

## Power shortfall peaks at 6,245 MW despite rainfall

LAHORE: Temperature nationwide has reduced following rainfall in upper parts of the country, however, it could not help in bringing down the power shortfall which peaked at 6,245 MW on Saturday. According to sources within the power division, the electricity supply stood at 20,755 MW against a demand of 27,000 MW, resulting in a shortage of 6,245 MW. The country is witnessing upto eight hours of load shedding in urban centres and 14 hours of power outages in rural areas. —APP

# The Business

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## Inflation-hit people forced to commit suicide, 2 die, one survives

ISLAMABAD: A new wave of high inflation has forced people to commit suicide and in two recent incidents, a man and a four year old girl died on Saturday. In the first incident, a man with her four years old daughter jumped into a canal in Rahim Yar Khan. He was facing some serious financial issues. Locals immediately rescued him but failed to save his daughter who was drawn into the canal. In the second incident, a man hanged himself with the fan of his bedroom in Khanpur district. He had some domestic problems due to high inflation. —DNA

## Three labourers killed in terrorist attack in Harnai

HARNAI: Some unidentified armed persons killed three labourers and injured five others in a terrorist attack near district Harnai of Balochistan on Saturday.

The attackers attacked labourers camp who were doing construction of road work in district Harnai leaving three labourers killed and three others injured.

As many as seven labourers are still missing. According to security sources injured labourers have been shifted to Quetta while search operation is underway in the area.

The attackers set ablaze vehicles and machinery and fled the scene.

Meanwhile, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo strongly condemned the terrorist incident and expressed deep grief and sorrow over it. In a statement, he said terrorists will not succeed in their nefarious designs. The Chief Minister directed officials to provide better health facilities to the injured labourers. —Online

## Daughter of renowned Seth Abaid killed

LAHORE: Daughter of renowned businessman late Seth Abaid has been killed in mysterious condition in her room.

Husband and three adopted sons of victim Farah Mazhar, 62 are settled in the US. She lived in a room of her home in the area of Muslim Town, Lahore. Besides her servants her adopted son Fahd was also living in the home. The servants and adopted son took the body to a private hospital instead of informing the police about the incident.

The hospital management informed the police that body of a woman has been brought in their hospital. The police reached the scene and took the arms into their custody.

The adopted son of the victim and servants were also taken into custody for investigation. Police said the servants and adopted son had told that the victim had committed suicide by firing on her.

Police have expressed concern over it that when police reached the scene the servants tried to change the crime scene in the home. The arms were also hidden. —Online

## SCCI discusses EPZ issues with Secy Industry

SIALKOT: The Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) held a zoom meeting with Secretary Ministry of Industries and Production Imdadullah Bosal to discuss the construction policy and other issues of Sialkot Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Mian Imran Akbar highlighted issues related to the Sialkot Export Processing Zone (EPZ). He shared valuable input for skill development programme, proposed for the Sialkot industries. Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Senior Vice President (SVP) Sheikh Zohaib Rafique Sethi, Khwaja Masood Akhter and Khawar Anwar Khwaja also attended the meeting. —APP

## I will completely change Pak if given chance: Zardari

The Business Report

LAHORE: Former president and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari said on Saturday that he will completely change Pakistan if given a chance rule the country.

He said this in his meeting with party leaders and workers at Bilawal House in Lahore. The former president promised to make next government by the will of almighty Allah.

"I will now sit in Punjab and work with everyone," he said. The Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman said that this was a blatant lie that his party has no representation in Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan, adding that he tried to save the country by weakening our politics. The country is in the clutches of inflation due to the wrong policies of former PM and PTI chairman Imran Khan.



NEW YORK: Ambassador Aamir Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan at the UN, speaks at the high level event commemorating the First International Day on Countering Hate Speech.

# UGB for lowering, controlling interest rate for business

ISLAMABAD: The United Business Group of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) on Friday urged the government to lower the interest rate, check dollar costs and cut petroleum prices to beef up the fragile economy in the wake of swirling global inflation.

While presiding over a high-level meeting of the group, Chairman Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Shahzad Ali Malik said that an urgent plan was needed on war footing to increase the industrial production in the coming years to give a boost to export, according to a press release issued here on Saturday. He said once the export level increases, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other monetary bodies will become flexible for rupee valuation besides curtailing the widening trade deficit which in turn will make it easier to utilize the remittances for repayment of loans.

