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PM resolves to crush every conspiracy against Pakistan and state institutions

Denounces 'vile social media campaign' against COAS Asim Munir; Says Imran's "trick of using proxies" badly exposed; Orders legal action against elements behind campaign.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday vehemently condemned social media campaign about threats of an assassination attempt on Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir and expressed the resolve to crush every conspiracy against Pakistan and the state institutions.

The prime minister, in a press statement shared by PM Office Media Wing, said that on May 9 (Black Day) similar minds were involved in the conspiracy. The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to take legal action

against those involved in such media campaigns inside the country and abroad.

"It is a clear message to 9th May planners, facilitators and handlers that conspiracy against Pakistan and its institutions will be crushed", he added.

He further termed the vile, malevolent and malicious media campaigns a result of the planning of miscreants, adding the conspirators had again become active against the political and economic stability in the country.

The new media campaign was a part and parcel of that abhorrent cam-

aign, which was launched against Shuhada, he maintained.

The prime minister observed that the media drive against armed forces and its chief did not fall within the domain of freedom of expression, but it was only a conspiracy, and it was a legal responsibility to eradicate such tendency with full strength.

He said the nation would foil such attempts in such a manner as it had frustrated the attempt on May 9 to stir violence and vandalism in the country.

The entire nation was standing behind its armed forces and its chief and re-

solved not to allow the disappointed and panicked elements to create new crises in the country.

Separately, on his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan continued to engage in a vile, sinister and malicious campaign against COAS General Syed Asim Munir.

"His trick of using the proxies to threaten the Army Chief of an assassination attempt has been badly exposed. After his methodically planned attack on the State symbols failed, he is clearly desperate & wants to coerce his

way back into power, little knowing that the time of his politics of intimidation, violence & hatred is over," he added.

Through such highly condemnable antics, the prime minister said he (IK) was only exposing himself, the core of which was defined by putting his personal interest (power grab) over everything else.

The people of Pakistan and the political parties stood behind their Army Chief and the armed forces like a rock and would thwart any attempt and conspiracy at undermining their prestige, honour and integrity, he added.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori meeting with President Dr. Arif Alvi

Revolutionary steps being taken to promote Pak image, narrative globally: Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that revolutionary steps were being taken to implement the vision and directive of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to promote the country's culture and heritage and its narrative through screen tourism.

She said that while addressing a ceremony after performing ground breaking of the site for cinema and inauguration of Classical Musical Research Cell, Digital Broadcast Training Lab and Podcast Studio here at the Radio Pakiatan.

She said that through using platforms like Pakistan Television, Radio Pakistan, Lok Virsa and Pakistan National Council of Arts, the people especially, the youth could be connected with the country's heritage. She said that infotainment and entertainment were highly required for people especially the younger generation because during the last four years, hatred and intolerance had been promoted in the coun-

try. Marriyum said that it was a high time when people and especially youngsters should be provided an alternative through which they could engage themselves in positive activities.

She said that in 2017 and 2018, a foundation of the country's first culture policy and film policy was laid, adding that implementation of the policy was started in the 2018 budget which was given by PML-N government.

She said that unfortunately during the last four years, all institutions were ruined, PTV sports was handed over to A-Sports just to deteriorate the department and auction it later.

The minister said that for the first time, slogan was raised in the Parliament to auction PTV and Radio Pakistan buildings and these organizations. She said that those behind such slogans did not know the significance of national broadcasters and the country's heritage. The governments in the past had not patronized the filmmakers, artists, writers,

producers, distributors and cinema owners, she added. She said "Film policy is part of our legislation to promote the country's narrative through screen tourism."

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that tax incentives were available for filmmakers, producers, actors, distributors, cinemas and this would help in producing more films and promoting the country's soft image.

She further said that culture and film policies were introduced when the country was fighting the war on terror adding that as it was the only tool through which the country's image could be improved globally.

She said that setting up of cinemas in Radio Pakistan and PTV premises was aimed at providing affordable entertainment access to the people, especially the classes with meager income. Cinema screens facility will be started at 26 spots not only in main cities but in interior Sindh, interior Punjab and south Punjab, she said.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb Inaugurating the foundation stone for the construction of cinema building of projects at Radio Pakist Station building.

Nawaz, Zardari have agreed on caretaker setup: Khurshid Shah

NEWSHERA (INP): Senior leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Shah has said that Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari have agreed on installing the caretaker setup in the country for general elections, and the polls will not be delayed even for a day.

The federal minister said that the government and the coalition partners were on same page in holding the general elections according to the constitution and law. The deal with IMF and the budget were the major achievements of the coalition government, he

said. Mr Shah said that transparent and impartial general elections were the only solution to the prevailing crisis. He said inflation had started decreasing in the country.

The federal minister said that the Pakistan People's Party had always brought the nation out of disappointments.

The census was conducted transparently and according to the rules in the entire country including Karachi and Sindh and the objections of Muttahida Qaumi Movement and Jamaat-e-Islami had been removed.

Elections to be held on time: Maulana Fazal

PESHAWAR (INP) Pakistan Democratic Movement head Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Sunday elections would be held on time.

He said hopefully, the nation would not put the country to any test again by electing unpopular leaders.

Talking to senior journalists, the PDM chief said after one month the term of the central government would be completed and the prime minister made it clear that the PDM would dissolve the assemblies after the completion of term.

He further said that help from friendly countries and IMF had also been received mentioning that the country was very weak economically and highlighted that the investment of friendly countries in Pakistan would be the second big step to improve the economy.

India leaves water in Chenab river

LAHORE (Online): Water left from Indian side in Chenab River entered into Pakistan. Water flow in head marala reached to 122184 cubic feet. Administration issued alerts. According to flood control room water flow in Chenab river was 60,000 cubic feet on Saturday morning and continues rise in water flow threatens high level flooding.

Gujranwala district administration declared 20 villages sensitive. Beraj administration said Marala Barrage Sialkot have the capacity of 11 thousand cubic water.

Governor Sindh calls on President Alvi

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori called on the President Dr. Arif Alvi at his residence here on Sunday.

According to a Governor House communique, the Governor felicitated the President on performing Hajj.

They also discussed ongoing projects in the Sindh province, cooperation of the federal government, measures pertaining

to the restoration of metropolis infrastructure and other issues of mutual interests. Kamran Tessori, on the occasion, said that the development of the province through the cooperation of the federation was certain.

He said that steps were being taken to ensure the welfare of the people.

The President Dr. Arif Alvi said that the projects of the Governor regarding the welfare of the people were appreciated.

Assemblies to dissolve on completion of tenure: Asif

SIALKOT (APP): Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that preparations for general election have commenced and distribution of tickets will start soon.

