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LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting in connection with the pre-monsoon rains during Eid days in Punjab.

Govt committed to improve economic condition of country: PM

Shehbaz hopeful of decision on IMF bailout package

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday held a telephonic conversation with Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva and discussed matters relating to the IMF programme with Pakistan.

During the talk, the prime minister expressed the hope that the consensus between Pakistan and the IMF on various points would lead to the Fund's decision to resume the programme in a couple of days.

In the context of her recent meeting with the prime minister in Paris, the IMF managing director acknowledged the efforts of the finance minister and his team for completing the programme.

PM Shehbaz reiterated his resolve to meet the targets of improving the country's economic situation with joint efforts.

Kristalina Georgieva praised PM Shehbaz's leadership role in his efforts

with respect to the IMF programme.

She said the IMF wanted an improved economic situation of Pakistan. Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday ordered an inquiry and fix the responsibility on the officials concerned over their failure to overcome the flooding situation caused by recent rains in Lahore.

The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to review the preparedness ahead of predicted rains in North Punjab, particularly Lahore, expressed his annoyance over the failure to make timely arrangements to drain the rainwater.

He instructed the provincial government and the district administration to fix the responsibility for poor water drainage, and immediately suspend the officials showing any negligence. He said the slackness of the relevant departments made the citizens suffer.

The prime minister instructed to ensure full preparedness in the wake of rains predicted in the next few days.

The administration should particularly remain alert during Eid-ul-Azha and formulate an emergency plan to deal with the possible situation caused by the rains, he added.

He said the issues related to the procurement of machinery for water drainage in the city should be resolved on an urgent basis.

He also directed the relevant authorities to carry out strict monitoring of hides collection across the province to keep the proscribed outfits away from the activity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz asked the administrations to make arrangements for sanitation as well as for the disposal of offals on Eid.

He said the special complaint centres and control rooms must work round the clock for public facilitation keeping in view the Eid-ul-Azha and monsoon season.

ARAFAT (MAKKAH) (APP): Sheikh Yusuf bin Muhammad bin Saeed on Tuesday made a clarion call for the Muslim Ummah to forge unity and cohesion among their ranks to reap the benefits in this world and the Hereafter.

It would surely lead to salvation of the Ummah in addition to averting any discords or divisions, he said while addressing a diverse and mammoth gathering of the Muslims from around the world.

The Imam commenced the Hajj Sermon here at Arafat: "All praise belongs to Allah, the Almighty, the One who bestows abundantly. He made unity a cause for salvation, and division a cause for punishment. He, the Absolutely Perfect, commanded that our ranks be united, and our word be one, as a cohesive alliance, and made forbidden everything that leads to discords and divisions."

Quoting the verses from the Holy Quran, he reaffirmed the main articles of faith - the Oneness of Allah and the Prophethood of Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

The Sermon highlighted the teachings of the

Sheikh Yusuf calls for Ummah's unity & cohesion in Hajj Sermon

Imam highlights the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH); Urges Muslims to observe Taqwa by obeying Allah's commands; Islam provides preventative measures to counter destructive intentions; Chanting "Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik, around three million Hujjaj performed Rukn-e-Azam of Hajj Waqoof-e-Arafah



MAKKAH: The Khateeb of Arafah Sheikh Dr Yousuf bin Muhammad bin Saeed delivering Hajj sermon at Arafat

Holy Prophet (PBUH), which emphasized unity, cooperation, and the prohibition of disputes and conflicts. It underscored the unifying role of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who was commanded to convey the message of Allah and bring unity among his followers.

The Imam urged the Muslims to observe Taqwa (righteousness) by obeying Allah's commands and staying within the boundaries set by Him.

The Sermon emphasized that diverting any aspect of worship to entities other than Allah was totally prohibited. It highlighted the significance of Tawheed (worshiping Allah alone) for guidance, salvation, and a praiseworthy end.

The pillars of Islam, including the five daily prayers, obligatory Zakaat (charitable contribution), fasting during Ramazan, and performing Hajj, were emphasized as crucial aspects of worship.

The Sermon cited the Quranic verses and the sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) to underscore their importance in the lives of Muslims.

It further stressed that linguistic, racial, and ethnic differences and divisions should not lead to any discord among the Muslims. Diversity in languages and colours was a sign from Allah and an opportunity for knowledge, he added citing Quranic verses.

The Sermon under-

scored that "Islam provides preventative measures and defensive strategies to counter destructive intentions and acts of sabotage, aimed at dividing communities."

The importance of referring back to the Quran and the Sunnah during disputes was highlighted, along with the necessity of good conduct, compassion, forgiveness, and patience.

The Imam urged the Muslims to strengthen social, familial, and spiritual bonds and to uphold ties of kinship. He emphasized kindness and goodness towards relatives, neighbours, and the needy, while promoting cooperation in righteousness and Taqwa.

The Sermon also cautioned the Muslims against following rumours and disinformation that aimed to create divisions and disunity. The Imam concluded the Sermon reiterating the Islamic message of unity and cohesion, calling upon the Muslims to wholeheartedly embrace unity, practice tolerance, and reject divisions, while adhering to the teachings of Islam for a prosperous and harmonious society.

Sabzwari distributes letters to 750 regularised employees of KPT

KARACHI (APP): Under Prime Minister's Assistance Package for employees, service of more than 750 contractual staffers of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) has been regularised.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Faisal Sabzwari, on Tuesday, distributed letters to regularised KPT employees in a ceremony here that was attended by Chairman KPT Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi, trustees and leaders of CBA union and a large number of workers.

Syed Faisal Sabzwari addressing the occasion felicitated the employees and said that longstanding issues of KPT employees were resolved by the administration and years-old issues of employees including regularisation of services, adjustment of increments, issuance of bonus and other demands of employees presented in charter of demand has been fulfilled.

The minister also announced a Rs 20000 Eid bonus for daily wage staffers of KPT at the occasion.

Now it was the responsibility of the employees as well officers of the trust to work with a renewed zeal and dedication for the growth of KPT, he urged adding that the government was endeavouring to make KPT not only a profit-making organisation but also an efficient entity and employees of the trust could play a pivotal role in the achievement of the objectives.

ATC extends interim bail of Imran Khan in May-9 vandalism cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in three different cases related to the May 9 riots, including Jinnah House attack case, till July 7.

ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar conducted the proceedings on the bail petitions of the PTI chairman.

Imran Khan along with his counsel also

appeared during the proceedings and got his attendance marked.

The Sarwar Road police, Gulberg police and Shadman Town police had registered three different cases against PTI leaders and workers in connection with May 9 riots after the arrest of the party chairman.

The cases had been registered under sections of Pakistan Penal Code and Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).

2nd Russian crude oil ship docks at Karachi Port

KARACHI (INP): Another Russian ship carrying thousands of metric tons of crude oil docked at the Karachi Port on Tuesday morning. The Russian ship, named Clyde Noble, for now docked within limits of the Karachi Port. Bringing the tanker to the oil pier will begin as soon as the berthing plan is finalized.

For the moment, the Russian vessel is docked at the outer anchorage. The second Russian cargo ship is reported to be carrying 55,000 metric tons of crude oil.

