chief appreciated the role of Gen Diop in promoting core

values of the United Nations and its response during the disaster in the country, the ISPR added.

Gen Diop expressed his grief over the destruction caused by floods in Pakistan due to climate change and offered condolence to the families of the victims. He also assured full UN support for the affected.

The UN dignitary acknowledged Pakistan's contribution in UN peacekeeping Missions and extraordinary achievements in counter-terrorism. INP

Son kills father in Kharotabad area of Quetta

Our Reporter

A son killed his father in Quetta's Kharotabad area on Sunday. Police sources said the accused son identified as Saeed ur Rehman killed his father Haji Muhammad Hassan. Police reached the spot and arrested the accused.

Police shifted the accused to police station Kharotabad for

interrogation. Police recovered the weapon used in the incident. Superintendent of police Naveed Alam and other senior police officers took notice of the incident and directed the policemen to ensure the arrest of the culprit.

This incident has come almost a week after a brother killed his three brothers in Quetta's Railway Society.

Balochistan University students injured in clashes with police

Manan Mandokhail

At least eight students of Balochistan University were injured and several were arrested during clashes with police on Saturday. The students were protesting against the entry tests when clashed with police. Almost all student organizations have objected to the method of entry tests for students in the province's oldest university.

"Police baton charged students in presence of Spokeswoman government of Balochistan", Saifullah Khan, one of the student leaders told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. Panic prevailed in the university as more policemen were deployed in the aftermath of violent clashes. The injured students were shifted to civil hospital Quetta for medical treatment.

Students blocked main road outside the Balochistan University

Spokeswoman government of Balochistan, Farah Azeem Shah reached the spot of the protest and held negotiations with the protesting students. "Government is serious about resolution of your problems", she assured the protesting students.



Students blocked main road outside the university

The students blocked the main road outside the Balochistan University and chanted slogans against the university administration and police for what they claim using force against the students. They demanded Vice Chancellor cancel the ongoing test and take students into confidence in this regard. "Our protest would continue until the students are released and tests are canceled", Asad Khan, another protesting student from the Peoples Students Federation (PSF) said. He said the university administration was creating obstacles for the students of the deprived areas of the province to study at the university.

There was no word from the Balochistan University administration in response to the student protest

The student protests affected the flow of traffic and people faced difficulties while reaching their destinations on Quetta's Sariab Road. Long queues of vehicles were witnessed on both sides of the road because of the blockade of the road by the protesting students.

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.

Climate change, the prime challenge for Human Beings

By Syed Abid Shah

Climate change in the world is one of the most horrible issues. Climate is a significant variation of average weather conditions—say, conditions becoming warmer, wetter, or drier—over several decades or more. It's the longer-term trend that differentiates climate change from natural weather variability. The climate is the fundamental part of the world. Because our agriculture and industrial system are dependent on climate and a lot of commodities required in industries is directly coming from agriculture to industries. Moreover, climate control is essential for every state or even for every individual to take significant caution about the weather.

But now recently a 3 day's summit was arranged in Glasgow Scotland about climate changes in the world which is the leading

cause of the several issues of the world. The representative from all over the world, United Nation and different companies Chief executives were participating in this conference; talking about the same issue how to solve it and what measures are taken for this. The members of the summit emphasise using new technologies which are free from pollution like the solar system and wind turbine.

Anthropogenic causes of climate change. Humans—more specifically, the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that human activity generates—are the leading cause of the earth's rapidly changing climate today. Greenhouse gases play an important role in keeping the planet warm enough to inhabit. But the amount of these gases in our atmosphere has skyrocketed in recent decades. According to

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, our current concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide "are unprecedented compared with the past 800,000 years." Indeed, the atmosphere's share of carbon dioxide—the planet's chief climate change contributor—has risen by 46 per cent since preindustrial times.

The burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas for electricity, heat, and transportation is the primary source of human-generated emissions. A second major source is a deforestation, which releases sequestered (or stored) carbon into the air. It's estimated that logging, clearcutting, fires, and other forms of forest degradation release an average of 8.1 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, accounting for more than 20 per cent of all global CO2 emissions. Other human activities

that generate air pollution include fertilizer use (a primary source of nitrous oxide emissions), livestock production (cattle, buffalo, sheep, and goats are major methane emitters), and certain industrial processes that release fluorinated gases. Activities like agriculture and road construction can also change the reflectivity of the earth's surface, leading to local warming or cooling.

Though our planet's forests and oceans absorb greenhouse gases from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and other processes, these natural carbon sinks can't keep up with our rising emissions. The resulting buildup of greenhouse gases is causing alarmingly fast warming worldwide. It's estimated that the earth's average temperature rose by about 1 degree Fahrenheit during the 20th century.

Every state should take reasonable care

about the climate change in the world and look after the system of industries which is the major cause of climate change. The developed countries now take measurements to stop climate change and work on technical and advanced technologies which help out to stop the emissions of several gases which destroyed the climate. They also work on agriculture to produce new seeds and plants which support environmental protection. They also use the solar system and wind turbines instead of using fossil fuels which are causing climate change. Japan and other developed countries of the world work on electric vehicles it is also significant for climate change. Every individual must take too much care about climate change because it is one of the leading causes of the world which affects all over the world.

The climate IDP

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain among the most vulnerable people in the world. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement define IDPs as "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border."

IDPs are often referred to as refugees. However, they do not fall within the legal definitions of a refugee. Pakistan's diverse geography and climate expose the country to a wide range of climate-induced disasters such as floods and landslides. Although Pakistan has contributed the least to the climate crisis (it is responsible for less than one per cent of the world's planet-warming gases), it is the eighth most vulnerable nation to the climate crisis, according to the Global Climate Risk Index.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 16.6 million IDPs and 94 disaster events were recorded in Pakistan from 2008 to 2021. During this period, floods triggered most of the displacements (15.4 million), followed by earthquakes (1.1 million). Other climate-induced

disasters which triggered internal displacements in Pakistan included chronic droughts, extreme temperatures, and frequent occurring storms.

In 2021 alone, 70,000 internal displacements were recorded in Pakistan, all of them triggered by climate-induced disasters. The recent erratic monsoon rains of 2022 have caused catastrophic floods and affected an estimated 33 million across Pakistan. The climate change-driven disaster has claimed the lives of over 1,400 people and displaced millions, including women, children, older people, and people with disabilities.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has revealed that flood water has washed away more than 1.7 million homes, displacing millions of people within Pakistan, who require shelter, food, healthcare and other essentials.

