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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif arrives in Abu Dhabi, UAE on his one day official visit. Pakistan's Ambassador to UAE and Senior officials of UAE received the Prime Minister upon his arrival.

People of Balochistan have first right on province's resources: PM

Socio-economic well-being, welfare of masses forms core of real development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that the people of Balochistan had the first right to the resources of the province as the betterment of their lives would make them own the development.

"The people of Balochistan have the first right to the resources of the province. When their lives and those of their children change for the better, they will own development and become a partaker in it," the PM wrote on social media.

The PM spent an "eventful" day in Gwadar on Thursday along with federal ministers, army and naval chiefs, the governor and chief minister of Balochistan, and the government officials, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for a series of development, infrastructural and educational projects that would change the destiny of the region.

"Despite sporadic attempts here and there, Balochistan has been a victim of our collective neglect. The province has not progressed at par with other federating units, which is a shame," he remarked.

He recalled that he had toured all the affected regions of Balochistan during the devastating floods last year and saw the conditions for himself.

PM Shehbaz said that his idea of development was rooted in the uplift of the standards of living of the people as it was their socio-economic well-being and welfare that formed the core of real development.

He reiterated that Pakistan's progress was linked to that of Balochistan.

"My meeting with the youth of the province on the occasion of the distribution of laptops was a high point of my visit. Their beaming faces reassured me that the future of Balochistan and Pakistan is in safe and responsible hands. The old guard only needs to do their bit," the PM remarked.

Pakistan calls for Israel to be held accountable for its 'crimes' in occupied Palestine

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has urged the UN Security Council to "fully and forcefully" implement its resolutions on the Middle East conflict that give the right of self-determination to the Palestinian people.

Speaking in the 15-member Council, Ambassador Munir Akram also strongly condemned the recent large-scale Israeli military operations in Jenin in occupied Palestinian West Bank, and called for holding Israel accountable for its "grave human rights violations and crimes in occupied Palestine." "Unfortunately," the Pakistani envoy said, "the killing of

children, women and men continues in occupied Palestine with complete impunity." He added, "The rule of law can be upheld only if it is applied universally and consistently, without exceptions or double standards."

Ambassador Akram regretted that the Security Council has not been able to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in occupied Palestine. "Given the erga-omnes character of the right of self-determination," the Pakistani envoy said it is also incumbent on all States to ensure that any impediment to the exercise

of the right to self-determination by the Palestinian people is immediately terminated.

He said that on 5 July, three Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations Human Rights Council stated that Israeli attacks against the Jenin refugee camp may constitute a war crime and had no justification under international law. The impunity that Israel has enjoyed for its acts of violence over decades only fuels and intensifies the recurring cycle of violence.

The Special Rapporteurs also called for Israel to be held accountable under international law.

Govt didn't 'nominate or reject' Dar as caretaker PM, says Sanallah

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior minister Rana Sana Ullah has said PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif will soon come to Pakistan.

"Nawaz Sharif will soon return to Pakistan. He was isolated from practical politics under a conspiracy. No one has presented name of Ishaq Dar for care taker Prime Minister (PM)", he said in a statement issued here Friday.

He went on to say Nawaz Sharif conviction is court's decision. There is a process for quashment of court's decision. This process was adopted and Maryam Nawaz was acquitted.

He held PML-N Quaid will get protective bail. He will be acquitted following hearing of appeals. What restrictions were imposed on him would come to end.

Interior minister remarked this was not correct to say name of Ishaq Dar was given for caretaker PM and it was rejected. Ishaq Dar name was not even presented by any one.

It cannot be said that law and order situation in the country is deteriorating.

Terrorism is raising its ugly head in KP, he said adding however law enforcement agencies are facing the terrorists valiantly.

Pakistan, Australia agree to further expand military to military cooperation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, is on an official visit to Australia from July 24 for Defence and Security Talks and 1.5 Track Security Dialogue.



During the visit, the CJCS met high-ranking civilian and military leadership including General Angus J. Campbell, Chief of Defence Forces Australia. In the meetings, both militaries agreed to further expand military-to-military cooperation, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The CJCS also visited Royal Military College and addressed the participants of the Australian Defence College.

Tragedy of Karbala; a lesson in sacrifice, devotion, and resilience

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani said the incident of Karbala stands as an unparalleled example of unwavering faith in Allah Almighty, unmatched devotion to the cause, bravery, patience, and the spirit of martyrdom, as mentioned in the Holy Quran, to be remembered until the Day of Judgment.