He stated this while addressing a worker's convention at Union Council Neikapura, Sialkot on Saturday night. Speaking at the convention, Kh Asif said that assemblies would be dissolved after completing their tenure. He said political parties of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) would adopt a plan of bringing a common candidate or seat adjustment for the general election. He said distribution of tickets and seat adjustment would commence soon.

The minister said the nation would get an opportunity to exercise its right to vote in upcoming election. He said voters were the source of power for political activists and leaders. He revealed that the reason behind the ouster of the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief through no-confidence motion was his (PTI chief's) behaviour with his allies.

The defence minister lambasted the PTI chairman saying that he dissolved the KP and Punjab assemblies despite disagreement by his party members. He said the situation occurred due to Imran's political wrong decisions. He said the PTI chief made the last attack on the army.



LAHORE: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony Maulana Tahir Ashrafi addressing a seminar on Hazrat Usman Ghani (R.A.) at Press Club

Ashrafi terms interfaith dialogue essential in current times

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, on Sunday strongly condemned the recent incident of Quran burning in Sweden.

Addressing a seminar, held here in Lahore Press Club in honor of the martyrdom of Hazrat Usman Ghani (R.A.), he emphasized the urgent need for interfaith dialogue and global legislation against blasphemy or desecration of any celestial religion or scripture.

The event was attended by distinguished scholars including Allama Abdul Haq Mujahid, Maulana Muhammad Rafiq Jami, Maulana Asad Zakaria Qasmi, Maulana Nauman Hashiri, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Maulana Assadullah

Farooq, Allama Zubair Abid, Maulana Islam Siddiqui, Qari Abdul Hakeem Athar, Allama Tahir Hassan, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Pitafi, Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Mufti Falk Sher, Mufti Syed Naseem-ul-Islam, Mufti Rehmat Din, Qari Abdul Majid Haqqani, Qari Kifayatullah, Maulana Abdul Jabar, Qari Muhammad Islam Qadri, Maulana Qari Mubashir Rahimi, Maulana Abdul Ghaffar Farooqi, and Maulana Nasir Haqqani.

Ashrafi highlighted that the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) promote interfaith dialogue.

He expressed gratitude towards Pope Francis, Christian leaders, and leaders of other non-Muslim faiths in Sweden for their condemnation of the Quran burning incidents.

Monsoon rains kill 9, injure 8; death toll reaches 76

ISLAMABAD: NDMA says 31 children, 30 men, 15 women among those who have died due to rains in last fortnight

Nine more people have died, and eight others were injured due to the monsoon rains in the last 24 hours, as per the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Since June 25, the number of deaths from monsoon rains across the country has reached 76.

According to the NDMA, 31 children, 30 men and 15 women are among those who have died due to rains in the last fortnight. The highest number of deaths, 48, has been reported in Punjab.

Rains have also claimed 20 lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, five in Balochistan and three in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

FIA arrests important mastermind of Greece boat incident

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) anti-human trafficking circle took action and arrested important mastermind involved in Greece Boat Capsize incident.

Accused Muhammad Saleem jeweler arrested from Gujrat, who is brother of prime accused Greece boat incident Asif jeweler.

Accused took millions money from peoples many time to send them to Europe illegally. 9 cases were filed against accused in FIA circle Gujrat. Arrested accused Muhammad Saleem jeweler was sending money to his brother through hawal hundi and went in concealment after boat capsized incident. later he is arrested with the help of technology use. Accused Asif jeweler is present in Libya and he has made many safe houses in Libya.



SIALKOT: Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif is addressing the PML-N workers convention at UC Nikapora.

PM, FM to address inaugural session of Gandhara symposium

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will address the inaugural session of a three-day Gandhara symposium, being held here from July 11 to July 13.

The symposium titled "Cultural Diplomacy: Reviving Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan", is being held under the prime minister's vision of interfaith harmony, aiming to raise global awareness about the historical and cultural significance of the Gandhara civilization and Buddhist heritage in Pakistan.

Chairman, Prime Minister's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism Dr.

Ramesh Kumar Vankwani and Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Talha Mehmood will also address its different sessions, besides keynote by different foreign and local dignitaries, said a press release issued here Sunday.

The delegates will also call on President Dr Arif Alvi.

The symposium is jointly organized by PM's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), the National Heritage and Culture Division and Archeology Departments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



PESHAWAR: Members of Minority Community are expressing solidarity with Muslims as they holding protest demonstration against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden, at Gaur Kathri Park in Peshawar.



JHELUM: A view of site of gas cylinder explosion flattens three-storey building

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Keeping promises

The commentariat has been abuzz ever since it emerged that the IMF had held separate meetings with two political parties over the \$3bn sought by Pakistan under a Stand-by Arrangement. While the IMF also held a similar one-on-one meeting with the PPP, it was the agency's meeting with the PTI leadership that piqued the most curiosity.

However, the ensuing gossip, which gave the meeting a political tint, ignored a simple fact: the only reason the IMF had sought the meetings was to secure assurances that whatever agreement was eventually signed with the current government would not be jeopardised by the next. To this end, all parties seem to have endorsed the deal that will be presented to the IMF board on July 12. However, they must also reflect on why an international lender felt the need to approach them individually.

As a nation, we have had a big problem keeping our promises. From the Reko Diq fiasco to the IPP contracts signed in the PPP era, to the repeated violation of IMF deals — Pakistan has a habit of failing to honour contracts and agreements, which has left it in a very weak position in negotiations that must be backed by some form of sovereign guarantee.

The usual reason behind our inability to keep our promises has either been a change of policy following a change of government, or interference and "intervention" by the other branches of the state. The country has paid billions of dollars in direct fines and suffered incalculable secondary losses due to this.

Even if the original agreements in the aforementioned cases may have been deleterious to our national interests, refusing to honour them after they were signed was indefensible under the timeless, universal laws that guide formal contracts. When the wise talk about the need for a "charter of economy", this is one of the main issues they seek to address. The IMF, or any foreign entity interested in taking a stake in the country, should not feel the need to have our officials jump through hoops in order to satisfy it that they are, indeed, serious about the commitments they are making. It is essential for this to happen that creditors and investors see some continuity in policy. This can be ensured if government leaders involve the opposition in the decision-making process so that any major reservations within political circles are cleared up well before the country enters into any sovereign agreement.

All contracts should also be vetted thoroughly beforehand by the relevant parliamentary committees to ensure that they are lawful. Once an agreement is finalised and inked, it must then be honoured consistently. Protecting the national interest is important, but what it means cannot keep changing, especially where sovereign contracts are concerned.



Muna Khan

As I prepare my course outline for a new university-level class on media literacy next month, I am struggling on how to mandate newspaper reading into the syllabus. I mean physically reading a paper, a habit I still practise at home and in travels. That practice has changed over the years thanks to technological advancements, but I prefer holding a paper and reading it — at cafés, planes, trains etc. When I was at graduate school in the US in 2016, I could only afford to subscribe to the digital version of a paper, but also began a new habit of listening to the news as that was the norm among my peers. I hope we return to listening to the news, like my grandfather did on his trusted radio when he tuned into BBC Urdu so many decades ago, because it is a handy way to consume news.

