



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم نے محمد بن عربی نے بیان کیا ہے ہم  
شعبہ بیان کیا ان سے ہم نے ان سے  
عابد نے اور ان سے ان عباس رضی اللہ  
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و سلم نے فرمایا (غزوہ خندق کے موقع  
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RAWALPINDI

## PM pays tribute to Hazrat Umar (RA)

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to Hazrat Umar Farooq (Razi Allah Anhu) on the occasion of his martyrdom anniversary, observed on Sunday with great religious solemnity. He said Hazrat Umar (Razi Allah Anhu) was a companion of Prophet Muhammad Rasool Allah Sallallah-o-Alaih-e-Wasallam Khatam-un-Nabiyeen and a leader and a brave commander who, as head of the state, established a comprehensive system of governance.



## Asad directs for restoration of damaged infrastructure in recent flood

Federal Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mehmood, accompanied by Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali, visited the flood-affected rural areas and pledged that federal government would continue efforts till rehabilitation of the last affected person. They met with affected people and expressed heartfelt sympathies and directed the concerned authorities to accelerate relief and rehabilitation operations.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Muharram 2, Monday, August 1, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 123 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Deliberation

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail presided over the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet at Finance Division on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Rupee must be strengthened: Shaukat Tarin

ISLAMABAD: Former finance minister Shaukat Tarin on Sunday questioned Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, saying that if the imports of \$5 billion were reduced, the rupee should have strengthened. He said "But the rupee is in a free fall. Reason because you have stopped all major imports. Banks are not opening/retiring elites".

While lashing out at Miftah, Tarin penned, "July has still not closed and yet you have announced reduced imports of \$5bn as an achievement".

In another tweet, Tarin said, "There were no major oil imports in July as you did so in June (total imports of \$7.9bn)".

Factories are closing, exports are tanking, Tarin concerned. He said, "Despite all this pain with inflation at 38% IMF wants you to do more and sell your family silver at throw prices."

## To stabilize rupee

# Miftah for reducing trade deficit to maintain exchange rate

Govt efforts to reduce imports finally borne fruit: Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Sunday said the government is currently trying to reduce the trade deficit to stabilize the rupee against the dollar. He said that for the last three months, efforts have been made to reduce imports and the results are now coming out. Imports in this month of July reached \$5 billion dollars, which was 7.7 billion dollars in the previous month of June 2022.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail expressed these views while addressing the press conference along with Prime Minister's Coordinator on Economy, Bilal Azhar Kayani.

Thus, compared to the previous month, imports decreased by \$2.7 billion dollars during the month of

July 2022, he said. The minister said that these economic measures of the government will stabilize the value of the rupee against the dollar.

Miftah said that some imports

Tax relief for shops consuming below 150 units announced

including mobile phones, vehicles and home appliances are still banned. These measures aimed to reduce the trade deficit in the country's economy, which will bring economic stability to the country, he said.

He expressed the hope that the current account deficit will be

reduced this year 2022. He said that "we are not working on the rate of inflation but on getting the country out of economic challenges." The minister said that now the full focus of the government is to increase domestic exports, which will be given full attention in the next three months.

He said that "we are trying our level best to build the economy in the right direction, in which, "we are getting success to a great extent."

The minister said that the former government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has played a role in bringing the economy to this state of affairs.

He said that former Prime Minister Imran Khan is responsible for this, due to his wrong economic policies, the economy has reached at this point.

He said that the former PTI government has increased the budget deficit every year due to which the economy is suffering today. Miftah said that the previous government did not make any economic reforms but only produce everything look good on the media?

He said that Imran Khan has demoted every department and proved his incompetence. He said that the PTI government did not fulfill the promise of five million houses.

The minister said the previous government extended a circular debt of Rs 1400 billion in the energy sector alone. He demanded before the court to hear foreign funding case against PTI soon. He also announced tax exemption for traders consuming less than 150 units of electricity. APP

## Imran's removal saved Pakistan: Fazl

PDM chief names Mideastern country for funding PTI

### Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Jamiat-e-Ulema Fazl (JUIF) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has defended the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) decision to remove Imran Khan as prime minister by a no-trust vote, saying that had the PTI chairman been allowed to continue in office, Pakistan would have disintegrated.

At a press conference in Peshawar on Sunday, Fazlur Rehman, who heads the PDM, also downplayed the claims that there was any disagreement among the PDM parties or leaders over completing the remaining terms of the federal government. He also said that it was not true that the PPP and JUIF had pushed the PML-N into an unpleasant situation. Nawaz Sharif approved even the final statement, he said. He stressed that the PDM government would complete its term and general elections would be held after that.

Fazlur Rehman said that Imran Khan destroyed the Gwadar deep sea port and

that the PDM's first priority was to safeguard the CPEC and the investment from China. Fazlur Rehman said that the Financial Times story on the sources of PTI's funding has established that Imran Khan was propped into power with foreign funding to scuttle the CPEC project. "on Saturday, the story about Abraj Group surfaced ... showing how much money was pumped into PTI." Fazlur Rehman said that Abu Dhabi's rulers had funded the PTI so that Imran Khan is propped into power at every cost and then scuttled the CPEC.

He said Imran Khan had left the country in a quagmire and it was not easy to get free. "Imran Khan lied that Rs25 billion are in handy for reserves, only \$8 billion reserves were there when he left the PM's office," the JUIF chief said. He said that unlike Imran Khan the coalition government has come forth with long-term goals to bring prosperity to the country and these plans would be announced within the next few days.

## Govt slashes petrol price by Rs3.05 per litre

And a hike of Rs8.95 in price of diesel

### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail on Sunday announced a reduction in the price of petrol by Rs 3.05 per litre and a hike of Rs8.95 in the price of diesel.

"The government is able to decrease the price of petrol by Rs 3.05 per litre," he tweeted. "The price of diesel has however gone up by Rs 8.95." He said that the new prices will be effective from 1 August 2022.

The price of Kerosene was similarly increased by Rs4.62

per litre while that of light diesel oil (LDO) was reduced by Rs0.12 per litre.

The new prices are as follows: Rs227.19 for petrol, Rs244.95 for diesel, Rs201.07 for Kerosene and Rs191.32 for LDO.

According to a press release he shared from the Finance Division, the government had decided to revise the existing prices of petroleum products to pass on the impact of fluctuations in petroleum prices in the international market and exchange rate variation.

## Imran, Elahi, Moonis discuss prevailing political situation

PTI chairman Imran Khan directs PTI lawmakers to prepare for fresh elections

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supreme and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday while giving the assembly members the task of preparing for the new elections, said that the next general elections could be held in 6 to 8 weeks.

In this regard, Imran Khan held a meeting with PTI lawmakers in Punjab Chief Minister House today.

During the meeting, the former PM directed Dr Yasin Rashid to complete the organizational process in two weeks and also directed the lawmakers and party organizers to prepare for early elections.

"On May 25, those who violated the sanctity of the worker's houses, the law will take its course regarding them, and I know who betrayed me," Imran added.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and former Federal minister Moonis Elahi met Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former premier Imran Khan, here at



CM Office on Sunday.

Matters of mutual interest, political situation, administrative affairs of Punjab and law and order situation, as well as the steps to provide relief to the people of Punjab came under discussion.

Imran Khan congratulated Ch Pervaiz Elahi on forming government in Punjab.

The Punjab chief minister apprised the PTI chairman that effective steps were being taken for maintaining law and order in the province during Muharram-ul-Haram and hoped that environment of political homogeneity would prevail during the holy month of

Muharram.

The CM informed Imran Khan about the steps being taken by the Punjab government to provide assistance to the flood affectees. The administration and the departments concerned are providing timely assistance to the flood affectees proactively, he added.

The CM mentioned that the provincial government would provide financial aid amounting to Rs 800,000 each to the heirs of the deceased persons. The CM said that he himself was overseeing the ongoing relief activities in the affected areas. Agencies

## PA approves resolution calling for CEC Raja's resignation

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly on Sunday approved a resolution calling for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja. The session of the provincial assembly began with newly-elected Speaker Sibtain Khan administering the oath to his deputy, Wasiq Qayyum. Qayyum was elected unopposed a day earlier after the Opposition announced a boycott of the polls.

In today's address, speaker Khan told the assembly that his deputy was elected after no one else submitted their nomination papers.

After the oath was administered, PTI lawmaker Syed Abbas Shah presented the motion against the Election Commission of Pakistan's chief, which was later approved by the assembly.

The motion calls on CEC Raja to resign from his post. After the motion was passed, the Assembly was adjourned till August 15. Agencies

## Federal Govt takes lead role in relief operations in KP, Balochistan

### Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Following heavy torrential rains and flash floods in different parts of the country, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, departments of Federal Government have taken a leading role in the rescue and relief operations.

The federal government is providing the much-needed humanitarian assistance including food and non-food items to thousands of flood victims.

Besides provincial departments and Rescue 1122, officials of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Highway Authority (NHA), troops of Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force and Frontier Corps, on Sunday, expedited rescue and rehabilitation operations in the flood hit areas of the country including KP and worst affected Balochistan.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a fresh flood update on Sunday said that the troops were busy in rescue and relief efforts apart from providing medical care and opening up communication infrastructure.

As per the situation prevailing in rivers, all the rivers were flowing normal except the Indus that was witnessing a low flood at Attock, Tarbela, Chashma, and Guddu. A low flood at Warsak and medium flood at Nowshera in River Kabul were also recorded.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a maxi-

## PM's visit to flood-affected areas of Tank, DI Khan postponed

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's visit to the flood-affected areas of Districts Tank and Dera Ismail Khan on Sunday was deferred due to inclement weather. The prime minister was scheduled to visit these flood-hit districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to review the ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

133 mm rain was recorded in Mardan followed by Mohmand (85 mm). After massive rain, dewatering efforts were carried out in Mardan whereas flash floods were reported in local nullahs of Mohmand district.

In Southern Punjab, all hill torrents were flowing normal except some increased flow in Mithawan, Kaha and Sanghar Hill torrents. According to ISPR, the local commanders visited Rajanpur and Dera Ghazi Khan where relief items were distributed among the flood affectees. The medical camps were also established in both the districts.

In Balochistan's Jhal Magsi, complete connectivity of Gandhawa was restored and there was no isolated area in Gandhawa and its surroundings, while relief activities were underway. The army medical camp treated some 115 patients. In Khuzdar, M-8 route was still cut off and work on resumption of connectivity was underway.

Moreover, the field medical camp established by CMH Khuzdar and FC

in Hafizabad treated some 145 affected people. In Naseerabad, there was no rain recorded throughout the day and relief activities were underway for the affected people of Babakot and Gandakha.

The forces also distributed ration and cooked food among the flood victims, while field medical camp in Gandakha treated various patients. In Chaman, no rain was recorded and Bab-e-Dosti was fully functional. Noshki received no rain on Sunday. Meanwhile, relief efforts were underway for the stranded population in the area.

Moreover, cooked meals were served to over 1,000 people. The N-40 was damaged at three places, which was repaired and traffic was resumed subsequently. The situation in Lasbela was stabilizing as no rain was reported in the area. Around five field medical camps were providing medical care in Naka, Bela, Duddar, Hub and Gadani. The affected N-25 route was opened, while repair work on bridges was underway.

## Security beefed up

RAWALPINDI: Police official holding flag march to maintain law and order during Muharram-ul-Haram, in the city.