Additionally, it has been revealed by the UNFPA that an estimated 75,000 pregnant women are affected by the recent floods, and 40,000 are expected to deliver their babies in September 2022. Women and girls are particularly exposed to the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) during disaster events. The UN Women has revealed that more than 70 per cent of women suffer various forms of gender-based discrimination in humanitarian crises.

Many internally displaced children in Pakistan have lost access to education as their schools have been washed away. Many children would be forced to quit school and engage in child labour to earn a livelihood to help their families. Pakistan already has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children with an estimated 22.8 million children aged 5-16 not attending school, as per Unicef. It will be extremely challenging for Pakistan, which is still recovering from school closures due to Covid-19, to send internally displaced children back to school.

Additionally, the WHO has revealed that about 900 health facilities have been damaged across Pakistan. This places IDPs at risk of aggravated disease outbreaks such as dengue fever, malaria, polio, and Covid-19.

Despite a high number of recorded IDPs in Pakistan over the years and the vulnerability faced by them, the country has no national laws or policies implemented that specifically apply to IDPs. The Land Acquisition Act 1894 is the only legal document that refers to displacement. However, it only applies to the acquisition of land for public purposes and companies.

Article 25(1) of the constitution states: All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law. It is also important to note

that Pakistan ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in June 2010.

Article 2(2) of the ICCPR obligates Pakistan to take "the necessary steps, in accordance with its constitutional processes and with the provisions of the present Covenant, to adopt such laws or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights recognized in the present Covenant." Therefore, Pakistan should enact legislation that specifically protects the rights of IDPs.

Pakistan can take inspiration from the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and incorporate them into its national legislation. The Guiding Principles were presented to the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1998. They identify the rights and guarantee protection to IDPs in all states of their displacement. Although the Guiding Principles are not legally binding, they have attained significant authority since their inception. At the World Summit in September 2005 in New York, the Guiding Principles were recognized as an important international framework for the protection of IDPs.

Recently, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited the flood-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan and stated that "there is a very unfair situation, in relation to the level of

disruption we are seeing in Sindh." He added that "it is essential for the international community to understand that Pakistan, including Sindh, needs today massive financial support to overcome this crisis," while emphasizing that this was not a matter of generosity, but justice.

The international community should support Pakistan as it responds to the unprecedented climate-induced floods. Many IDPs remain displaced for years. The international community should pledge to support Pakistan until all IDPs return home after the reconstruction of their homes and villages.

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Collision with happiness

M Bilal Lakhani

Every morning I wake up and ask myself if I'm happy.

This is a terrible habit for my mental health but over the last few weeks, the answer is that I'm actually happy. This is a strange and out of body experience because this hasn't been the case for the majority of my life. As little as six months ago, I was feeling unhappy every morning, bordering on restlessness and flitting with sadness. What turned things around and is this happiness sustainable?

Six months ago, I was on paternity leave and had made big plans to pursue long term professional goals that I never had a chance to pursue because of my full time day job. I thought the extra time I had on paternity leave would allow me to pour myself into those goals but week after week, I was literally doing nothing to move the needle on that front. Instead, I was finding happiness in spending time with my daughter, wife and parents. As well as the joy of doing nothing. But I was trying to fight this feeling, rather than embrace it.

All my life, being a type A personality, happiness was married to my professional life. The paternity leave was a strange window into realising it's possible to be

unhappy professionally but happy personally. Perhaps this sounds obvious to most people but it was a profound realisation for me. I'm also the kind of person who likes to reinvent his life every few years and by that I mean change everything. Originally, I had planned to use the paternity leave as an opportunity to reinvent myself. But the burden of this reinvention was weighing me down because of the lack of progress rather than exciting me.

So I started experimenting with doing something different half way through my paternity leave. Instead of changing everything at once, I started changing one thing a week and tried to chew on small pieces of it daily. For background, I wanted to start two side gigs, play tennis three a week, get closer to religion, make a new YouTube video every day, re-evaluate my purpose in life and take care of my new born baby during the paternity leave. The expectations were crushing me instead of inspiring me. So I started doing something radically simple. For one week, I told myself the only way I'd evaluate whether my day is a success is if I woke up in the morning and did a gratitude exercise, where I'd write down three things I'm grateful for in my diary. That's it. That's the only

thing I'd evaluate myself on. Everything else could wait. I was on leave after all.

The gratitude exercise had a transformational impact not just on my week — because I focused on what I was grateful for rather than what I didn't have or was behind on — but it also had a snowball effect that would rip through the existing pillars of my life. The following week the gratitude exercise became easier to do because it was turning into a habit so I decided to take on one more task. Setting up a tennis date for next week. One date instead of three. The next week I played tennis. The following week I increased the frequency to twice a week. I felt so energised and excited at the end of my games and the morning after.

Week by week, I added a new habit or goal I wanted to achieve and because I was setting expectations so ridiculously low, I was actually able to achieve change and feel happy about my progress rather than denigrating myself for not making progress. Fast forward six months and my life stands transformed. I'm now playing tennis regularly, having dinner with a friend every week, reading the newspaper, doing gratitude exercises and getting closer to God. I didn't start two side gigs.

Nurture a healthy heart to live wisely

Durdana Najam

World Heart Day is celebrated on September 29 to remind the public about the importance of keeping our hearts in good shape.

Metaphorically, the heart connects us with our surroundings and the Almighty. It all flows from the heart. The purification of the heart is obtained both spiritually and physically. What we eat affects the flesh part of the heart, and what we think affects its spiritual side. So, if tobacco blackens the arteries, stress tightens them to hamper the smooth flow of blood, putting in peril the very survival of the heart. One has to be goodhearted and at peace with oneself to live longer and healthier.

Every year 18.6 million people die of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) globally, caused by smoking, diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, air pollution, Chagas disease and cardiac amyloidosis.

Asia has the highest number of patients with CVD. Of the 18.6 million CVD deaths worldwide in 2019, 58% occurred in Asia. Nearly 39% of these deaths were premature.

According to research published in the Journals of the American College of Cardiology (JACC): "The increasing CVD epidemics in Asia are likely the consequence of complex effects from changes in socioeconomic, living environments, lifestyles, prevalence of CVD risk factors and absence of capacities to

prevent and treat CVD." In Pakistan, the CVD mortality is 152 per 100,000 population (22.7%), translating to about 200,000 deaths annually.

