



Yasmin stockpiles Panadol tablets in province

The Business

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Flood victims are passing through very difficult times



NRO-2 to cabal of crooks joke, shameful: Imran

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan came down hard on the cabal of crooks who he said were busy in waiving their corruption amounting to billions of rupees and spending the national wealth lavishly on foreign trips amid the floods catastrophe that wreaked havoc across the country.

PTI Chairman said that it was serious and criminal joke to the country and its people to give NRO-2 to the criminals and thieves who ruthlessly and mercilessly plundered the national kitty. Imran Khan made these remarks while presiding over a meeting of the PTI senators here on Friday. During the meeting, they voiced grave concern over the unabated heinous violations of human rights in the country, undue curbs and restrictions on the media and political victimization against political opponents,

especially the raid on the residence of Senator Saifullah Khan Niazi.

The participants also held detailed discussion on the country's overall political situation and the economy meltdown, besides expressing serious concern over the planned NRO-2 to give relief to thieves and the most corrupt characters of the country by NAB laws tweak. During the meeting, they discussed the future strategy of the PTI parliamentary party in the upper house and reviewed the luxury expenses of crime minister and the ministers on their foreign trips when the country was reeling under the worst floods of the history of the country, wreaking havoc in the country.

Moreover, the participants also held detailed deliberation on important issues regarding preparations for the decisive and final phase of the real free-



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with Alexander De Croo, Prime Minister of Belgium at the sidelines of high-level general debate of the 77th Session of UN General Assembly (UNGA77).

■ *All Hell' to break loose without debt relief deal: PM Shehbaz*

Biden vows to continue Pakistan's help against floods

ISLAMABAD: US President Joe Biden has expressed the commitment to continue helping Islamabad in the wake of difficult humanitarian situation due to devastating floods in Pakistan.

He expressed this resolve during his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in New York on Friday. The meeting was held at the reception of world leaders participating in 77th session of UNGA hosted by Joe Biden.

The Prime Minister thanked the US President for his message to the international community to the flood affected people and to support Pakistan. He also thanked the people and the government of the United States for sending head of USAID to visit Pakistan and providing relief assistance. President Biden expressed grief with the affected families over loss of human lives and the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan.

The PM thanked the US President for expressing grief and sympathy with the flood-affected people of Pakistan.

Another report adds: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has made an urgent appeal to the international donors and rich countries for debt relief and special pro-

grammes for rehabilitation of flood-affected people of the country.

Pakistan has debt obligations in the next two months, Shehbaz Sharif said in an interview with Bloomberg Television in New York, adding that his government had just signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund with "very tough conditionalities" that include taxes on petroleum and electricity.

"We have spoken to European leaders and other leaders to help us in the Paris Club to get us moratorium," Sharif said in the interview, referring to the group of rich creditor nations. "Unless we get substantial relief how can the world expect from us to stand on our own feet? It is simply impossible," he added.

Bill Gates reiterates support, partnership with flood-hit Pakistan

Co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates has reiterated the Foundation's continuous support and partnership with Pakistan during this challenging time.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in New York, he affirmed that the Gates Foundation will continue its current support including the disaster relief efforts in flood-affected areas of Balochistan and Sindh.

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able to revive our economy with this unprecedented destruction without substantial debt relief. "We have spoken to European leaders and other leaders to help us in the Paris Club to get us moratorium," Sharif said, referring to the group of rich creditor nations. "Unless we get substantial relief how can the world expect from us to stand on our own feet? It is simply impossible," he added.

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'Imran should avoid march in current situation'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan should avoid a long march in Islamabad in the current situation.

Talking to the media, the federal minister lashed out at the PTI chairman and said that he (Imran) has become so blind in politics. Iqbal criticised the former prime minister [Imran Khan] and went on to say that he jailed opponents during his rule and is now criticizing the incumbent government on the economy. Responding to former federal minister Sheikh Rashid, Ahsan said that the government is not asking for money but are asking for the rights of a country from the western countries. Ahsan further said, "We have one percent share in emissions because we are affected by the carbon gas of developed countries." Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is shaking the conscience of the world in New York, he added.

Stating that more than 1,600 people died in the floods, Ahsan claimed that the opposition has playing politics of hatred and chaos amid the floods. —DNA

Two more Saudi airlifts of relief goods arrive

ISLAMABAD: The government of Saudi Arabia through its aid agency, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief), has sent two more special planes loaded with the relief goods.

Both of the special planes carrying 60 tons of relief goods including tents, food packages, blankets, dates and non-food items kits reached Karachi for the flood victims, said a statement on Friday.

The relief goods was received by the KSrelief Director Pakistan and handed over to the NDMA representative in the metropolitan city. The relief goods would be distributed among the affected people according to the needs of each region of the country in collaboration with the NDMA. It is pertinent to mention here that this series of the arrival of relief cargo planes would continue till September 27, this month. —DNA

Sindh seeks Punjab's help for flood victims

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The Sindh Health Department wrote a letter to the Punjab government, asking for help in treating flood-hit people on Friday.