Photo: Online

## Biden again tests positive for COVID

WASHINGTON: Joe Biden tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday for a second straight day but "continues to feel well," the US president's physician said. Biden had been recovering early in the week from a first bout of Covid, but after four days of negative tests again received a positive result on Saturday. In a memorandum Sunday, White House doctor Kevin O'Connor linked that result to "rebound positivity." He said patients treated with Paxlovid — as Biden was — sometimes clear the virus but still test positive afterward. "The president will continue his strict isolation measures," O'Connor said, but "he will continue to conduct the business of the American people from the executive residence." O'Connor said Saturday that Biden had "experienced no re-emergence of symptoms," meaning no further treatment was required. Although Biden, who is fully vaccinated, had to cancel planned trips to Delaware and Michigan, he tweeted Saturday that "I'm still at work, and will be back on the road soon." AFP

## Deadly floods

## Pakistan stands in solidarity with UAE

PM Shehbaz expresses grief over loss of precious lives including Pakistani nationals in damages caused by floods in UAE

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of lives, including Pakistani nationals, in flash floods that hit parts of the United Arab Emirates.

Expressing solidarity with the UAE in this difficult time, they said Pakistan is also facing similar situation due to monsoon rainfall.

In a separate message, President Dr Arif Alvi also urged the international community to work closely to ward off impacts of the climate changes.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his grief over the loss of precious lives including Pakistani nationals in the damages caused by floods in the United Arab Emirates.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister expressed his sympathies and con-

lences with the bereaved families.

"Grieved to learn about the loss of precious lives, including those of the Pakistani nationals, in the damage caused by floods in the United Arab Emirates. My most sincere sympathies & heartfelt condolences are with the bereaved families," the prime minister posted.

The prime minister in a related tweet said that at this difficult time, Pakistan stood in solidarity with the people and government of the UAE.

He also directed the Pakistan Embassy in Abu Dhabi to extend full support to the affected families.

Foreign Office Spokesperson, in a separate press release, said that the government and people of Pakistan extended heartfelt condolences to the government and people of the UAE on the damage caused by heavy rains and floods in the Emirates, resulting in the loss of precious lives including five Pakistani nationals.

"We express our deepest sympathies to the families of the deceased and pray for the speediest recovery of those injured. Pakistan stands in solidarity with the fraternal people and Government of the United Arab Emirates," it was added.

The spokesperson further informed that the embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi and the consulate general of Pakistan in Dubai were in contact with the UAE government and families of the affected Pakistani nationals.

The missions had been directed to closely coordinate with the local authorities to extend full support to Pakistani nationals affected during the floods.

According to media reports, the UAE recorded its highest amount of rainfall in 27 years last week, causing damages after flash floods hit its different parts. Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah and Fujairah, were the worst affected by floods that followed torrential rainfall.

## Info minister criticizes ex-PM's spouse

Bushra Bibi's directive for linking opponents to treason exposed, says Marriyum Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that another attempt of former prime minister Imran Khan's spouse Bushra Bibi, directing "Arsalan Beta" for linking political opponents to treason, had been exposed.

In a statement, the minister said that both versions of the video, the original one and the one produced by Bushra Bibi were being presented here.

Bushra made the video and released it to the media on July 30 at 4:28 pm, the minister said, adding that the original video was also available with ARY News.

The minister said the video had been sent to the FIA Cyber Crime Wing so that those, who edited the video and added voices to it, could be brought to justice.

Marriyum accused that the management of ARY news channel should also be ashamed of becoming part of Imran Khan's agenda of spreading lies under the guise of journalism and freedom of speech to divert attention from his corruption. The said news channel always killed the truth and reality.

Taking a jibe at the ARY, she said, "When illegal contracts worth billions of rupees are being received, then lies

will surely be propagated in the guise of journalism."

This lowly and vile act of Imran was an expression of his mindset, who did not hesitate in telling lies habitually about the sacred concept of Riyasat-e-Madinah, as well as about FATF, corona pandemic, flood, religion, health of political opponents, economy and employment of people.

The minister reminded that bodies of tourists were lying under the snow in Murree, but Bushra Bibi did not allow his husband and the then PM to pay a visit to the site, and he chose to go on a tour to the mountains instead.

Now, it disturbed Imran's stomach watching Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif helping people in their difficulties, she said, adding that Imran must be questioning himself in pain that "why does he [Shehbaz Sharif] go to them, why does he sympathize with them?"

She recalled that Hazara community had been awaiting Imran Khan with bodies of their loved ones lying on road while he, instead of consoling them, accused them of blackmailing him.

Naeemul Haque and many of his closest friends died, but Imran was not allowed to attend their funerals, she said.

Sh Rasheed says country in "economic jam"

RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Sunday said that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, who decided to oust former premier Imran Khan through a vote of no-confidence, is now considering the option of leaving the government.

"The decision on the no-confidence motion was made in London. The same Nawaz Sharif is now talking about leaving the government," Rasheed tweeted, once again turning his guns to the PML-N leadership.

He said that the country is in an "economic jam" and the people cannot pay bills of electricity and gas alongside a fixed tax.

The politician went on to say that the coalition government "just keeps holding ineffective press conferences" while Imran Khan has "taken over" after a brief campaign.

"The government is at zero, while he [Imran Khan] has become a hero," said Rasheed, a close aide of the former PM. Agencies

Marriyum, Marri grieved over demise of senior journalist

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of senior journalist Akhtar Baloch. In a statement, the minister said she was saddened to hear the news of Akhtar Baloch's death.

Akhtar Baloch's services in the field of journalism would always be remembered, she remarked. She prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Atta Marri has expressed her grief and sorrow over the sad demise of veteran senior journalist and writer Akhtar Baloch.

In her condolence message here on Sunday, she termed the death of senior journalist Akhtar Baloch a big loss to the field of journalism.

## Govt committed to resolve problems of masses: PM AJK

Committee formed to hold talks with APPRF

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan has said that a high-level committee headed by Minister of Law and Tourism Sardar Faheem Rabbani has been established that would hold negotiations with All Parties People's Rights Forum (APPRF) at Rawalakot to settle the issues amicably.

The Prime Minister during a meeting with cabinet ministers, legislators and party leaders said that a six-member committee comprising of Education Minister Schools Diwan Ali Chugh-



tai, Higher Education Minister Malik Zafar, minister department of electricity Chaudhry Arshad and former Assembly candidates Sardar Nayyar Ayub and Sardar Arzish has been tasked to hold talks with the APPRF to discuss in detail the issues and demands set forth of the forum.

While terming the PTI government as the guardian of public interests, the PM said, "Government is committed to resolve the problems being faced by people on priority basis". He said that the government would leave no stone unturned in solving public problems.

## Army, FC relief activities underway in flood hit areas

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps (FC) continued flood relief activities in various flood-hit-areas of the country where troops were busy in rescue and relief efforts apart from providing medical care and opening up communication infrastructure.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Sunday while issuing fresh flood update, said,

It said as per the prevailing rivers situation, all rivers were flowing normal except Indus that was witnessing a low flood at Attock, Tarbela, Chashma, and Guddu. A low flood at Warsak and

medium flood at Nowshehra in River Kabul were also recorded.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), a maximum 133 mm rain was recorded in Mardan followed by Mohmand (85 mm). After massive rain, dewatering efforts were carried out in Mardan whereas flash floods were reported in local nullahs of Mohmand District.

In Southern Punjab, all hill torrents were flowing normal except some increased flow in Mithawan, Kaha and Sanghar Hill torrents.

The local commanders visited Rajanpur and Dera Ghazi Khan where relief items were distributed among flood affectees. The medical camps were also established in both districts.

In Balochistan, Jhal Magsi, complete connectivity of Gandhawa was restored and there was no isolated area in Gandhawa and its surroundings whereas relief activities were underway. The Army Medical Camp treated some 115 patients.

In Khuzdar, M-8 route was still cut off and work on resumption of connectivity was underway.

Moreover, the field Medical Camp established by CMH Khuzdar and FC in Hafizabad treated some 145 affected people.

In Naseerabad, there was no rain recorded throughout the day and relief activities were underway for affected population of Babakot and Gandakha.

## Yasin Malik: A symbol of courage and bravery

ISLAMABAD: For decades Kashmiri people are struggling for their just right to self-determination and freedom from Indian yoke experiencing unprecedented agony and subjugation at the hand of the Indian brutal occupied forces.

Generation after generation led by valiant leadership in Occupied Kashmir had waged undeterred struggle to free themselves from clutches of slavery rendering uncounted sacrifices in terms of rapes, torture, pellet guns firing and extra judicial killings. Other than ordinary citizens, renowned Kashmiri leaders also rendered sacrifices for their cause suffering fake cases, detention, and torture showing unflinching courage and determination.

Fifty-six year old Yasin Malik stands tall among leadership in occupied Kashmir and rose to prominence during 1989 when he had begun a free-

dom struggle along with his young colleagues. He was apprehended with imprisonment and sent to jail while his other aides were killed in the clashes with the security forces.

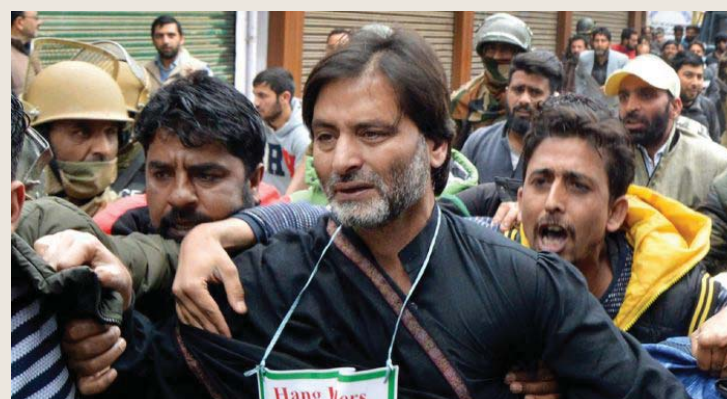
While in jail Malik had underwent a transition in his political insight while launching a nonviolent movement. In this connection, he launched a massive public mobilization campaign known as Safar-e-Azadi (Journey to Freedom) involving the people of Jammu and Kashmir. In his efforts to engage the Indian and Pakistani leadership as well as Kashmiri Diaspora and the international community for a political and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute, he emerged as a leader and champion of dialogue.

He had strong advocate of Kashmiri right to self-determination and warned on several occasions that if a sincere consideration is not given to Kashmiri people's demand, Kashmi-

ri youth would resort to choose their own way.

His prophetic words turned out to be right when the Kashmir Valley went through a six-months long strike after the killing of Burhan Wani in 2016. Malik, along with Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Syed Ali Gilani, refused to meet India's all-party parliamentary delegation in Srinagar and termed it a futile exercise. It virtually sealed Yasin's fate and New Delhi decided to give him an exemplary punishment.

The ruling BJP regime, led by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, adopted a militaristic approach to deal with the Kashmir conflict and people associated with the Kashmir freedom movement. The research works of various Human Rights (HR) bodies across the globe have exposed the paramilitary forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were using torture as an Instrument



of Control (IoC), to quash the Kashmiri struggle for independence killing thousands of Kashmiris.

Major changes were made in article 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution to make basic changes in the status of IIOJK. When Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri leadership resorted to protest these illegal acts of the Modi govern-

ment, National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in the Indian capital New Delhi sentenced Yasin Malik life imprisonment in a fake terror funding case. A US delegation recently called on Peace and Culture Organisation Chairperson Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the wife of Yasin Malik and expressed solidarity with her over illegal detention

of Yasin Malik and unabated human rights violations in IIOJK.