They, in a message to the nation on the occasion of Youm-e-Ashura, the speaker remarked that the tragedy of Karbala reminds the great sacrifice made by Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions for the sake of truth and justice.

He praised the Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions for exemplifying Quranic teachings, endurance, sacrifice, and the

fevour of martyrdom. "As Muslims, it is our social responsibility to stand firm against tyrannical forces that seek to spread chaos in society to achieve their reprehensible goals," the speaker asserted.

He emphasized that paying tribute to the martyrs of Karbala is best achieved by dedicating ourselves to the betterment of humanity and the development of the country.

He declared the sacrifices made on the Day of Ashura against falsehood as a guiding light for future generations, stating that they would not hesitate to make any sacrifices for the protection and preservation of Islam, the homeland, and its integrity.

Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani, stated that the incident of Karbala serves as

a lesson for Muslims to firmly stand against the forces of falsehood.

"This is the same path our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) taught us to follow, and which Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions exemplified through their timeless sacrifices," he said.

Durrani added that the tragedy of Karbala instills in us the spirit to be ready at all times to make any sacrifices for the elevation of religion and the welfare of the nation.

The messages from the speaker and the deputy speaker of the National Assembly resonate with the significance of Youm-e-Ashura, as it continues to inspire millions of Muslims worldwide to uphold the values of truth, justice, and sacrifice for the greater good of humanity.



WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan held separate meetings with three key US lawmakers to discuss Islamabad-Washington relations, economic partnership, defense ties, and security collaboration

Masood Khan meets three American lawmakers in effort to boost Pak-US ties

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, held separate meetings with three key US lawmakers to discuss Islamabad-Washington relations, economic partnership, defense ties, and security collaboration, said a Pakistani embassy press release.

Ambassador Khan, conferred with Senator Todd Young, who serves on Committees on Finance, Foreign Relations, Commerce, Science & Transportation, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship; Congressman Mike Rogers,

Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, Deputy Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, also discussed climate adaptation and mitigation as well as regional developments.

"Met with pleasure Senator Todd Young, a great leader from Indiana, to explore ways to strengthen Pak-US economic partnership. Discussed issues related to regional security," the Ambassador tweeted after the meeting.

Masood Khan also discussed the same subjects

with Congressman Rogers, Chairman Armed Services Committee. The two sides agreed to continue their talks. After meeting with Congresswoman Omar, Masood Khan tweeted that he had discussed a range of subjects, including Pak-US relations, developments in the region, and climate adaptation and mitigation. He lauded Congresswoman Omar's work on promoting human security. Congresswoman Ilhan Omar is the Vice-Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee. She also serves on the House Education and Workforce Committee.

Khawaja Asif says: Caretaker name will be finalized within a week

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N senior leader and defence minister Khawaja Asif has said PML-N and PPP have shortlisted five names for the slot of care taker Prime Minister (PM) and all these are politicians.

"No offer has been made to me in connection with caretaker PM slot. PPP and PML-N together have finalized 4 to 5 names which will be discussed with other parties as well", he said in a statement here Friday.

He held name for care taker PM will be finalized within a week. The leadership of allied parties will make final decision in this regard.

To my view election should be held in 90 days and this too suits us, he underlined. It is my personal opinion that election

should take place prior to 90 days. I think assemblies will be dissolved two days before their tenure. Had the field been left vacant in assembly this would have created too much difficulty.

Citing to finance minister Ishaq Dar he said he has neither given his name ever for the slot of care taker PM nor has expressed such desire at any stage.

that PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari was not trust worthy person, he said it was his opinion, adding: "I am still cautious about him".

The statement that Asif Zardari was not trust worthy person was his personal statement and he still exercises cautiousness about him, he underscored.

US lawmakers call for free, fair, monitored polls in Pakistan

WASHINGTON (INP): Several lawmakers of the United States, including Congressman Brad Sherman, have called for free, fair, and internationally-monitored general polls in Pakistan.

The demand by members of the Congress came during an event, "Status of Human Rights and Democracy in Pakistan", where critical issues in Pakistan, including human rights violations, missing persons,

upcoming general elections, politically-motivated arrests, as well as the significance of free media, and democracy came under discussion.