It was earlier reported that the second cargo, under the deal between Islamabad and Moscow, was slated to arrive on June 20; however, it was delayed by a week and the Karachi Port does not have the capacity to handle huge ships. A lack of space at the Pakistan Refinery Limited storage tanks was cited as another reason behind the delay.

PRL is the first domestic refinery to obtain crude oil from Russia under the government-led deal.

Some legal hurdles in prosecuting civilians in military courts: Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday noted that there were some legal hurdles in prosecuting civilians in military courts, but added that the government would be able to remove the same.

Replying to various questions regarding the May 9 mayhem and its consequences during an interview to a private TV channel, the defence minister passed these remarks as he praised the military for moving ahead with the accountability process and taking actions against the responsible persons.

Khawaja Asif also said that blocking social media platforms was always an

option and the government exercise the powers whenever required. His comments were in reference to the government stance that the PTI used social media as a tool to incite hatred and violence against the state institutions in the country.

The same argument was repeated by the defence minister who said use of social media platforms was instrumental in inciting people to resort to violence, leading to the attacks on military installations and other state assets on May 9. Khawaja Asif argued that the social media platforms were regulated in China and even in the developing world like Europe.

Syed Nashir Shah for ensuring timely collection, disposal of offal

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister of Local Government, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, on Tuesday, directed all local bodies and Sindh Solid Waste Management Board to ensure timely collection and disposal of garbage and offal of sacrificial animals.

The garbage and offal of sacrificial animals should immediately be removed from all streets and neighbourhoods of Karachi and delivered safely to the collection points on all days of Eid-ul-Azha while sprinkling of lime should also be ensured.

The LG minister issued the directives while chairing a meeting of local government institutions held here to review arrangements for sanitation at the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Deputy Mayor Salman Murad, Coordinator to Sindh Chief

Minister Shahzad Memon, Secretary Local Government, Naajam Ahmad Shah, MD Solid Waste Management Board Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah and chairmen of town municipal corporations of Karachi participated in the meeting.

The meeting was informed that a total of 93 collection points were being set up in Karachi and trenches have been prepared for burying the offal while complaint centres have also been set up in every district for redressal of public complaints.

For safe disposal of offal of sacrificial animal excavation has been made at two landfill sites of Karachi - Gondpads and Jam Chakru - and Sharafi Goth GTS and garbage collected from streets will be shifted to collection points and then to landfill sites for safe disposal.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Faisal Sabzwari addressing a ceremony to hand over letters to KPT employees for regularization of service under PM's Assistance Package.

Trial of civilians in military courts: How army authorities can arrest any person without charging him: CJP

AGP submits details of 102 arrested accused in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has raised question how the army authorities can arrest any person without charging him.

The CJP further remarked lacuna lies in law. Leveling allegations against any one without evidence is futile and ridiculous. SC resolved in its 1975 decision that it will be decided on judicial side accused is who. The procedure on charging under army act is there in law. Still we are talking in air What offences fall under 2D2. Assistance is required on it. It is interesting thing that what allegations have come to fore with regard to accused persons are not related to official secret act. It has been made clear in Liaqat Hussain case every case cannot be tried in military court. But relevance of case with army act should be proved.

He further remarked morale is most important thing for army. If morale is

affected then enemy benefits from it. Lowering the morale of army officers is also offence. Army officers have spirit for rendering sacrifice for their country due to their high morale.

He remarked it should be known to every one on Eid occasion about persons who are under arrest. All should be given opportunity to talk to their family members on the occasion of Eid. Arrange the talks of the accused persons with their family members today. We will now meet after Eid.

The petitions against trial of civilians in military courts came up for hearing before a 6-member larger bench of SC presided over by CJP Tuesday.

On questioning from CJP if there is any issue of death sentence in the present cases, Attorney General (AG) told death sentence can be awarded in the event of foreign contacts. No lawyer has been arrested so far.

US acknowledges Pakistan's counter terrorism measures: State Dept

WASHINGTON (Online): US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller has said we acknowledge Pakistan has taken many steps against terrorism but we want Pakistan to continue to take steps to permanently disband all terrorist groups.

He said this while briefing the newsmen in Washington on Monday.

He said that US will continue to work with Pakistan to counter mutual terrorist threats, as we discussed during our March 2023 counterterrorism dialogue

He said that the people of Pakistan have suffered tremendously from terrorist attacks over the years and added that US remains committed to working with Pakistan to address the shared threat posed by terrorist groups throughout the region.

Matthew Miller said that the US recognizes that Pakistan has taken some important steps to counter terrorist groups in line with the completion of its Financial Action Task Force (FATF) actions plans.



KARACHI: View of the hustle and bustle of passengers at Cantt Railway Station as people are boarding into train for leaving to their native villages for celebrating Eid-ul-Adha with great Zeal.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

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Checkmate?

Is it game over for Imran Khan and the PTI? That seems to have been the foremost question on most people's minds as the DG ISPR began addressing a sombre press conference late Monday afternoon.

Curiously, there was scant mention of Mr Khan and his party in the military spokesman's almost hour-and-a-half-long address, which was otherwise focused on the 'tragedy' of May 9. But while he may not have named names, there was little doubt whom the DG ISPR was addressing when he stated that the military believes that, currently, the 'single biggest threat' to Pakistan is from the "internal political instability" that has wracked the country over the past year or so.

He also described the events of May 9 as a planned conspiracy masterminded by people involved in "misleading the people for the past several months against the army and its leadership", making it clear whom the finger of blame is pointed at.

More concerning was his public acknowledgement that three army officers, including one lieutenant-general, had been stripped of their uniform over the events of May 9, and many more were facing accountability and/or disciplinary proceedings.

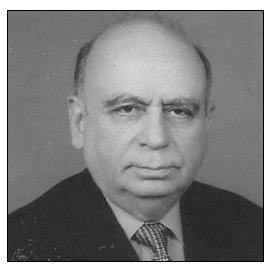
The DG went to great lengths to explain that the men were dismissed not because of their involvement or for being 'co-conspirators' in the events of May 9, but for procedural lapses and inadequacies of security arrangements in certain areas under their watch, which allowed vandals to run amok and damage military installations and properties on the day.

To some journalists, however, this seemed to conflict with the narrative that the armed forces had deliberately shown restraint that day by refusing to engage with the protesters.

The DG was repeatedly asked to clarify why three officers had to be let go for not engaging the protesters when the military itself wanted to show restraint, but his answer remained the same.

Importantly, by underlining that the military had penalised its own over the May 9 'tragedy', the DG ISPR seemed to make it clear that his institution believes it is time to make the civilian perpetrators pay. He defended suspects' trials by military courts, revealing that the court martial of 102 suspects was already underway.

"Those creating hurdles in the way of making this process reach its logical conclusion will be dealt with strictly," he warned. With the Supreme Court currently hearing a case challenging the legality of trying civilians under military courts, the implications of the warning seemed rather ominous. However, considering how many times the DG ISPR stressed the armed forces' deference to the Constitution and the state, it is hoped that the security establishment will take the legal challenges to military courts not as a provocation, but as a procedural hurdle that must be crossed.