The interfaith harmony delegation comprising Michael Crowe, Dr. Joe's Knight, Lucas Bontrager, Anwer Qasmi, Ilyas Masih, and Daud Ilyas also expressed grave concerns on unjust and inhuman treatment meted out to Yasin Malik in detention.

The American delegation assured Mullick to raise the issue of the illegal detention of Yasin Malik and ethnic cleansing of Kashmiris at every forum.

"Unjust detention of Yasin Malik in a fake and fabricated case is an eye opener for the human rights champions across the globe. It is like quelling an effective voice of Kashmiri people and slow down the struggle for right to self-determination," remarked former Chairperson Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) Dr Mehdi Saeed. APP

# Punjab CM announces financial aid for flood affectees

Meeting reviews relief activities in flood-hit areas

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi announced financial aid on Sunday for the flood affectees of Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh and Mianwali.

Presiding over a meeting to review relief activities in the flood affected areas, he said the Punjab government would disburse financial aid amounting to Rs 8 lakh each among the heirs of those died in rain and flood related incidents.

The chief minister said that financial assistance would also be provided to the affected persons after making an estimate of the damages of houses, fields and the livestock. He lauded that the staff members of Rescue 1122, who had reached the flood affected areas first of all.

The chief minister ordered early construction and repair of the roads in the affected areas and ordered to

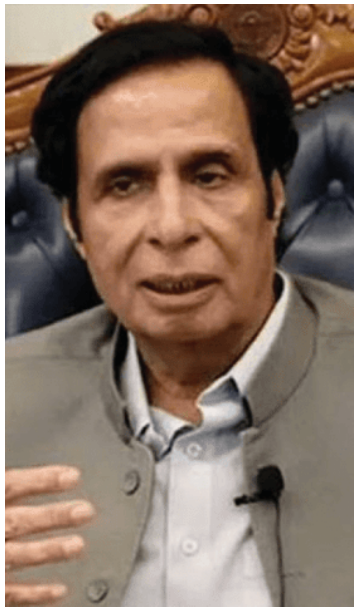
start the restoration work of the roads on war-footing.

Pervaiz Elahi ordered for setting up medical camps in the flood affected areas, adding that vaccines should also be administered to the flood affectees for prevention from the infectious diseases.

The chief minister ordered to ensure availability of medicines for prevention of snake bite and cholera in the medical camps, saying that dry food should also be distributed among the flood affectees.

He promised to ensure drainage of floodwater through dewatering pumps and directed that the commissioners, deputy commissioners, regional police officers (RPOs) and district police officers (DPOs) should redress grievances of the affectees, under the guidance of the elected representatives.

He ordered for monitoring all



relief activities and a report should be submitted on a regular basis. He directed all departments concerned to further expedite relief activities in a consolidated manner. He stated that he would himself visit the flood affected areas soon and vowed not to leave the affected brothers and sisters alone in the hour of distress.

Former provincial minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, Assembly Members Sardar Muhammad Khan Leghari, Saif-ud-Din Khosa, Javed Akhtar Lund, Mohiyuddin Khosa, Amir Nawaz Chandia, Sana Ullah Khan Masti Khel, Principal Secretary to CM Muhammad Khan Bhatti, former Chairman P&D Salman Ghani, former Principal Secretary to CM GM Sikandar, Chairman P&D, Secretary Health, DG Punjab Emergency Services and the officials concerned attended the meeting.

## Ghazi-e-Millat played key role in liberation struggle: AJK President

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that Ghazi Millat Sardar Ibrahim Khan was not only the first founding president of Azad Kashmir but also played key role the liberation struggle of Kashmir that culminated in the shape of Azad Kashmir.

Addressing a function on the 19th anniversary of Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Khan Ibrahim at Kashmir House Islamabad, the AJK president said that the deceased leader became the president of the state soon after the establishment of government in the liberated territory on October 24, 1947. Ghazi-e-Millat, has served the people of Azad Kashmir in different capacities he added.

The president said that when he was prime minister from 1996 to 2001, Ghazi-e-Millat was the president of the state. "I completed a five-year term under his presidency and successfully launched several mega projects in Hydel, Education and other sectors and developed road infrastructure all across the state", he concluded.

Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry on the occasion renewed his pledge to project and promote Kashmir issue at international level and expose Indian brutalities before the world.

## 24 more test positive for Covid-19 in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: As many as 24 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in the district during the last 24 hours.

According to the Health Department spokesperson, 24 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector labs during the same period.

He said that total active cases in Faisalabad were 204, while 28,628 patients had so far recovered from the disease. He said that 119 beds were allocated at the Allied Hospital, 52 at the DHQ Hospital and 150 at Government General Hospital Ghulam Muhammad Abad for COVID-19 patients.

At present, four patients were under treatment at the Allied Hospital. He further said that 200 confirmed patients were isolated at their homes in the district.

Over 8.76 million (8,766,555) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district.

District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Sunday that 4,721,253 citizens were injected the first dose while 3,960,424 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He said that 39,873 health workers were also given the first dose, while 45,005 received the second dose of vaccine.

He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district.

As of now 28,333 first doses and 18,889 second doses were in the stock in Faisalabad. He said that 37 vaccination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered people were being vaccinated.

In order to facilitate people, these centers had been established in various areas of the city. Timing of these vaccination centres was 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. except for sports Complex Samanabad centre, which would remain open round the clock. Agencies

## Shazia Marri expresses grief over death of Akhtar Baloch

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Atta Marri has expressed her grief and sorrow over the sad demise of veteran senior journalist and writer Akhtar Baloch.

In her condolence message here on Sunday, she termed the death of senior journalist Akhtar Baloch a big loss to the field of journalism.

She prayed for the eternal peace and tranquility of departed soul and patience to the breaved family on this irreparable loss.

## AC Dera visits flood affected areas

D.I.KHAN: Assistant Commissioner Farhan Ahmed has visited the flood-affected Ketch area and its surroundings and reviewed the situation. He paid visit following the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Nasrullah Khan. During the visit, he said the district administration was busy in dealing with the flood situation arising in the context of recent rains. He directed the departments concerned for immediate dewatering of the area with the help of heavy machinery. The assistant commissioner said all the available resources would be utilized for protection of life and property of the people. Later, he also visited Bandkorai area along with Assistant Commissioner Paharpur Aneeq Anwar and reviewed the flood situation there. Meanwhile, the assistant commissioners also met the flood affected people and assured them that the district administration would be with them in every difficult hour.

## Over 59640 challans issued over traffic violations in July

PESHAWAR: City Traffic Police (CTP) has taken action against 59646 people over violation of no-parking, plying vehicles without permit, registration, driving license, use of tinted glasses and over-speeding during the month of July, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The aim behind the operation was road safety, maintenance of the flow of traffic and implementation of the traffic laws in letter and spirit. In this, the traffic police also carried out a special awareness campaign regarding traffic laws in all sectors of the city.

During the awareness sessions, pamphlets are being distributed and special focus on highlighting the benefits and losses of the use of helmet, fastening of seat-belt and cell phone.

Chief Traffic Officer (CTO), Abbas Majeed Marwat has urged the motorists to motorcyclists to fasten their seat-belt and wear helmet respectively. Similarly, the people have also urged to follow traffic laws, beside adherence to lane-line and avoiding over-speeding.

## Downpour

MUZAFFRABAD: People make their way during heavy rain in the city.



Photo: Online

# Balochistan facing serious situation due to floods: Senator Samina

QUETTA: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on Sunday said it was the first priority of the government to control the situation caused by recent heavy rains and floods in Balochistan as soon as possible.

In a statement, she expressed her sorrow over losses of lives in recent monsoon rain.

She said that due to the recent heavy spell, the people have suffered a lot due to loss of life and property. She said that the provincial government would not leave the people alone in this difficult time.

She said that the loss of precious human lives due to the rains and the coming floods in the inner province,

including the provincial capital Quetta, the property and livestock have also been washed away in the water, standing crops have been destroyed while the infrastructure has also been severely damaged.

She said that emergency steps were being taken to provide all possible relief and assistance to the people so that the problems of the people could be resolved. She said that under the leadership of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, his team was continuing the relief activities in the affected areas day and night and all government missionaries and resources were being utilized in this regard. She appealed to support the people,

the government institutions, the Pakistan Army and Navy during rescue and relief operations.

She said that Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo visited the areas severely affected by rains and floods and assured the victims of immediate relief and rehabilitation.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that all our focus was on providing relief to the victims as soon as possible. Along with this, the government is also assessing the losses of precious lives, crops and livestock and after the analysis, their losses will be remedied, she added.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that the destroyed communication links were being restored on war footing and all the resources were being used for the rehabilitation of the victims.

In Balochistan, the rescue and rehabilitation work has been accelerated as soon as possible in the rain-affected districts, and in this regard, PDMA district administration and other organizations are playing their role for the rescue and treatment of the victims, she noted.

She said that Pakistan Army and Navy troops were also helping the civil administration in the affected areas, which was commendable. APP

## TENDER NOTICE



Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal is a body corporate of Federal Government requires a suitable building on rent in at "Periphery area of Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi" for establishment of Shelter Home accommodation of fifty (50) people with spacious halls/ rooms (preferably). The desirous individuals/firms shall be bound to submit tender documents/their technical & financial proposals in two (02) separate envelopes. Tender documents comprising detail terms & conditions, method, obtaining of tender documents, submission and opening date and other instructions is available free of cost, from the office of Assistant Director (Admin), PAKISTAN BAIT UL MAL (PBM), Regional Office, Naseem Plaza, Service Road East, Sohan, Muhammadi Town, Islamabad.

The filled/complete tender documents in all respect should reach on aforesaid address on or before 16-08-2022 by 11:30 hrs. The bids shall be opened on same day at 1200hrs. This advertisement is also available on the websites of PPRA (www.ppra.org.pk) & PBM (www.pbm.gov.pk).

**Assistant Director (Admin)**  
PAKISTAN BAIT UL MAL (PBM),  
Regional Office-ICT,  
Naseem Plaza, Service Road East,  
Sohan, Muhammadi Town, Islamabad  
Ph No.051-2612220

# Sindh CM directs to repair roads, drainage lines

KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed Transport & Mass Transit Authority to coordinate with Local Government department to repair roads of all the routes of Peoples Bus Service so that it could operate smoothly and properly.

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting to discuss the issues of the People Bus Service here at CM House on Sunday.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers Shahrjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon, PSCM Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary LG Najam Shah, Secretary Transport Haleem Shaikh, DIG Traffic, heads of KMTA, KDA, Municipal Commissioner Karachi and others concerned.

The CM Sindh was told that the first route of the Peoples Bus Service in the city was launched from Malir to Townner on June 27, second route on July 1, 2022 and now more than seven routes were in operation with 250

buses. It was pointed out that there were various issues on the roads of the seven bus routes; the 29.5 km long first route from Model Colony to Tower needed some asphalt works at Model Colony, Regal Chowk area, while in the area of Malir halt, FTC, Aram Bagh, it needed pavement works and repairing of damaged sewerage/drainage lines in some areas.

Similarly, Route-2, starting from North Karachi to Indus Hospital spreads over 32.9 km. Its areas such as Shafiq Mor, Sohrab Goth and Shah Faisal Bridge areas needed asphalt work while pavements were needed to be repaired in Gulshan, and Shah Faisal areas. Sewerage/drainage lines were also damaged in those areas which needed to be fixed.

The CM was further briefed that the 33 km long route-3, starting from Nagan Chorangi to Singer Chorangi needed asphalt works in areas like Hyderi, National Stadium, and Shan Chowranghi roads while FTC bridge, Left Turn to

Liaquatabad No. 10 had broken pavements and damaged sewerage lines, which were needed to be fixed.

