

## Abu Dhabi-bound flight makes emergency landing in Karachi

ISLAMABAD: Abu Dhabi-bound passenger flight PA-430 from Lahore has been taken off at Karachi Airport after getting a technical problem. According to the report, the Airbus A320 plane with 150 passengers on board departed from Lahore to Abu Dhabi. On some technical fault, the plane was taken down after the permission of the Air Traffic Control (ATC) authorities of the Karachi Airport. The passengers have been taken off the plane and shifted to the Karachi airport lounge. —APP

# The Business

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## PTI war against fascism will continue: Fawad

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry has said PTI war against fascism will continue. He tweeted PTI is confronting the present system and its war against fascism will continue. He held the ever worst media censorship has been slapped, conspiracies are being hatched on legal and judicial fronts and resources of billion of rupees are being spent relentlessly to gag Imran Khan. Despite use of all tactics government has failed to divert the hearts of people from Imran Khan. War will continue against this fascism. —APP

## ASEAN fifth largest economic community: Envoy

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of ASEAN Committee in Islamabad and Ambassador of Viet Nam Nguyen Tien Phong here on Tuesday said that the association had become the fifth largest economic community in the world, a reliable and vital partner of many countries.

Talking to the Ambassadors of members states of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), he said that the advancement of regional integration, connectivity and economic linkage had been a central aspect of the association's integration process over the past 55 years. He said ASEAN played a central role in the region's important dialogue, cooperation, and integration processes.

ASEAN has enjoyed Dialogue Partnerships with 11 countries and international organizations (including China, the US, Russia, Japan, the ROK, India, and the EU, among others); Sectoral Dialogue Partnerships with 6 Countries, including Pakistan, Türkiye, UAE, and Development Partnerships with four countries, including Germany, Italy.

To date, intra-ASEAN trade accounts for 25% of ASEAN's total trade turnover. Its GDP in 2021 was US\$3.36 trillion, an increase of 30% since the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015. —APP

## US announces Rs 6.65b for urgent flood relief efforts

ISLAMABAD: The United States announced Rs 6.65b for providing urgent flood relief.

"The United States is deeply saddened by the devastation caused by flooding throughout Pakistan. Through @USAID, we will provide \$30 million more in life-saving humanitarian assistance to those who have lost their loved ones, livelihoods, and homes."

"To bring help to where it is most needed, we will work closely with local partners and Pakistani authorities to provide urgently needed food support, safe water, sanitation & hygiene, financial help, and shelter to those seeking relief." US Embassy in Islamabad has announced on its twitter page. —Online

## Efforts to stabilise onions, tomatoes prices: Qamar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Naveed Qamar Tuesday said that immediate steps would be taken to ensure the availability of tomatoes and onions to the consumer, while all possible efforts would be made to stabilize their prices.

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Naveed Qamar to assess availability of tomatoes and onion in the country, said a press release issued here. During the meeting, it was discussed that the country will face a shortage of tomatoes and onion in the next three months. The recent floods have heavily damaged the crops resulting in price hike and shortage of these commodities.

The participants agreed in the meeting that import of tomatoes and onions will help to stabilize the commodities prices and will ensure availability in the market.

In order to further facilitate import of onions and tomatoes, the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of National Food Security and Research and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) will work together. Furthermore, they will monitor the situation daily to ensure supply of the commodities to the market.

The meeting was apprised that the private sector is supplier, as well as importer of the two commodities. —DNA

## Iranian relief aid to arrive today

TEHRAN: A 100-ton shipment containing the humanitarian aid of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) to the flood victims of Pakistan will be delivered today (Wednesday).

According to Tehran Times, Iran's shipment of emergency, biological and humanitarian accommodation supplies, includes 1,000 tents, 2,000 carpets, and 4,000 blankets, which will be sent to Pakistan from the southeastern Chabahar border. The IRCS relief and medical team will also be dispatched to the flooded areas if approved by the Pakistani authorities, Mehr reported on Tuesday. —Online



BADIN: Workers busy in making protective band to stop water entering the residential area in Puroon Dhoro.