The JACC report tells us that dietary changes from traditional Asian to westernised food have had a detrimental effect on the health of Asians living in resource-deficit countries. A recent publication in the Global Burden of Disease provides further insight into food patterns in Asia: for the five unhealthy foods — red meat, processed meat, sugar-sweetened beverages, trans-fats, and sodium — all Asian regions consumed the most sugar-sweetened beverages and sodium. Among the 20 most populous countries, China has the highest age-standardised rate of diet-related CVD deaths (299 per 100,000 population) while Pakistan has the highest proportion of diet-related CVD deaths (152 per 100,000 population).

Prof Nawaz Lashari, Chair of Cardiology at Dow University, stresses healthy physical activity for cardiac health, advising 45-minute walk daily. Pakistan Hypertension League General Secretary Dr Mohammad Ishaq says exercise strengthens the heart. According to Dr Ishaq, 20% of Pakistan's population suffers from high blood pressure, 10% has diabetes, and 30% is obese. "These ailments lead to heart diseases," he warns.

In the context of World Heart Day, a leading

pharmaceutical company has arranged special events in Karachi, lighting up the city's landmark buildings in red in collaboration with the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Karachi Metropolitan Corporation. The events will commemorate World Heart Day and pay tribute to frontline healthcare workers, including cardiologists working tirelessly to save lives during Covid-19.

The company has worked with Cardiology institutes throughout Pakistan to introduce cost-effective and efficacious treatments for blood pressure, cholesterol, angina, and heart failure, as well as world-class medical devices for cardiac interventions.

The high prevalence of CVD in Pakistan is mainly the result of our sedentary lifestyle, increased consumption of inorganic and fatty food, coupled with stress and genetic factors. While increasingly effective medicines and devices are continually being introduced, there is absolutely no substitute for prevention through exercise and a healthy diet. Ignoring such preventive measures increases the burden of heart disease and the cost of healthcare in Pakistan.

Experts insist we have to change our way of thinking and our approach to public health if we want to help people live longer and healthy lives. In this respect, public policy interventions guided by experts in the fields of preventive cardiology and public health,

including education and awareness campaigns, should be conducted regularly to motivate people to exercise and eat healthy food. Only preventive measures can reduce the burden of disease and reduce the excessive reliance on medicine.

On this World Health Day, let us resolve to nurture a heart clean of impurities of food and thought because, as Charles Dickens said, "A loving heart is the truest wisdom." The JACC report tells us that dietary changes from traditional Asian to westernised food have had a detrimental effect on the health of Asians living in resource-deficit countries. A recent publication in the Global Burden of Disease provides further insight into food patterns in Asia: for the five unhealthy foods — red meat, processed meat, sugar-sweetened beverages, trans-fats, and sodium — all Asian regions consumed the most sugar-sweetened beverages and sodium. Among the 20 most populous countries, China has the highest age-standardised rate of diet-related CVD deaths (299 per 100,000 population) while Pakistan has the highest proportion of diet-related CVD deaths (152 per 100,000 population).

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Transcending limits

Ali Hassan Bangwar

Historic moments warrant introspection and reflection. The contemporary pandemic-ridden world seems to be at the crossroads. The prevailing onslaught of Covid-19 against humankind calls for a comprehensive contemplation on what went wrong in our quest for modernisation. The pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented crisis, the likes of which the world has not seen since World War II. Rather than viewing it as a traditional fleeing event, we need to mull over the lessons the pandemic is trying to teach us. When deliberating, one may be forced to conclude that something is wrong with what we have been doing. We shouldn't be oblivious of an inevitable principle: one gets what one gives. When we harm nature, nature harms us back.

Among all creatures, humankind is high up the evolutionary ladder due to unmatched cognitive abilities and intellectual prowess. These intellectual abilities were inherently aimed at distinguishing good and evil, and regulating life on earth in a manner that benefits not only humans but their surroundings. Paradoxically, humans have outstepped and outreached their assigned authority and overestimated themselves as an omnipotent entity enjoying complete impunity of all their activities

regardless of their impacts. Rather than running the affairs and utilising the intellect and bounties in a just and sustainable manner, men have badly embezzled with nature's resources at the cost of destruction of other forms of life and of natural ecosystem. The recently released UN IPCC's terrifying sixth assessment report on the anthropogenic destruction of global climate is but a single instance of mankind's high-handedness against their surrounding environment. Even men didn't spare his fellow beings.

A few in the world hold majority of the wealth — the result: millions of people are currently consumed by poverty, hunger and disease. The rich-poor divide widens as time passes by. Global poverty and wide-scale inequality are on the rise. Laws are made and broken for and by the rich, while the poor remain entangled in them. Merciless pogroms are a norm. The week dies of being preyed and consumed by capitalist predators. The tyranny against the weak, and the atrocities of rulers over their subjects have surged as time passes by. The growing scourge of terrorism and extremism, rising populism and demagoguery, and fascist political leadership is the new normal. Mass adulteration, hoarding, black-marketing, organised crimes, cheating, lying, manipulating, exploiting have all

become common traits of our culture.

There is an ever-rising trend of flattery and hypocrisy, while everything remains centered around material success. Morality, ethos, empathy and compassion are all considered as outdated notions. One might wonder how is NASA even thinking of colonising Mars if we have utterly failed to learn to live peacefully on earth despite being here for millenniums.

Though heinous acts may go unattended or unpunished by our judicial system, we must realise the earth has its own system of justice. Floods, droughts, forest fires, heat waves, tsunamis, epidemics, earthquakes, torrential rains and violent volcanic eruptions are just a few of the consequences that have come about due to our actions. COVID-19 among other cataclysms questions the sustainability of the existing global order and the underlying principles of globalisation. The pandemic has given humankind the opportunity to rethink and reform existing socio-political and economic orders in line with principles of egalitarianism, eco-friendliness, compassion and empathy. Rather than wasting resources on weapons, we must utilize it for the underprivileged, the poor and the weak. Since we have already prospered materially, we now need to invest in humanity if we want to shield ourselves from nature's

Pakistan received \$ 90.2 million from China for flood relief

ISLAMABAD: As large swaths of Pakistan are inundated by floodwaters and over 33 million people have been affected by the unprecedented monsoon rain-triggered floods, China's continuous response efforts for Pakistan have exceeded 644.1 million RMB (equivalent to US\$90.2 million).