Similar works should be carried out at Liaquatabad, Lulu Khait, Empress Market, I.I Chundrigar Road, Jahangir Road, Link Road M-9 of Route 4, Manghopir road, New Karachi, and KMDC to Ziauddin Road, Peoples Chowranghi to Landi Kotal area of Route-5 also need repair and maintenance works, the meeting informed the CM.

It was further said that the roads and pavement of Rour-6 such as Orangi Town, Paposh Nagar, Garden, Baloch Colony, PIB Colony, Bahadurabad underpass would be repaired, while the roads and sewerage lines of Route-7 such as around Qartar Hospital, Haji Hotel Orangi needed to be repaired.

The CM directed the transport department to coordinate with the local government department and start all the repair and maintenance work on top priority.

# Commissioner reviews arrangements for Independence Day

BAHAWALPUR: Commissioner Bahawalpur division Raja Jahangir Anwar chaired a meeting to review the arrangements being made to mark Pakistan's 75 years of Independence with national zeal.

The meeting was informed that the meeting was held at educational institutions as part of celebrations of the country's 76th Independence Day. It was told that Arts Council would also organize events to celebrate the day with enthusiasm.

The commissioner urged people from all walks of life to celebrate the Independence Day and pray for the country's progress. He said that people's love for their homeland was evident from the various events

organised to celebrate the national day.

The meeting was attended by officials, including Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Irfan Ali Kathia, Deputy Commissioner Rahimyar Khan Syed Moosa Raza, Deputy Commissioner Bahawalnagar Capt. (retd) Muhammad Waseem, Director of Colleges Prof. Ibrahim Bhatti, Additional Commissioner (Coordination) Faisal Aata Khan, Director of Public Relations Nasir Hameed, Assistant Commissioner (General) Liaquat Ali Gilani, Chief Executive Officer of education Department Zahir Chohan, Director of Arts Council Muhammad Sajjad Khan, Regional Manager of Tourism Development Corporation Misbahul Haque and others.

**Islamabad**  
23° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:43 am  
Zohr ..... 12:14 pm  
Asr ..... 5:07 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:09 pm  
Isha ..... 8:44 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 &  
& Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9266044  
Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance ..... 115  
PIA Flight Info ..... 114  
PIA Cargo ..... 9280979  
Railway Enquiry ..... 117  
Railway Exchange ..... 9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi ..... 5555489  
CAA ..... 9281092

**HOSPITALS**

CMH ..... 561111  
MH ..... 561116  
MH ..... 561116  
Cantt Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
DHQ ..... 5556311-4  
RGH ..... 9290301-7  
Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
PIMS ..... 9261170-79  
Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
Shifa International ..... 4603666

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan  
Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town ..... 9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316  
Wapda Islamabad ..... 9217579-80  
Sui Gas Complaint ..... 119, 9272249  
Wasa Water Tank  
Rawalpindi ..... 0331-5022125

*Rain lashes twin cities*

ISLAMABAD: Rain-wind/thundershower lashed different parts of twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Sunday due to the penetration of monsoon currents in the upper and central parts of the country. The rain from moderate to heavy intensity started in the afternoon after 4:00 pm and continued with gaps in isolated parts of the cities till evening.

The met office has forecast more rain-wind/thundershower for Kashmir, upper/central Punjab, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north Balochistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Isolated heavy falls are also expected in Northeastern Punjab. Heavy rains may generate urban flooding and flash flooding in local Nullahs of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Kasur, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Hariapur, Dir, Swat, Peshawar, Mardan, Malakand, Bajaur, Lakki Marwat, Kohat, Bannu, Tank during the period.

Rainfall may trigger landslides in Kashmir, Galiyat, Murree, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Chillas, Diamir, Gilgit, Hunza, Astore and Skardu during the forecast period.

**Mushaal pens letter to Modi seeking Yasin's release**

*Says Indian govt should give JKLF Chairman opportunity of fair trial*

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation Mushaal Hussein Mullick urged the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release her husband Yasin Malik, languishing in the infamous Tihar jail, due to precarious health condition.

Mushaal, in her letter to Indian Premier on Sunday, demanded that the Indian government should release JKLF Chairman Yasin Malik on health grounds and give him an opportunity of fair trial.

She alarmed that her husband was moving towards slow death due to government's callous attitude towards him coupled with his hunger to death strike, which entered into the ninth day.

She warned if anything bad happened to the voice of Kashmir freedom struggle, the Indian state would be held responsible for his murder.

Mushaal also appreciated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan for making a strong demarche to High Commission for the Republic of India in Islamabad over the fast deteriorating health condition of Yasin Malik.

In a letter addressed to the Indian PM, Mushaal demanded her husband's immediate release from prison in view of his precarious health condition that aggravated after his decision to go on a hunger-strike on July 22.

The Indian diplomat was conveyed Pakistan's deep dismay on the Indian authorities'



latest move of implicating Yasin Malik in two more bogus cases crafted around incidents that happened at least three decades ago.

Despite numerous pleas, she lamented that Yasin Malik has been denied his lawful right of personal appearance and cross-examination in the on-going trials, it added.

She said that having no legal recourse at his disposal, Yasin Malik went on a hunger strike unto death on July 22.

The Chairperson stated that the long-drawn illegal incarcerations, implication in fictitious cases, inhuman torture at the hands of the Indian occupation forces and the worst forms of political victimization, have already had a cumulative grave impact

on the physical, mental and emotional well-being of Yasin Malik.

"Alarmingly, the ongoing hunger-strike has made the situation so grievous that owing to an acute threat to his life, he has now been put on intravenous fluids," she added.

Keeping in view Yasin Malik's sharply deteriorating health indicators, Mushaal urged the government of India to provide him urgent medical care, immediately release him from the prison, cancel his fallacious conviction under fictitious charges and withdraw all other fabricated cases that have been mischievously spun around him. APP

**Preparations**

ISLAMABAD: People are buying national flags and colourful plastic horns ahead of upcoming 14th August to celebrate 75th Independence Day, at Aabpara Market in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**Over 3,662 notices issued for violating dengue SOPs**

RAWALPINDI: The district administration has issued 3,662 notices and imposed a fine of Rs 1,432,500 to various violators for not following anti-dengue standard operating procedures (SOPs) from January 1 to date.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC) Dr Sajjad Mehmood, while giving details of the punitive actions, informed that the district administration had registered 591 FIRs, sealed 233 premises and issued challans to 746 on violations of SOPs in various areas of the district.

He added that 1,334 anti-dengue teams during indoor surveillance from January 1 to date checked



4,303,327 houses and found dengue larvae at 14,954 homes. Similarly, he informed that 597 teams during outdoor surveillance inspected 1,752,596 spots and detected larvae at 1,782 places.

Meanwhile, Dr Sajjad informed that around 24

and Potohar town rural areas.

Dr Sajjad informed that anti-dengue activities were also being carried out in the private housing societies, whether registered with RDA, Cooperatives or unregistered housing societies.

The health officer added that the present spell of rains had increased the threat of mosquito breeding which needed to be tackled on an emergency basis, while the Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast more rains in the next week.

Dr Sajjad informed that puddles of water, which get stagnant due to rain, become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and spread diseases like malaria and dengue fever. Agencies

**Mehfil-e-Mushaira held at PAC**

RAWALPINDI: In connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Pakistan, the Punjab Arts Council (PAC) organized a Mehfil-e-Mushaira here Sunday.

Renowned writer and poet Professor Jalil Ali presided over the Mushaira, while Hasan Abbas Raza, Anjum Salimi, Dr Waheed Ahmed and Ahmed Attuallah were special guests.

The guests of honour were Rahman Hafeez, Afzal Khan, and Saeed Raja, while Nasir Ali Nasir performed the program's host duties.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Jalil Ali, in his presidential speech, said that poetry was the best expression of emotions. "A poet is successful who descends from the stairs of the mind and resides in the heart," he added.

Jalil urged the need to promote



literary and cultural activities in Pakistan so that feelings of peace and love could flourish in society.

He added that poets were creating new thoughts and concerns in the people, which would be helpful in the country's cultural and literary development. In the end, he thanked the PAC for organizing the Mahfil-e-Mushaira.

While speaking, Director of Arts

Council Waqar Ahmed said that Mushairas were a reflection of our civilization and culture.

"The land of Potohar is fertile for literature, while PAC is always trying to promote literature, where Mahfil Mushaira, Literary Sessions, and Book launching programs are being held regularly," Jahangir Imran, Dr Arshad Miraj, Dr Abid Syal, Hafeezullah Badal, Abdul Qadir Taban,

Dr Junaid Azhar, Salim Shehzad, Rifat Waheed, Haider Farooq, Imran Aami, Maheen Malik, Aqeel Shah, Shazia Akbar, Dr Kashif Irfan, Nargis Jahanzeb, Zeeshan Mustafa, Fayyaz Hussain Shah received great applause from the audience by presenting their poetry collections.

Many people belonging to the literary community participated in the Mushaira.

**Health Corner**

*Depression in fathers and children linked*

ISLAMABAD: Adolescent depression and behavior problems are on the rise and paternal depression may be contributing to this increase, regardless of whether the fathers and children are genetically related, according to new research from Penn State and Michigan State.

"A lot of research focuses on depression within biologically related families," said Jenae Neiderhiser, Social Science Research Institute cofunded faculty member and distinguished professor of psychology and human development and family studies at Penn State. "Now more information is becoming available for adoptive families and blended families."

The researchers looked at naturally occurring variations in genetic relatedness between parents and their adolescent children in the 720 families participating in the Nonshared Environment in Adolescent Development (NEAD) study, with over half of those families containing a child-rearing stepparent.

Mothers, fathers and children each answered questions to measure symptoms of depression, behaviors and parent-child conflict. The researchers then examined the association between paternal depression symptoms and child behavioral symptoms in a series of models.

Neiderhiser and Alex Burt, professor of clinical science at Michigan State, along with their colleagues found paternal depression was associated with adolescent depression and adolescent behavior problems regardless of whether the fathers and their children were genetically related.

"The results pointed squarely to the environmental transmission of depression and behaviors between fathers and children," said Burt, who has been collaborating on projects with Neiderhiser since the early 2000s. "Additionally, we continued to see these associations in a subset of 'blended' families in which the father was biologically related to one participating child but not to the other, which was an important confirmation of our results."

We also found that much of this effect appeared to be a function of parent-child conflict. These kinds of findings add to the evidence that parent-child conflict plays a role as an environmental predictor of adolescent behaviors."

According to Neiderhiser, while the results were expected, they also thought the effects on children's behavior and depression would be greater in parent-child pairs who were genetically related.

"It would be great to do more studies on step and blended families," she said. "They tend to be an underutilized natural experiment we could learn more from to help us disentangle the impacts of environmental factors and genetics on families." Courtesy Science Daily



*Mushaira held at IIUI*



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Urdu, of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) organized a Mushaira at the female campus in connection with the Independence Day celebration.

It was attended by famous female poets of the country. Ms. Ayesha Masood Malik presided over the Mushaira while Ms. Parveen Tahir was the chief guest. Ms. Abida Taqi was the moderator.

All the female poets presented their fresh poetry in accordance with Independence Day and the current situation of the country. Through their poetry, the poets paid tribute to the ancestors for their sacrifices and urged the present generation to follow their footsteps. The female poets not only recited poems highlighting the importance of the country but they also recited their famous poetry on the insistence of the audience.