He said an increase in the interest rate

also raises the cost of capital resulting in the reduction of investment within the economy as well as slowing down the growth rate of the economy overall which also curbs inflation. Shahzad Ali Malik said the persistently higher rate will ultimately affect how markets are priced, could slow markets, and lead to higher levels of unemployment than the economy has grown used to be.

Regarding increasing prices of petroleum products, he said it leads to higher inflation, increases budget deficit, and puts downward pressure on the exchange rate which makes the impact more expensive to rising oil prices are the major concern for all developing countries and Pakistan is suffering from it too.

He said that all these factors would increase the cost of production and would not be able to compete in global markets, especially with neighbours.

Shahzad Ali Malik urged the government to address these issues on top priority to fully ensure ease of doing business

taking all stakeholders into confidence, in view of the prevailing scenario.

LCCI also backs govt proposal to close markets by 9pm

Closure of market in Punjab at 9pm has been proposed in order to save electricity as the country witnesses constant power outages. According to sources, the measure, which could possibly go into effect by next week, will remain in place for two months initially.

President Lahore Chamber has also announced to support the government move and said that it is responsibility of every citizen contribute in these testing times.

A report has been presented before CM Punjab about power consumption by the markets and which markets could be asked to reduce timings. Earlier, Sindh government on Friday also announced the closure of all markets including shopping malls by 9pm across the province.

According to the notification, markets will be closed by 9pm, marriage halls at 10.30pm and restaurants at 11pm. —APP

# PSF ready to fund research projects of pharma industry

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) is ready to provide direct funding to the research projects of pharmaceutical industry in collaboration with ICCI.

The funding would help it resolve its key issues and achieve better growth, said Prof. Dr. Shahid Mehmood Baig, Chairman PSF while addressing the representatives of local pharmaceutical industries at ICCI. He said that currently, there was a disconnect between academia and industries and consultative meeting of PSF with the representatives of local pharma industry was part of efforts to strengthen academia-industry linkages.

Dr. Shahid Mehmood Baig said that pharma industries should send their research projects through ICCI to PSF for funding that would be considered on merit.

He said that universities were doing good research work and pharma industries should also send written issues to PSF and PSF in collaboration with universities would try to find their optimum solutions.

He said that PSF was also ready to work with the pharma industry on a public-private partnership model to promote research projects in order to resolve its major issues and facilitate its better growth.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President ICCI appreciated the efforts of PSF for promoting scientific research and providing funding for

research projects in various fields of science and technology. He urged the government to accord top priority to science and technology as its role was crucial in resolving the industrial, economic, social and environmental issues of the country and put it on the path of sustainable growth.

He emphasized that the universities, R&D institutions and industry should join hands to resolve key issues of the economy and steer it out of the current challenges. He said that ICCI was ready to work with PSF to address the key issues of local industries of various sectors that would help them to produce value-added products and improve exports. Nasir Qureshi, Convener, ICCI Pharmaceutical Committee said that Pakistan pharma industry had grown from 30 companies to 850 companies now including MNCs due to which Pakistan had become self-sufficient in medicines and was exporting to many countries.

However, he urged the government to cooperate with the pharma industry to achieve the latest technology and knowledge and get registered with the US Food and Drug Administration that would enable it to further boost export pharmaceutical products around the world.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President ICCI, Zahid Maqbool, Naeem Siddiqui and representatives of pharma

companies also spoke at the occasion and highlighted issues that needed the attention of PSF and the government for redress. They said that the government should withdraw sales tax from the pharma industry to save it from further troubles.

New Gwadar int'l airport to be inaugurated on March 23: Minister

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said on Saturday that New Gwadar International Airport would become operational from March 23 next year. The minister announces this while chairing a meeting to finalise the pricing model of fares for airports in Balochistan for higher traffic volumes and enhanced air-connectivity of the provinces.

The planning minister directed authorities concerned to ensure inauguration and shifting of flight operations from old Gwadar Airport to New Gwadar Airport in March next year. "It will be a gift for the people of Balochistan on Pakistan Day," he added.

The minister further announced to expand international flight operations from Quetta airport by August 14 this year to enhance Balochistan's connectivity with Middle East. The meeting was also briefed that PIA is operating 30 flights weekly to three cities of Balochistan Advisor Maritime Affairs Jawad Khokhar, Additional Secretary Planning Dawood Muhammad, secretary aviation, Balochistan chief secretary, Pakistan

## Court accepts plea to conduct Aamir Liaquat's autopsy

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: A court in Karachi on Saturday accepted plea to conduct postmortem of former TV host and member National Assembly Dr Aamir Liaquat Hussain after he was found dead in his bedroom last Thursday.