# Issues discussed to realise Pakistan, Afghan \$15b trade

PESHAWAR: Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PA-JCCI) has kicked off 10th Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on "full realization of bilateral trade Potential". According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, the FGD was attended by large number of business community members from Pakistan and Afghanistan, government dignitaries and several other members from Transit Trade, Customs, FBR, Ministry of Commerce, NLC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives of trade associations and media.

The core objective was removing trade barriers, deliberating and recommending measures to realize trade potential between the two countries, identifying ways and means to develop sustainable policy framework for long term bilateral and transit trade using each other's capability and resources, capitalizing on the strengths of private stakeholders, B2B connectivity, setting up of border bazars to raise employment amongst SME and home industry, encouraging and involving businessmen to play their role in economic uplift of both the countries.

PAJCCI Chairman Zubair Motiwala said that frequent meetings and coordination between the B2B members from both sides has been very effective method in bringing the issues faced by business community to the attention of both governments. PAJCCI has been instrumental in arranging meetings not only in big cities but at border crossings which provided insights in to real ground situation where the

actual land route trade operations happen.

As a result, border committees are formed at Torkham and Chaman which provides relief on daily operational hindrances faced by traders, transporters and at times to customs and security officials.

PAJCCI chairman expressed his pleasure that for the first time after last year's government change in Afghanistan, members of Afghan Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry are also participating and PAJCCI has been able to provide them working platform and technical support to revive women led businesses in Afghanistan. He summarized the issues and barriers in transit & bilateral trade, tariff rationalization, infrastructure development, cross-stuffing and de-stuffing of transit containers, balance of trade, cost of business due to various elements, exploration of new items in both countries for trading, methods and tools for realizing full potential of \$15 billion trade between Pakistan & Afghanistan.

Zubair Motiwala said that governments will have to work with B2B stakeholders from both sides for economic uplift, trade dynamics have drastically changed globally; both governments, USA, UK and other regional trading partners have to sit together and finalise trade agreements as an exception like Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) which is due for dynamic changes to ensure that region trades instead of asking for loans and becomes self sufficient in meeting socio-economic needs of its population. He stressed that if private stakeholders

(traders/businesses) agree on certain policy, tariff and process changes then governments must facilitate to generate much needed revenue. Trade is the way to economic success and well being of populace.

He proposed the resolution for APPTA amendments and formal sign off which was endorsed by the house jointly.

Zubair Motiwala also proposed to contribute generously for the rehabilitation of flood victims in both countries. He assured the house that PAJCCI will take up all issues discussed in FGD and at other forums will be followed up with respective governments till final resolution. PAJCCI Co-Chairman Khan Jan Alokzai lauded arranging frequent meetings and forums where problems are not only discussed but resolved to large extent.

He said that in recent months several issues have been resolved by Government of Pakistan like congestion at borders, abolishment of sales tax on fresh products being imported from Afghanistan, priority clearance of perishable items, formation of border committees, increased import of coal and raw cotton from Afghanistan and providing transit trade facilities at Pakistani Sea ports and ease of movement for Afghan transport. He assured that pending issues on Afghan side are being taken up with Afghan government and recommended that certain top-level issues like tariff rationalization on coal, raw cotton, transit trade policy, TAD operationalization and pending T1 submissions be discussed at government

# PTI govt fails to implement Flood Programme: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had failed to implement Flood Protection Programme (FPP) multiplied fold damages in the country.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that in 2013, when the PML-N government took charge, the country had already faced devastated floods in 2010 and it launched the fourth phase of Pakistan FPP to minimize the impacts of such floods. "In May 2017, we got approved the Programme from Council of Common Interest and duly signed by all the provinces and it was agreed that new infrastructure would be built under the programme", the minister said.

The minister said it was also agreed that Rs 177 billion would be spent under the programme and the provinces would contribute half of the amount. However, he said despite completing the final road map to spend Rs

177 billion under the programme, the coming PTI government dumped this programme and not spent a single rupee on it.