On this occasion, on the request of President of Mushaira, Dean of Language and Literature Prof. Dr. Najiba Arif also presented one of her poems. Earlier, the in-charge of Urdu Department (Women) Dr. Saira Batool welcomed all the poets and the audience of the mushaira on behalf of the International Islamic University and emphasized the importance of Independence Day and termed it as a sign of living nations.

At the end, Prof. Dr. Najiba Arif appreciated the words of all the poets and thanked them for participation. He also appreciated the department of Urdu, especially the organizers of the Mushaira for the successful organization of the Mushaira.

*Rawal Dam interchange project near completion: CDA*

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Sunday said the Rawal Dam Interchange project was entered into final stages after completion of filling work on both ramps of the interchange.

The authority's chairman had instructed concerned formation to carry out more compaction to minimize the effects of the recent rains on construction activities to ensure provision of high and quality travel facilities, its spokesman told APP.

He said granular material was also being used to eliminate the effects of heavy rains so that the construction works are not affected by the rains in any way. FWO is currently executing the Rawal Dam Interchange project which was expected to be finished one month before the given deadline. The committed delivery time of the project was October 2022.

The project includes an underpass, one overhead bridge, a few slip roads, and one underpass connecting to Margalla Town.

*Police hold flag march*

**RAWALPINDI:**

Rawalpindi police on Sunday conducted a flag march to maintain peace in the city during Muharram-ul-Harrah.

SSP operations, SP Headquarters Divisional SPs, SDPOs, SHOs along with District Police, Elite Force, Traffic Police and Dolphin Squad participated in the flag march.

The purpose of the flag march was to exhibit law and order and to promote, harmony and unity.

The flag march started from Rawalpindi Police Lines and passed through various routes of the city and ended at the same point.

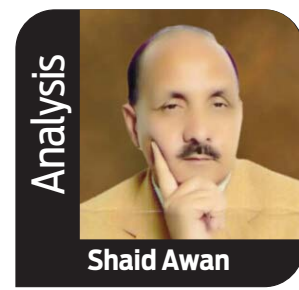
The implementation of law and order and code of conduct would be ensured during Muharram, City Police Officer Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari said that no one would be allowed to take the law into their hands, the law would take action on violation.

CPO urged the ulema to cooperate with the police and administration in ensuring law and order and Rawalpindi Police would use all resources to ensure for foolproof security during Muharram, he added. APP



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# Intolerance in Politics and Youth



Analysis

Shaid Awan

ing. Seeing this, the state of surprise and sorrow fades away. In these situations, let's hold each other's hands and show that we are one nation and keep dialogue with mutual respect in mind. You may belong to any political party, but remember one thing: lying, spreading lies, making false accusations, making fun of others by distorting their appearance are major sins. In particular, Allah has cursed a liar, which is one of the major punishments, so don't spread anything you hear without research and don't stick to lies. Dozens of friends have un-friend each other on social-media, domestic relations are also taking the form of mutual discrimination and incivility. Just think how it is benefiting the politicians who are causing the corruption of the morals of the young generation. This is not politics but an international conspiracy to create corruption in the society.

It is said that if talking is silver then silence is gold. Silence and solitude are a thousand times better than useless talk and meaningless talk. In fact, today's youth is suffering from unemployment and apathy. In such a situation, when a political party will encourage obscenity, lies and abusive speech to achieve its specific goals instead of training him, then who will protect the morals because an empty

mind becomes the Devil's house. Language is one of the greatest blessings given by Allah. Misuse of language creates strife and mischief.

The world famous American author Dale Karingi in his book "Sweet words are magic" emphasizes that in interpersonal conversations and business matters, adopt a soft tone and avoid unnecessary words. He has emphasized that one should not write harsh words in writing because writing is also the language of man,

A good conversation should be made which brings out the good side for others and spread knowledge.

sometimes a man uses such a sentence due to which he is thrown into the depths of hell. With the tongue, a person keeps talking about various sins such as lying, backbiting, swearing, immorality, obscenity. Silence does not mean that a person stops talking to anyone and goes into a corner of solitude, but the perfection is that he fulfills the right of his social life and fulfills his cultural responsibilities. Go out and follow the teachings of the Holy

Quran. A good conversation should be made which brings out the good side for others and spread knowledge. Silence means refraining from impolite conversation, the tongue is responsible for most of man's mistakes. Parents should play their full role in the moral education of their children.

The unbridled horses of social media and especially a political party have left no stone unturned in corrupting the morals of the youth. They want to achieve special goals by playing with the morals of the young generation, which is not improving the society but causing destruction. These young people will be the leaders of tomorrow and such a corrupted generation should not become the cause of spoiling the country's future instead of making it. Our elders had given many hopes to the youth, while Tehreek-e-Insaf has taken the responsibility of spoiling the present-day youth generation. Today's youth is moving away from books. Someone asked Imam Bukhari what is the medicine of memorization. He said, "Books". Hasan Basri used to say that forty years passed on me in such a state that books were on my chest when I woke up.

Abdullah, the grandson of Caliph Umar bin Abdul Aziz, had given up contact with

everyone and was buried in the cemetery with a book in his hand. Imam Muhammad was a disciple of Imam Azam, the pillar of Hanafi jurisprudence, he used to spend most of the night in reading books and the result of his studies that the clothes he wore would get dirty but he did not get time to change them. It is written about Al-Biruni, "His hand would leave the pen, his eye for study, and his heart for contemplation only during meals." Imam Jafar had four million books. Six hundred boxes of books were left from Abu Aqdi's house after his death. Yahya bin Mo'in left 114 bookshelves full of books at the time of his death. In the field of authorship and compilation, Muslim's pen showed the essence that even today people are surprised. Anb Jozi while cutting the pen, they kept their peels and used them to heat bath water after their death. Imam Ghazali used to write 16 pages and Imam Tabari 40 pages daily. Al-Biruni's writings were so heavy that a camel could not carry them all.

These few lines are written for our youth who are being pushed into the pit of misguidance, there is still an opportunity for the youth to be attracted to books, while distance from knowledge is becoming another name for intolerance and evil in politics.

## Solidarity with Flood Victims

As the monsoon rains wreak havoc in different parts of the country. Following heavy torrential rains and flash floods in different parts of the country, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, departments of Federal Government have taken a leading role in the rescue and relief operations. The federal government is providing the much-needed humanitarian assistance including food and non-food items to thousands of flood victims.

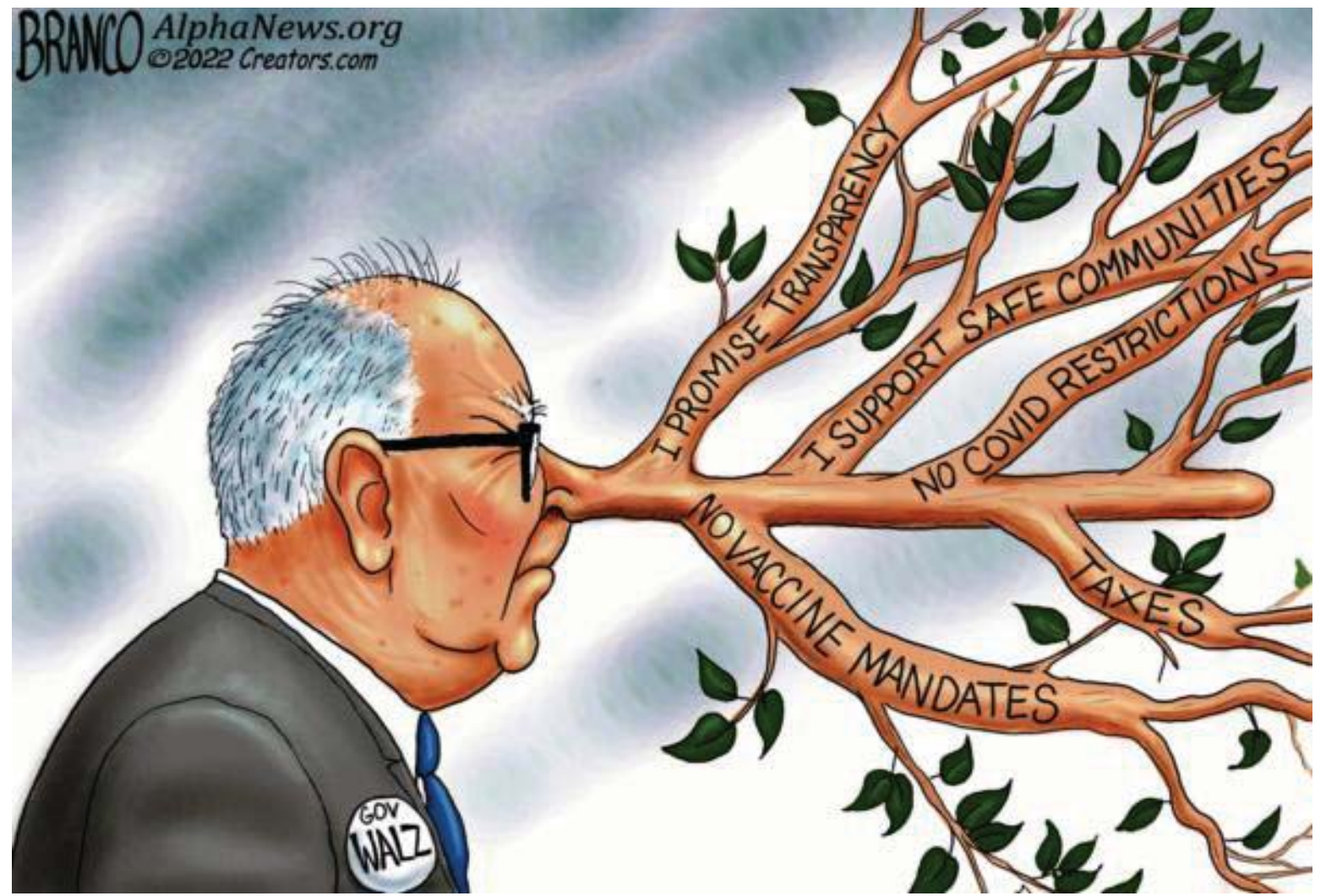
Besides provincial departments and Rescue 1122, officials of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Highway Authority (NHA), troops of Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force and Frontier Corps, on Sunday, expedited rescue and rehabilitation operations in the flood hit areas of the country including KP and worst affected Balochistan.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a fresh flood update on Sunday said that the troops were busy in rescue and relief efforts apart from providing medical care and opening up communication infrastructure.

While monitoring closely, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said federal government is working with Balochistan government to provide immediate relief to the flood affected people in the province. The PM after visiting the flood-hit areas of Balochistan to oversee the ongoing relief work and express solidarity with the flood affected people. The Prime Minister said the ongoing relief work will be further accelerated. He said about three hundred people, including 124 from Balochistan, have lost their lives in the floods. He said although there is no compensation for human life, however, the federal government is paying one million rupees to every household of the deceased. The Prime Minister said he has also ordered increase in financial assistance for those whose houses have damaged in the floods.

The PM said these are certainly challenging times for the flood affected people but the government will not leave any stone unturned to provide them relief and ensure their rehabilitation.

Keeping in view the current situation in flood affected areas, apart from the government initiatives, there is a dire need to work collectively to support the flood victims. Every year, the country faces heavy rains and floods. On the part of government, there should be long term planning to address such kind an environmental issues in future.



## PTI Foreign Funding Case

Munir M Hasan, PhD

British daily newspaper, Financial Times, released an investigation report that has sparked a debate about Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) foreign funding case. The report has been written by Simon Clark who is a journalist and a writer. The story is based on a Pakistani tycoon, Arif Naqvi, who is a founder of Abraaj, a Dubai-based private-equity firm. He once owned K-Electric, the premier electric company of Karachi. He also presided over the "Wootton T20 Cup from 2010 to 2012.