Sadly, newspaper trends are on the decline everywhere.

I'm writing this in New York, a city I have regularly frequented since the birth of my nephew in 2014, and can't find newspapers as easily as I did. There is a Starbucks every few blocks, but none of them stocks papers and I've not seen paper stands either. I want to be clear this is anecdotal and not meant as an indictment on the state of the industry. I passed one news kiosk at the entrance of Central Park, which sold major papers, but the owner said there were very few buyers, largely tourists. He said he sells more celebrity magazines

than legacy publications, though I suspect that's always been the case.

It's against this backdrop that news of the printing of the last edition of the 320-year-old Austrian paper Wiener Zeitung on June 30 should come as no surprise. But it still merits a moment of mourning because it may be the writing on the wall for many others. Widely recognised as "the world's oldest paper" — world meaning the Western world — the government-owned (since 1857) but editorially independent paper began publishing in 1702. According to its final edition, it "saw 12 presidents, 10 Kaisers and two republics". It was shut down in 1939 by the Nazis but began reprinting in 1945 under allied occupation, according to a report in The Guardian.

Mozart and Beethoven advertised in the paper, said Judith Belfkih, co-deputy editor of the paper. "It's an example of historical awareness that I miss among politicians," she said in an interview to Deutsche Welle (DW).

But in the end, it was unable to survive financially. Because of its role as an official gazette, it relied on firms publishing their annual results on their pages for a fee, as was legally required. A new law changed that, resulting in the paper losing 18 million euros, according to Der Spiegel. While the paper has moved online, it had to cut 63 jobs, roughly two-thirds of its staff. It hopes to print a monthly edition, but did not elaborate on when or how.

Journalists in Austria have expressed concerns about the news media industry, which, DW noted, dropped 18 places in the World Press Freedom Index in five years. It's worrying when papers of record and reputable lose space to tab-

loid, disinformation machines.

The closure of the Wiener Zeitung means one less paper will serve the public interest. One can't overestimate the value of reporting done in the public interest as it caters to the very basic fundamental of journalism, which is to inform the public. That is essential to the functioning of democracy, a form of governance yet to be seen in Pakistan. Here, one sees all sorts of folks posing as journalists, pretending to report when they're likely spreading disinformation.

It's important for readers to know who receives government advertising and the relationships between companies and state institutions. The media is meant to be a watchdog holding all powerful entities to account, not allowing owners to nurture relationships that compromise editorial independence.

Here, organisations like newspaper co-uncils have a role to play in calling for solutions to save print publications from dying, especially because people's livelihoods are at stake. It requires trying new business models — and there are several studies like the one done by Pew Research Centre's Project for Excellence in Journalism in 2012 which examined how papers that applied a successful digital strategy and retrained staff to acclimatise to the changing environment managed well. There are also several success stories about papers that invested in hyper-local journalism which caters to audience needs. There is hope amid the doom and gloom — if media outlets are committed to getting creative and ahead of the game. I'm hoping to convince a new generation of readers to help make that happen. Wish me luck. — Courtesy Dawn



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Asia-Pacific has been the primary venue for the US-China strategic competition. However, the competition is now spilling into other regions too, including the Middle East, where the US is gradually losing its influence. In order to bolster its standing in the Middle East, the US facilitated the process of normalisation of ties between Israel and the Arabs. Initially called the Abraham Accords, the UAE was the first to normalise ties with Israel in August 2020, followed by Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco. In the follow-up, a grouping that came to be known as the 'Negev Forum' was formed to promote economic cooperation amongst Arab states that had normalised ties with Israel.

Encouraged by the Abraham Accords, the US facilitated the formation of a forum for economic cooperation among India, Israel, the UAE and US. Called the I2U2, the foreign ministers of the grouping first met in October 2021. The forum is also referred to as the West Asian Quad, the western counterpart of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue where the US, India, Australia and Japan are weaving a kind of containment arc against China. The I2U2's stated aim is to promote economic cooperation among its four members. Political or ideological issues are not included in the agenda. Described as "economic pragmatism", the Palestine issue has been relegated to the backburner. Geoeconomics

Mini forums

has overtaken geopolitics. But, behind its overtly economic agenda, lies an attempt by the US to revitalise its partnerships in the Middle East, especially in technology, trade, climate, pandemics and security. There has been talk of broadening the I2U2 to include S2 (Saudi Arabia and South Korea). However, Saudi Arabia has yet to take a decision on this. It is recalled that after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and the ensuing sanctions imposed by the US and Europe on Russia, a serious energy crisis erupted. The US tried to persuade Saudi Arabia to lower its oil production to stabilise oil prices; however, Saudi Arabia decided to protect its own interests. Saudi Arabia, feeling unsure of US security guarantees after its failure in Afghanistan and Iraq, seems to be diversifying its options.

All this while, China has maintained its economic outreach, including with the Middle Eastern countries. It has deepened its ties with Iran and Saudi Arabia, and in a move that surprised everyone, has brokered a rapprochement between them. Meanwhile, Russia, impacted gravely by the sanctions, has also started leaning on China and become a kind of partner of Beijing in its strategic competition with the US. Russia also engaged with India and some other countries to sell its oil. India has so far played all sides, citing strategic autonomy. However, India is increasingly finding itself in a tight spot. This was illustrated in a recent summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, chaired by India. Given the recent high-profile state visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US, India was awkwardly placed to invite President Vladimir Putin to the impromptu summit. India also did not sign onto the para referring to China's Belt

and Road Initiative in the joint statement. The Goa experience probably weighed in on the decision vis-à-vis the invitation to Pakistan's prime minister. India's escape route was to go for a virtual summit even at the cost of diluting its commitment to the SCO.

In the I2U2 also, India is walking a thin line given the regional political and ideological dynamics. To avert polemics, the I2U2 countries seem to be focusing on the economic agenda. For instance, in the virtual summit meeting held by I2U2 countries in July 2022, discussions were focused on food security and clean energy.

In terms of concrete outcomes of the I2U2 summit, the UAE offered to invest \$2 billion to develop integrated food parks across India, incorporating climate-smart technologies to reduce food waste and conserve freshwater. India would provide the land and facilitate farmers' integration into the food parks. The US and Israeli private sectors would provide expertise. In another major decision, the I2U2 countries would cooperate in generating 300 megawatts of wind and solar power in India's Gujarat state, with a complementary battery energy storage system. India wanted to use this project to become a global hub for alternative supply chains in renewable energy.