Afzal Ali Shigri

Skardu, nestled in a beautiful corner of the country and surrounded by majestic mountains, has become a favoured destination of the rapidly growing tourism industry. The Pakistani government has projected Skardu as a paradise for tourists. However, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic found people confined to their homes.

As restrictions eased, in 2021, local tourists began to flock to Skardu in unprecedented numbers. Encouraged by this surge in domestic tourism, the government proudly announced Skardu's airports as being ready to cater to international flights.

The once-dormant tourism industry, stifled by the pandemic, found renewed hope and the government's efforts to

promote this hidden gem as a sought-after destination seemed to be paying off. To accommodate the increasing numbers, flights from three major cities were added, leading to a surge in unplanned investment in the tourism industry. Skardu's fragile and old infrastructure crumbled under the strain.

But despite the inconveniences, the influx of visitors continued to escalate. Businesses flourished, fuelling expectations that the trend would persist throughout the current year. However, both tourists and locals were in for a shock when the effects of climate change hit the region.

The winter season was longer than usual, keeping the streams frozen. Skardu's divisional headquarters faced an unprecedented water shortage, severely impacting hydropower generation. Consequently, the distribution of drinking water had to be rationed for the first time. It became evident that the government had failed to recognise the apparent growth in seasonal demand, resulting in immense hardship for the locals and despair among the visitors.

Four hundred years ago, in the absence of her warrior husband Ali Sher Khan Anchan, raja of Skardu, who was busy expanding his rule in a challenging terrain and in the face of formidable local fighters, the rani Gul Khatoon, a Mughal princess, demonstrated remarkable engineering prowess. Her visionary mind conceived an engineering marvel that was executed to transform the high-level desert of Skardu valley into a lush green paradise. Her most notable accomplishment was the planning and construction of the Sadpara Dam and the canal system, which not only provided essential water for domes-

The sight of cherry blossoms bursting in every village, accompanied by the emergence of vibrant green leaves under the radiant sunshine and the gushing of crystal-clear water, would normally be a delightful treat for the eyes. The receding cold, coupled with mornings filled with birdsong, would typically transform Skardu valley into a surreal world — a scene from paradise. However, this year's experience was hardly heavenly — in fact, it a journey through hell.

Consequently, the project underwent secretive revisions, leading to the abandonment of the water supply diversion to the dam. This decision has left the local community with a dam that provides no additional energy or water supply, rendering the project futile. Billions of rupees have been wasted, exposing the valley to water scarcity and energy shortages. This situation is exacerbated by the increased frequency

of minor weather fluctuations caused by climate change. Despite numerous applications, presentations and requests, the concerns of the locals have been ignored. The recent drought was the final blow, leading to widespread street protests. However, an imaginative local cleric Agha Baqir, inspired by the historical achievement of Gul Khatoon and the Baltis in constructing the Sadpara Dam with their bare hands, realised that the locals could also take matters into their own hands. Agha Baqir's rallying cry has resonated with the people, and many volunteers have decided to join him in the initiative to manually divert the water from the Shatung stream.

CCPG for the irrigation channel, and D-Baloch for the Shatung nullah diversion. During the project implementation, concerns were raised by IUCN and WWF regarding the potentially negative impact of the nullah diversion on the habitat of the brown bear population and the overall environment.

There have been unverified claims suggesting that the contractor in charge of the Shatung nullah project considered it financially unfeasible due to the limited working season. Surprisingly, the preservation of the habitat for a small population of brown bears took precedence over the well-being of the human inhabitants in Skardu.

In 2001, Wapda undertook the Sadpara Dam project with the aim of addressing the water supply issue in the region. The project encompassed four key elements: upgrading the existing dam, constructing power houses for energy generation, establishing an irrigation channel, and diverting the Shatung nullah to augment water supply. Descon Engineering was awarded the contract for the dam and powerhouse,

where patriarchy is deeply entrenched has inevitable and detrimental effects on the legal and social status of a Pakistani woman. As he aptly noted, removing masculine language has been a strenuous task and the exception provided in the General Clauses Act seems to be outdated in a time where the use of language is of utmost significance towards gender-based sensitivities.

The purpose of positive discrimination and affirmative action which is encompassed in Article 25 of the constitution as well, highlights the need for special efforts made by the state to equate women with men, as women have been at the receiving end of discrimination and have been back benched since the inception of gender itself.

As chair of the session, I emphasized the importance of women's representation in the Bar — as the nurseries of the legal fraternity — and imposing the policies of positive discrimination in an efficacious manner to achieve the desired result of gender equality. The session was successfully concluded upon resolution by Mr Jam Aslam, senior drafter, who

practices guide us to either repeatedly mention the noun or, where unavoidable, use plural pronouns. If we choose to make this change in pursuit of gender parity and inclusivity, it will be necessary to amend the constitution. Until that historic moment arrives, the parliament may consider adopting a resolution to encourage the use of gender-inclusive language in future legal texts. In this regard, the General Clauses Act-1897 should be amended to incorporate gender-inclusive terminology.

The significance of adopting gender-inclusive language in the constitution and legal texts cannot be overstated, as language profoundly shapes our interpretations, aids in negotiating the meanings of governance, and helps us make sense of institutional frameworks. The terms we choose to use have a direct impact on how we think, perceive, and behave. Our communication and writing reflect our underlying assumptions about the world, including gender roles and relationships. Even the order in which words are placed in legal texts conveys our priorities. -- Courtesy TheNews

Women, words and the constitution



Mehnaz Akber Aziz

One of the landmark moments during the golden jubilee celebrations of the constitution of Pakistan was the realization that the time had come to foster inclusivity in its language. This idea took shape on the floor of the National Assembly, where I had the privilege of highlighting the presence of gender non-inclusive language in a draft legislation. The honourable speaker of the National Assembly, invoking Article 263 of the constitution, ruled that "words implying the masculine gender in the constitution shall be interpreted to encompass females as well."

Covering behind the argument that traditional language has long been employed in constitutional and legal texts may seem convenient, but it is hardly compatible with evolving

gender roles and the fundamental concept of gender equality. Across numerous countries, a growing consciousness is emerging, advocating for the use of either gender-neutral or gender-inclusive language. This heightened awareness stems from the increased representation of women in democratic institutions and their presence at crucial decision-making tables within the realm of governance.

Owing to the contributions of feminist movements worldwide, tangible progress has been achieved in certain jurisdictions such as Sweden, Canada, Finland, and New Zealand, where legal texts are being authored in a different manner. In the United Kingdom and the European Parliament, the adoption of gender-inclusive language in laws, debates, and discussions has been duly recognized. Debates and discussions on this issue are expanding in many countries, reflecting a global shift towards greater inclusivity.

In Pakistan, in the third decade of the 21st century, we embarked on a historic initiative to reinterpret the constitution through women's perspective. The Federal Ministry of Law

and Justice joined forces with the Women Parliamentary Caucus, and two days of vigorous deliberations took place at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services. Meticulous background research conducted for this initiative revealed that, while the constitution of Pakistan acknowledges "We the people" in its preamble, its extensive text, spanning over 280 articles, schedules, and oaths, recognizes individuals and groups in various ways.