"If the government spent Rs 177 billion under the programme, the loss would be far less than what we were facing now, he added. Ahsan Iqbal said a big challenge was ahead as 30 million people had been affected from devastating floods and the government had to help them achieve self-reliance, adding that the recent floods and torrential rains had destroyed around 1 million houses. The minister said due to the current catastrophic situation in the country, Pakistan requires \$10 billion to overcome the situation that evolved after the flood.

Ahsan said that yesterday the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board has approved \$1.17 billion through the EFF program. He said that Chairman PTI Imran Khan and former finance minister Shaukat Tarin performed shameful acts against na-

tional interests and an attempt to push the country into economic default.

The Minister said that in the outer world only neighboring India and inside Pakistan only the PTI leadership has opposed the IMF program, adding that if the program was not approved yesterday the country would be facing several challenges including inflation and foreign reserves.

He highlighted that in leadership of Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the government was committed to reduce the expenses to allocate there resources for flood areas. The Minister said that the government has reviewed the Pakistan Development budget, and diverted these funds for flood rehabilitation and reconstruction. Ahsan said that this was a big challenge and now we all are required to show unity and social solidarity to unite against this catastrophe.

He appeals to the business community and overseas Pakistanis to donate for the

## PTI leader Shahbaz Gill bail plea rejected

ISLAMABAD: The District Court, Islamabad has rejected the bail plea of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill in sedition case.

Additional and Sessions judge Zafar Iqbal has announced reserved judgment.

Counsel for Shahbaz Gill had taken the plea on his bail plea in the local court of Islamabad case is registered on August 8.

The accused was charged with creating division among the officers and jawans of forces. The complainant city magistrate has blamed the PTI leader of sedition. On the other hand, five more accused were nominated in the statement after case. The counsel for the accused said Shahbaz Gill had not even thought about sedition ever. The case was registered by taking points from different places of the transcript. Some misconception has been created somewhere on this entire statement. Gill is ready to allay this misperception. He is ready to apologize. —Online

## Australia will provide \$2m to flood affectees

Jamil Siraj

SYDNEY: Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator H. Penny Wong said on Tuesday that Australia will provide \$2 million in urgent humanitarian assistance in response to devastating floods in Pakistan.

Pakistan has declared a national emergency, with more than 33 million people affected by the disaster. Tragically, more than 1,000 lives have been lost. A further 200,000 people have been displaced and at least 50,000 homes destroyed. I extend Australia's deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and communities that have lost loved ones, and those whose lives and livelihoods have been affected. Australia's support will be delivered through the World Food Programme to assist the Pakistan Government and its people to respond to immediate humanitarian needs, particularly those disproportionately affected by the floods, including women, children and the vulnerable.



## LCCI president for dams to avoid huge flood loss

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The LCCI President, Mian Nauman Kabir, has urged the government to include the construction of dams in its priorities in order to prevent the worst destruction from future floods.

In a statement, Mian Nauman Kabir said that if the lessons have been learnt from the disasters of the past floods and small dams were constructed in rain-fed areas of all the provinces along with big dams.

He said that the economic losses inflicted by the deadliest floods were estimated over \$40 billion while the intensity of prevailing floods is more than the previous ones. "If the governments don't take precautionary measures and comes into the action with full force, the damage will be multiplied many times and will shatter very basis of the economy in the days to come", Mian Nauman Kabir added.

## COAS visits flood hit areas of Swat

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited flood hit areas of Swat. COAS met women, children, elders and other people who were rescued on Tuesday by Army aviation helicopters from Kumrat/Kalam to Kanju.

The COAS spent time with evacuated people who thanked Pakistan Army for reaching out once they needed it the most and bringing comfort not only to them but their families back home who eagerly awaited their safe return. COAS also undertook aerial reconnaissance of the extent of damage caused by floods and relief efforts of Army troops at various locations including Kalam, Bahrain, Khwaza-

# 8 killed, 3 hurt in rain-related incidents: PDMA

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provincial disaster management authorities to minimize human losses. The Minister issued these directions while chairing a Flood Relief Committee meeting, said press release issued here. The meeting was attended by officials of NDMA who briefed the minister over the latest flood situation in the country.

