

LAHORE ▼ P3

Baligh offers
Eid prayers
at Badshahi
Mosque

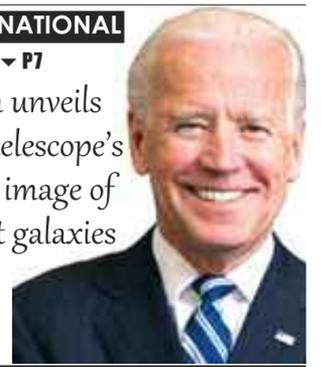
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INTERNATIONAL

▼ P7

Biden unveils
Webb telescope's
colour image of
distant galaxies



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PM directs LG to monitor rain safety measures

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the federal and provincial civic bodies to closely monitor the safety measures ahead of the monsoon spell starting from tomorrow (Thursday).

In a message to the workers and staffers of civic bodies on Tuesday, he said the spirit of helping the mankind is in fact the greatest and noble service.

The PM asked the authorities concerned to ensure a proper precautionary system for the people across the country, including Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab. The PM lauded the National Disaster Management Authority for extending support to provincial govts and institutions in controlling the situation amid heavy rains. He mentioned unity, co-

operation and selfless service to the people as strength of his government. The Prime Minister also paid tribute to the provincial governments and the institutions for their services in protecting lives and property of the people. He urged the departments concerned to do their best to serve the people with dedication.

Shazain complains to PM about gas companies
Minister Anti-Narcotics Nawabzada Shah Zain Bugti has said that gas companies are exploiting local people and he has complained to the PM about them. The minister visited the protest camp set up for the restoration of Sun quota in front of the main gate of Oil and Gas Development Company office in Pir Koh on Tuesday. —APP



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

■ Sewerage water enter houses of DHA, Lyari, and Liaquatabad

Power outages hit Karachi after heavy monsoon rains kill 26

KARACHI: The death toll from the catastrophic monsoon rains in Karachi has risen to 26, with 4 people passing away in electrocution incidents.

The city witnessed urban flooding on Monday after relentless rains that lasted more than 12 hours in some areas.

Monsoon rains wreaked havoc in the city as water accumulated in low lying areas and roads, while power supply to different areas was suspended. Some 70 families that were stuck near Lyari River due to overflowing of water were rescued. Monsoon rain: Karachi's Tauheed area flooded on Monday afternoon Over 500 feeders of K-Electric tripped but the power supplier managed to get the majority of them back online. However, many areas are facing forced power outage as a precautionary measure.

Another report adds: Intermittent heavy rains in different parts of Karachi since Monday evening have inundated many areas of the city, bringing life to a complete halt. To top it all off, the electricity supply in most areas of the city has been suspended for several hours, making it difficult for people to carry on their day-to-day activities.

Sindh Muslim Cooperative Housing

Society (SMCHS) Block B has been without power for the last 24 hours, while residents of DHA's Khayaban-e-Badban say the supply of electricity has been suspended for the last 36 hours.

According to a report, rainwater accumulated on the main roads and streets of the Defense Housing Authority (DHA), Clifton, Malir, Airport Road, I.I Chundrigar Road, Saddar, Old City Area, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Federal B Area, North Nazimabad, Korangi, and PECHS. In addition to residential areas, several main roads of the city, including the NIPA Chowranghi Flyover, Qayummabad Chowranghi, Arts Council Chowranghi, Supreme Court Registry, Zainab Market, Bolton Market, and M.A. Jinnah Road have been flooded with rain and sewerage water, affecting the flow of traffic.

Meanwhile, several vehicles and motorcycles broke down on the streets because of the accumulated water.

Owing to the incessant rains throughout Monday, several phases of DHA became flooded with water.

NDMA dispatches relief goods for rain affectees of Balochistan

The NDMA on Tuesday dispatched relief items containing family tents and

de-watering pumps to Balochistan govt in order to support and assist in the relief efforts of the Balochistan govt in response to floods owing to current rain spell. The NDMA is in constant contact with the PDMA Balochistan and has assured all possible assistance to Balochistan. —DNA

Sindh decides to declare Khairpur a calamity hit area

KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to declare Khairpur district a calamity hit area in view of the damage caused to various velds by the recent monsoon rains. Advisor to Chief Minister for Agriculture Manzoor Hussain Wassan has said that recent rains in Sindh have damaged up to 50% of date orchards in Khairpur district. In Khairpur district production of dates are seven lac tons, which yields approximately Ten billion rupees. On the demand of growers, farmers of Khairpur is being declared a disaster hit area. —Online

Euro dollar parity as eurozone recession mount

The Business Report

LONDON: The euro struck parity with the dollar Tuesday for the first time in nearly 20 years as a cut in Russian gas supplies to Europe heightened fears of a recession in the eurozone.