Chairing the session on 'Language of the Constitution', I spoke with esteemed experts including veteran politicians and expert drafters on how masculinity in legal drafting of the constitution has curbed women's empowerment and the importance of gender neutrality whilst promulgating law.

Mr Farhatullah Babar elaborated on the importance of a 'word' itself — as it forms the basis of love, hate, war and peace. Therefore, discounting the significance of a word in defining circumstances, especially in terms of constitutional provisions, is not ideal for gender equality. It was described how the use of masculine language in a society

where patriarchy is deeply entrenched has inevitable and detrimental effects on the legal and social status of a Pakistani woman. As he aptly noted, removing masculine language has been a strenuous task and the exception provided in the General Clauses Act seems to be outdated in a time where the use of language is of utmost significance towards gender-based sensitivities.

The purpose of positive discrimination and affirmative action which is encompassed in Article 25 of the constitution as well, highlights the need for special efforts made by the state to equate women with men, as women have been at the receiving end of discrimination and have been back benched since the inception of gender itself.

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Worldwide, millions of people are losing their health and lives by breathing polluted air. Toxic emissions from industry, transport and power generation (from fossil fuels and agriculture) are contaminating the environment, particularly in the developing countries.

Air pollution is the world's largest environmental health threat. A mixture of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide carrying tiny droplets are major contributors of outdoor air pollution. Invisible to the naked eye, these tiny particles, commonly known as particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) are 30 times thinner than human hair and highly toxic. Methane emissions from solid waste, agricultural processes, cattle and other ruminants like sheep, horses and goats add to the lethal mix that causes severe health issues.

Lung cancer, cardiovascular diseases, asthma, and other chronic respiratory problems are often caused by polluted air. A recent study by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health revealed that exposure to fine particulate air pollutants may also increase the risk of developing dementia.

The air so essential for our life is now making us sick. Being a transboundary issue, there is no escape from bad air quality. Globally, polluted air is responsible for 7m premature deaths, with 90 per cent of them occurring in low- and middle-income

countries according to the WHO. The heavy burden of disease and job loss is severely impacting the economies of and societies in developing countries, impeding growth and destroying homes.

In addition to human-induced pollution, gases and ash from volcanic eruptions and smoke from wildfires also contribute to air pollution.

When smoke from wildfires in Canada engulfed parts of the US East Coast earlier this month, Manhattan's iconic skyline nearly faded in a smoky haze, and the authorities advised citizens to stay indoors to avoid health risks. Soon after, London's mayor imposed a two-day "high pollution alert" as winds blew "existing pollutants from the continent towards London". These were short-lived aberrations in the otherwise clean air and blue skies of these two cities. Efforts by the city authorities to reduce pollution in most parts of the developed world are succeeding through policies and regulations on health and environmental standards, and are raising public awareness about the benefits of a clean environment.

In contrast, people living in cities across the Global South are forced to breathe poisonous air on a daily basis for long periods. Nearly 90pc of the Asia-Pacific region's 4.3bn people regularly inhale air considered unsafe by the WHO. Two-thirds of the 7m premature deaths attributed to air pollution occur in this region.

Economic losses attributed to air pollution are inflicting heavy costs on healthcare and development. In 2021, air pollution in South Asia was responsible for healthcare costs equivalent to 10.3pc of its GDP compared to 6.1pc of healthcare costs to global GDP, according to the World Bank.

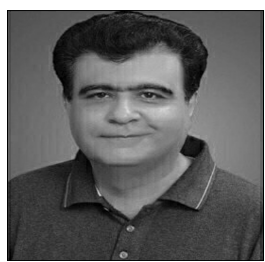
Urban air pollution is the worst in South Asia, home to a quarter of the world's population. Unsustainable urban sprawl, often at the expense of green cover, deprive the cities of natural air filters. The air in many cities in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh is counted among the world's most polluted. Vulnerable and marginalised communities often face higher exposure and are affected disproportionately.

Pakistan's urban air pollution is the most severe in the world. With the highest rate of urbanisation in the region, almost half of Pakistan's population is expected to live in cities by 2025. If air pollution is not controlled, it will expose more than 120m people to polluted air and impose heavy economic and social costs on the country.

Air pollution is not a stand-alone issue. It is intrinsically linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and other forms of pollution. One cannot be resolved without addressing the other.

Band-aid measures will only complicate the problem. A combination of cross-sectoral actions will be required to control air pollution especially in energy, transport and urban areas. Such targeted action must be supported by enabling policy frameworks and regulatory set-ups to monitor air quality in a systemic manner by involving the local authorities and civil society. To support policymaking, UNEP has compiled actions that governments can take on air quality and identified implementation and policy gaps. Pakistan has announced its first National Clean Air Policy which should be linked to time-bound targets of renewable energy, energy efficiency in industry, transport and infrastructure. For effective environmental action, it will also be desirable to design and implement provincial clean air strategies. -- Courtesy Dawn

The next monarch



Dr Niaz Murtaza

The PTI is dead but its spirit will live long as the PPP and PML-N copy and often even exceed its autocratic ways. If the PTI's constitutional violation of a no-trust move lasted a week, PDM's on the KP polls is months old now.

I have long said they were the lesser evil vis-à-vis the PTI. But with the PTI dead, and given their current ways, they are now regarded as the main evil — on the civilian side of course. Yet, even many good anchors still focus daily on Imran Khan, as if he is our main evil.

Only an unlikely and undesirable mutiny by pro-Khan guys can resurrect the former prime minister soon. And May 9 was no mutiny; just a spoilt kid acting out against his leashing by parents who had adopted and spoilt a political orphan no end.

Fear of Khan keeps the establishment, the PPP and PML-N united. So strong is the concern, they are ready to eliminate him using any trick: fake terrorism cases in non-civilian courts, media gags and reverse engineering of PTI. That will end the fear but also the unity. What shape will politics take once these elements start dog-fights?

Will the establishment ditch the PPP and PML-N after using them to nix Khan and install long-term interim set-up, pulling the same trick the two played on PTI on provincial polls? It would be poetic justice. Dreamy analysts think a group of able angels is on stand-by to save

us in a technocratic set-up. But there is none.

The economic wizards being touted contributed to our mess via loose fiscal and monetary policies earlier. Democrats always prefer polls over such set-ups — but fair polls, and not the rigged ones we will have (much more than the 2018 ones) with the PTI decimated wrongly. So, do polls matter? One still wants polls, hoping the rigging plays fail. Even the establishment may think twice about bringing in a technocratic set-up, as it will have to give it the same kind support it lent to the PTI.

But then, who will be the monarch-makers crown from among the many feuding princes and princesses? With Shehbaz Sharif saying he will make way for Nawaz Sharif, will Noon still be OK for them? Thus, there is buzz about Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari being crowned soon. But his would be a crown of thorns, for the economic, political and external challenges after the polls will be too big for his raw hands to handle, just as his young mother couldn't handle the big mess from Zia's era right after his birth.

