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Hamza asks line depts to remain alert in wake of torrential rains

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Alvi approves Balochistan judges' appointment



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## Rains claim 77 lives so far, says Sherry

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman on Wednesday revealed that monsoon rains across the country — which began on June 14 — have claimed 77 lives so far of which 39 were reported in Balochistan.

"The figure includes children, men and women. We are trying to reach out to locals with the help of the national and provincial disaster management authorities," she said at a press conference. Heavy rains have been lashing multiple areas of the country since the start of this week. According to authorities, the downpour has wreaked havoc in Balochistan where the local administration has geared up to deal with any emergency situation.

In a briefing, Rehman said that urban flooding

had been reported in Quetta, Pasni and Turbat. "The water levels are high and people need to be careful because the monsoon patterns are changing. At this moment, the rains across Pakistan are 87 per cent more than the average downpour." In Balochistan, the rains were 274pc more than the average rainfall, while Sindh's were at 261pc, which the minister stressed was "alarming".

"This is the beginning and we need to prepare for it," she said, adding that the climate change ministry had issued alerts instructing provinces to clean their nullahs. "This is definitely a national disaster for me, especially when so many people are losing their lives. This is not a small thing and the state has to give special attention to it." —APP



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Human Rights Riaz Hussain Pirzada calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif; Federal Minister for Finance, Miftah Ismail was also present.

■ Shehbaz appoints two more parliamentary secretaries

## PM for probe into delay in Gwadar Breakwater project

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday ordered an inquiry into the delay in the Gwadar Breakwater project. Taking to Twitter, PM Shehbaz termed the delay as criminal and said that he had ordered an inquiry into the matter in a meeting. He said it baffles the mind how the PTI government ignored it despite the availability of a \$445m grant, \$484m soft loan and feasibility.

"From energy to infrastructure, every project under PTI suffered costly delays," wrote the PM. He also reiterated his resolve to complete the CPEC project on a fast-track basis. "Time for presentations is over. Time for action is now. Gwadar is not just about infrastructure development; being part of CPEC, it has political, economic & strategic value. Turning Balochistan's backwardness into prosperity is our collective responsibility & my mission."

Another report adds: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has appointed two more parliamentary secretaries and also changed the ministries of four others on Wednesday. Syeda Nosheen has been appointed to the ministry of

human rights while Muhammad Ishaq of PML-N became parliamentary secretary for finance and revenue.

PM transferred parliamentary secretary Aysha Rajjib from human rights to investment board and Rana Iradat Sharif to energy ministry from finance and revenue. Sardar Irfan Dogar, from energy ministry went to the National Heritage and Culture as parliamentary secretary.

**PM directs to simplify system of person-to-govt payments**

PM Shehbaz Sharif has directed to make effective and simplify the system of person-to-government payments. Head of Prime Minister's Strategic Reforms Unit Salman Sufi in a statement on Wednesday said it will be our effort to ensure that the people could make online payments through National Bank of Pakistan in the next six months.

He said directions in this regard have been issued to the President of National Bank of Pakistan. He said this initiative of present government is a positive step towards cashless economy.

**Pakistan taking measures to improve trade with Iran: Miftah**  
Federal Minister for Finance and Rev-

enue, Miftah Ismail said here on Wednesday that Pakistan was committed to take all possible measures for resolving the bottlenecks for significantly augmenting the bilateral trade volume with Iran. The minister was talking to Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, Seyed Mohammad Ali Hossaini who called on him, according to press statement issued by the finance ministry.

Miftah said, the current trade volume between the two countries was not at the optimal level, the statement added. He also highlighted deep rooted cordial and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Iran based on centuries old religious and cultural affinities. Miftah emphasized that Pakistan always highly values its brotherly relations with its neighboring country. On the occasion, the Iranian Ambassador appreciated government's economic policies and said that the two countries had great potential for extensive collaboration in the fields of energy, trade and other areas.

Both the dignitaries expressed their satisfaction on mutual bilateral relations and showed keen intention for enhance-

## Pak-US vow to deepen ties as ambassador calls on Hina

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome called on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabhani Khar on Wednesday. Both the leaders reiterated their commitment to widen and deepen their longstanding ties.