According to Gwadar Pro, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan shared details about China's support for Pakistan in flood relief. As per details, the Chinese government extended support of RMB 400 million, the Chinese Army RMB 100 million, the Chinese People's

Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries donated RMB 125 million, and the Red Cross Society of China provided RMB 2.1 million.

"All walks of life in China are motivated to assist Pakistan in fighting the floods. In the face of disaster, China stands with Pakistan," reads a statement shared on the Embassy's official Twitter account. The monsoon rains and floods have affected over 33 million people in the country as well as killed 1678 people and left 12864 others injured. As per NDMA's latest updates, 2,045,349 houses have been totally or partially damaged. The

floods also damaged 13,074 km of roads and 410 bridges. Several Pakistan-based Chinese companies are also taking part in relief activities while the Chinese government is also expected to help the country in rehabilitation activities. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and other Pakistani officials have time and again expressed profound gratitude to President Xi Jinping and the government of China for their sincere efforts and financial assistance during this critical time.

China and Pakistan have a long history of helping each other during natural disasters and calamities. INP



QUETTA: PPP leader Sayed Dawood Agha addressing a press conference.

PTI govt removed through conspiracy: Asad Umar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Umar on Sunday reiterated that PTI was removed from power through a conspiracy.

Addressing a press conference, Asad Umar said that Imran Khan left Prime Minister House with just a pen and his diary and allegations on him that he mis-placed the US cypher are baseless.

Criticizing ruling coalition, the former planning minister said that a common man in the country has to live as per law of the country but these rulers amend laws as per their wishes and end cases against them.

He further said that government knows that masses are with Imran Khan and they cannot compete with him.

It merits mention that Federal Cabinet on Sunday decided to

take legal action against PTI Chairman Imran Khan, and his aides over an alleged audio leak with regard to a diplomatic cypher.

The federal cabinet had formed a committee over the leaked audios on September 30 which recommended legal action over the audios of Imran Khan, Azam Khan and others on October 1.

The recommendations of the committee were presented for approval of the cabinet in a circularity summary, which was formally approved.

The cabinet approved initiating FIA probe and legal action over the audio leak about the cypher.

The FIA would constitute a probe committee comprising of senior officials and the investigative agency could also bring

the officers from intelligence agencies in the probe team.

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Teacher tortures student to death in Kandhkot

KANDHKOT: A teenage boy, studying at a school in Sindh's Kandhkot district, died after allegedly being administered a severe beating by his teacher.

According to the victim's family, his son, a student of class 9, was "tortured" by his teacher that resulted in the death of their son.

Police have registered case and launched further investigation into the case. INP

Police bust Karachi gang selling stolen motorcycles in Balochistan

KARACHI: An operative of a group involved in stealing motorcycles from Karachi has made startling revelations during the investigation.

The police arrested Mahmood, an operative of a group involved in snatching of motorcycles from Karachi's Azizabad.

The police authorities say that Mahmood, the motorcycle lifter arrested from Azizabad said in his confessional statement that the stolen motorcycles are sold at cheap prices.

The accused revealed during the investigation that after stealing the motorcycles, he used to sell them for Rs8 to 10 thousand, most of the motorcycles stolen from Karachi are taken to Balochistan and Khuzdar, he added.

The police officials said that many motorcycles have been recovered on the identification of the arrested accused Mahmood, the accused is also involved in the theft of motorcycles and vehicles in different areas. INP

CTD kills four 'terrorists' in Nasirabad

NASIRABAD: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on Sunday claimed to have shot dead four alleged terrorists in Nasirabad, Balochistan.

As per details, the CTD team met an encounter with alleged terrorists in Nasirabad's Nootal area after their vehicles were fired at.

The terrorists opened fire at the CTD team and in retaliation, four were killed on the spot. In the alleged shootout, two CTD personnel also sustained injuries.

Two of killed terrorists are residents of Subhatpur, the CTD said. Further investigation into the matter was underway. INP

Public-private partnership a way out for Pakistan Railways: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Public-private partnership (PPP) is a practical way for the Pakistan Railways (PR) and other loss-making state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to boost the revenues and strengthen the infrastructure, reports WealthPK.

Ijaz Ali, a research fellow at the Centre for Business and Economic Research, said the Pakistan Railways was included in the list of top 10 loss-making state-owned enterprises, which continued to be a burden on the country's economy.

He said there was a need to increase funding for the Pakistan Railways, as the recent catastrophic floods had seriously damaged the infrastructure and its rehabilitation without the private sector's assistance would be a difficult task.

The Pakistan Railways infrastructure is estimated to have suffered a loss of over Rs11 billion due to the devastating floods. Bridges and tracks have been destroyed, causing an estimated loss of Rs8 billion, while ticket refunds, diesel, administrative proceedings, and suspension of train operations have cost the department Rs3.5 bil-

lion. According to WealthPK research, the Public-Private Partnership Authority had three projects for construction in the PPP mode, which included the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), Karachi-Pipri Freight Corridor, and Thar Coal Block II Railway Link. The KCR project is ready to be floated in the market, while the other two projects are in the evaluation stage.

The public-private partnership can also help upgrade the department's dilapidated infrastructure, thus enabling it to become a profit-making state-owned enterprise.

Moreover, there are various sectors worldwide where the public-private partnerships have completed successfully, such as power generation and distribution, water and sanitation, refuse disposal, pipelines, hospitals, school buildings and teaching facilities, stadiums, air traffic control, prisons, railways, roads, billing and other information technology systems, and housing.

According to the Asian Development Bank, the term 'public-

private partnership' describes a range of possible relationships among the public and private entities in the context of infrastructure and other services.

While engaging the private sector, the PPP framework recognizes and structures the role of government in order to ensure that social obligations are met and successful sector reforms and public investments are made.

Additionally, a strong PPP allocates responsibilities, risks, and tasks among the public and private partners in an optimal manner. A PPP involves public partners such as government ministries, departments, municipalities, or state-owned enterprises. Businesses or investors with technical or financial expertise relevant to the project may be considered private partners, either locally or internationally. It is becoming more common for the public-private partnerships to also include non-government organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) that represent the stakeholders directly affected by the project. INP

Qureshi welcomes probe into cipher, vows to continue to serve country

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice President Shah Mehmood Qureshi in a news conference said that the official summary of the federal cabinet meeting "accepted" the cipher that the ousted ruling party claims prove US-backed alleged conspiracy to topple its government.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) was given a nod of approval earlier on Sunday by the cabinet to investigate the 'diplomatic cipher' audio leaks, wherein the former government high-ups allegedly discussed how would they "play" on the cipher issue.