The report has stated that in 2013, Pakistani tycoon Arif Naqvi, through Wootton Cricket Ltd., collected millions of dollars which were later transferred to PTI's account. According to the report, Arif Naqvi invited cricket superstar, Imran Khan, and other personalities to his estate in the Oxfordshire village of Wootton for this cricket tournament. The transfer of money was made on March 14, 2013 when Abraaj Investment Management Ltd. transferred the amount directly to a PTI bank account in Pakistan.

Also, in April 2013, Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak al-Nahyan transferred \$2 million into the Wootton Cricket account. Six days later, Naqvi transferred \$1.2 million to PTI account in Pakistan in two installments.

### Funding to Sharif Brothers

The report also states that Naqvi has also been affiliated with the Sharif brothers. In 2016, when K-Electric ran into financial difficulties, Naqvi

had to sell the company for which he needed political backing. The same year, Naqvi authorized a \$20 million payment for Pakistani politicians to gain their support. The report states that the payment was allegedly intended for Nawaz Sharif and his brother Shehbaz.

### Denial of Shehbaz Sharif and Position of Imran Khan

Sharif brothers have denied any knowledge of receiving money. In a written response, Imran Khan said that neither he nor his party was aware of Abraaj providing \$1.3mn through Wootton Cricket. He also said he was not aware of the PTI receiving any funds that came from Sheikh.

### ECP Investigation into PTI Foreign Funding Case

Pakistan forbids foreign nationals and companies from funding political parties. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has been probing the party's funding since 2014 when a founding PTI party member, Akbar S. Babar, alleged major irregularities in the party's finances, including in funding from outside Pakistan. It is strange to note that while ECP has accepted the denial of Sharif brothers receiving any money and nothing is being done against them, the case against Imran Khan has been continuing.

### My Point of View

Imran Khan established his party, PTI, in 1996. However, he was not getting any support from any quarter. In 1997, he contested the National Assembly elections from NA 53, Mianwali, and NA 94, Lahore, but lost on both seats. In 2009, the unseen powers selected him as a

future Prime Minister and he was able to address a surprisingly big gathering in Lahore in 2011. In 2013 elections, Khan's PTI could get only 30 directly-elected seats in a house of 272 directly-elected seats. In 2018, in spite of invisible support, he could not get even simple majority to form the government independently.

The above explanation shows that, in 2013, Imran Khan was not powerful enough to ask Arif Naqvi of Abraaj Group to collect money in millions of dollars for his party, and convince Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak al-Nahyan to donate money for his party through Wootton Cricket. Pakistan won the cricket world cup in 1992 under the captainship of Imran Khan. Any influential person, as a fan of Imran Khan, could have helped him and his party in raising funds soon after the formation of his party, PTI, but this help was given in 2013 to him, 21 years after winning the world cup and 17 years after the formation of the party. This funding to PTI in 2013 must have been arranged by some powerful sources for a specific purpose.

In my opinion, by providing funding in millions of dollars, the aim of the unseen powerful sources was not to help PTI financially, but it was done to use this funding as a tool to blackmail Imran Khan whenever it was needed. The investigation against funding to PTI will not be complete until it is known who ordered Arif Naqvi to collect money for PTI, and convinced Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak al-Nahyan to donate money for his party. Any investigation without answer to this question will be incomplete and invalid.

## Somalia's security and the future of East Africa

Dr. Theodore Karasik

Somalia's greater incorporation into East Africa is a major undertaking by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud whose election in May 2022 was notable for a policy program that views integration as the key to security in the Horn of Africa.

The Somali president has traveled the region in a push to advance his country's future, and has asked to join the East African Community, a regional intergovernmental organization composed of seven countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. The Tanzania link is important when it comes to developing coastal trade links between the two countries.

Recently, Mohamud traveled to Arusha in Tanzania seeking an official invitation for Somalia to join the EAC common market. The Somali leader has had a vision of joining the group for the past 10 years. However, with its personality politics and competing agendas, the organization is far from perfect. Despite this, the region is witnessing increased regional trade, with many companies expanding their operations to other countries in sectors such as finance, manufacturing, hospitality, tourism and education.

Safety is a key feature that Mohamud needs to guarantee. By addressing concerns over the Somali terrorist group Al-Shabab now, he will save blood and toil later in an area that suffers from or is close to pockets of severe poverty and inter-ethnic conflict.

Somalia's many strong regional supporters have been working with these countries to begin addressing regional security issues. Mohamud visited Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya, Turkey and the UAE to discuss options on stopping Al-Shabab in order to enhance economic viability, while participating more widely in counterterrorism operations.

Talks also dealt with the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which is at the heart of disagreement between Addis Ababa and Cairo. The Somali president is trying to balance the water issue with the more serious Al-Shabab threat.

Ethiopia and Eritrea are working together to limit Al-Shabab's activities. Mustafa Omar, president of the Somali region of Ethiopia, has said that Ethiopia is planning to create

a "security buffer zone" aimed at countering the terrorist group's attacks. An increased military presence in Djibouti monitoring Al-Shabab is part of a growing web of security connections to combat terrorism and ensure major infrastructure projects work.

These include the LAPSET — Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport — corridor program, East Africa's largest and most ambitious infrastructure initiative, which brings together Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan. However, three years after Kenya and its landlocked neighbors invested funds to build infrastructure linking their economies, little has happened. A number of LAPSET projects stalled after Al-Shabab terrorists attacked and killed local residents, forcing contractors to flee. A joint counterterrorism effort against Al-Shabab is essential if these "access" projects are to succeed.

The Somali president is calling for increased attention to the threat posed by Al-Shabab, which has increased its operations since he took office. The terrorist group, which has been fighting Somali governments and African Union peacekeepers since 2007, wants to show it can operate in Ethiopia, as well as in Somalia and Kenya.

Almost 500 Al-Shabab fighters crossed into eastern Ethiopia last week, clashing with Ethiopian forces along the border. Reports suggest the terrorists may have penetrated up to 100 miles into the country before being stopped, and further attacks are considered likely.

The US is taking the Somali situation seriously after seeing China using "debt trap" politics among these countries. Samantha Power, the US Agency for International Development administrator, announced a \$476 million aid package to tackle Somalia's humanitarian crisis after meeting with Mohamud. The US provided almost \$707 million in assistance for the people of Somalia in 2022.

Meanwhile, other countries, such as Turkey, are organizing, training and equipping Somali counterterrorism forces as part of combined security efforts in the Horn of Africa.

Overall, the Somali leader is putting Mogadishu on a course that can lead to greater integration of East African states by addressing both counterterrorism realities and economic necessity. (Coutesty Arab News)

Dr. Theodore Karasik is a senior adviser to Gulf State Analytics in Washington.



*Signal of Jazz network down from 3 days in Wana*

*Students, business community and common people facing severe difficulties, demand immediate restoration*

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: For the past three days, Jazz network signals have been shut down in the Wana tribal district of South Waziristan, students, business community and common people have been disconnected from each other due to which the residents of the area are facing severe problems.

In this regard, an engineer working in Jazz Network Company said on condition of anonymity, that a few days ago, unknown persons fired at the Jazz Tower located in the hilly area of Cooch Mina, far from Wana, which seriously damaged it, it is difficult to reactivate it.

He said that the strong possibility is that Jazz Company will link Jandola to Wana to restore the network, then the network will be restored, which will take 10 to 15 days.

On the other hand, the Wana Students Society has also filed a rate petition in the Islamabad High Court for the restoration of 3G and 4G, as the net services have been suspended in Wana, South Waziristan for the last 3 months.

Due to which not only people are facing serious problems but students have also lost from taking online classes and taking admissions, however intensive efforts are being made to rehabilitate the students.

Ayaz Wazir, a senior leader of ANP, while talking to the media, strongly demanded the federal government and the military leadership to take emergency steps to restore Jazz network, which has been closed for a few days.

And also restore 3G and 4G, which have been closed for three months, so that the problems of students and business community are reduced and the communication is restored with each other.

Meanwhile, whenever our security forces have discussed with the authorities about the restoration of net services, the same answer is received that 3G and 4G have been shut down due to security concerns.

*Automobile sector has key importance in economy: secretary*

LAHORE: Provincial Industries and Commerce Department Secretary Dr Ahmed Javed Qazi said on Sunday that automobile industry enjoyed a key position in the national economy, and effective steps were being taken to increase its share in the GDP and get its proper share in the global market.

This sector, he added, was providing opportunities to value-added exports; therefore, the Punjab government was providing all possible support for development of this industry.

Addressing an industrial symposium, organised by the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) here at the Expo Center, he said 10 special economic zones were functional in the province, while recommendations had been sent to the Federal government for three new special economic zones. "There are vast opportunities for domestic and foreign investors in these special economic zones. There are also 24 small industrial estates for investors in the province," he added.

Qazi said that the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore was contributing much to promote automobile and engineering sector and the Punjab Tianjin University of Technology, Mir Chakar Khan University, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Rasool University Mandi Bahauddin were producing high-quality technologists; however, there was a need to strengthen the linkages between academia and industry.

**Business community playing key role in country's economy: Punjab Governor**

*Ceremony marking centenary of LCCI held at Governor House*

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended Centenary Gold Medals Award Ceremony of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) as chief guest at the Governor's House.

Federal Minister of Industries and Production, Syed Murtaza Mahmood, Chinese Consul General Zhao Shireen and former LCCI office-bearers were also present, while LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir, Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan and Vice President Haris Atiq also spoke on this occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that business community is not only playing an important role in the country's economy, but also the services of the business community in welfare work are also noteworthy. He said that the coalition government was not founded on any desire for power but came into existence to save the economy of Pakistan from bankruptcy. He said that econom-



ic self-reliance of Pakistan is the main goal of the government. He stressed the need for creating a national consensus on the basic points of the economy so that the economic policies do not change by changing the government and no one could play with the economic future of the people for the sake of their political interest.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman thanked the business community on

this occasion and said that they have supported the extraordinary and difficult decisions taken by the government in the extremely difficult economic conditions and it needs to be appreciated. He said that the present government took steps to immediately solve the problems faced by the business community as soon as it assumed responsibility and immediately paid Rs 42 billion to the exporters in the form of DLT which had not been paid for the last four years.

He said that the government has also removed all taxes on solar panels so that solar panels can be imported and the business community and the public can be facilitated.

Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that despite the most difficult economic conditions, the government has given a package of reduction in the prices of flour, sugar, ghee and other essential items for the people, while the minimum salary has been increased to Rs 25,000. He said that with the improvement in the economic

situation, more relief will be provided to the people for which the government is constantly struggling.

In his welcome address, Mian Nauman Kabir said that the purpose of awarding gold medals to former presidents in the 100-year gold medal award ceremony of Lahore Chamber is to appreciate their services which they have rendered for industry and commerce. He said that the present name i.e. Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry was chosen in 1960. He said that the business community played an important role in establishing the basic infrastructure of industry in Pakistan.

Mian Nauman Kabir said that everyone has to play his role in country's development and prosperity.

Later, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman awarded gold medals to Lahore Chamber President Mian Nauman Kabir, Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan, Vice President Haris Atiq and former presidents. APP

**President directs UBL to reimburse Rs5.49m to a defrauded customer**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi while upholding a decision of the Banking Mohtasib, has directed the United Bank Ltd (UBL) to refund the swindled amount of Rs 5.49 million to a complainant and declared that maladministration on part of the bank had been established.