Mini-lateral groupings, such as I2U2, are filling space that once belonged to relatively larger multilateral organisations, and are diverting their focus from politics to economics. There are lessons for Pakistan. Geoeconomics is the pathway to economic security and political clout. Given the developments in the Gulf, Pakistan must expedite north-south connectivity and prioritise setting right its economic house. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

CPEC's projects attract \$ 25.4bln of direct investment during last 10 years

BEIJING (APP): The projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are flourishing all across Pakistan and have attracted US\$25.4 billion of direct investment from China during the last 10 years.

"After ten years of development, a '1+4' cooperation layout has been formed, with the CPEC at the center and Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation being the four key areas," according to a senior official of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The projects under the CPEC framework have created 192,000 jobs, producing 6,000 megawatts of electric

power, building 510 kilometers of highways and adding 886 kilometers to the core national transmission network, he added.

Terming the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor a signature project of China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era, he said that it is an important project under the Belt and Road Initiative.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of CPEC. After ten years of development, a '1+4' cooperation layout has been formed, with the CPEC at the center and Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation being the four key areas.

The CPEC has made a tangible contribution to

the national development of Pakistan and connectivity in the region. China and Pakistan have also explored new areas for cooperation under the framework of CPEC, creating new highlights in cooperation on agriculture, science and technology, telecommunication and people's well-being.

"China stands ready to work with Pakistan to build on the past achievements and follow the guidance of the important common understandings between the leaders of the two countries on promoting high-quality development of CPEC to boost the development of China and Pakistan and the region and bring more benefits to the people of all countries," the official said.

Storm of inflation continues in city

PESHAWAR (APP): The storm of inflation continued in the provincial capital as the price of ginger touched the Rs 1000 mark while the district administration claimed to control the rates according to the official price list of various food items.

A visit to the vegetables and fruits markets revealed that the storm of inflation in the markets continued with ginger touching all-time high marks of Rs 1050 per kilogram, garlic at 300 and lemon at 140 per kg remained unchanged.

Onion 50, tomato 80, green pepper 80, peas 250, okra 90 and turnip 80 rupees sold per kg while Potato 110, Kachalo 130, Cauliflower 120, Eggplant 30, Zucchini and Tenda 100 rupees per sale.

Among fruits, apples reached Rs 400, mango Rs 250, peach Rs 220 per kg, Cherries 430, potatoes 260 and bananas 200 per dozen were sold.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the trucks parked outside Floor mills at Sector I-II as waiting for laborers to unload them, in Federal Capital.

Kiyani says: PTI had breached IMF pact to get cheap fame

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kiyani said on Sunday that PTI government had breached the IMF agreement to catch up cheap fame, and propagated a false cipher when the PDM's no-confidence motion was passed in National Assembly.

Addressing a press conference here, he added that after ousting from power, the PTI Chairman had tried hard to spread chaos in the country by

raising hollow slogan of imported government. Bilal Azhar Kiyani said, the person who had launched cipher drama, hatched conspiracies and used to say that his government was ousted through America's conspiracy but today, the same person is seen begging America. "And they are calling us an imported government despite the fact that PTI itself is imported and its chairman speaks what for others, actually he himself involved in it."

Kiyani said that

present coalition government corrected the wrong decisions of the previous government; the staff level agreement signed with the IMF was the link of the last year's hard work, while the PTI government had breached the IMF agreement to get cheap fame. The present government brought the IMF to the table and completed its seventh, eighth review. He said that instead of celebrating the meeting of IMF delegation with PTI chairman a few days ago.

FTO Coordinator identifies De-dollarisation signs in global economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday said that the payment of oil imported from Russia in "Yuan" is continuation signs of de-dollarisation surfacing in the global economy. Speaking at a seminar on "Impact of de-dollarisation on the health of the economy" organized under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said the sanctions that have frozen Russia out of the global banking system have seen a fresh push since March by

the "BRICS" nations, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, to challenge the dollar's hegemony, said a press release. He said "some signs of de-dollarization are emerging," adding the trend was likely to persist even as the dollar maintains its "large footprint". Efforts by BRICS countries and other major commodity exporters to loosen the dollar's stranglehold on global commerce have ramped up since the start of the war in Ukraine, which saw the US freeze a large chunk of Russia's foreign reserves.

Barlas elected as chairman SIAL

SIALKOT (APP): A Sialkot based leading exporter Sohail Barlas was elected unopposed as chairman of Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL), while Mian Daud Sair was elected unopposed as vice chairman of SIAL for the year 2023-24 during its annual elections held here. On this occasion, the newly elected chairman SIAL Sohail Barlas pledged to make all out sincere efforts to make the SIAL as a model airport of Pakistan. He revealed that SIAL had been a hallmark of the sincerity, dedication, enthusiasm and unity of the Sialkot exporters.

Shahzad Shah says: Access to modern farming techniques, infrastructure key challenges facing agri sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Rice Research and Development Board Punjab Shahzad Ali Malik on Sunday said that the agricultural sector in South Asia is confronted with various multiple challenges of limited access to modern farming techniques, inadequate irrigation facilities, fragmented land holdings, and insufficient post-harvest storage and processing infrastructure.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Muhammad Hussain Shah

Pindi Shaikh Musa district Faisalabad said these factors affected productivity and contributed to food insecurity, said a press release. He said food insecurity continues to be a significant issue in many parts of South Asia. While on the other hand, the region has made progress in recent years in reducing poverty and improving overall food security, several factors contribute to the persistent challenges faced by many countries including Pakistan, he added.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling fruits on his stall at weekly Sunday bazaar Peshawar Morr in Federal Capital.

Operation speed up against fake, low quality agriculture medicine: Agri Secretary

FAISALABAD (Online): Agriculture Secretary Punjab Iftikhar Ali Saho said that to make quality agriculture medicine

available operation has been speeded up against sellers fake and low quality medicines on the basis of secret information. Cases against involved peoples will be entered under MPO act: agriculture secretary. Agriculture secretary Punjab chaired meeting to review the current situation of cotton crops in civil secretariat Lahore. Director General Agriculture (Pest warning) Punjab Rana Fakir Ahmed, Director General Agriculture (crop reporting) Punjab Abdul Qayyum, Director

Head Quarter Lahore and other officers participated in the meeting.

Additional Secretary Agriculture (Task Force) Punjab Muhammad Shabir Ahmed, Director General Agriculture (Expansion) Punjab Dr. Muhammad Anjam Ali including Director agriculture (Expansion) attended meeting virtual format. Director General agriculture (pest warning) Punjab Rana Fakir Ahmed briefed secretariat agriculture on cotton crops' situation and said white bee, mealybugs and thrips attacked has been witnessed in some areas of cotton crops however it is not beyond the economic damage.



FAISALABAD: Farmer using modern agriculture machine for seedling of rice crop in his field.