A cabinet committee was con-

stituted on September 30 to discuss the proceedings regarding the audio leaks featuring the PTI chairman and his party leaders, including General-Secretary Asad Umar, then personal secretary Azam Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

Read Nawaz calls for aggressive dealing with cipher narrative.

The committee recommended legal action in a meeting held yesterday, with proposals presented in the form of a summary before the cabinet for approval.

Responding to the unfolding controversy, Qureshi told the media today that "these are the same people that used to say that

this [cipher] is a made-up thing that was prepared in the foreign office and bears no truth value. Today at least one matter is settled that our stance which we held from the beginning—that the cipher is a reality."

"They have decided to open an investigation," he stated, "by all means, go right ahead."

"We feel no discomfort whatsoever," he said as he asserted that the party had done "nothing to hurt Pakistan or Pakistan's interests." "By the grace of God we have honestly served this country," the PTI leader added as he vowed to continue to "serve the country until we breathe our last". INP



LAHORE: Vendors are selling warm clothes in Landa Bazaar before arrive summer season, in Provincial Capital.

ANF recovers 921 kg narcotics; arrests 20 in various operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting raids in different areas of the country, managed to recover over 921 kg narcotics and arrested 20 drug smugglers during last two weeks.

The ANF spokesman told on Sunday that while conducting raid on Sunday near Angoor Adda at Pak-Afghan border, the ANF managed to recover nearly 23 kg charras concealed in bushes.

The spokesman informed that in other operation, the ANF recovered nearly 900 kg narcotics and arrested 20 accused.

In another operation, it recovered 6,505 grams heroin tactfully concealed in trolley bag at Bacha Khan International Airport and arrested a passenger going to Malaysia.

The ANF Lahore in an

operation near Kala Shah Kaku Interchange, recovered 36 kg charras and 26,400 kg opium from a vehicle. A drug smuggler was also arrested on the spot.

In a raid, the ANF Karachi recovered Ice drug tactfully concealed in 16 books being sent to Australia through a courier company.

The ANF Rawalpindi in an operation at Islamabad International Airport recovered 45 Ice and heroin-filled capsules weighing 360 grams, from the possession of a passenger, going to Doha. The ANF Peshawar recovered 132 kg charras and 43,200 kg opium besides netting an accused.

In another raid conducted on Islamabad Expressway, ANF seized 1200 grams charras and 1000 grams Ice from the possession of two accused.

The ANF also recovered 1200 grams charras and 300 grams Ice drug from the possession of two drug smugglers including a woman, netted during the operation near Faizabad Bus Stop area.

The ANF Balochistan in an operation conducted a raid near Gaddani Mor, RCD Highway at Hub and foiling a drug smuggling bid from Balochistan to Sindh recovered over 345 kg charras, concealed in secret cavities of a pickup. ANF also arrested two accused during the operation. In an operation at Islamabad International Airport, the ANF recovered 114 charras-filled capsules, weighing 734 grams and 10 Ice-filled capsules weighing 69 grams from the possession of passenger, going to Abu Dhabi. The Anti-Narcotics Force in an operation conducted a raid. INP

Nation pays rich tribute to Umer Sharif on his first death anniversary

ISLAMABAD: People from all walks of life through social media platforms have paid rich tributes to renowned actor, King of Comedy, TV and stage personality, Umer Sharif on his first death anniversary today (Sunday).

He was born on 19th of April, 1960 in Karachi. Umer Sharif started his career from Karachi as a stage performer at the age of 19 in 1974.

Some of his extremely popular comedy stage plays were Bakra Qistoon Pe and Buddha Ghar Pe Hy.

He received National awards for Best Director and Best Actor in 1992, electronic channels reported.

Umer Sharif was the only actor to receive four Nigar Awards in a single year. He also received three Graduate Awards.

Umer Sharif was also a recipient of Tamgha-e-Imtiaz by the government of Pakistan.

He died on this day in 2021 in Germany due to protected illness. INP

Huawei launches All Scenario All Flash solution to empower Pakistan industrials

ISLAMABAD: Huawei Pakistan successfully held the Huawei IT Summit Pakistan 2022 and launched All Scenario All Flash storage solution in Islamabad.

Federal Secretary IT and Telecommunication Mr. Mohsin Mushtaq, HEC Mr. Faisal Rafique, New Horizon Mr. Qaiser Sarwar, Nayatel Mr. Jahanzeb Arshad, Future Wei Mr. Wang Yong, Wateen Mr. Aftab Siddiqui, TechAccess Mr. Kashif Ali along with other officials and experts from IT industrials and Huawei were all present at the Summit.

In the summit key speakers and experts highlighted how data has become the catalyst for the digital economy. Such explosive data growth, however, places added pressure on traditional data centers, which provide the centralized storage, computing and data resource exchange needed for enterprise to tap into the value of data. Huawei launched All scenario Flash storage to combat the challenges of today's world to facilitate business growth and digital transformation across industries. As the Chief Guest, the Federal Secretary Mr. Mohsin Mushtaq appreciated Huawei effort to organize Summit and said "Huawei has worked closely with the Ministry. INP



QUETTA: President Baluchistan Bus Federation Meer Saeed Ahmed Lehri addressing a press conference at press club.

Pakistan yet to officially extract Monazite: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has sufficient quantities of monazite — a phosphate mineral containing rare earth metals uranium, lanthanum, cerium and thorium — whose extraction and processing can earn a fortune for the state wallets, reports WealthPK.

Monazite has been reported in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan as an accessory mineral from alkaline igneous rocks and Bastanite-bearing rocks. Every single component of this precious ore has a unique industrial and economic value. Monazite constituents — uranium and thorium — produce helium gas that has wide industrial applications.

Helium is used in aerospace and aircraft industry, electronics, cryogenics, automotive and transportation equipment, welding and metal fabrication, inert atmosphere for making fibre optics and semiconductors, arc welding, leaks detection in air conditioning systems, inflating car airbags, cleaning fuel tanks (used for liquid hydrogen and oxygen as fuels), coolant for nuclear reactors, refrigeration, healthcare, scientific research, and diving, etc. Mostly, it is used to power nuclear reactors.