As per details, the court has ordered to form a medical board to conduct the postmortem. Earlier, city court in Karachi heard the case on conducting Aamir Liaquat's postmortem in which the lawyers of the state and Aamir Liaquat's family appeared. The petition was filed by a citizen named Abdul Ahad.

While the heirs of the televangelist were against to conduct an autopsy. The family of the politician had also moved court to stop government from conducting postmortem.

As per the petitioner, Aamir Liaquat's property was under dispute and the former MNA might have been murdered.

## PIA passenger staff hailed for prompt response

KARACHI: A PIA passenger traveling from Lahore to Toronto on flight PK 789 of 16 June forgot his travel pouch containing 3,035 Canadian dollars and some documents, at one of the Check-In counters at Lahore Airport.

The same was found by PIA staff after departure of the flight and taken into custody. On arrival of the flight at Toronto, the passenger was contacted and informed accordingly.

The passenger was very much relieved and sent an authority letter in the name of his relative who then collected the money and documents from the office of PIA Airport Station Manager. The prompt action of PIA staff was appreciated by the passenger and thanked PIA officials for their swift efforts at Lahore and Toronto airports. —DNA

## NDMA warns GBDMA, DDMA to remain alert

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued instructions to Gilgit-Baltistan DMA (GBDMA) and DDMA to remain observant and vigilant as there is possibility of flash floods, landslides and gusty winds in vulnerable areas of the region.

These instructions were issued on the basis of Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) alert owing to prevailing weather conditions and rain spells in Gilgit-Baltistan, Radio Pakistan reported.

The GBDMA has been directed to coordinate with departments concerned to ensure arrangement and pre-placement of necessary inventory and equipment along with availability of emergency services personnel at vulnerable locations. —DNA

## Taliban hopeful of results from TTP, Pak talks

The Business Report

KABUL: The negotiations between the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Pakistani government concluded two days back in the Afghan capital of Kabul, Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid said.

Mujahid, who is the deputy of minister information and culture, told Geo News that he hopes that this time, the negotiations bear fruit — as the last round of peace talks between the two sides did not yield results. The Afghan Taliban official said that his side played the role of a mediator. He assured that in case the negotiations between the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Pakistan fail, then the Taliban would not allow the Afghan soil to be used for attacks against Pakistan.

The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) — which is not directly affiliated with the Afghan Taliban but pledges allegiance to them — have carried out some of the deadliest attacks within Pakistan since 2007. The deputy of minister information and culture noted that the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan

# Sindh budget jugglery of figures, says Chandiwala

KARACHI: Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Karachi chapter chief organiser Tariq Chandiwala has said that the Sindh budget is nothing but a jugglery of figures. Addressing a meeting of PDP Steering Committee here, he said that the development funds tagged in budget are devoured by corruption mafia.

He said Karachi is badly neglected in the budget of Sindh province. He said pace of work on the lone big project, K4, is very slowly. He asked why last year Rs73 billion were not spent on uplift projects. He asked why loans of Rs33bn are taken when surplus budgetary amounts were available.

He said only three percent of budgetary allocations are tagged for capital expenditures, while whole

remaining budget would be spent on administrative expenses. He asked where Rs93 billion of foreign aid were spent. He said development work in the province is negligible. He said Rs1200 billion would be spent on expenses, which is 70 percent of the total budget.

He said Rs 23 billion for healthcare are not sufficient. He said Rs34 billion for education budget is unnecessary as parents don't send their children to government schools. This budget is simply embezzled. He said giving subsidy to poor farmers is welcome but what was hurdle in levying tax on feudal lords. Expressing his dismay over once again neglecting Karachi, he said the megacity providing huge revenue to the national kitty itself

is facing huge problems. Despite this city plays the role of backbone in national economy, it has been treated unfairly. Garbage hills, overflowing gutters, broken roads, poor healthcare facilities, lack of electricity, water and gas and numerous other social issues in the city are a slap across the face of government and administration.

Tariq Chandiwala said infrastructure of this center of commercial and economic activities in Pakistan is in the shambles and its basic civic issues stand unresolved, which is a big question mark over the performance of provincial and local governments. He regretted that the federal, provincial and local governments are not ready to take responsibility of the megacity. —



QUETTA: Residents of Spinny Road hold a protest against loadshedding in their area.