PAC directions ignored, 500% increase in household consumers gas bill

ISLAMABAD (Online): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) increased household consumers gas bills upto 500%. 400Pkr gas bill of summer increased to 3000Pkr. Despite less consumption of gas in summer at least 2000Pkr other than taxes has been added to gas bills on the name of adjustment. Despite clear direction of Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

overpayments are ongoing from household consumers of gas. SNGPL started taking 500% extra payments from consumer in bills and also added 2000Pkr on the name of adjustment. SNGPL has added fixed charges of 475Pkr, general sales tax Pkr161 and 2000 to 2500 on the name of adjustment and correction added in bills of 400 gas price and haven't issued any explanation in which regard they are taking this money from consumers.

CM Punjab says: Saints Mazars to be renovated, extended

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday chaired a meeting at CM Office in which mega decisions were made for making renovation, extension and bringing improvements in the administrative affairs of the Mazars of Religious Saints and Aulia Karam.

Online donation portal will be established to donate attiyat, sadkaat and nazrana. Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) had been assigned the task to set up online donation portal.

Facilities to give nazranas, sadkaat, langar within the country and abroad will be provided through the online donation portal. Online payment facility will be provided for giving langar, laying Chaddar and wreath on the mazars from abroad.

The caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi has ordered to widen entry and exit passages of mazars to provide comfort in the transportation of devotees and pilgrims visiting mazars. It was principally decided during the meeting to establish a library

attached with every mazar and other essential facilities like sarai, langar khaneh and wash rooms will be provided with the mazars.

A waiting place and parking will be established on the mela ground attached with the mazar of Baba Bulleh Shah.

Naqvi directed to immediately start renovation and extension work of the mazar of Shah Shams Tabrez in Multan. He ordered to prepare a plan of the renovation and restoration of Chiniot Shahi Masjid.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori planting a sapling during the inauguration of Tree Plantation Drive held in Karachi.

SACM directs to provide basic facilities to prisoners

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Prison Hidayat Ullah Khan Afridi issued directives to jail authorities on Sunday to provide basic human rights along with other facilities to prisoners in lock ups.

He said that it is the need of the hour to bring positive reforms in the jail system aimed at tackling crimes and making the prisoners responsible citizens of society.

The Special Assistant issued these directives on the occasion of his surprised visit to District Jail Swat. He visited various sections of the jail while the jail superintendent Riaz Khan Mohmand gave a detail presentation on the administrative system of the prison.

The caretaker special assistant urged the jail staff to keep a special focus on the cleanliness of the goal, adding that strict steps should be taken for jail security and no excuse will be tolerated in this regard.

All departments directed to remain alert during Monsoon

RAWALPINDI (APP): Secretary Housing and Urban Development Punjab, Sajid Zafar Dali has directed all the departments concerned to remain alert during Monsoon. According to a district administration spokesman, the Secretary during a visit reviewed the preparations finalized by Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) for Monsoon.

He informed that the

Secretary also inspected the cleaning work of Nullah Lai at Gwalmandi bridge.

After the forecast of the Meteorological Department, all the departments concerned need to be alert, said Sajid Zafar Dali.

He said that WASA Rawalpindi had made extensive preparations for Monsoon, including timely cleaning of major drains and sewage lines of the city along with Nulla Lai.

Low-level Flood in River Chenab

SIALKOT (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sialkot Adnan Mehmood Awan on Sunday said that there was low level flood in River Chenab with 1,14,000 upstream and 98,430 downstream flood water at Head Marala-Sialkot. According to handout issued here, the water level recorded 1,14,000 cuses upstream in River Chenab at Head Marala-Sialkot while the downstream flood water was 98,430 cuses in River Chenab near Head Marala.

PPP terms IK's demand of election from IMF as inciting to interfere in internal affairs

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab leaders have termed the demand of Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from the IMF delegation to seek guarantee for timely election as tantamount to inciting to interfere in the internal affairs of the country.

In a joint statement issued here by PPP Central Punjab Acting President Rana Farooq Saeed, Faisal

Mir, Mian Ayub and Afnan Butt on Sunday they said that Niazi should stop plotting against the state.

They said that Imran is not stopping himself from conspiracies against the state, so the judicial concessions given to him should be terminated immediately. They said that the hearing of the Tosha Khana case against Imran Niazi was being started from July 10, Monday by the session

7 dead, 1146 injured in 1084 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least seven persons were killed and 1,146 injured in 1,084 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 586 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 562 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals.

PDMA DG visits Sialkot, reviews relief camps

SIALKOT (APP): Director General (DG) Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Imran Qureshi visited Head Marala Sialkot and inspected all Naullahs passing through the city.

He also chaired a meeting to review the preparations for rescue and relief activities. He expressed satisfaction over the measures taken by the district administration

for setting up 22 relief camps, health department, livestock counters, rescue and relief in the four tehsils.

The DG said that in the next 24 hours, the flow of water in Chenab river was likely to be between 2,00,000 and 2,15,000 cuses, which would be a medium level flood, however, there was a capacity of 1,100,000 cuses of water to be released from Head Marala.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Radio Pakistan area are blocked road and burn tires as they are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding in their area, in Hyderabad

CPEC projects rapidly ushering Pakistan's development landscape

LAHORE (APP): Experts on Sunday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was playing a key role in transforming the development landscape of Pakistan with the launch of several multi-billion-dollar projects.

Talking to APP in connection with the completion of 10 years signing of CPEC, the experts opined that the mega project helped Pakistan making progress in the region and the world.

The experts said the country, during the last one decade has ushered in a new era of development with the completion of hundreds of projects under the umbrella of CPEC, which included coal-fired power plants,

the Orange Line mass transit project, and road infrastructure.

Dr. Nadeem Javaid Chief Economist and PD CPEC said that it was worth welcoming that the synergistic convergence of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision is going to transform Pakistan into an Asian tiger by 2025.

This collective vision aimed to shift the nation's focus from geopolitics to geo-economics, harnessing Pakistan's strategic location as a crossroads between South Asia, Central Asia, China, and the Middle East, he said.

The goal was to establish Pakistan as a regional hub for trade,

commerce, manufacturing, and agriculture, he said, adding that the CPEC is all about a story of hard work and untiring commitment between the leadership of Pakistan and China.

Through industrial diversification, the long-term economic development of any country is dependent upon its productive material capabilities and the types of products which it produces for exports.

To a query Nadeem said that even, South-East Asian countries are now gradually moving up the industrial ladder and have developed capabilities for production of more complex and sophisticated products, which are much in demand in the global

markets. Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) former President Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo told APP that in the prevailing situation, industrialisation has the potential to become a dynamic engine of economic growth for the country, adding that it would help make significant contributions to meeting Pakistan's economic and human development goals.

Regarding development of industrial sector and Vision-2025, he said that Pakistan's economic planning and policies should be formulated under a long-term productive development vision and modern technology

capabilities in the sectors where there is a high scope of diversification and innovation, which would be attractive for the investors.

