

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the 2nd meeting of Apex Committee of SIFC.

## PM urges OIC to put end to 'abominable practice' of desecration of holy books

*Condemns Quran's desecration in Sweden; vows to campaign for decisions' reversal*

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday called upon the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the civilized world to come forward and take steps to put an end to the abominable practice of desecration of the holy books. "The attitudes that incite religious hatred, promote violence and encourage terrorism and militancy, need to be checked," he said in a tweet.

The prime minister said no civilized society would allow the desecration of holy personages, symbols and divine books in the

name of freedom of expression. "The grant of permission to desecrate the Holy Quran, Torah & Bible is part of a sinister, vile and despicable agenda whose sole aim could be to threaten world peace," he said.

The prime minister said: "We should not let a handful of Satanic characters undermine our shared values of peace, and tolerance, pluralism."

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden and vowed to launch a campaign to seek a reversal of the decision of allowing the sacrifice of holy books. The prime minister, in a statement, said that from the platform of the Organisations of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the government would help create a common strategy to get rid of evil. He said: "The OIC has to play a historic role in representing the sentiments of the Muslim Ummah and to do away with this evil."

The prime minister said that he would campaign to reverse the decision to allow the desecration of the Torah, the Bible, and the Holy Quran.

He said the permission to desecrate the holy books, persons, and rituals was not the freedom of expression but rather a way to constantly torment the world.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the sequence of events evidenced that this was not a freedom of expression but part of a political and satanic agenda. "The whole world of Islam and Christianity must collectively stop this conspiracy. Satan's followers are blaspheming the holy book which gave human beings dignity, rights and guidance," he remarked.

## Military trials of civilians should not begin without informing SC: CJP

*Right of appeal at an independent forum against the decision of a military court was a guarantee of fundamental rights, the chief justice observed; SC adjourns May 9 accused trial cases for indefinite time*

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned hearing of petitions challenging the trial of accused involved in the May 9 riots in army courts for an indefinite time.

A six-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayeed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik heard the cases.

During the course of proceedings, CJP Bandial questioned that how the May 9 incidents had affected the discipline of army, and whether "creat-

ing a hindrance in the work of an army officer and breaking of discipline" were mentioned in the law. The AGP replied that it was mentioned in the act.

Justice Yahya Afridi asked whether the accused, civilians or army personnel who come under the purview of the Army Act, would not be entitled to basic human rights.

The CJP remarked that the independence of judiciary was the base of justice in the country. The prosecution would decide the case under the Army Act and also hear the appeal, he added.

The right of appeal at an independent forum against the decision of a

military court was a guarantee of fundamental rights, the chief justice observed.

CJP Bandial said as per the Attorney General for Pakistan, the trials of the accused in military courts had not yet started and instructed the AGP to inform the bench before initiating of such trials.

The trial would be conducted in open courts and evidences would be recorded, he added.

The chief justice directed that the arrested accused should not suffer from physical or mental problems. The bench would summon the responsible if its orders were violated even after the tenure of the government ended, he



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan in a group photo with Inspector General Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan during the inauguration of Dolphin force.

## I'abad Police introduce Dolphin Unit for enhanced citizens' protection

ISLAMABAD, Jul 21 (APP): The official inauguration of the Islamabad Police Dolphin Emergency Response Unit took place here Friday, signaling a significant stride in curbing street crime and bolstering citizen protection in the capital city.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan, who marked the occasion by officially initiating the operational activities of the Dolphin Unit of Islamabad Police.

The minister appreciated the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan for establishing this unit in a short time to ensure public safety.

Addressing the personnel of the Dolphin Force, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan emphasized the noble duty entrusted to them, stating, "Your duty is the protection of the citizens, which is a form of worship." He expressed the hope that they would diligently safeguard the lives and property of the citizens.

The minister lauded the establishment of the Dolphin Force and commended the entire team especially, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan for their commitment to ensuring public safety and security. He highlighted the importance of the Force in controlling street crime and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Rana Sanaullah Khan expressed the confidence in the capabilities of the Force and their ability to significantly reduce street crime in the capital city.



LARKANA: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari distributes Land Titles among flood affectees during the ceremony of Distribution of Land Titles for Flood Affectees held in Larkana.

## Bilawal vows to provide ownership rights to flood-stricken people

LARKANA (INP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday vowed to provide ownership rights to the flood-stricken people.