Pakistan is one of the top markets of helium, with at least 90 shipments of different quantities annually from around 21 international destinations. The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria are large exporters of helium to Pakistan. It is imported

under three HS product category codes i.e., HSN 28042900, HSN code 73110090, and HSN 28046900.

Since the country has sufficient quantities of monazite in the KP and GB provinces, indigenous processing of helium and export of excess gas can help save a lot of foreign exchange spent on its import.

The global market size of helium was estimated to grow to US\$3.9 billion by the year 2031 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.1% from US\$2.7 billion in 2021 (base year). Globally, the first commercial supplies of helium were generated from monazite.

Owing to variability in composition, Monazite is considered a group of minerals or an accessory mineral. Monazite sands are often used in construction and casting. The international Uranium market was worth US\$2648.85 million in 2021 and is expected to grow to US\$3272.84 by the year 2027 at a CAGR of 3.6%.

The global lanthanum market size is likely to be worth US\$687.8 million by the year 2026 compared to US\$490.4 million in the year 2020. Lanthanum oxide is used to make a special optical glass, and its salts are used in catalysts to refine petroleum.

Globally, the cerium market size was valued at US\$253.4 million in 2020 and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 3.8% by the year 2028. INP

Structural reforms must to cut trade, current account deficits: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Though the risk of default has been averted with the funding from the International Monetary Fund, Pakistan should focus on long-term structural reforms to increase exports to bridge the widening trade and current account deficits.

It is to mention here that the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) foreign exchange reserves decreased by \$278 million to \$8.35 billion as of September 16 as a result of meeting an external debt repayment obligation.

According to the SBP, the country holds total

liquid foreign reserves of \$14.07 billion with commercial banks holding \$5.72 billion in net foreign reserves.

Towards the end of August, the SBP had received a tranche of \$1.2 billion from IMF as the long-stalled Extended Fund Facility (EFF) was put back on track. The arrival of the much-needed funds has helped Pakistan build foreign reserves to some extent and keep the economy floating.

Pakistan has been desperately seeking dollar inflows to meet its balance-of-payments needs. In July, before the IMF

money came, the rupee experienced its worst monthly performance in over 50 years due to a low level of foreign reserves.

The fund disbursed by the Washington-based lender would support the forex reserves and stabilise the local currency.

To help Pakistan meet the higher financing needs this fiscal year and unlock additional financing, the IMF's executive board has agreed to extend the EFF until June 2023 instead of the earlier September 2022.

The board has also approved the augmentation of access by SDR720

million (\$1 billion), bringing the total payments to be made to Pakistan to \$6.5 billion.

After these developments, Pakistan stands a good chance that its foreign exchange reserves will reach \$16 billion by the close of the financial year 2022-23. A major driving force behind this will be the additional funding that Pakistan will be able to access this fiscal year. For that Pakistan must also adhere to important IMF-agreed steps and continue taking economic stabilisation measures to achieve the targets set under the revised loan programme.

Pakistan's gross financing requirements for FY23 will be approximately \$30 billion for debt servicing and repayments.

A bailout from the IMF with additional support likely to come from friendly countries has helped Pakistan avert a default.

There have been loan rollovers from China totalling more than \$4 billion, while Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar have committed \$9 billion in investments and loans.

In a presentation given by the central bank in July, it stated. INP



ISLAMABAD: A man taking picture with his cell phone of provincials culture painting on F-9 park wall in federal Capital.

Gwadar Free Zones to get 17 MW electricity to accelerate economic activities

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar local power authority has agreed on the supply of electricity of around 17 MW for Gwadar Free Zone I and Gwadar Free Zone II, promising impetus to economic activities and acceleration of industrialization in Gwadar.

A senior official from the local branch of the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) conceded to make available 17 MW to both Free Zones in Gwadar. Around 5 MW was sought for Gwadar Free Zone I and 12 MW was requested for Gwadar Free Zone II.

WAPDA is a government-owned authority responsible for regulation, integration, and maintain rapid development and maintenance of water and power resources of the country. In Balochistan, WAPDA works with Quetta Electricity Supply Company (QESCO) which is responsible to distribute and supply of power to all areas including Gwadar.

Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) official told Gwadar Pro that China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) held talks with local officials of WAPDA and succeeded in obtaining the minimum required electricity. GPA will take on board both authorities to ensure the supply of 17 MW for both zones.

Usually power cost varies between Rs 28 to Rs. 32 per unit as per normal and peak hours but with intermittent pattern to the private sector. However, for Gwadar Free Zone I and Gwadar Free Zone II, power fare will range between Rs 40 to Rs. 45 in accordance with normal and peak hours as it will be supplied in an uninterrupted manner free from outage like 24 hours," he disclosed.

It is expected that after a formal letter drafted by COPHC in collaboration with GPA lands in the office of Quetta Electricity Supply Company (QESCO), due process to sanction the power supply will take its course as per rules. After the summary is nodded positively, COPHC will have to pay the cost of power distribution lines to be laid down at the allocated sites.

A few days back, Government announced to purchase 100 MW of electricity from Iran to meet the power demand in Gwadar.

Meanwhile, COPHC proposed to get 50 MW through the installation of IPP power plant in collaboration with Chinese power producers in Gwadar.

The basic reason behind the proposal was that for long, Chinese companies have been overstressed by over-priced power production by 8.5 MW generators in Gwadar Free Zone against the backdrop of non-availability of power supply from government. With passage of time, the cost of electricity has ballooned excessively, putting extreme burden on corporate finance. Gwadar Port used to purchase petrol at a cost of Rs. 20.3 million monthly. Chinese companies in Gwadar Free Zone were charged Rs. 49 per unit accordingly, which was very high. "In a new scenario, the monthly purchase cost for Gwadar companies has soared to Rs. 25.5 million. It is more than 25 percent rise," a COPHC official said. INP



KARACHI: Flood victims rests in a tent at a temporary housing facility set up by Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) for affectees of last month's super floods in Bholar area in Sindh Province.

Two thieves caught red handed in Karachi's Orangi town

KARACHI: Two thieves were caught red-handed in Karachi on Sunday.

As per police, residents caught two thieves in Orangi Town's Gulshan-e-Zia. The thieves were handed over to the police after residents subjected them to severe torture.

The thieves identified as Samiullah and Kamran have been shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, the police said.