He appreciated the incumbent government for announcing the main pillars of GDP growth for the next fiscal year, including exports, construction, industries, agriculture, IT, poultry and foreign remittances.

In terms of geo-economic growth and regional connectivity, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is also a blessing for Pakistan's extensive industrial revitalisation, as well as for other regional countries in South Asia, he remarked.

International News

Yellen says Washington might 'respond to unintended consequences' for China due to tech export curbs

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Sunday said she agreed Washington will listen to Chinese complaints about security-related curbs on U.S. technology exports and might "respond to unintended consequences" as she ended a visit to Beijing aimed at reviving strained relations.

Yellen defended "targeted measures" on trade that China's leaders complain are aimed at hurting its fledgling tech industries. She said the Biden administration wants to "avoid unnecessary repercussions" but gave no indica-

tions of possible changes.

Relations between the two biggest economies are at their lowest level in decades due to disputes about technology, security and other irritants. A key Chinese complaint is limits on access to processor chips and other U.S. technology on security grounds that threaten to hamper the ruling Communist Party's development of smartphones, artificial intelligence and other industries.

"We will open up channels so that they can express concerns about our actions, and we can explain and possibly in some situ-

ations respond to unintended consequences of our actions," Yellen said at a news conference.

Yellen talked with China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang, and other officials during 10 hours of meetings. She had a five-hour session Saturday with her Chinese counterpart, Vice Premier He Lifeng. Treasury officials said in advance there were no plans for her to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Yellen received a warm welcome and prominent coverage by the state press, but Chinese officials gave no sign they would change

industrial or other policies that Washington and other governments say violate Beijing's free-trade commitments. On Saturday, he said Washington should "adopt a rational and pragmatic attitude" to improve relations. On Sunday, Yellen announced no agreements on major disputes or plans for future activity but said her department and Chinese officials would have "more frequent and regular" communication. U.S.-China political strains are adding to uncertainty that is dampening the willingness of consumers and businesses to spend and invest.



Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev votes during an early presidential election in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks during a press conference at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China.

Biden begins three-nation tour with stop in London

Monitoring Desk
DELAWARE: US President Joe Biden departed on Sunday on a three-nation trip that will be dominated by a NATO summit in Lithuania aimed at showing solidarity with Ukraine in its fight against Russia while not yet accepting Kyiv as a member of the alliance.

Biden's first stop will be in London, where he will meet British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at 10

Downing Street on Monday and then travel to Windsor Castle for a visit with King Charles. The talks with the king, expected to include climate initiatives, will give Biden a greater sense of the man who succeeded his mother, Queen Elizabeth, who died last September.

Biden had tea with the queen at Windsor in June 2021 and they discussed many of the same issues that remain a top priority today, like Russia and China.

UN chief says Sudan is on the brink of a 'full-scale civil war' after nearly 3 months of fighting

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sudan is on the brink of a "full-scale civil war" as fierce clashes between rival generals continued unabated Sunday in the capital of Khartoum.

Guterres warned late Saturday that the war between the Sudanese military and a powerful paramilitary force is likely to destabilize the entire region, according to Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for the U.N. chief.

Sudan descended into chaos after months of tension between military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and his rival, Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open fighting in mid-April.

Health Minister Ibrahima Mohamed Ibrahim said last month that the clashes have killed over 3,000 people and wounded over 6,000 others.

The death tally, however, is highly likely to be much higher, he said. More than 2.9 million

people have fled their homes to safer areas inside Sudan or crossed into neighboring countries, according to U.N. figures.

The fighting began 18 months after the two generals led a military coup in October 2021 that toppled a Western-backed civilian transition government. The coup and ensuing conflict dashed Sudanese hopes of a peaceful shift to democracy after a popular uprising forced the military removal of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. The war has turned the capital Khartoum and other urban areas across the country into battlefields.

Residents in Khartoum said fierce fighting was underway early Sunday south of the capital.

The warring factions were using heavy weapons in battles in the Kalaka neighborhood and the military's aircraft were seen hovering over the area, said resident Abdalla al-Fatih.

In his statement, Guterres also condemned an airstrike Saturday that

health authorities said killed at least 22 people in Omdurman, a city just across the Nile from the Khartoum. The assault was one of the deadliest in the conflict so far.

The RSF blamed the military for the attack in Omdurman. The military denied the accusation, saying in a statement Sunday that its air force didn't carry out any airstrikes in the city Saturday.

The secretary-general also decried the large-scale violence and casualties in the western region of Darfur, which has experienced some of the worst fighting in the on-going conflict, Haq said in a statement.

"There is an utter disregard for humanitarian and human rights law that is dangerous and disturbing," Guterres said.

U.N. officials have said the violence in the region has recently taken on an ethnic dimension, with the RSF and Arab militias reportedly targeting non-Arab tribes in Darfur, a sprawling region consisting of five provinces.

Poland moves troops to eastern border amid Wagner fears

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland began moving over 1,000 troops to the east of the country, the defence minister said, amid rising concern in the NATO-member that the presence of Wagner Group fighters in Belarus could lead to increased tension on its border.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to offer mercenary fighters of Yevgeny

Prigozhin's Wagner group the choice of relocating to Belarus has led to fears among eastern NATO members that their presence will cause greater instability in the region.

"Over 1,000 soldiers and almost 200 units of equipment from the 12th and 17th Mechanized Brigades are starting to move to the east of the country," Mariusz Blaszczak wrote on Twitter.

Six dead in private jet crash outside Los Angeles

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: All six people aboard a small jet died when the aircraft crashed and burned in a field near an airport near Los Angeles on Saturday, local and federal authorities said. The aircraft, a Cessna C550 business jet, was travelling from Las Vegas and crashed near French Valley Airport in Riverside County, about 137 kilometres south of Los Angeles, at around 4:15am, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement.

S.Korean lawmakers berate IAEA chief over Japanese plans to release treated Fukushima wastewater

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korean opposition lawmakers sharply criticized the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog on Sunday for its approval of Japanese plans to release treated wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant.

They met with Rafael Grossi in a tense meeting in Seoul that took place while protesters screamed outside the door. Grossi, the International Atomic Energy Agency's director general, arrived in South Korea over

the weekend to engage with government officials and critics and help reduce public concerns about food safety. The IAEA last week approved the Japanese discharge plans, saying the process would meet international safety standards and pose negligible environmental and health impacts. South Korea's government has also endorsed the safety of the Japanese plans. In his meeting with members of the liberal Democratic Party, which controls a majority in South Korea's parliament.

President directs SLICP to improve policy on pre-insurance medical tests

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP) to improve its policy on medical tests before the issuance of Life Insurance policies to prospective policyholders.

He asked SLICP to constitute a panel of doctors which should suggest as to what were the most prevalent and common diseases in Pakistan and what tests should be conducted before the issuance of the policy.