Addressing an event, Bhutto-Zardari expressed his resolve to build two million homes in Sindh during a speech. He continued, "From today, good days have started for the flood-stricken people."

He admitted the masses were facing severe economic hardships. Bhutto-Zardari continued, "That is why we are bringing revolutionary projects for the public."

He pledged to adopt the ideology of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto to

## PM enquires about health of President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday telephoned President Dr Arif Alvi and enquired about his health.

The prime minister wished an early recovery to President Alvi, who had received an injury on his right leg during jogging a few days ago.

Shehbaz Sharif prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the best of health to President Alvi. The president thanked the prime minister for his kind wishes.

## Petroleum dealers defer strike for two days

KARACHI: The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) on Friday deferred fuel strike across country for two days. The move comes as State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik arrived in Karachi to convince the PPDA to call off the strike. The association would hold another round of negotiations with the government after two days, the PPDA said.

## SIFC approves projects for attracting investments from friendly countries

*PM Shehbaz chairs second apex committee meeting of SIFC; COAS, CMs, federal and provincial ministers attended*

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Apex Committee of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Friday approved the projects for attracting investments from friendly countries in agricultural, livestock, minerals, mining, information technology, and energy sectors.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, chairing the second meeting of the Apex Committee, directed to extend impeccable facilitation to the investors, interested in undertaking and actualising the projects.

The meeting, which was attended by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, chief ministers, federal and provincial Ministers and high-level government officials, reviewed various projects presented by ministries for broaching with investors under the umbrella of SIFC.

The Apex Committee expressed satisfaction on functioning of the SIFC and its strategy to outreach the potential investors through conduct of seminars and project inaugurations.

## Holy Quran desecration: Fazal demands to recall ambassador from Sweden

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) chairman Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Friday demanded Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif to recall Pakistan ambassador to Sweden "in protest" against the desecration of Holy Quran.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) president made this demand during a telephonic conversation with PM Shehbaz Sharif.

During the conversation, Maulana Fazl noted that all Muslim nations, including Pakistan, should recall their ambassadors from Sweden. The prime minister and JUI-F chairman agreed on 'strict action' from Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC).



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim addressing during lunching ceremony of Somalia Science and Technology Cooperation Program jointly with the Embassy of the Republic of Somalia and in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Science and Technology at COMSTEC Auditorium, in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Energy and Economy, Bilal Azhar Kayani addresses to media persons during press conference in Islamabad.

## Bilal accuses PTI chief for creating 'cypher drama' for political gains

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Energy and Economy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Friday accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan for creating the 'cypher drama' for political gains as was now confirmed by his former principal secretary, Azam Khan.

Addressing a news conference here, he said Azam Khan recorded his statement that proved the reality of cypher in front of Pakistani people. He said, Imran Khan himself had asserted that "Cypher can now be manipulated for creating a narrative against the establishment and the opposition."

Highlighting some instances, Bilal said that it was a tradition of the PTI chief and his party to violate the Constitution for political gains adding that this trend has been going on for the past 10 years.

He referred to the 2013 sit-in protests, led by the PTI chief, as an example of how the party had violated the constitution in the past adding, the May 9 incidents also indicate how the constitution was trampled and violated.

"Imran Khan constantly damaged diplomatic relations and pushed the country to the verge of default", he added.

Kayani explained that a vote of no confidence motion was filed on March 08, and on April 10, the PTI chief was legally removed from his position following the vote of no confidence motion.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) had chosen Shehbaz Sharif as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, he added.

He expressed firm resolve that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would continue to take the country's journey towards economic stability and growth.

## Atta Tarar says Delaying tactics are being used in Tosha Khana case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (PM) Atta Tarar said that delaying tactics are being used in Tosha Khana case.

Why Chairman PTI is not appearing? Allegations are leveled against judges to cover up theft.

While holding a press conference in Islamabad on Friday he said that Imran Khan has admitted that he

has sold gifts of Tosha Khana. He said that who said him to sell gifts and not to keep record? He said that Why is the record of money received from selling gifts not being submitted? He said that absence from court is sign of cowardice. Where they feel their rigging is caught they accuse the judge.







ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the concluding ceremony of the Global Rehabilitation Leadership Institute Course.

## President urges society, family role to address disability, rehabilitation issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday emphasized that society and the family system would have to play their due role to facilitate the lives of disabled persons as well as those needing rehabilitative care.

time when the country had just 600 psychiatrists and 1200 psychologists. In such a case, the family system could prove to be a good anchor to extend its support in the form of group therapy and stress sharing.

children with physical disabilities should be enrolled in regular schools as it would sensitize other children towards their challenges.