The European single currency hit exactly one dollar — its lowest level.

Oil prices meanwhile fell heavily on concerns of a wider recession as central banks hike interest rates to fight decades-high inflation. European stock markets fell approaching the half-way mark and in the wake of overnight losses in Asia and on Wall Street.

"The gas crisis has really spooked markets over the eurozone economy," Markets.com analyst Neil

Wilson told AFP. Russian energy giant Gazprom on Monday began 10 days of maintenance on its Nord Stream 1 pipeline — with Germany and other European countries watching anxiously to see if the gas comes back on.

With relations between Russia and the West at their lowest in years because of the invasion of Ukraine, Gazprom may not reopen the valves, according to analysts. "The next few weeks could be challenging for Europe, with possibly maximum uncertainty stretching into August," said SPI Asset Stephen Innes. "Investors increasingly believe that gas may not start to flow through Nord Stream 1 again following the scheduled maintenance on July 11-21, with further 'temporary' interrup-

Nawaz, Zardari ruined country, says Imran Khan

LODHRAN: Reacting to the incident that happened with Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has said it was not misbehavior but the fact that Ahsan Iqbal is a thief and a traitor.

Addressing a public gathering in Lodhran in connection with the Punjab by-elections, Imran Khan said that if Ahsan Iqbal went to eat an eatery, but got what he deserve.

He said that Shehbaz is amazing whenever he sees a foreign envoy, he starts putting cake in his mouth! He should be ashamed of himself. Mentioning the names of former PM and PML-N supremo Nawaz and family and former president and PPP chairman Asif Ali Zardari, the

PTI chairman said that the country has been ruined by the two big plunderers.

Imran went on to say that during his tenure, he had prepared cases against Zardari, members of his family and of Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah but an unidentified 'power' prevented them from being punished. "I tried everything to prosecute them, but whatever that power did not let me," he said, adding that he will disclose more details about it at a later time. "Those who had power, they did not think their (Zardari's) theft was bad enough," he said.

Imran Khan alleged that with the help of Chief Election Commissioner, Hamza Shahbaz is trying to steal the Punjab by-elections. —APP

PM thwarted Imran's plan to turn Pak into Sri Lanka

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb Monday lambasted former prime minister Imran Khan for the poor economic conditions of the country and claimed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government has "thwarted Khan's conspiracy to turn Pakistan into Sri Lanka."

Reacting to the PTI chairman's speech in Lodhran, Aurangzeb said: "Keep lying Imran Sahib, while Shehbaz Sharif, his brother (Nawaz Sharif), and his allies in the government will continue to strive for economic self-sufficiency and national development and resolve the problems of people."

The federal minister also lambasted the ex-premier for striking a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on tough conditions, adding that, "Khan should be ashamed of himself for agreement with [the conditions of] the IMF."

"Shame on you, Imran Khan as it is you who had said that you would rather commit suicide instead of going to the IMF," she added. Aurangzeb said that Khan had used his powers for corruption, adding that if he had not misused his powers, the economy of the country would have been in a better condition today. The information minister went on to say that Khan had turned down PM Shehbaz's offer for the charter of the economy as he did not care about Pakistan's progress.

Biggest relief package to be announced by PM, reveals Maryam
Announcing "good news" for the nation, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Monday said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will soon unveil the "biggest relief package" for the people of Pakistan. The PML-N leader, during a jalsa in constituency PP-202 ahead of by-polls in Punjab scheduled to be held on July 17, said that PM Shehbaz never

said what should be done regarding rising inflation unlike former prime minister Imran Khan. "Keep trusting party supremo Nawaz Sharif and PM Shehbaz, as they will provide relief."

The coalition govt will take Pakistan out of the mess that the PTI government had created," she said, adding that they [PML-N] would resolve major issues of inflation and loadshedding.

Maryam told the people of Chichawatni that Pakistan was on the brink of bankruptcy because of Khan. "The coalition government took all the tough decisions, which burdened the masses, because of the wrongdoings of Khan in his tenure," she said, adding that despite rising inflation PML-N did not hide instead they are standing by the nation.