The president gave these orders in view of the fact that a number of representations were being filed with him by the insurance companies as well as citizens in cases where insurance companies were denying the payment of death insurance claims to family members of the insured policyholders on the ground that they had willfully hidden ailments at the time of obtaining the policy, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Sunday.

The payments were being refused despite the fact that the policies had been issued after the policyholders had been de-

clared medically fit by the authorized medical officers as well as the field officers of the insurance companies.

The president issued directives while rejecting two separate representations filed by SLICP against the decisions of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (WM) directing it to pay Rs 3.68 million to the family members of two policyholders to whom SLICP had denied payment on account of them hiding pre-insurance ailments.

As per details, Muhammad Yousaf and Abida Bibi had obtained life insurance policies from SLICP for the sums assured of Rs 3,485,000 and Rs 200,000 respectively.

After their deaths, their family members approached SLICP for the payment of insurance claims but SLICP refused to pay them the respective amounts on the ground that they were patients of diseases, such as Hepatitis C, chronic kidney disease, heart condition and hypertension and they did not disclose the existence of these ailments before SLICP.

Feeling aggrieved, the

family members separately filed complaints with the Wafaqi Mohtasib, that passed the orders in their favour. SLICP, then filed representations with the President, which were rejected.

The president in his decision observed that the two policyholders were declared medically fit by the concerned medical officers as well as the field officers of SLICP who stated that they knew the policyholders for a number of years.

He noted that pre-insurance ailments could easily be diagnosed and detected by the medical officers as the services of these officers were arranged to examine policyholders prior to the issuance of policies.

He maintained that SLICP could not take the plea of pre-insurance ailments to deny payments as under Contracts Acts 1872, where the consent was caused by misrepresentation or fraudulent means, the contract was not voidable if the party whose consent was so caused had the means of discovering the truth with ordinary diligence.



TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Commerce Visited H/P Bund and issued directive regarding repair and maintenance of H/P Mulaktiyar Bund Bulri Shah Karim.

Chairman NDMA discusses disaster management coop. with Swiss FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Sunday held an interactive meeting with Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis to discuss key points related to disaster management and resilience upon his visit here to NDMA headquarters.

The meeting focused on various aspects of disaster preparedness and collaboration between the two countries in the field of disaster management, a news release said. The Chairman National Disaster Management Author-

ity (NDMA) emphasized the significance of local community engagement in order to enable disaster resilience. He highlighted the unprecedented Floods 2022 emphasizing the need for an efficient Early Warning System (EWS) in place to mitigate the adverse impacts of such disasters.

He stressed the crucial role of disaster preparedness in Pakistan, stating that managing two simultaneous disasters can be a daunting task and have severe consequences. He apprised the Swiss delegation of inclusive and people-centric disaster preparedness system,

mentioning three National Simulation Exercises (SimExs) conducted by NDMA to enhance disaster preparedness in Pakistan. The Chairman NDMA informed about the establishment of NEOC to generate National Common Operating Picture (NCOP) for all relevant stakeholders to mitigate likely impacts of disasters and setting up NDMA's Think Tank, NIDM to collaborate with think tanks, NGOs, INGOs, academia, and industry stakeholders both domestically and globally to develop effective policy recommendations and reduce disaster risk.

Campaign for registration of house servants and tenants data in full swing

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According to details, following the special orders of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), the Islamabad Capital Police "Knock the Door" campaign for the registration of employees and tenants is in full swing, a police public relations officer said. He said that, during this campaign, various teams of Islamabad capital police are going to the streets and door-to-door to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers as well as to inquire about the problems faced by the citizens.

In this regard, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has registered a data of 180 house servants of 281 houses from Kohsar police station jurisdiction. The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any untoward incident by maintaining law and order in the federal capital Islamabad adding that the registration of tenants and domes-



tic workers could not only keep a close watch on miscreants but also prevent the elements involved in any kind of suspicious activity. Citizens are also requested that they can ask for the identity of a person if someone dressed in civil clothes comes to their house.

ICP continues its campaign to check traffic rules violations

ISLAMABAD: The campaign of Islamabad Capital Police to check violation of traffic rules is in full swing and special efforts are being made to maintain traffic discipline in the city.

The main objective of this road safety campaign is to ensure safety to the people while road users are being educated for lane discipline during driving.

Following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capi-

tal Police has constituted special teams to control lane violations on various roads and ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. Strict checking is being made against those not using helmets during bike ride. Police teams remain present on all important roads and boulevards of the city in order to educate road users about traffic rules. FM Radio 92.4 is also disseminating the messages about road safety and to educate the audience about traffic rules.

Islamabad Capital Police has appealed to the citizens to cooperate with the force by following traffic laws. He said that action would be taken against those not following lanes while drivers the sole purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the city.

Islamabad Capital Po-

lice has appealed to the citizens to cooperate with the force by following traffic laws. He said that action would be taken against those not following lanes while drivers the sole purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the city.

Islamabad capital police hoped citizens will follow traffic rules and help police through their cooperation in ensuring a secure traffic system in the city. Those violating traffic rules will be fined and a safer road environment would be ensured through constant monitoring.

PAC to meet today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will hold meeting tomorrow (Monday) in which secretary religious affairs will appear on the issue of problems faced by Pakistani Hajj pilgrims.

Chairman Noor Alam Khan will preside the meeting. Secretary religious affairs will give explanation over recent government and private hajj pilgrims' problems.

Keep clear that PAC expressed his concern over the problems of hajj pilgrims and summoned secretary religious affairs on 4 July however he didn't appear in meeting. Upon that chairman committee and other members expressed their anger and summoned him again on Monday.



ISLAMABAD: People from different walks of life making Quran Chain organize by the Muslim Talba Mahaz Pakistan at Abpara against the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.

Governor visits MMC, inquires after injured DSP, CTD personnel

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Sunday visited Maradan Medical Complex and inquired after the injured DSP Ferooz Zaman and CTD personnel who were injured in a terrorist attack.

The Governor was accompanied by Provincial Minister for Irrigation Fazle Elahi, former members of the Provincial Assembly Amanat Shah, Taj-ul-Amin Jabal, Maulana Israr-ul-Haq, and President of Maradan Chamber of Commerce Zahir Shah.

The Governor was informed about the facilities and treatment being provided to the injured in the hospital.

He directed the hospital administration to ensure the provision of all possible medical facilities to the injured police officers and CTD personnel.

The Governor asked if there is a shortage of medical facilities here, the injured can be shifted to another hospital for better treatment. The

hospital administration assured the Governor that the best possible treatment is being provided to the injured and they will recover soon.

During the visit, the Governor also toured various wards of the hospital and inquired about the treatment of patients suffering from different ailments.

The Governor was informed by the hospital administration about the difficulties they are facing in providing treatment due to the lack of necessary machinery.

The Governor assured the hospital administration that the lack of required machinery will be addressed on a priority basis.