Thus, if Asif Zardari is astute, he should keep his son away from the throne for now to not burn his career so early. Even the elder Zardari, Sharifs or Khan will do poorly given their ideas on display. Zardari says he read economics in jail and can take reserves to \$100 billion. Khan says this time his expatriate lovers will surely send the \$200bn they forgot last time.

The Sharifs and the establishment are selling another fake dream after CPEC — the Special Investment Facilitation Council. The idea is decades old: clientage of unsavoury states such as the US, China or Saudi Arabia, instead of attract-

ing private capital like Bangladesh or India. They too short-change the poor but are at least not near default. While these Shaikh Chilli dreams cook in Islamabad, the reality in Pindi is clear — the brief pretence of eschewing politics is long gone.

The earnest 'duty' of fixing our huge woes will only deepen them. We are marching firmly on a circular bridge to nowhere as we have since 1947, except for a brief period from 2008 to 2018.

Something in the air



Jamil Ahmad

Worldwide, millions of people are losing their health and lives by breathing polluted air. Toxic emissions from industry, transport and power generation (from fossil fuels and agriculture) are contaminating the environment, particularly in the developing countries.

Air pollution is the world's largest environmental health threat. A mixture of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide carrying tiny droplets are major contributors of outdoor air pollution. Invisible to the naked eye, these tiny particles, commonly known as particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) are 30 times thinner than human hair and highly toxic. Methane emissions from solid waste, agricultural processes, cattle and other ruminants like sheep, horses and goats add to the lethal mix that causes severe health issues.

Lung cancer, cardiovascular diseases, asthma, and other chronic respiratory problems are often caused by polluted air. A recent study by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health revealed that exposure to fine particulate air pollutants may also increase the risk of developing dementia.

The air so essential for our life is now making us sick. Being a transboundary issue, there is no escape from bad air quality. Globally, polluted air is responsible for 7m premature deaths, with 90 per cent of them occurring in low- and middle-income

Murtaza Mehmood says: Pakistan's development hinges on promotion, facilitation of SMEs

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Murtaza Mehmood said on Tuesday that Pakistan economic and industrial development hinged on promoting, incentivizing, financing and strengthening the SMEs, besides establishing one platform for their facilitation.

He stated this while addressing a ceremony regarding World Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Day organized by Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) here. On this occasion, SMEDA signed six Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with six public sector organizations including Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC), Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), Messalaha International

Center for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (MICADR), Urban Unit Government of the Punjab and Government of Gilgit Baltistan.

The Federal Minister cited that in other countries, a company that started in the backyard grew speedily and ultimately turned into a multi-billion global company but unfortunately in Pakistan, it was very hard for SMEs to survive. He added that the world had done a lot regarding SMEs and also micro businesses but Pakistan had not done enough as there was a lot it could have done. The SMEs in Pakistan faced too many issues especially regarding finances as there were too many bottle necks and hurdles in the bureaucracy and government, he said and mentioned that as federal minister, his focus was to get rid of these bottle

necks and facilitate SMEs, which could also turned into a multi-national companies and 'this is our vision and focus.'

He was of the view that government should not be intervening and interfering but it should be facilitating, incentivizing and focusing on making policies. "I am very lucky to have a best SMEDA team and we worked together. Today, we have signed MoUs with public sector organizations," he maintained. The Federal Minister also appreciated the very important incentives introduced with regards to single window operation like MoU was signed between Punjab government and SMEDA. "I think, more has to be done when I see different organizations working on Pakistan's single window; they all are working on single window but actually there is no one platform for the single window.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation, Khawaja Saad Rafique calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Minister explores meat export opportunities with American Consul General

LAHORE (INP): Provincial Minister for Livestock Ibrahim Hasan Murad met with American Consul General William K. Makaneole at American Consulate General in Lahore to discuss meat export opportunities between the two countries.

He said the government was keen to expand meat exports to international markets. The purpose of the meeting was to explore new avenues for strengthening bilateral trade relations between the US and Pakistan in the livestock sector with a specific focus on meat exports.

Minister Murad and Consul General Makaneole reiterated their

commitment to fostering a strong trade relationship that would not only benefit the livestock industry but also contribute to the economic growth of Pakistan.

American Consul General William K. Makaneole appreciated the efforts of the minister in fostering the livestock industry to international markets. He also expressed that US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome was also very eager to enhance trade between the two countries. The American Consul General assured Minister Ibrahim Murad of full support and cooperation for the livestock industry in Punjab.

Hundreds of interns to work as additional field assistants in cotton areas

MULTAN (APP): Secretary of Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel said on Monday that hundreds of interns would be deputed as additional field assistants in cotton-growing areas of South Punjab to extend guidelines to farmers under an Rs150 million project.

Under this project of the Punjab agriculture department, the interns from agriculture departments of different universities would be paid Rs 20,000 per month, however, they would join the assignment from July 3, 2023, after completing training. Saqib Ali said while presiding over a meeting to speed up proceedings on Punjab

government's internship programmes, meant to strengthen on-field advisory services for flawless cotton crop management and enhanced production.

Vice Chancellor Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Dr Asif Ali, Additional Secretary of Task Force South Punjab Intiaz Ahmad Waraich, Dean Faculty Dr Shafiqat Saeed, focal persons of internship program from universities were present while divisional and district officials of the agriculture department joined the meeting online.

Interns would be deputed as additional field assistants by July 3.



MULTAN: Women farmers bus in seedling the rice crop in their field in the outskirts of the city.

CTP to take action against transporters involved in overcharging

RAWALPINDI (APP): As residents of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad head to their hometowns and villages to celebrate Eidul Azha, intercity transporters have started hiking their fares. To stop this profiteering, the City Traffic Police (CTP) has launched a grand operation against these transporters for overcharging passengers. According to City Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan transporters have already been warned to stop overcharging or else face strict action in accordance with the law.

CTO said that they had constituted special squads who monitor these buses and wagons. If they find a public service vehicle (PSVs) overcharging passengers, they are issued a ticket and slapped with a heavy fine.

Trade of sacrificial animals picked up in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): The trade of sacrificial animals has picked up momentum in the Sukkur and other districts of the Sukkur division as the faithfuls are finalize the purchasing of different animals in cattle markets because only two days are remaining in Eidul Azha. It is the second Muslim ritual that commemorates the supreme sacrifices of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and his son Hazrat Ismail (AS). Apart from domestic traders, the businessmen of Sindh and Punjab have also brought their sacrificial animals in large number to fully exploit the market of Sukkur.



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, Islamabad.