The president rejected UBL's representation against Mohtasib's decision and held that bank had displayed negligence by clearing two stolen cheques bearing forged signatures as established by the bank's own forensic report.

He regretted that the bank did not follow its own SOPs which clearly mandated a call back for transfer/clearing/remittance for the amount of Rs 500,000 and above, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Sunday.

He highlighted that SOPs were framed for application



across the board without giving any discretion or choice to anyone with the underlying objective to avoid the possibility of fraud and fraudulent practices.

The president held that since the bank could not establish incontrovertibly its stance against the complainant, had failed to discharge the burden of proof and statutory liability cast upon it under the law, thus, its representation was devoid of any merit and deserved to be rejected.

While further dilating upon the representation, the president pointed out that the cheques in dispute bore no stamp or narration required to be affixed on the back of the two cheques as required by the said SOPs.

He wrote that there was negligence on part of the bank in matching the signatures on stolen cheques against the admitted signatures of the complainant as per bank's record, adding this fact was very tangible, obvious and sufficient for the bank to settle the claim in favour of the complainant.

He said that the forged

cheques were a nullity and the customer's account could not be debited on the basis of such cheques.

As per details, Feroze Khan (the complainant) was swindled out of his money when cheques were stolen from his office and Rs 5.49 million were debited from his account by the bank without any call-back confirmation from UBL, as mandated by law and its own SOPs regarding the clearance of cheques for amounts of Rs 500,000 and above.

The complainant had filed a complaint with the Bank for seeking a refund of his lost money but without any result. Subsequently, he approached the Banking Mohtasib (BM) for retrieval of his swindled money, which passed the orders in his favour.

The bank, however, did not comply with BM's decision and filed a representation with the president, which was also rejected in favour of Feroze Khan.

**Business organizations agree to work together in Peshawar cantt**



**Staff Reporter**

PESHAWAR: All the major business organizations of Peshawar cantt have agreed to work together with the central organization of traders of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa i.e. Markezi Tanzeem e Tajran KPK.

Malik Mehr Elahi Provincial President of the Central Organization of Traders of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa presided over high-level meeting in Peshawar cantonment.

In the meeting, consulted on the action plan regarding the protest against the FBR fixed-tax in electricity bills. Bills subject to fixed sales tax will not be submitted under any circumstances. The participants said that if the government does not change

its attitude, the traders are ready for protest and shutter down in the entire country according to the decision of the central leaders.

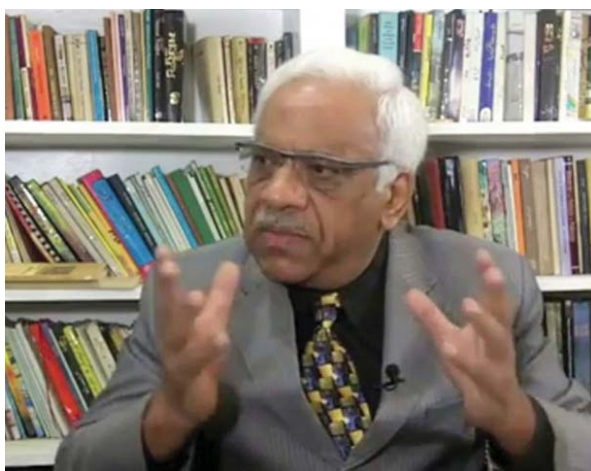
Traders and people are already suffering from inflation, the business is non-existent, Waqar Zaki, president of Sadar Traders Association, said that the wounds suffered by traders during two years of Corona have not been healed, and no relief has been received from the government. People are being trampled under taxes. We categorically declare not to accept any cruel laws of FBR. Babai Tajran Cantt Haji Amin Hussain Babar also announced his support for all kinds of protest decisions of the Central Organization of Tajran while communicating by telephone.

**FBR rebuts Sehbai's tweets about purported flight of dollars to Dubai**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Sunday categorically rebutted the contents of the two back-to-back tweets dated July 29, 2022 made by Shaheen Sehbai, alleging that, "credible insiders say within days after Shabbaz Sharif took office as PM, a plane with 245 suitcases full of US\$ took off from Karachi to Dubai".

"A Customs Intel officer who reported the matter was immediately sacked....my sources have now confirmed the Customs Intel Officer who was sacked in April when he reported flight of a private plane with 245 suitcases to Dubai is Abdul Rasheed from Sindh," Sehbai further said in his tweet.

According to an FBR press release, the contents of the aforementioned tweets were unfounded and absolutely contrary to the facts.



No information had been found in the official record of the Directorate of Intelligence & Investigations Karachi nor in the Directorate General of Intelligence & Investigation, Headquarters, Islamabad that could corroborate the assertions made in the tweets of Shaheen Sehbai.

It was further clarified that Abdul Rasheed Shaikh remained DG Intelligence & Investigations Customs for over two years and three months which was the long-

est tenure of a DG in the last 15 years. Furthermore, he was not sacked as claimed in the above tweets but was routinely transferred and posted as Member Customs (HQs), FBR on July 7, 2022.

He relinquished his charge on July 13 i.e. three months after the purported incident of April 2022.

Moreover, Abdul Rasheed had himself rebutted the incident as alleged in the tweets stating, "I&I Karachi had never reported any such intervention to me nor do I know the person who has attached my name to the story."

In view of the foregoing facts on the ground, the baseless assertions in the subject tweets could only be termed as deplorable, coming from such an acclaimed journalist. Hence, the same was rebutted in letter and spirit, FBR said. APP

**Survival of country depends on economic, political stability: Mian Kashif**

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan Furniture Council, while presiding over a meeting of board of Directors (BoD) here on Sunday, said that survival of any country exclusively depended on sound economy and political stability.

Taking stock of a host of looming economic issues being confronted by corporate sector, traders and business community in the wake of ever increasing prices of petroleum products, power, gas tariff, interest rate and inflation, the CEO said that the prevailing alarming situation warranted immediate attention of all political

parties to forge unity among their ranks at least on national issue of worsening economy, and work out a viable solution as to how the national economy could be taken out of turmoil.

He said that it was an accepted practice in the civilised world that the opposition always extended helping hand to the ruling party when supreme national interests were at stake; therefore, the political parties in Pakistan must also demonstrate the same maturity, spirit, responsible attitude and flexibility to steer the country out of severe economic crunch and political instability. Agencies

**For balanced trade policy**

**Businessmen's active participation in legislation process: ICCI President**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) President Muhammad Shakeel Munir has said that active participation of the business community and industrialists in the legislation process is imperative for a balanced trade policy.

The direct representation of the community in the parliament or in the legislation process, he added, would help address the issues related to business and industry and it was the only way forward to establish a healthy trade culture in the country and more essential for sustainable economic growth.

The ICCI president said the industrialists were facing a myriad of challenges, ranging from legal barriers to taxation, besides lack of access to loans and financial know-how that prevented them from establishing businesses on strong footing. In many developing countries, he said,

the focus was on building the capacity of entrepreneurs, ecosystem intermediaries and investors in order to increase the investment.

He said the trading community had concern over the recently new fixed tax law introduced by the Federal board of Revenue for the collection of sales tax with monthly electricity bills. It would particularly affect the small traders, who would have to pay minimum sales tax of Rs 3,000 even though their monthly electricity bill was less than Rs 1,000, he added.

Shakeel Munir said the FBR was previously collecting sales tax from the retailers at the rate of 5% and 7.5% of the electricity bill, who would now be charged minimum Rs 3,000 on the bills of up to Rs 30,000.

It would put an extra burden on the small traders, he added, and urged the government to revise the mini-



ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Muhammad Shakeel Muneer addressing a press conference at National Press Club, in Federal Capital. Online Photo by Sultan Bashir

mum slab of sales tax in consultation with the traders' bodies, including the ICCI. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail should take the lead in that regard and

sort out the important issue.

Replying to a question about the economic growth, Shakeel Munir said, "Keeping in view the political situation, the national economy seems to be heading towards a crisis-like situation." The economic stability, he added, was directly linked with the political stability.

Both were essential to achieve the goal of sustainable economic growth rate, he remarked.

To a question about the involvement of public and stakeholders in policymaking and legislation, the ICCI president said it could be done through a comprehensive dialogue and consultation with the quarters concerned and seeking experts' opinions on the matter.

An equal participation of the representatives of industry, chambers and business community was quite important in the dialogue process, which

would yield a better result regarding the policy formulation and also help in its implementation on a large scale, he added.

He opined, "Bureaucrats are not mostly well versed with the sufferings and problems of a small businessman, and only their true representative bodies can help identify the same and the way forward to address them effectively." He suggested that policies regarding trade and industry should be implemented through their associations as it would enhance the trust of the business community and help bridge their gap with the government.

It would be a more suitable option where all the stakeholders or representatives of the business community directly took the ownership of the government's trade policy and ultimately accountable for its implementation, he added. APP

# New Zealand beat Pakistan in Commonwealth Games Hockey

*Pakistan will have to win remaining two games to reserve semifinal berth*

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan's semifinal hopes went down to the wire as they were stunned by New Zealand 4-1 in their second match of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham on Sunday.

The defeat means they lost two crucial points and will have to win the remaining two games to reserve a semifinal berth. Both Pakistan and New Zealand remained unable to score in the first quarter of the match. But the black sticks dominated the second quarter, taking full advantage of Pakistan's key defender Mubashar Ali's injury, who was cautiously used by the team management in the match.

Mubashar suffered an injury in the first game against South Africa on Saturday when an absolute rocket of a penalty corner from Guise-Brown struck his face mask. Hugo Inglis scored two back-to-back goals in the 17th and 18th minutes for New Zealand.

A few minutes later, Pakistan's Ghazanfar Ali netted a splendid field goal to put Pakistan back in the game. Dylan Thomas scored the third goal for New Zealand in the 43rd minute, while in



the last minute of the match, Sam Lone scored another goal for his team to make it 4-1. "Our defence was not at its best today due to Mubashar's injury. We were compelled to rest him time and again during the match and send his replacements as he was not fully fit. "We also missed our chances to score goals.

Our schedule was very tight. Yesterday, we played our first game and today the second one. But there are no excuses for it as we needed to win this match,"

team manager Olympian Sameer Hussain told APP. "They put us on the back foot in the second quarter and we could not really get back into it. "We were not at our best today.

We have to accept that. We will pick ourselves up and try to win the next two matches to qualify for the semifinals," he added. Pakistan will take on Scotland on August 3 in their third match before facing six-time Commonwealth Games hockey champions Australia in their

last group match on August 4. The top two teams will move to the semifinals, taking place on August 6. The final will be held on August 8, the last day of the multi-sports event. Hockey has been played at the Commonwealth Games since 1998 and in that first year, it was Australia who dominated, winning gold in both the men's and women's competitions.

Malaysia men and England women took silver, while England men and New Zealand women won the bronze medals. Pakistan have never won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in the past. Their best performance was during the 2006 event, in Melbourne, when they won the silver medal. Pakistan also won bronze during the 2002 games in Manchester.

The Commonwealth Games has a rich sporting tradition that goes back to 1930. In its earliest edition, the coveted event featured 11 nations and 400 athletes. Now, in its 22nd edition, over 5000 athletes from 72 nations and territories will be participating in the English city of Birmingham in the event known as the Friendly Games.

## India beat Pakistan by eight wickets



Spokesman Report

BIRMINGHAM: India, at the back of Smriti Mandhana's blazing unbeaten 63 off 42, recorded an eight-wicket win over Pakistan in Group A match of the Commonwealth Games 2022 at Edgbaston.