"The people of Chichawatni have shown that they have rejected Khan," Maryam said, amid supporters chanting pro-PML-N slogans loudly.

Eid-ul-Azha celebrated amid tight security

LAHORE: Stringent security arrangements were made by the Lahore police on the third day of Eid-ul-Azha on Tuesday.

Around 8,000 police officers and officials including seven SPs, 35 DSPs, 83 SHOs and more than 373 subordinates provided security cover to 5,000 mosques and 190 open places in the city on Eid days.

Citizens were provided three layers security through checking mechanism at masjid, parks and other public places on Eid, while metal detectors and walk through gates along with CCTV cameras were used for checking and monitoring purposes.

The spokesman said that snipers were detailed on roof tops of buildings to keep an eye on suspects or any suspicious activity. Strict action was ensured against persons involved in aerial firing, one wheeling and hooliganism on Eid-ul-Adha.

During Eid-ul-Adha holidays, the police took action against the people involved in aerial firing, show of weapons, one wheeling and kite flying. As many as 187 accused were arrested and 213 cases were registered against them in different police stations of the city. Thirty-seven FIRs were registered with arresting 11 accused involved in aerial firing, whereas, 115 cases were registered and accused arrested against violations of One Wheeling Act. —DNA

Punjab Minister Malik Ahmad Khan also resigns

LAHORE: After Ayaz Sadiq, Salman Rafique and Owais Leghari, Malik Ahmed Khan, the provincial law minister, also resigned from his ministry on Tuesday.

Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz has accepted the resignation of Malik Ahmad Khan. Sources said that Malik Ahmad Khan has resigned to take part in the by-election campaign. According to party sources, Malik Ahmad Khan will oversee the PML-N's election campaign in South Punjab.

Pertinent to mention here that Federal Minister Ayaz Sadiq and Provincial Minister Salman Rafique have also resigned from the ministries. Worth mentioning that By-elections in 20 constituencies of Punjab will be held on July 17 for which PTI and PML-N have started a full-fledged election campaign. These seats in the Punjab Assembly were vacated after dissident members of the PTI were de-seated. —Online

Oil prices further plunged in world market

ISLAMABAD: Crude oil prices have further declined in the international market.

According to media reports US crude oil has witnessed two percent decrease. Following the curtailment in prices the US crude oil plunged to 102 dollars per barrel. UK crude oil price has registered 1.84pc decrease. Now price of UK crude oil has gone down to 105.1 dollar per barrel. —Online

Post-Hajj flights to commence from Friday

ISLAMABAD: The post-Hajj flights is set to commence from Friday as the first Airblue flight, PA 741, carrying over 201 Hujjaj would land at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport early (Friday) morning.

Similarly, the second Airblue flight PA 871 carrying over 200 Hujjaj would reach Multan at 22:50 same night, spokesman Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Umer Butt told this agency. Likewise, the flight operation from Madina would start on July 18. The nearly one month long post Hajj flight operation to bring nearly 82,000 Pakistani Hujjaj from Saudi Arabia would continue without any break till August 13. —APP



KARACHI: Motorists trying to cross flooded road after heavy monsoon rains.

Ahsan asks UN to protect poor states from supply chain shocks

NEW YORK: Minister for Planning, Development and Special initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday called upon the United Nations to champion the issue of Ukraine-Russia war to protect the developing countries to protect the supply chains causing delays in achieving the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "There is a need at UN level to champion this issue that countries like Pakistan and many developing countries are facing extreme economic situation due to the doubling and tripling of the commodity prices in the international markets," the minister said while speaking at the virtual event

here titled "Mobilizing the private sector for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)".

The event was organised by UN Global Compact (UNGC). The minister said the countries like Pakistan were now under heavy pressure of these increased commodity prices which also resulted in creating financial burden on private sector. Therefore, he said the government was finding it difficult with the private sector to have extra resources for the programmes that they were doing for SDGs. Ahsan stressed the need for some kind of relief for such developing countries to enable the private

sector in contributing towards SDGs. He said immediately after launch of SDGs in 2015, Pakistan Parliament adopted the international SDGs as its National development goals.

"We tried to give ownership to this agenda from the very beginning. This is not a global agenda this is our own national agenda," he added. He said Pakistan was among the top 10 vulnerable countries as far as climate change was concerned and to cope with this issue, the govt was very actively working. "We have also partnered with the private sector to create more jobs in the business because we are very young country and around two third of the population is very young." —APP