Poultry output targets fixed at 2.363 million tons for fiscal year 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (Online): The government has set a target to produce about 2.363 million tons of poultry during fiscal year 2023-24 in order to fulfill the domestic requirements of poultry meat and other value added products. The poultry output during the 11 months of current fiscal year (2022-23) was recorded at 2.160 million metric tons as compared to its fixed targets, where as about 5.809 million tons of meat also produced in order to fulfill the local requirements of the commodity as well as for exporting to exploit existing potential of halal meat in global markets. Domestic output of meat in 11 months of last year was (2021-22) was recorded at 5.5 million tons as the government had set to produce about 5.5 million tons of meat during the year 2022-23, said an official in the Ministry of

National Food Security and Research. Talking to APP here on Tuesday, he said that beef production targets for period under review were fixed at 2.630 million metric tons and mutton at 817,000 tons, adding that during out going fiscal year the local production of beef was recorded at 2.55 million tons as against the set targets of 2.54 million tons, where as about 799,000 metric tons of mutton also produced as compared to the set targets of 799,000 metric tons. He further informed that agriculture sector was envisaged to grow by 3.9% in the Annual Plan 2022-23 given a strong crop sector performance of the previous year. However, he said that during the period from June-August 2022, torrential rains and flash flooding led to an unprecedented disaster in various parts of the country.

PACRA reaffirms credit rating of PMIC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA) has maintained the long-term and short-term entity ratings of Pakistan Microfinance Investment Company (PMIC) at 'AA' (Double A) and 'A1+' (A One Plus) respectively.

The rating reflects a strong equity base, well-conceived business plans and strong ownership structure, a news release said.

The ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk emanating from a very strong capacity for

timely payment of financial commitments which is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

PMIC, incorporated in 2016, is licensed to carry out investment finance services as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC Rules, 2003 and NBFC Regulations 2008).

The strong sponsors, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (49%), Karandaaz (38%) and KfW, a German development Bank (13%) strengthen the financial profile of PMIC.

US, China, UK remained top three destinations of Pak exports in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (INP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the eleven months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-May (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 5481.385 million as opposed to US\$ 6162.991 million during July-May (2021-22), showing a decline of 11.05 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1891.949 million compared to the exports of US\$ 2544.418 million last year, showing a decrease of 25.64 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1806.385 million during the months under review against the exports of US\$ 2011.859 million during last year, showing a decline of 10.21 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani

exports to Germany stood at US\$ 1488.461 million against US\$ 1574.850 million last year, showing a decrease of 5.48 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US\$ 1341.359 million opposed US\$ 1632.907 million last year.

During July-May (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at US\$ 1324.959 million against US\$ 1341.035 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 478.342 million against US\$ 494.8585 million.

Rupee gains 71 paises against US Dollar in interbank

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 71 paises against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs285.99 against the previous day's closing of Rs 286.70.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 287.5 and Rs 290 respectively.

The price of the Euro went up by 71 paises to close at Rs 312.93 against the last day's closing of Rs 312.22, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen lost one paisa to close at Rs 1.99, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.05 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound.



LAHORE: Vendors displaying sacrificial animals to attract the customers in connection with upcoming Eid ul Adha at Sacrificial Animal Market.

IMF agreement inevitable for Pakistan: ICCI

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Tuesday said the International Monetary Funds (IMF) agreement was inevitable for a sustainable economic base in Pakistan.

However, the government would have to take decisions keeping in view the country's economic recovery, he said in statement.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said, "The business community believes that the IMF agreement is indispensable for the country and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has negotiated with the Fund as a real national leader and the spokesman for the aspirations of the Pakistani nation. "He emerged as a true national hero by not compromising on national interests during the long period of negotiations, but it is our misfortune that at last he also had to accept the tough conditions of the

IMF to save the country economically," he added.

The ICCI president said the trust of friendly countries and international organizations would be restored by the IMF agreement. However, instead of burdening the people or the business community, the government should find a middle way.

To get out of the economic crisis, the government should formulate short, mid and long-term policies, he added. He said the business community had been supportive of the government's initiatives, which should adopt such measures to provide a conducive environment for business. He said the business community across the country, including the ICCI, had demanded reduction of the interest rate in the budget proposals, which was supported by the parliamentary committees and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.



LAHORE: Federal Minister of Industries & Production Syed Murtaza Mehmood witnessing the signing ceremony of MoU between SMEDA & Strategic Partners.

Business of knife sharpeners shine on Eidul Azha in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Besides the trade of sacrificial animals, the business of blacksmiths and knife sharpeners were also shined in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the joys occasion of Eidul Azha.

Eidul Azha has brought joy for people viz a viz blacksmiths, butchers and knives sharpeners whether trained or untrained arrived to get maximum profits at Peshawar.

As only a day left in Eid ul Azha celebrations, the blacksmiths and knife sharpeners of Peshawar and adjoining districts have received numerous orders to get maximum business, they were earning two times high.

Knife sharpeners and blacksmiths besides seasonal butchers whether trained or untrained, are deemed as rare commodities these days in Peshawar, who were receiving innumerable orders despite an exorbitant charges for their services.

At Firdus, Rati Bazar, Hayatabad, Gulbahar,

Boards etc. in Peshawar, special machines have been installed at various shops to sharpen knives, beef cutters, knives and meat cleavers along with selling Bar-B-Q instruments as part of an arrangements for Eid ul Azha.

The professional traders are attracting a number of customers due to their decorated handles and sharp-edged instruments.

Butchers' appliances sale including knives, cutters and stand blades etc, has also witnessed record increase.

The people are also repairing their old and damaged machetes, knives and other tools needed for cutting meat. Ordinary shopkeepers, professional and untrained blacksmiths and knife sharpeners belonging to far flung areas of KP are also being seen selling these tools in different areas including Gulbahar, Hastnagri, Karimpura, Cantonment areas, Tehkal, Latifabad, Ghareeb Abad, Hayatabad, Board and were earning two times high.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, OOCL Le Havre, MSC Mundra, Lana and Milaha Ras Laffan carrying Containers and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Pakistan Gas Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile four more ships, MSC Letizia, Maersk Columbus Yankul Silver and Al-Maha with Containers, Palm oil and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

A total of 09 ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, MSC Mundra, Sadah Silver, Bochem Pegasos and Opera sailed out to sea on Tuesday morning on Tuesday and two more ships, Lana and Star Bovarius are expected to sail on today.

Cargo throughput of 160,017 tonnes, comprising 117,850 tonnes imports Cargo and 42,167 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 3,646 Containers (1,809 TEUs Imports and 1,837 TEUs export).



MULTAN: A laborer busy in spreading corn seeds for drying purpose in his field.

Tokyo stocks end down on unease over Russia

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo stocks ended lower on Tuesday after global markets mostly retreated as US tech shares stumbled and a short-lived mutiny in Russia stoked unease on trading floors.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 0.49 percent, or 160.48 points, to end at 32,538.33, while the broader Topix index slipped 0.28 percent, or 6.36 points, to 2,253.81.

The dollar stood at 143.62 yen, against 143.50 yen in New York late Monday.

parent Alphabet dropped 3.2 percent following a downgrade by UBS, while Tesla plunged 6.1 percent on a downgrade by Goldman Sachs. Worries related to an advance by the Wagner mercenary force, which was called off before it reached Moscow, also held back share prices, according to analysts. The developments weighed on the sentiment of investors in Japan, where "uncertainty over the situation in Russia smouldered", Iwai Cosmo Securities said. "As the end of the month approaches, concerns over the tilt toward selling also dragged down the market," it said.