India rolled over the 100-run target with eight wickets in hand and as many as 38 balls spare. India were provided a solid start to their run chase by left-handed Mandhana as her flurry of boundaries helped them cross the fifty-run mark inside the powerplay, which was reduced to five overs after the match started late because of a rain delay and the T20I affair curtailed to 18 overs.

India's both wickets fell to spinners, Shafali Verma, came off leg-spinner Tuba Hasan and Sabbhinini Meghana bowled by Omaira Sohail. Pakistan, after electing to bat, were all out for 99. Wicketkeeper-batter Muneeba Ali top scored with 30-ball 32.

India's Sneha Rana and Radha Yadav picked up two wickets each, while Renuka Singh, Meghna Singh and Shafali shared three wickets equally. Pakistan will play their last match of the Commonwealth Games on Wednesday against Australia.

## Djokovic 'preparing' to play US Open



PARIS: Novak Djokovic said Saturday he is "preparing to compete" at the US Open even though his refusal to get vaccinated will see him barred from entering the country. Under current rules, all visitors to the United States must be fully vaccinated against coronavirus. The Serb star, a three-time champion in New York and fresh from securing a seventh Wimbledon title, has consistently refused to take the vaccine, a stance which also saw him deported from Melbourne in January on the eve of the Australian Open. "I am preparing as if I will be allowed to compete, while I await to hear if there is any room for me to travel to US. Fingers crossed!" wrote Djokovic on Instagram in a post accompanying a video of him training. More than 43,000 people have signed a petition calling on the authorities to allow 21-time Slam winner Djokovic to play at the US Open which starts on August 29. "I just wanted to take a moment and say to all of you how grateful I am to see so many messages of support and love from all around the world these days," said the 35-year-old.

"I wasn't expecting it, and that's why it feels so mindblowing. Just wanted to say THANK YOU. It feels special that people connect with my tennis career in such a loving and supportive way and wish for me to continue to compete."

## Mane opens Bayern Munich account

BERLIN: Sadio Mane opened his competitive goal-scoring account for Bayern Munich as the Bundesliga champions defeated Leipzig 5-3 to capture the German Super Cup for a 10th time on Saturday. The African Player of the Year, who ended a six-year stint at Liverpool to move to Bavaria in the summer, also had two goals ruled out for offside in the game played at Leipzig's Red Bull Arena. "I'm really happy to win my first game and first trophy. You can't complain. I'm really happy to be part of this great club," said Mane. Senegalese star Mane was on target on the half-hour mark for his team's second goal in the German season curtain-raiser. Jamal Musiala played a perfect pass to unlock the Leipzig offside trap and release Serge Gnabry whose pass across the front of goal was tapped home by Mane. Bayern, beginning a new era after the departure of star striker Robert Lewandowski to Barcelona, had taken the lead after 14 minutes thanks to Musiala getting the better of Leipzig's Hungarian goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi. The impressive Musiala was at the heart of Bayern's third goal on the stroke of half-time when the teenager's astute pass was drilled home by French international Benjamin Pavard. Marcel Halstenberg headed in on the hour as Leipzig cut the deficit but it only took Bayern five minutes to restore their three-goal advantage. Thomas Mueller had a shot only half saved by Gulacsi and Gnabry was quickest to react to the loose ball to make the score 4-1. In an end-to-end second half, Leipzig grabbed their second goal of the evening courtesy of a Christopher Nkunku penalty after Dani Olmo had been brought down in the area.

## No excuses from Nural despite narrow Bangladesh T20I loss

HARARE: Newly-appointed Bangladesh T20I captain Nurul Hasan was making no excuses for his team's narrow loss to Zimbabwe on Saturday.

Despite an excellent effort with the bat, Bangladesh fell to a 17-run defeat against Zimbabwe in Harare in the opening match of their three-game series and have now lost 13 of their last 14 T20I matches.

Nural himself contributed an unbeaten 42 for Bangladesh in the loss, but his team was unable to successfully chase down Zimbabwe's hefty target of 205/3 after the hosts had won the toss and elected to bat first.

Bangladesh allowed Wesley Madheveru (67\*) and Sikandar Raza (65\*) to score



77 runs from the final five overs of Zimbabwe's innings and Nural said this may have proved the difference between the two sides.

"I think we failed to bowl in good areas in the last five to six overs and they batted really well," Nural said. "There are the areas (bowling in the

last five to six overs) that we need to improve before the next game."

Nural only took over the T20I captaincy on the eve of the tour of Zimbabwe and promised his team would play 'fearless cricket' during his reign as skipper. There were plenty of positive signs that

Bangladesh could take from the clash as they managed to score 188/6 in reply, but ultimately it was another loss for the Asian side. "I don't want to show any excuses whether it is batting, bowling or fielding it is all about us and we have to improve," Nural added.

"Everyone tried their level best and it was a 50-50 game," "Chasing down over 200 runs would have been a big deal. "When we came to the dressing room we were confident that we can chase down the total as the wicket was good but as I said we have lot to improve as far as bowling in the last five to six overs are concerned." "I feel if we had given 10 to 15 runs less than it could have been a different game all together."

## Nunez outshines Haaland in Community Shield

LEICESTER: Liverpool struck first blood against Manchester City ahead of the new Premier League season as Darwin Nunez made an instant impact for Jurgen Klopp's men to win the Community Shield 3-1 on Saturday.

In a tale of two big summer signings, Nunez came off the bench to win a penalty and score his first goal since a 75-million euro (\$77 million) move from Benfica, while Erling Haaland had a City debut to forget. "He's good," said Klopp on Nunez, who has been criticised for his pre-season performances. "Today we played the smart passes. We saw Darwin in dangerous situations. He used the spaces and finished well too. "All the subs made a real difference. It was the most important thing I learned today, that the boys are ready." Trent Alexander-Arnold's blistering strike gave Liverpool a deserved half-time lead in Leicester. But it was City's other new forward who hauled Pep Guardiola's men back into the game after the break as Julian Alvarez equalised.

Tying down Mohamed Salah to a new three-year deal was Liverpool's other major piece of summer business and the Egyptian was deadly from the penalty spot after Nunez's header was handled by Ruben Dias. The Uruguayan then got his



own glory moment by stooping to head home in stoppage time before tearing off his shirt in celebration.

Victory saw Liverpool win the traditional season curtain-raiser for the first time since 2006 and lay down an early marker in what is expected to be another battle between the sides for the Premier League title. City held off the Reds to win the Premier League for a fourth time in five years by a point in a thrilling finale to last season. Guardiola's men had to come from 2-0 down on the final day of the campaign to beat Aston Villa and

ly connect with Joao Cancelo's inviting cross. "It's good for him to see the reality of the new country, new league," said Guardiola on Haaland's first taste of English football. "He was there. Today he didn't score - another day he will score." Nunez was given his chance to shine on the hour mark, but fluffed his first big chance when Ederson prevailed in a one-on-one. At the other end, City's new South American striker also got his career in England off to a flying start. Alvarez's arrival at the Etihad has gone under the radar in the hype surrounding Haaland.

But the Argentine, who scored six goals in one Copa Libertadores match in May, is also regarded as one of the world's most exciting young forwards. Alvarez was quickest to react to the rebound after Adrian saved Phil Foden's initial effort and the goal stood after a VAR review for offside. It needed another intervention of VAR for Liverpool to restore their lead seven minutes from time. Referee Craig Pawson pointed to the spot after seeing a replay of Nunez's header coming back off the arm of Dias. Salah was deadly as ever from 12 yards as he drilled into the bottom corner despite Ederson going the right way. Nunez then ended any doubt over the result when he pounced on Andy Robertson's header across goal.

were again guilty of a slow start. Salah was the provider for the opening goal as he laid Thiago Alcantara's crossfield pass back to the edge of the box and Alexander-Arnold smashed in off the post with the aid of a slight deflection off Dias. City had played just two pre-season friendlies to Liverpool's four and took half an hour to find their feet.

Haaland was denied by Liverpool stand-in goalkeeper Adrian with his first sight of goal. However, the Norwegian should have opened his City account moments later as he failed to properly

## Swimmer McKeon, New Zealand cyclists dazzle

BIRMINGHAM: Emma McKeon needs just one more title to break the record for most Australian Commonwealth Games golds after yet another win in the pool on Saturday as New Zealand dominated on the cycling track.

McKeon, 28, swam the anchor leg as Australia won the women's 4x100 metres relay to put her alongside Ian Thorpe, Susie O'Neill and Leisel Jones on 10 gold medals. "It's nice to do that 10th one in a relay," she told Australia's Channel 7. "It's kind of all a bit of a blur, I guess. It's been over a long time. I mean my first one was 2014 and I was so young." Scotland's Duncan Scott avenged his Olympic defeat at the hands of his friend Tom Dean.

Scott beat England's Dean in

a thrilling men's 200m freestyle duel, pulling away from the Olympic champion in the final 50m to win in a time of 1min 45.02sec. The 25-year-old returned to the pool to take bronze in the 400m individual medley behind New Zealand gold medallist Lewis Clareburt, who won in a time of 4:08.70. South Africa's Lara van Niekerk won the women's 50m freestyle while compatriot Pieter Coetzee triumphed in the men's 100m backstroke.

New Zealand dominated the track cycling events at the Lee Valley VeloPark in London, winning three of the four titles on offer. Aaron Gate won the men's 4,000-metre pursuit, with compatriot Tom Sexton taking silver. Bryony Botha won the women's 3,000m individual

pursuit and Ellesse Andrews took gold in the women's sprint, beating Canada's Olympic champion Kelsey Mitchell. For both Gate and Andrews it was their second gold of the Games. "My grandma and my granddad love coming to watch racing," said Andrews. "This is my first elite result in front of them because they weren't able to come to Tokyo (Olympics). "To be able to go and give them a big cuddle afterwards, I can't even explain how special that is."

Gate and Andrews had waited just 24 hours to add to their gold collection - a blink of an eye compared to the 56 years it has taken a Trinidad and Tobago athlete to stand on top of the track cycling podium. Nicholas Paul, 23, was the man to end the long wait since Roger Gibbon won two

gold medals in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1966, storming home to win the keirin. "To be able to race in London again, go to my second Commonwealth Games and to earn a gold medal is unbelievable," he said. The track athletics does not get under way until Tuesday but the marathons served as an appetiser. Victor Kiplangat marked himself down as a talent for the future on a bigger stage in delivering Uganda's first-ever Commonwealth Games marathon gold.

The 22-year-old even overcame a moment of confusion in going the wrong way inside the final mile and still had over a minute to spare over his nearest rival Alphonse Tibu of Tanzania. "The people riding the motor-cycles were confusing me," he



said. "They told me to turn back. I believe Uganda is proud of me today. We have been waiting for this." Jessica Stenson has been waiting eight years to be crowned Commonwealth mara-

thon champion and the plucky Australian finally experienced it after two successive bronze medals. The 34-year-old showed few signs of a recent bout of Covid-19 as she came home on her own

and said having had a child had changed her perspective on life. "I am doing this because I can," she said. "It's a privilege. I feel fulfilled anyway and everything here is just a bonus." Hosts England, lifted by vociferous home support, won the women's team gymnastics title to go with their triumph in the men's event.

But the support was not just for English athletes as Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu found to her surprise as she won the 49kg category for her second successive title. "Every athlete wants the crowd to back them and roar for them and I was taken aback that there was such a huge Indian presence in Birmingham," she said. "They were roaring their lungs out for me, and it pepped me on."