"This is a difficult time for Pakistan. America is dedicated to the rule of law and democracy, more than we are dedicated to whether this prime minister or that prime minister agrees with us on this or that foreign policy issue," Congressman Sherman said.

Data Darbar expansion project Dar, Naqvi lays foundation stone

LAHORE (APP): Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday jointly laid the foundation stone of expansion project of the shrine of sufi saint

Hazrat Hassan Ali Hajveri (RA) popularly known as Data Ganj Bakhs.

They also bathe the shrine with rosewater and laid Chaddar on the shrine. The leaders also launched the "Nazrana Online" App.

Briefing the media, the administration informed that the App would be helpful for Overseas

Pakistanis to share their contribution in Langar (sacred food) through "Nazrana Online App" while sitting abroad and one could visit the interior of the shrine round the clock.

Later, talking to the media, Ishaq Dar congratulated Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on the commencement of the Darbar expansion project and called it the third major expansion.

They prayed for the safety and prosperity of the country.

PML-N leader Bilal Yaseen and others were also present.

8 dacoits killed in Kashmir

SUKKUR (APP): Kashmir police on Friday killed eight dacoits during a shootout in the katcha area of the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amjad Ali Shaikh said that the dacoits were killed in an encounter with the police in the katcha area of Kashmir. These dacoits were entering Sindh's katcha area from Punjab when they met an encounter with the police, he added. Janu Indhar, leader of the Indhar gang was also amongst the dacoits killed in the encounter, SSP said and a prize money of Rs10 million was set for him.



ISLAMABAD: Participants in a group photo during appreciation ceremony for Exemplary Disbursement Targets Attained during FY 2022-2023 at Ministry Of Economic Affairs.

Control.pk

The PDM government, much like the PTI government before it, has proven that our politicians have little interest in protecting civil liberties if there is something to be gained from surrendering them. Two bills, aimed at bringing under state control online media and digital platforms — the last remaining spaces where most Pakistanis can still freely express themselves — received the federal cabinet’s nod of approval on Monday.

Wasted talent



Zubeida Mustafa

There used to be a time when ‘tea trolley’ (borrowed from the title of Rehana Alam’s book) marriages were arranged by the families of prospective couples. It was not uncommon for those who were about to tie the nuptial knot to be strangers to one another; it followed that they had no say in the matter of their own marriage. In fact, this cultural practice still persists in many households.

tation. Founded in 2004, it is now a WHO-designated bioethics centre. Under Dr Moazam, who won the Hastings Centre Bioethics Founders’ Award in 2022, CBEC has conducted Master’s and post-graduate diploma programmes and certificate courses for hundreds of participants. Her qualitative research on Pakistani medical students (co-authored with Sualaha Shekhani) has been published in the journal Medical Education (UK). Dr Moazam began by saying it is most unfair to blame the female students because it is our patriarchal society which creates this situation. No support is forthcoming to the young female doctors. Our medical training system is inadequate, substandard and the trainees are poorly paid.

were to decide to seek training, large numbers would be turned back. As a matter of fact, many male medical graduates are also known to be dropping out for this reason. Another significant finding of the CBEC research is that the number of male applicants to medical colleges is falling. Men do not find the medical profession financially satisfying in the early years. Then what is the solution to this challenge? Dr Moazam suggests changes to the medical training system. There is a need to enhance the capacity of the teaching hospitals so that no young doctor is denied the training which is a prerequisite for the CPSP exams. The standard of training should be upgraded and the emoluments increased so that young doctors get decent wages. Every institution where women work should be required to have a child care centre on its premises.

Water for life



Jamil Ahmad

A multidimensional global water crisis is front and centre of our current environmental problems. Amidst rising temperatures, water scarcity is endangering lives at one end, while heatwaves are often followed by heavy rains and flash floods. Surging levels of extreme heatwaves, as seen in Asia, Europe, and parts of the US, demonstrate as much.

without getting to grips with the water crisis, which is stalling sustainable development in the Global South and depriving people of their basic right to water and a clean, healthy environment. However, if addressed in a timely and appropriate manner, water can be an enabler of socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability, as it connects all aspects of life. In search of solutions to urgently tackle the crisis and expedite the implementation of SDGs, the UN convened a major conference in New York in March this year. The UN Water Conference was attended by over 10,000 participants from governments, the private sector, and other areas. Held after 46 years, it adopted a ‘UN Water Action Agenda’ with 800 commitments to a broad range of water-related areas — agriculture, climate change, industry, health and domestic use. According to the World Resource Institute, over a quarter of these commitments are potential game changers. The logical step is to swiftly translate these pledges and commitments into action.