Faisal Karim Kundi says BISP, a non political scheme, serving 9 million women across country

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) was a non-political scheme under which about nine million deserving women were being benefitted across the country. Faisal Kundi, who is also the central information secretary of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), stated this during a meeting with different delegations and party representatives here at the residence of PPP District President Malik Farhan Dhap in Paroa.

He said the poor voters of every party were being facilitated under this program. Kundi said that Rs 80.7 billion were being distributed among deserv-

ing people under Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) across the country. He said the recent payment distribution process of BISP was being monitored by him, Federal Minister Shazia Marri and the BISP officials. Keeping in view the extreme weather conditions and the hardships being faced by the beneficiary women, the payments were transferred to specific retailers from the payment centres, he added.

Kundi said that 900,000 cards were blocked during the previous regime and we had promised the nation to restore them, adding, about 250,000 cards including 7,000 from Dera Ismail Khan had been restored to date. About 165,000 women from Dera Ismail

Khan benefitted under BISP while 12,000 more have been registered from the area during a recent survey.

Kundi said that Dera Ismail Khan has been included in the districts of the pilot project under which the beneficiaries would be paid through banks by next month. Moreover, he said Rs 70 billion were given to the flood victims. He said a NADRA office had been opened in Paroa Tehsil despite the obstacles and now he had demanded the Interior Ministry to immediately establish the same facility in Paniala. "We inaugurated the rehabilitation work on Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) last month and issued instructions to the contractor to complete the work within one month.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the first Achievement Award Ceremony of Rahim Yar Khan Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Governor House.

Economic stability is vital to development of the country: Governor

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the first Achievement Award Ceremony of Rahim Yar Khan Chamber of Commerce and Industry here today at Governor House. Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce, SM Tanveer was also present in the ceremony.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that economic stability is vital to the development of the country. He said that the incumbent government is utilizing all its resources to boost and revive the economy of the country.

Governor Punjab said that the people associated with the commerce and industry are playing an important role in the economic development of the country. Governor Punjab said that the federal government has given relief to all sections of the society including the business community in the recent budget.

He said that the promotion of technical and

professional education is very important for the development of the country. Governor Punjab further said that as chancellor he has formed a consortium to strengthen the links between academia and industry in universities. He said that the government has increased the pace of work on CPEC projects, adding that CPEC project is creating employment opportunities for the local population.

Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer while speaking on the occasion said that holding the first achievement award of Rahim Yar Khan Chamber is a good initiative for the entrepreneurs.

He said that the role of business community in the economic development of the country is very important. President Rahim Yar Khan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Iqbal Hafeez said that we have gathered here today to appreciate the services of those entrepreneurs who have played a significant role in the country's economy in various sectors.

Five dacoits killed; says SSP Ghotki

SUKKUR (APP): Ghotki Police has claimed to kill a dacoit and injured three of his accomplices in an encounter, while separately four other dacoits, including one carrying Rs0.5 million head money, were killed in an attack by a rival gang on Monday.

SSP Ghotki, Tanveer Hussain Tunio said the police and criminals had an encounter in village Rehmat Jagirani in the Katcha area of Katcha Bindhi Police Station in Ghotki district, in which dacoit Mukhtiar son of Abdul Aziz Jagirani was killed, while his three accomplices Golo son of Walidad Jagirani, Nizamuddin son of Abdul Ghafoor Jagirani and Mashgoon son of Anwar Jagirani were injured. He said the deceased

dacoit Mukhtiar Jagirani was wanted to police in multiple cases of murder, highway robberies, kidnapping for ransom and others. The SSP further said that in a separate incident, the gang of Qutab Jagirani attacked the gang of Mukhtiar Jagirani, in which four dacoits, including Vengus son of Qabil Jagirani, a notified criminal carrying head money of Rs0.5 million, were killed.

The other three dacoits were identified as Jam Sadiq Jagirani, Alam Jagirani and Nadir son of Qutubuddin Jagirani, said SSP Ghotki.

Meanwhile, the video of three employees of a private company, kidnapped by the dacoits a month ago surfaced on the social media, in which the hostages could be seen begging for their release.



HYDERABAD: ASP Aleena Rajpar speaking at a press conference at police headquarters. INP PHOTO by Yasir Rajput



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State, chairman for Prime Minister Task Force on Gandhara Tourism, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani addressing a press conference at PID

Mayor Karachi for paying full attention to cleaning operation on Eid-ul-Azha

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that he wants to work together to provide relief to the people of Karachi and for now, we have to pay full attention to the Eid-ul-Azha operation to ensure cleanliness in the city on this important occasion.

He said this on the occasion of the coordination meeting held at Sindh Solid Waste Management office with town chairmen and vice-chairmen regarding Eid-ul-Azha arrangements.

Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Managing Director Sindh Solid Waste Management Board Syed Imtiaz Shah, Parliamentary Leader in City Council Najmi Alam, General Secretary of People's Party South District Karamullah Waqas, Deputy Commissioner West Ali Zulfikar Memon, Deputy Commissioner East Tabraiz Murry and other officers and elected representatives were also present.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab assured the town chairmen that all possible support will be provided

for the early resolution of the problems that have been identified by chairmen of different areas, for the betterment of the city. We want to work together, that's why we are coordinating with all the elected local representatives.

After Eid-ul-Azha, the Town Chairman's offices and other needs will be fulfilled. Apart from the designated collection points, the points proposed by the town chairmen will also be considered in connection with the arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha.

He said excavation work at landfill sites to safely bury the offals has now completed. A total of 18 trenches have been dug to bury the waste and offals, while 93 collection points will be created to collect the offals, and 6802 vehicles and 24,366 manpower will be used in the operation of collecting the offals, Mayor Karachi said complaints centers will be functional in every district and complaints can be registered on SSWMB's helpline number 1128, which will be dealt with promptly.

Comprehensive cleanliness plan for Eid-ul-Azha formulates: Mayor

SUKKUR (APP): As many as 700 sanitary workers will perform duties on Eid-ul-Azha in Sukkur and its surrounding areas as comprehensive plans have been formulated in this regard by the authorities concerned.

According to a plan the Sukkur Municipal Corporation (SMC), in order to cleanliness for Eid-ul-Azha to get rid of entrails and offal of animals under which maximum available resources will be utilized to fulfill the task during the Eid holidays, said Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh, while presiding over a meeting to his office here on Tuesday.

The Mayor said that a comprehensive cleanliness plan for Eid-ul-Azha has been formulated under which 700 sanitary workers, sanitary inspectors, and supervisors would perform duty. He said 16 vehicles would be used to remove garbage, entrails of animals and offal from different areas of the Sukkur.

Third phase of research on Bhitai's poetry completed

HYDERABAD (APP): The students of Institute of Art and Design (IAD) University of Sindh Jamshoro have completed third phase of the research on the hidden aspects of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai's poetry.

The research project has been initiated by the Center of Knowledge Development (Pvt.) Ltd. in a bid to explore the undiscovered aspects of the great Sufi poet of Sindh Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai's poetry, the university spokesman informed here on Tuesday.

In this regard, the spokesman informed that incentive distribution ceremony was held in the Shaikh Ayaz auditorium of the Arts Faculty, where the researchers and students received their incentive cheques.