During the briefing, the NDMA informed the minister that during the last 24-hour heavy storm was reported in Lahore and in other parts of Punjab less rain was reported.

Similarly, it was informed that during the last 24 hours total, 75 people were killed due to flood which includes 53 in Sindh, 16 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, five in Gilgit Baltistan and two in Balochistan. The minister also directed the concerned stakeholders to immediately prepare maps of each affected district in order to assess the exact location and number of shelter less people.

During the briefing, the minister directed the secretary health to hold a meeting with

provinces over the latest health situation in the affected areas and then give a detailed briefing to the committee on Wednesday.

"The health authorities are directed to immediately figure out what steps have been taken so far to provide medical assistance and health cover to the affected people particularly protection from waterborne diseases which emerge in flood-affected areas after water recedes, said the minister while directing the stakeholders to expedite the relief activities to provide maximum relief to the flood-affected people.

**River Indus likely to attain very high flood at Taunsa: FFC**  
The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said River Indus may attain very high flood level at Taunsa while very high level flooding is likely to continue in River Kabul during next 24 hours. According to daily FFC report on Tuesday, at present, River Indus is flowing in "high flood" in Chashma-Taunsa-Guddu-Sukkur Reaches and in "medium flood" at Kalabagh and Kotri.

Flood flows in the Indus at Tarbela have receded and it is now discharging normal flows. Other main Rivers of Indus River System i.e. Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi & Sutlej continue to flow in normal flow conditions.

Flood flows generated in River Swat on 26th August 2022 have completely receded and at present it is flowing in normal flows.

Flood flows in River Kabul are also subsiding and it is flowing in "low flood" at Warsak (upstream Nowshera), however at Nowshera it is still flowing in "very high flood" with discharge of 212,000 cusecs.

Kabul at Nowshera has experienced highest flood peak of 336,000 cusecs on 28th August 2022 at 1900 hours. Combined flood flows of Rivers Indus and Kabul at Khairabad (junction point after merging River Kabul in the Indus) are also declining and recorded 425,000 cusecs (medium flood) at 1000 hours. Tarbela Reservoir is at its maximum conservation Level (MCL) of 1550.00 feet since 28th August 2022, whereas Mangla Dam is at

1185.30 feet against its MCL: 1242 feet. Yesterday's trough of Westerly Wave over Northern parts of Afghanistan lies over Northeastern parts of Afghanistan with weak seasonal low lies over Western Balochistan. Weak moist currents from the Arabian Sea are penetrating into Sindh (Pakistan) up to 3000 feet.

According to FFD, Lahore, mainly dry weather is expected over most parts of the country, however isolated thunderstorm/rain is expected over Punjab (Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, D.G. Khan & Lahore Divisions), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (D.I. Khan Division), Southeastern Sindh and Northeastern Balochistan including upper catchments of all the Major Rivers of Indus River System during the next 24 hours.

**Livestock: another sector badly hit by devastating floods in KP**

In addition to humans and material losses, the August 27 devastating floods have made havoc to livestock and poultry sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where

over Rs2 billion losses were estimated by the livestock department till date.

Breaking the 30 years floods record, the devastating flood that started from Kalam Swat and passed through different districts including Dir, Malakand, Mohmand, Charsadda, Nowshera and DI Khan had swept away hundreds of thousands of buffalo, cows, sheep, goats and poultry inflicted colossal losses to farmers and livestock growers. Destroying poultry and livestock shelters and farms, the gushing water has inflicted damages to 727,144 livestock in the country including 202,593 in Punjab, 500,000 in Balochistan, 15,008 in Sindh, 8,771 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 772 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir since June 14 till August 29, 2022.

Livestock and poultry sectors in Swat, Dir, Charsadda, Nowshera, Tank and DI Khan were badly hit by flood water of rivers Swat, Punjkora, Khayail, Kabul and Sindh, taking away shelters of animals and poultry in a jiffy. —Agencies