According to the text of the letter, "Sindh needs Punjab's support at this time as the province is facing a shortage of doctors and paramedics, while 10 districts of Sindh are in dire need of doctors and paramedics and pathologists, while other staff including gynecologists, psychiatrists and dermatologists are also urgently required. There is a need for 380 medical staff in the districts of Sindh, including pediatricians, child-specialists, dermatologists and psychiatrists. —APP

Nawaz seeks acquittal in NAB reference

LAHORE: Former prime minister and PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif on Friday filed a petition in an accountability court in Lahore challenging the court decision to declare him proclaimed offender in the plot allotment case and seeking his acquittal.

The former premier who is currently living in the UK on medical grounds has sought relief from the court under the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Amendment Ordinance, 2022. His lawyer Qazi Sabah Advocate also pleaded with the court to exonerate Nawaz Sharif under the amended NAB Ordinance. The lawyer also filed a petition

PSX drops by 0.75 percent in mixed trading

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The PSX saw no respite on Friday as the KSE-100 Index closed in the red for the eighth consecutive session amid mixed trading.

The market rose in the first half owing to slight recovery in rupee but lost ground in the second session as drop in Pakistan's bond yields shattered sentiment. As a result, the KSE-100 Index finished the day with a drop of 307.74 points or 0.75% to close at 40,620.21. On a weekly basis, the KSE-100 Index lost 2.5%. Trading began with an uptick however, the market erased all gains owing to selling pressure and ended the first session with 52-

point loss. The decline accelerated in the second half and dragged the KSE-100 Index further downward.

The fall dragged index-heavy automobile, cement, chemical, banks and oil sectors lower. A report from Arif Habib Limited stated that the market witnessed a mixed session as bulls and bears fought for the dominance all day long. "The opening session consisted of a positive motion as the rupee broke its losing streak against the US dollar," it said. "In the second session, investors opted for profit taking in the last hour which led the index to lose 373.96 points." Volumes remained dry across the board whereas, hefty volumes were witnessed in the third tier stocks, the report said.

IMF indicates easy terms after floods, says Miftah

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has indicated it could ease its programme conditions for Pakistan in the wake of the massive devastation caused by floods with revised estimates putting losses to the tune of \$30 billion.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva yesterday, where he discussed the current economic situation of the country in the wake of flash floods devastation and called for relaxing conditions," said Miftah, while talking to the media. "The IMF understood our predicament and has almost said yes to it, but formal discussions will commence in Washington after two weeks," said the finance minister, following which conditions will be relaxed and the size of its tranche increased.

On Wednesday, PM Shehbaz met World Bank Group President David Malpass and IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva in separate meetings.

During the meetings, held on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the parties discussed economic issues

faced by Pakistan, with particular reference to the floods. Record monsoon rains in south and southwest Pakistan and glacial melt in northern areas triggered flooding that has impacted nearly 33 million people in the South Asian nation of 220 million, sweeping away homes, crops, bridges, roads and livestock in damages.

Scientists have said that the torrential monsoon, which submerged huge swathes of Pakistan, was a one-in-a-hundred-year event likely made more intense by climate change.

Meanwhile, talking about the ongoing Pakistan rupee depreciation against the US dollar, Miftah said the govt, being currently in an IMF programme, cannot intervene in the market. "US dollar is strengthening against other currencies, whereas the perception of credit default risk of Pakistan has risen, affecting the dollar value, but it will come under control in coming days," he said. Earlier, Miftah had said that Pakistan will "absolutely not" default on debt obligations despite the floods, signalling there will be no major deviation from reforms designed to stabilise a struggling economy. "The path to stability was narrow, given the challenging environment, and it has become narrower still," Ismail said.

Opponents have no public welfare oriented agenda, says Parvez

LAHORE: Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Pervez Elahi has said rivals have no agenda for the welfare of people. "Opponents have no public welfare agenda. All component parties of PDM are doing only lip service. We will continue to go ahead in the journey for public service without caring a shred for the opponents, he said this during his meeting with speaker Punjab Assembly (PA) Sabtain Khan who called on CM here Friday.

The two exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and the steps taken for public welfare.

The CM said ban is in place on the private business of interest and punishment has also been prescribed in this regard. The provincial government has evolved comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation of flood affectees, he indicated. He stated that Punjab government has enhanced financial aid for reconstruction of homes to Rs 4 lac in flood affected areas.

Another report adds: Punjab CM met with Senior Politician Saleem Baryar and MPA Ahsan Saleem Baryar in which matters pertaining to overall political situation and development projects

came under discussion.

While talking on this occasion, Parvez Elahi said that the problems and needs of every city including Sialkot are under his consideration. He stated that in view of the needs of the people, we are focusing on the completion of under construction projects. He denounced that the former government of PML-N overlooked the real problems of the people in the past and had put the public needs on the backburner and also introduced artificial projects.

Similarly, no attention was paid to fulfil the basic needs of

the people including clean drinking water. CM vowed that no stone will be left unturned to resolve the problems of the people.

WB offers to give \$35m for cash to flood victims

A World Bank delegation led by Country Director Najy Benhassine met with Ch Parvez Elahi at the Chief Minister's Office and agreed to increase cooperation in different fields between the Punjab government and the World Bank.

A detailed discussion was held about the WB-assisted social and

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