In the recent past, the number of street crimes has sharply increased in Karachi. INP

Islamabad reports 73 new dengue cases

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital has reported 73 more dengue cases in the last 24 hours taking the total tally of cases to 2,508 in the current season.

According to the statistics provided by the DHO Islamabad, 30 of the total 73 cases were reported in rural areas of the capital while the rest 43 were reported from urban premises.

The total number of dengue cases has gone up to 2,508 cases while six people have lost their lives to the viral disease in the current year.

The DHO further said 13 patients were admitted to the PIMS hospital Islamabad in the last 24 hours, six to the Federal General Hospital, and five to the Holy Family Hospital.

While another 47 cases were reported in private laboratories. INP

Punjab govt sends mobile health units to flood-affected areas of Sindh

LAHORE: Punjab government on Sunday has sent two mobile health units to the flood-affected areas of Sindh for the aid of victims while taking another good step to promote inter-provincial harmony.

The health department has dispatched medical teams and medicines for the relief mission to the flood victims of Sindh on the directions of the Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi.

The mobile health units were sent to the calamity hit areas in district Khairpur and Qambar Shahdadkot. In this regard, Punjab Chief Minister said that the Punjab government stands with the flood victims of Sindh and other provinces.

He said that 296 doctors and nine trucks of medicines were also sent to Sindh and Balochistan under the spirit of goodwill, adding that the Medical Mission of the Punjab Government has even set up medical camps in the affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan.

"Punjab is playing the role of big brother very well," said Pervaiz Elahi. INP

Girl gang-raped, sold for Rs 50,000 in Bihar

PATNA: A minor girl was gang-raped by many people, including police personnel, before she was sold for Rs 50,000 in the Indian state of Bihar.

The police reported that the girl had been violated by many people, including cops, before she was sold for Rs 50,000 to a female pimp in Madhubani district of the state.

The plight of the girl came to light when a police team from Mau district of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh saved the girl from the clutches of the woman pimp named Soni Devi.

Three persons including a woman were arrested in the gang-rape and human trafficking case. Those arrested have been identified as Soni Devi, Arjun Yadav, a night guard of Ashok Market located in Jainagar town, and an electrician Sajan Kumar. INP

Shazia Marri visits flood-hit areas of Sanghar district

SANGHAR: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Shazia Marri on Sunday visited various flood-affected union councils and villages of her constituency (NA-216, Sanghar district).

The villages she visited to review overall flood water situation, rehabilitation and relief works include Taluka Sanghar and Taluka Sinjhor as well as Karim Dad Marri, Imam Bakhsh Talpur, Dil Shakh, Bobbi, Qaisar Khan Jalalani, Nasir Khan Jalalani, Hasil Marri, Perumal and other affected areas of the district.

She also inspected the sewerage drains located in villages of Imam Bakhsh Talpur and Nawaz Malookani areas.

On the occasion, concerned

officers briefed her about ongoing relief and rehabilitation activities. The minister gave strict instructions to relevant officers for making serious efforts for speedy drainage of flood water from some areas of the district.

Marri said Sanghar was severely hit by the recent flash floods and thousands of people were affected.

She said thousands of ration bags, tarpaulins, tents, and mosquito nets had been distributed among the flood victims of Sanghar district.

"Every possible effort is being made to rehabilitate the flood-hit people," she added.

Meanwhile, she also interacted with the flood victims and enquired about the distributed relief items and their sufferings. INP

Water level returns to normal in Indus River

LAHORE: The water level in Indus River has dropped to normal at Kotri Barrage, according to the water record shared by the Flood Forecasting Division on Sunday.

The water level in the river in upstream barrages on Indus has already dropped to normal flow.

Water inflow at Kotri Barrage measured 1,13,600 cusecs and outflow has been 82,700 cusecs. Water level has dropped in several areas of Kotri, which were submerged owing to high flood in the river. People evacuated from the area have returned to their homes after the water level returned to normal.

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

A huge lake has been created by

IHC grants Imran Khan protective bail in contempt case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) granted protective bail to PTI Chairman Imran Khan till October 7 in a contempt case lodged against him for his controversial remarks against Additional District and Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry during a rally in Islamabad on August 20.

The IHC approved the protective bail plea against Rs10,000 surety bonds as the court opened on Sunday, Geo News reported.

The petition was filed by Babar Awan on behalf of the PTI chair, a day after a magistrate of Islamabad's Margalla Police Station issued an arrest warrant for Imran Khan in the contempt case.

During the course of the proceedings, IHC Judge Justice Moshin Akhtar Kayani directed Imran Khan to appear before the concerned court.

The FIR registered against

the rainwater standing across a very large area in Sindh, displacing millions of people in the province.

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

The water inflow in river at Guddu Barrage has been 60,200 cusecs and outflow of water 50,200 cusecs. The water inflow in river at Sukkur Barrage has been measured 45,500 cusecs and outflow 33,900 cusecs.

The water level in the river in upstream barrages on Indus has already dropped to normal flow. Water inflow at Kotri Barrage measured 1,13,600 cusecs and outflow has been 82,700 cusecs. Water level has dropped in several areas of Kotri, which were submerged owing to high flood in the river. INP

Khan includes four sections of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), including 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 189 (threat of injury to public servant), and 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant).

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has already said the coalition government will not detain the PTI chair and that Imran's arrest warrant had to be issued because an accused is required to appear before a magistrate, but Imran didn't.

The FIR registered against Khan includes four sections of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), including 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 189 (threat of injury to public servant), and 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant). INP

Pakistan Railways restores operation from Karachi

KARACHI: Pakistan Railways (PR) on Sunday restored its operations from Karachi as the Peshawar-bound Rehman Baba Express left leaves Karachi Cantt Station with 1500 passengers on board.

The train left for Peshawar from Karachi at 10:15 am. According to the railways' authorities, 1,200 passengers booked their computerized tickets and 300 passengers bought their tickets from the station.

Pakistan Railways had decided to restore passenger trains to Karachi from October 2, more than a month after being suspended on August 26 following super floods in Sindh province.

"From October 05, Karakoram, Karachi Express, and Business Express will be run between Karachi and Lahore," he said, adding that the decision was taken in a meeting headed by Railways Minister Saad Rafique.