According to the Foreign Office, State Minister Hina Khar congratulated Blome on his appointment as US ambassador to Pakistan. During their meeting, both the leaders reiterated their commitment to widen and deepen longstanding Pak-US ties. They also reaffirmed engagement in trade, investment, energy and health sectors. Both underlined importance of people-to-people ties and Congressional engagement. The United States (US) government on Wednesday handed over four mobile laboratories to Pakistan for diagnosing diseases.

While addressing the laboratories handover ceremony at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Islamabad, US Ambassador Donald Blome said

that the ministry of health and the NIH deserved tribute and congratulations for controlling the coronavirus pandemic in Pakistan. "The US government has been working with Pakistan on health issues for the past 60 years," he said.

"During the coronavirus epidemic, the US worked to make health professionals and institutions more effective in many countries around the world, including Pakistan," he added.

"The global coronavirus pandemic is not over yet. Work to control the disease is still underway," he stated. "The way Pakistan controlled the pandemic, and established an effective system of clean water and sewerage, is commendable," the US ambassador commended.

"We congratulate the way the countrywide vaccination against coronavirus was ensured in Pakistan in the difficult circumstances," he added. On the occasion, NIH Executive Director Maj-Gen (ret'd) Dr Aamer Ikram said that the USAID had played a pivotal role in con-

trolling any epidemic in Pakistan.

"The state-of-the-art laboratory in this 45-foot-long container is a significant addition to Pakistan's key assets," he pointed out.

**SBP final instructions to implement IFRS-9 in banking sector**

The SBP has issued final instructions on IFRS 9 for ensuring smooth and consistent implementation of the Standard in the banking industry, with revised implementation timelines. For banks having asset size of PKR 500b or above, as per their Annual Financial Statements, as of December 31, 2021, and for all the DFIs, SBP has set the revised implementation date as January 1, 2023.

Whereas, for all other banks and MFBS, SBP has revised the implementation date of IFRS 9 as January 1, 2024. Earlier, for the implementation of IFRS-9 by banks, SBP had set a deadline of January 1, 2022, which has now been revised on the request of banks that are facing challenges in the implementation

## Buzdar principal secy skips ACE appearance

LAHORE: Tahir Khurshid, the principal secretary to former Punjab chief minister Usman Buzdar, on Wednesday skipped his appearance before the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) despite the issuance of a notice.

The ACE Punjab on Tuesday had summoned Tahir Khurshid at 11 am on Wednesday for interrogation about the allegations of taking bribes against him. It is to be noted here that Tahir Khurshid was accused of taking bribes for transfers and postings of officers. He was also accused of taking bribes for awarding road tenders. Both, Tahir Khurshid and C&W Chief Engineer Wasim Tariq, were accused of taking millions of rupees as bribe. The ACE had arrested Wasim Tariq last month. —DNA

## PR announces 30pc reduction in train fares

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways has announced a 30 percent discount on tickets in train fares to facilitate the passengers on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

According to a notification issued here, the reduction in train fares will be applicable to all passenger trains during the three days of Eid-ul-Azha. The PR has also started Eid bookings on discounted fares, the notification read. Separately, Pakistan Railways also announced to run three special trains on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

According to the PR department, three special trains will be operated on multiple routes before Eid-ul-Azha. A Railway spokesperson told that the first special train would depart at 10 am on July 8. It would travel from Quetta to Peshawar via Multan, Sahiwal and Lahore. The second special train would leave at 6:45 pm on July 8 and would travel from Karachi to Lahore via Multan and Faisalabad, he added. —DNA

## PPP announces support to PML-N in by-elections

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira announced to extend PPP's unconditional support for Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) in by-elections of the Punjab Assembly.

In a joint press conference flanked by Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique, the Prime Minister's aide made announcement of unconditional support of his party. Kaira said the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leadership, after thorough analysis and discussions within the party, concluded that the PML-N as their ally could end the evil spread by the previous Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) government. He said, "We want to end the scourge of PTI government's vicious propaganda that created unwanted polarisation in the society." —Online

## Rupee weakens against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Exchange rate of the Pakistan rupee depreciated by Rs 1.06 against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Wednesday and closed at Rs 207.99 against the previous day's closing of Rs 206.93.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 206 and Rs 209.5 respectively.