The president, addressing the concluding ceremony of a course held by the Global Rehabilitation Leadership Institute, said the community welfare had been the basis for all religions including Islam, Christianity and Judaism, citing the examples of holy prophets, Prophet Muhammad and his companions.

He stressed the need for the Pakistani society to show compassion towards the persons with disabilities as generally, their attitude towards them was not welcoming.

He urged the countrymen to respect their legacy of love towards humanity, the environment and nature to bring a change just by investing the intellect, not money.

## Pakistan succeeds in creating a roadmap for energy conservation at national level: Agha Hassan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch Friday said that Pakistan had succeeded in creating a roadmap for energy conservation at the national level that directly impacted the country's foreign exchange. He was addressing the National Stakeholders Consultation 2023 on Energy Efficiency and Conservation in Pakistan held at a local hotel.

largely on the supply of uninterrupted, constant quality and alternative sources of energy.

"In view of increased electricity consumption in the month of summer, energy conservation building codes are very important to ensure that the construction of houses and buildings is done in a way that electricity consumption is reduced and there is proper arrangement of light and air."

## Pakistan, US should invest more in bringing two peoples closer: Masood

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan says Pakistan and United States should invest more in bringing the two peoples closer.

wards creating a better understanding about the United States. Masood Khan added we need to have similar centres in the United States to promote awareness about Pak-US relations and to pass on this legacy to our coming generations.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Muslim Talba Mahaz shouting slogans during protest at Aabpara Chowk, against the burning of the Quran in Sweden.

## Energy efficient technologies crucial to cope energy crises: Khuawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defense Minister Khuawaja Asif on Friday stressed the need for adopting energy-efficient technologies in order to fight against energy challenges in the country.

The consultation was organized by the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA).

nology. We can address the issues of peak loads by adopting energy-efficient technologies," he added.

## Dr. Qibla praises China's model of religious freedom, inclusivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz on Friday lauded China's commitment to religious freedom and inclusivity, dispelling any negative impressions of interfaith disharmony in the country.

assess the state of religious pluralism in the nation. The chairman expressed that he was impressed to witness a country where people from all segments of society enjoy equal rights and have the freedom to practice their religious rituals without hindrance.

## Mariyum grieved over demise of Sanaullah's brother

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of the brother of senior journalist Sanaullah Khan.

## SC dismisses curative review reference against Justice Qazi Faez Isa

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the curative reference against SC puisne judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

judgement on review petition. SC Registrar said, as per SC rules, another review petition could not be filed.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori and others are offering funeral prayer of Nawab of Junagadh Muhammad Jahangir Khanji, at Fatima Jinnah road in Karachi.

## Program launched to help Somali students in science & technology, higher education

ISLAMABAD (APP): In order to support Somali students in their endeavors in science and technology as well as in the higher education sector, COMSTECH—the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation has launched a specialized "Somalia Science and Technology Cooperation Program" in a ceremony here on Friday.

ports of Somali Ambassador Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim and the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan, for launching this program.

## AIOU announces admissions in semester autumn 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Friday commenced the admissions for matriculation to Ph.D. programs in the autumn semester of 2023 across the country.

## Court grants time to share documents with defence

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Friday granted time to the prosecution for submission of documents in a sedition case against former minister Fawad Hussain. Additional District and Session Judge Tahir Abbas Sapr heard the case against Chaudhry Fawad Hussain who appeared before the court along with his lawyers.

mitted its report to the judge and stated that the phone set of the accused had been sent for forensic analysis. The voice matching of the accused had also been conducted.

## IRSA releases 448,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 448,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 540,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1521.73 feet and was 123.73 feet higher than its dead level of 1398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 285,300 cusecs and 251,000 cusecs respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Large number of motorcyclist stand under the Rawal bridge during rain.

## NA body unanimously approves PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Friday unanimously approved the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Amendment Bill 2023.

amended while five new ones were added.

She said under the new bill, the fine for deliberately spreading false news had been increased from Rs 1 million to Rs 10 million. In the past, the channels used to take the plea that the fake news by aired by them was filed by journalists in their personal capacity, but now they (channels) would also be made accountable.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used to build new lanes on Islamabad Expressway.