climate change. Poor water resource management is cited as a factor associated with rapid changes in the areas covered by surface waters in one-fifth of the world’s river basins, leading to flooding and droughts. At a time when more investment is required in the water sector, the report revealed that “official development assistance commitments to the water sector decreased by 12pc from 2015 to 2021, and actual disbursements decreased by 15pc over the same period”. The report identifies five priority areas to overcome the crisis, including: new and efficient investments; provision of credible and timely data for decision-making; national-level workforce assessments and capacity building; utilising technology while customising innovations to local contexts, and streamlining water governance and management by addressing institutional weaknesses, poor regulation, accountability, and transparency. Through its Integrated Water Resource Management programme, UNEP supports countries for protection, restoration, and management of freshwater ecosystems. An integrated approach also requires international cooperation, as transboundary waters account for 60pc of the world’s freshwater flows. For water-stressed developing countries, improving water resource management, institutional capacity building, policy coherence and engaging local authorities at the national level will be as necessary as strengthening transboundary water cooperation. These will be critical ingredients for a holistic approach to contain the growing risks of the water and climate crisis. Water solutions must be front and centre of all efforts for sustainable development. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pak-China floriculture coop. to boost Pakistan’s economy

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan is a country of small farming households with a long history and rich experience in floriculture. There is a huge potential for cooperation between China and Pakistan in the flower industry, said Naeem Iqbal Cheema, Political Counsellor at the Embassy of Pakistan in China. Pakistan’s floriculture exports could also be enhanced by targeting global markets through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), he added.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Commerce presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House.



QUETTA: Technician is busy in maintenance works of CCTV camera in connection of Shiite religious mourning procession in memories of martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), on the route of Ashura Procession.

SAUDIA expands Intl Flights by 15%, achieving growth

KARACHI (INP): Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAUDIA) continues to implement its operational plan for Summer 2023 by providing over 7.4 million seats for domestic and international routes during July and August, a 10% increase compared to the same period in 2022. The airline will operate more than 32,400 flights, reflecting a 4% increase. These measures aim to meet high demand during peak seasons and ensure smooth operations, efficient reservations for scheduled and seasonal destinations, and streamlined processes at airports.

SBP imposes monetary penalty on 6 banks for violating regulatory instructions

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) imposed monetary penalty of Rs.350.799 million on 6 banks for violation of regulatory instructions during. The banking supervision department of the central bank taken the significant enforcement actions during the quarter ended June 30, 2023, against violation of regulatory instructions pertaining to customer identification, asset quality, foreign exchange, general banking operations, anti-money laundering and terrorism financing.

FTO Coordinator says: Security, economy to political stability interconnected aspects of a nation’s development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis Thursday said security, economy, and political stability were interconnected and interdependent aspects of a nation’s well-being and development. Speaking at a workshop on “Security, economy, political stability Integral parts” he said,

FBR launches IRIS 2.0, redefining user experience, efficiency

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad launched IRIS 2.0, an upgraded version of the tax filing system developed by Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL). On this occasion, Member Inland Revenue (IR) Operations, Member Information Technology (IT), Chief Executive Officer PRAL and heads of IR and IT wings were also present, said a news release issued here. IRIS 2.0 marks a significant milestone in tax administration with improved user experience, enhanced efficiency, and cost-saving for the FBR.

SBP to announce Monetary Policy on July 31

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will announce Monetary Policy on Monday, (July 31). The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the central bank would meet at Karachi on July 31, said a statement issued here on Thursday. The committee would review the overall economic situation of the country including the internal, external and real sectors and to decide about Monetary Policy. Governor SBP, Jameel Ahmad would announce the Monetary Policy decision at a press conference on the same day after the MPC meeting.