Addressing the ceremony, the Director Operations of the Center of Knowledge Development, Abdul Sattar Khushik said that this research project was aimed at exploring the

He said said that the Eid holidays of all the sanitary workers of SMC have been cancelled while officials of the department concerned to ensure cleanliness during the Eid days.

He urged the people to cooperate with the sanitary workers and dump entrails of the sacrificial animals and offal at specific collection points from where, these could be removed properly.

He said after completion of the cleanliness task and removal of offal, all collection points and other areas would be cleaned and sprayed.

He informed that he himself will supervise the entire operation and SMC Officers will also remain present in the cantonment office during Eid holidays. He said after completion of the cleanliness task and removal of offal, all collection points and other areas would be cleaned properly and sprayed.

undiscovered aspects of Latif's poetry so as to provide it more efficiently to the youth for their understanding with modern techniques.

"On the research projects started at the University of Sindh under the supervision of researchers and professors couple of weeks ago, the students of English and Sindh departments had completed their project earlier but the third phase of the project was completed today by the students of Institute of Art and Design", he said and added that the next phase will be completed by the students of the Department of Statistics.

He said that the Shah Latif Experimental Lab had also been established for the said research project, which had been made a part of the Faculty of Social Sciences University of Sindh. The research is being done on various aspects of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai's poetry with the help of artificial intelligence, he said.

Envoy Munir highlights Kashmiris' freedom struggle in Eid message

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Munir Akram, has greeted the UN community and Muslim citizens on Eid-ul-Adha, while paying tributes to the "heroic" struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination.

In a message on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, which is being celebrated in the U.S. on June 28, he said, "On this auspicious occasion it is appropriate to manifest in accordance with the immutable principles of Islam, our support and solidarity for all those people confronted by

misfortune and oppression; by war and pestilence; by exploitation and foreign occupation.

"May this Eid bring peace and prosperity to our heroic brothers and sisters in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir who are making enormous sacrifices to secure their freedom and self-determination. "On this Eid, let us also reaffirm our commitment to end global hunger and eliminate inequality, injustice & discrimination across the world.

"Eid Mubarak and all the blessings of the Almighty for you and your loved ones".

PML-N, PPP fail to resolve differences in Dubai meeting

ISLAMABAD (INP): The People's Party and the PML-N in their Dubai meeting failed to resolve most of the issues.

The two sides also discussed the caretaker setup and future line of action in the meeting yesterday. The PPP leaders also clarified the party's stance over general election adding that they want election in October or November, according to sources. The coalition partners in the PDM government also discussed on pre-date dissolution of the assemblies. The two sides have been at odds with regard to the timetable of the next general election after dissolution of assemblies in August.

People's Party sources have said that the issue of seat adjustment was not discussed with the PML-N leadership. "Former presi-

dent Asif Ali Zardari discussed the charter of economy with PML-N leaders," sources said.

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Commissioner chairs meeting regarding construction of School, Hospital, Maternity home

NAWABSHAH (APP): Commissioner Muhammad Abbas Baloch chaired a meeting about Public School Tando Adam, SMS Hospital Shahdampur and Maternity Home Hospital are here on Tuesday.

DC Sanghar Muhammad Ishaque Gad, District Health Officer Dr Faiz Muhammad Mari, SMS In-charge Muhammad Moosa, Assistant Commissioner

General Liaquat Loond and officials of Education Works Sanghar attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the Commissioner said that the construction work of Public-School Tando Adam building shall be completed at the earliest so that educational activities could be started that would provide better educational facilities to students of Tando Adam and its vicinity.

Mirpurkhas is my own city, we will serve people together as one soul: Mayor

Independent Report

MIRPURKHAS: The first introductory meeting of Mirpurkhas Municipal Corporation was held in Jinnah Hall under the chairmanship of Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori and Deputy Mayor Junaid Buland.

In the introductory meeting, besides the chairman and vice chairman of the union council, the council members of the town municipal corporation, Syed Khadim Ali Shah and Mir Sher Muhammad Talpur, and the members of the district peace commit-



tee, Mufti Sharif Saedi, Maulana Sadiq Saedi, Syed Hamza Ali Naqvi, Anjuman Tajran Mirpurkhas President Anisur Rahman Sheikh, General Secretary Muhammad Amin Memon, Municipal Commissioner Muhammad Aslam Qazi, People's Party officials and council members Hanif Memon, Mir Ali Raza Talpur, Sumaira Baloch Maqbool Khatian, Shamim Jhandir, members of the reserved seat participated in the introductory meeting.

The various newly elected chairman and vice chairman discussed the deteriorating law and order situation in Mirpurkhas city, the establishment of a medical university in Mirpurkhas, setting up a workshop to repair faulty transformers, and to reduce the time period of electricity, improving the civil hospital in Mirpurkhas and to ensure cleanliness on eve of Eid-ul-Azha.

On this occasion, Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori said that Mirpurkhas city is our own city and we will take all the members along together for the improvement of the city. And will serve the people of Mirpurkhas as one soul. He further said that with the council members, Mirpurkhas will make the city a cradle of peace.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Junaid Buland said that we have to work with determination for the improvement of Mirpurkhas city because the city of Mirpurkhas has a historical status, the improvement of city is the first priority of all of us. On this occasion the Senior citizens and journalists also participated in large number.

Six of a family killed as van falls into Bolan ditch

BOLAN (INP): Six members of a family, including women, were killed when a passenger van fell into a ditch in Bolan on Tuesday.

The accident took place at Panjara bridge in Bolan where a van got out of control and fell into the ditch. The van left Quetta for Sibi.

Two women were expired on the spot while five people including children were seriously injured after the accident.

The Levies Force and the rescue team reached the site and shifted the bodies and injured to Civil Hospital Dhadar. Four more people succumbed to their injuries at the hospital, taking the toll to six.

The deceased were said to be from the same family.

DC Larkana reviews arrangements for Eid

LARKANA (APP): A meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Larkana Rabiya Siyal, on Tuesday, reviewed the arrangements being made to improve sanitary conditions on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

The meeting was attended by Mayor LMC Anwar Ali Nawaz Lohar, officials of Municipal and officials of district police, Revenue departments and Town Officers of the district, and Officials of SSWMA to discuss measures required to be taken for timely disposal of offal and maintenance of law and order in the city and other towns of the district.

The participants of the meeting said that no cattle market would be allowed to be set up elsewhere.

They said that taluka administrations in cooperation with Municipal and Town administrations would make arrangements for

disposal of offal as per previous practice.

The meeting decided that measures would be taken to improve transportation of offal to the 'landfill sites' and proper disposal of the waste.

It was agreed that proper machinery would be provided for this purpose. It was further decided that the deputy commissioner and other officers would visit the 'landfill sites' to inspect the arrangements.

The meeting decided that Assistant Commissioners and Taluka Mukhtairkars would monitor the working in areas falling in their jurisdiction, whereas Revenue officers would also monitor the working in their respective areas.

Besides, Municipal Corporation, all Town committees would establish emergency centres in their respective areas.