Similarly, the price of the euro was decreased by Rs 1.45 and closed at Rs 213.36 against the previous day's closing of Rs 214.81. The Japanese Yen gained one paisa to close at Rs1.53, whereas a decrease of 91 paises was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 248.96 as compared to its last closing of Rs 249.87. The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal

## PSX ends with marginal gain in lacklustre session

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a mixed session on Wednesday as a combination of buying and selling pressures kept the benchmark KSE-100 index in a narrow range for most of the day.

Although the benchmark index remained under pressure, it still closed with a marginal gain, after two sessions in the red. By the end of the day, the KSE-100 index closed with an increase of 57.22 points or 0.14%, at 41,159.79 points.

Trading began with a jump and the market hit an intra-day high of 41,334.9 points in initial minutes. However, the KSE-100 index traded range-bound

for the rest of the day as investors awaited positive developments before making fresh buys.

Uncertainty made the market shed some of the gains by the end of the session but the index still closed on a positive note.

All index-heavy sectors including automobile, cement, banks, fertiliser and oil stocks witnessed buying activity. A report from Arif Habib Ltd stated that the benchmark KSE-100 index witnessed a sluggish session. Investor participation continued to remain dry due to concerns regarding rate hike in the upcoming monetary policy and rupee depreciation against the dollar. Main board activity remained dull but decent volumes were recorded in the third tier stocks, it said.

## Imran alleges rulers have made fake voters' lists

SAHIWAL: Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said the rulers with the cooperation of the Election Commission have prepared fake voters lists to win the by-election in Punjab.

Addressing a public gathering in Sahiwal, Imran Khan thanked participants for coming in large numbers to the public gathering despite heavy rain and accumulated water in the jalsagah.

The PTI chairman hailed the presence of women, kids and youngsters to reach the venue despite the rainy weather creating hassles on the way. He recalled how founder of the nation Quaid-e-Azam led the formation of this country on the basis of the two nation theory. "Jinnah led his struggle and was of the

view that either we become slaves of Hindus after the British or we become an independent nation," he said.

Imran asked his supporters to promise him that no matter how much rigging the imported govt does, they won't win even if the umpire is on their side. He reiterated his claim that the ECP is trying to ensure the victory of the 'imported govt'. "Even if empires are with you, we will defeat you," Imran Khan said in his message to the political opponents. Imran asked the masses to check voter lists before Punjab by-polls on 20 seats. He vowed to win all 20 seats on July 17. Imran challenged the imported government that his party will all the 20 seats in the by-election despite the rulers' ugly tactics of terrifying people. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to PM on Kashmir affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira and Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation, Khawaja Saad Rafique, address a press conference at the PID.

## Imran Khan has lost mental equilibrium, says Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Information minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has said Imran Khan has lost his mental equilibrium.

"The mental condition of the former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan has become miserable. He has lost his mental equilibrium therefore, he is talking this way. Through deception he feigned himself mad, she said this while addressing a press conference here Wednesday.

This is the man who used to say that he comes to know about the hike in the price of dollar through TV. He used to say he had not come to power to monitor the prices of potato, tomato and onion. He was saying a day before that he would tell

how the incumbent government had come to power. Whenever any media report or evidence and corruption scandal emerges against him then he says he will tell all things.

She claimed Imran Khan became premier by stealing people mandate. He did nothing except lying during his four years tenure of premiership.

He lied to people for providing 10 million jobs and five million homes when he became PM in 2018, she held. Imran Khan tried to foment chaos on every point. He started sending his political rivals to jails soon after coming into power.

Imran Khan should tell how he worked out plan of recovery of two

kilogram heroin from Rana Sana Ullah. He should tell how he put Shahbaz Sharif into jail by instituting false cases against him. He contacted National Crime Agency against Shahbaz Sharif but he failed to provide any evidence against Shahbaz Sharif in the court. How he tried to evolve the narrative of conspiracy after calling David Rose in a room of PM house.

She went on to say that the court gave verdict no corruption, money laundering kickbacks and misuse of powers were proved. He got 10 years data investigated from national crime agency. The decision also came from therein that no corruption or money laundering has been made. —APP