The spokesman said that the duration for Karachi-Lahore travel has been set at 22 hours and more coaches will be added to the trains. The travel duration will be reviewed after 30 days and will be reduced gradually. INP

Railway raises fares for ac, sleeper, standard economy class

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan railways have notified an increase in fares of trains including Khyber Mail express, Karakoram Express, and Rehman Baba.

According to the notification issued by the Ministry of Railway, Khyber Mail's AC Sleeper class fare for Karachi-Peshawar has been raised to Rs11,000, 189 (threat of injury to public servant), and 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant).

According to the notification, Karakoram Express's Economy class fare for the Karachi-Lahore route has been increased to Rs3000. Karachi Express's AC Sleeper fare has also been increased to Rs9000, AC Business to Rs5,700, AC Standard to Rs4,150, while Economy fare has been increased to Rs3000. Rehman Baba Express's AC Business class fare has been increased to Rs7000, AC Standard to Rs5,000, and Economy class fare has been raised to Rs3000. INP

Kissan Ittehad threatens countrywide shutdown, gives deadline

ISLAMABAD: Kissan Ittehad chairman Khalid Hussain Bath threatened to give a countrywide shutdown call and gave a deadline to the government to fulfil the farmers' demands.

While talking to the media in Islamabad today, Khalid Hussain Bath expressed hope that the government will issue a notification after accepting the farmers' demands.

He urged the government to issue a notification to fulfil the demands, otherwise, the protesting farmers would shut down the whole country. He added that millions of farmers will head towards Islamabad on his call.

The Kissan Ittehad's sit-in entered the fifth day in Islamabad, whereas, the farmers gave a deadline to the government to fulfil their demands till Monday.

Deadlock persisted between the government and farmers as another round of talks remained inconclusive.

Kissan Ittehad protesters hinted at lodging sit-ins outside the parliament and Bani Gala if their demands are not fulfilled by Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) governments.

Yesterday, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah termed the farmers' protest without any justification.

A deadlock between the government and the protesting farmers continued as another round of talks ended without any result. "The farmers leaders were informed about the situation in a meeting," interior minister said.

"The government is serious over legitimate demands of the farmers and has already accepted postponement of the payments of tube well bills," he said. "A notification to this respect has already been issued, protest over the matter is unjustified," he said.

"Protest is impermissible in Red Zone by farmers, any other group or party," the minister said.

"The law will come into motion against those marching on the Red Zone," the interior minister warned. "The Supreme Court (SC) has clearly ruled against any protest in the Red Zone," he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that the protest of farmers in Islamabad, who have gathered under the umbrella of Pakistan Kissan Ittehad, has entered fourth day.

The farmers were demanding the restoration of the previous tubewell electricity tariff of Rs5.3 per unit and abolishing all taxes and adjustments. INP

Over 7000 flood victims return homes from relief camps: Sharjeel

KARACHI: Sindh government's pointsman for flood relief Sharjeel Memon on Sunday said that relief and rehabilitation activities have been in full swing in the province. "Flood relief will continue till rehabilitation of all affected persons," he said.

In a statement on Sunday, he maintained that flood victims were returning to their homes and 7207 flood affected people have gone back to their homes. He said the district administrations were providing them transport facility as well as ration bags while leaving relief camps.

Provincial information minister said that as many 43,259 more flood-hit families had been provided ration

bags during the past 24 hours.

"In aggregate, 11,93,901 families have received ration bags so far", Sharjeel Memon said.

In an early statement, provincial minister said that 759 persons had lost their lives in flash floods and rains, while 8,422 people had been injured. He said 4,34,238 livestock perished in the natural calamity.

He further said that 22,89,194 families had been affected, while 73,25,575 people had been displaced.

The Sindh government has constituted survey committees to assess the damages caused by heavy rains and subsequent floods across the province. INP



HYDERABAD: A large number of people standing in queue for purchasing relief bags on control rate arranged by the Latifabad District Government at latifabad 8 no.

Nawaz calls for aggressively dealing with cipher narrative

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has decided to adopt an aggressive approach to the cipher issue.

According to sources, PML-N supreme leader Nawaz Sharif has directed the party from London to give a strong and aggressive response on the matter.

Nawaz has directed the party to inform the public about the matter and to tell them that this "conspiracy" against the state was a "very big conspiracy".

He also directed them to expose Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's "false narrative" on electronic and print media and social media with evidence.

The party supremo has called for a clear stand on the issue at the government and party level while highlighting that an attempt was made to isolate Pakistan on the diplomatic front.

Party officials and federal ministers have been directed to hold regular press

conferences on the "false story".

Based on the instructions of the PML-N leader, the party has started preparing an action plan on the issue.

PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz and other senior party leaders will also hold an important press conference on the issue.

Sources said that Maryam will give a strong and aggressive response to the cipher on the direction of the party leader.

On Saturday, the ruling party held an important meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, wherein they discussed the cipher and the return of the party supremo to the country.

According to Express News, the participants of the meeting discussed various options to give relief to the people from inflation. They also consulted on the organisation of PML-N, and the constitutional and legal issues regarding by-elections in Punjab. INP

Pakistan's agricultural products export to China to further grow: Ghulam Qadir

BEIJING: Pakistan has rich potential of the export of agricultural products to China and the present government is taking concrete measures to take advantage of huge demand of fruits and vegetable in the Chinese markets, said Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir.

"I think, the increase in the agricultural products exported to China this year is still tip of iceberg. The potential is much more and we are working hard to further enhance our exports to China," he told APP on Sunday.

According to the data from China Customs, Pakistan's agricultural products exported to China from Jan to Aug 2022 reached US\$730 million with a year-on-year increase of 28.59 percent. Pakistan's agricultural exports to China are expected to exceed a record high of US\$1 billion in 2022. He informed that both Pakistani and the Chinese authorities

were satisfied over the increase but they expressed a need to improve the trade balance between the two countries. "So, we are working hard with the Chinese authorities for making more cooperation and we're expecting some good news about exports of different products, he added.

Ghulam Qadir hoped that more export could also start and having US\$1 billion worth of agricultural products' exports to China was still not enough as compared to the overall potential of the Chinese market. He said that more efforts were needed to enhance exports and he vowed to continue to work with the relevant authorities in this regard. The Commercial Counsellor said that at present, agricultural products including fruits, vegetable, sesame seed, pine nuts and seafoods were being exported to China. These are overall products, but we need to increase that basket and we are working on it, he added. INP



QUETTA: Bishop Frederick John addressing a press conference.