Talking to the media representatives on this occasion, the Governor said that terrorism is a sore that federal and provincial governments are continuously trying to eradicate. However, he urged the public to play their role as responsible citizens in establishing peace and eliminating terrorism.

May 9 mastermind advances his anti-state agenda through overseas proxies: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday castigated the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief for furthering his anti-state agenda through his "proxies and puppets" sitting abroad.

"Some elements have been engaged in anti-state activities and treason while sitting abroad, but it is the PTI chief who will be held responsible if any incident of political extremism strikes the country," the minister said in a news statement.

She said the relentless

campaign of the PTI chief against the state has continued unabated, with only the faces involved being swapped out periodically. The reprehensible and shameless media campaign launched against the national institutions was a direct result of his malevolent planning and mindset, she added. Marriyum emphasized that the "foreign agent" was afflicted with an incurable ailment, characterized by an insatiable desire to be in the limelight. He has been suffering from "FOMO" (Fear of Missing Out) syndrome following his ouster from power.

"This person is mentally sick and should be in a mental hospital," the minister said while lashing out at the PTI chief for resorting to unfounded accusations, mischief, and conspiracies against others.

She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had already made it clear that propaganda against the state institutions would not be tolerated under any circumstances. The minister said Imran Khan sought another conspiracy to divert attention from his corruption from Tosha Khana whose trial had been commenced unearthing evidence.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkwa Haji Ghulam Ali enquiring about health of DSP and CTD official injured during terrorist attack at Maradan Medical Complex.

Fire erupts at Gujranwala oil refining unit

GUJRANWALA (INP): An oil refinery unit at Alipur Chattha has caught fire and a firefighting operation has been underway, sources said on Sunday. Rescue teams rushed to the spot and initiated firefighting operation, sources said. According to preliminary reports five fire tenders of Rescue 1122 have been engaged in firefighting operation.

According to rescue sources, the fire ignited at the boiler and heating chamber of the oil refining unit.

"Around 25,000 litres of the crude stock has been present at the oil chamber of the refining unit," sources said. Rescue sources said that the cause of the blaze could not be ascertained so far.

A fire broke out in an oil tanker near a plastic factory located in Gujranwala last month, severely injuring five individuals.

UNA to hold virtual workshop on Global Media Congress

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA) is set to host a virtual workshop for news agencies introducing the Global Media Congress on Thursday (July 13, 2023) in cooperation with the Emirates News Agency (WAM) and the Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC).

The workshop will aim to present the event in its second edition, which will be hosted by Abu Dhabi on

November 14-16, 2023, under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, with the attendance of regional and international media industry pioneers,

she said a press release received here yesterday. The workshop will also highlight available opportunities for news agencies participating in the congress, including how to book a space for exhibitions and side events.

UNA Director-General Mohammed Al Yami said the workshop is part of the union's keenness to promote engagement among member news agencies during international media events, which will help to promote their performance and update their tools.

The workshop, the first event of its kind in the region, will also provide an opportunity for member news agencies to exchange ideas, especially amidst the rapid developments in the media sector.

Islamic calligraphy & painting exhibition held at PAC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Arts Council (PAC) on Sunday organized a two-day Islamic calligraphy and painting exhibition in collaboration with VSCOPK.

The chief guest of the opening ceremony was Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal Amir Fida Paracha.

Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed, Naheed Manzoor, Muhammad Sulaiman and Mian Afzal Javed were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, MD Bait-ul-Maal Amir Fida Paracha said that calligraphy was the com-

mon heritage of Islamic countries and also a means of connecting and deepening the relations of Islamic societies.

He said that the art of calligraphy and all other arts keep man safe from deviating from the paths leading to Allah.

Aamir said that Allah is the creator and manifestation of beauty.

Finally, the chief guest also congratulated the painters and calligraphers for presenting the best work. Naheed Manzoor said that the colours of nature and earth were prominent in the paintings.

Senate interior committee to meet today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senate committee of interior ministry will be held in parliament house tomorrow on the issue of target killing of minority community leaders in Khyber PK.

Senator Mohsin Aziz will chair the meeting. Related authorities will brief the committee on the issues of targeting killing of Sikh community leaders that were raised by Senator Danesh Kumar in upper house of Parliament.

Authorities will also give explanation to the committee over irregularities in Mega centre Karachi and alleged corruption of FIA inspector Karachi.

Qureshi terms Ahsan's statement about China, CPEC irresponsible

Says under PTI govt implementation of various projects shows Pakistan's commitment to CPEC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Vice Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Shah Mehmood Qureshi has termed the statement of PML-N leader and Minister Planning Ahsan Iqbal pertaining to China and CPEC as unfortunate and irresponsible.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said that the insinuation that our iron brother would interfere in our domestic affairs was baffling and insulting.

Shah Mehmood said that with PTI, there has always been strong consensus on taking CPEC forward, and under Imran Khan's leadership they successfully implemented the important projects, deep-

ening Pakistan's commitment to CPEC under the PTI government.

Faisalabad Rashakai Industrial zones were made operational during PTI government and the Dhabaji Industrial zone was finalised, which was under construction, he revealed.

Similarly, PTI Vice Chairman said that IT Science and Technology and Agriculture - Three new joint working groups negotiated and added in second phase of CPEC.

He recalled that all power plants under construction were completed; Power generation projects were completed and added to transmission project.

AJK President urge media to play its role to highlight Kashmir cause

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that the media should play its role to highlight the issue of Kashmir at the global level.

Talking to a delegation of journalists which called on him in the federal metropolis on Sunday, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while referring to the media's role, said that the media can play an important role in shaping up world opinion regarding the early resolution of the Kashmir dispute by highlighting the dire human rights situation and exposing Indian atrocities before the world.

Given the dire human

rights situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the AJK President said that it was imperative that the media, civil society and leadership across the political spectrum should join hands to promote

the Kashmir cause both at the national and international level.

The delegation was comprised of senior journalist Basharat Abbasi, Javed Soomro, Waqar Abbasi, Kashan Akmal, Zaheer Mughal, AD Khan and others. Hurriyat Conference leader Abdul Hameed Lone, Muslim League (N) leader Wajiba Khan, Sardar Intiaz Khan and others were also present on the occasion.

IPP top brass expresses concerns over soaring inflation

LAHORE (INP): The Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leadership on Sunday highlighting problems faced by the masses expressed grave concerns over rising inflation across the country.

IPP President and seasoned politician Abdul Aleem Khan in one of his statements rebuked the incumbents saying the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) led govern-

ment seems helpless in curbing the highest inflation rate.

Mr Aleem highlighted the distressing extent to which the common man is now grappling with increased problems, as the prices of essential commodities have surged by 42 percent. Basic necessities such as rice, flour, sugar, cooking oil, and pulses have become unaffordable for many.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people enjoying picnic at Shahdara valley near outskirts of the Federal Capital.