China approves Pakistani cherry orchards for export

BEIJING (APP): General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has approved sixty more orchards from Gilgit-Baltistan to export cherry to China, said Commercial Counsellor Ghulam Qadir at the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing on Friday. Ghulam Qadir said that the approval of the Pakistani cherry orchards by Chinese customs holds significant potential for the agricultural sector in Gilgit-Baltistan, where cherry cultivation is a prominent industry. “The endorsement by Chinese customs signifies

Electoral Reforms Bill 2023 through consultations a victory for democratic forces: Murtaza

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Murtaza Javed Abbasi said that the acceptance of the Electoral Reforms Bill 2023 through consultations with the coalition parties in the federal government was a victory for democratic forces. In a press statement issued, the minister further mentioned that they had collectively decided on a political direction for the future. According to the Bill, the Presiding Officer will create Form 45's image and send it to the Election Commission, if the internet is not available, the Presiding Officer will be bound to personally deliver the original results, he said.

Wahab Riaz visits DG Khan to review security arrangements

DG KHAN (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab Wahab Riaz said that it was the responsibility of all of us to work for a peaceful environment in the country. He was chairing a meeting to review security arrangements in Dera Ghazi Khan here Friday. He stated that joint efforts were of vital importance for the betterment of the country.



KARACHI: Members of Islami Jamiat Tulba are holding protest demonstration for eradicate drugs and sexual harassment from colleges and universities, at Karachi press club.

Police says: PPP leader's house attacked, no casualty reported

NOWSHERA (APP): The house of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader, Pir Aslam was attacked by an alleged militant after he refused to pay extortion money, however no casualty was reported. Police said on Friday that an alleged militant hurled a hand grenade at the male guest room of Pir Aslam's house located in Raisalpur and escaped.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs for UAE on his one day visit to offer condolences on the demise of Sheikh Saad Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Pakistani celebrities share messages of resilience and resistance on Ashura 2023

LAHORE (Online): Ashura is the day of mourning as well as a symbol of resistance and resilience. Hazrat Imam Hussain RA left this mortal world on the day and showed the world that you ever bow down you head in front of the evil even when the world has left you alone. The day is very important for Muslims all over the world as they mourn the Shuhada of Karbala and remembered what they stood for. It brings tears to one's eyes and also teaches us resilience and motivates us to always stand with Haq. Pakistani celebrities are also mourning Ashura as they share the messages of Imam Hussain and Ahl e Bait and give messages of sacrifice and resilience to their fans. This is what the celebs are inspiring their fans with.

Visits security Control Room Islam teaches us brotherhood and harmony: Sajid

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development, Sajid Hussain Turi here on Friday visited the Control Room of Crisis Management Cell established at the office of Deputy Commissioner Parachinar, District Kurram. The Deputy Commissioner gave him a detailed briefing regarding the comprehensive security plan prepared for Muharram. Speaking on the occasion, the federal minister said that Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) was a beacon of light for the humanity and the Muslim world. He said Islam teaches us brotherhood and harmony. Therefore, we should maintain the atmosphere of peace and brotherhood during Muharram by performing our duties in a good manner.

Shazia shares pictures with celebrity friends from Deosai Mountains

LAHORE (Online): Pakistan is a country blessed with beautiful sights and many areas in our homeland will make you feel like you are in paradise. Rather be it the beautiful KPK, Gilgit Baltistan or Kashmir, we are blessed to have high mountains with snowy caps, beautiful green plains and glaciers that are not found anywhere else in the world. People from all over the world come to Pakistan.

One killed, 15 injured in bus-trailer collision

FAISALABAD (APP): A driver was killed while 15 passengers sustained multiple injuries in a road accident on motorway, in the limits of Samundri police station. Rescue-1122 spokesman Zahid Lateef said here on Friday, the accident took place on Lahore-Multan Motorway M-3 near Samundri Interchange in the wee hours where a bus of a private company collided with a trailer in a bid to overtake.

FDA to help PHA for improvement of greenbelts, public parks

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) Director General Muhammad Asif Chaudhry said the Authority would extend its optimum support to the Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA) for the improvement of greenbelts, public parks and intersections in the city. During a meeting with PHA Director General Zameer Hussain, he appreciated the performance of PHA and said that it had taken a number of steps for making the city a lush green. He said that various intersection and Chowks of the city would be redesigned to improve their beauty and in this connection, FDA would provide all kinds of support to the PHA so that it could improve the condition and structure of greenbelts, public parks and intersections of the city. He said that colorful models, attractive landscaping, beautiful fountains would also be installed in addition to planting ornamental and flowering trees at greenbelts and public parks for providing entertainment facilities to the general public. He said the FDA had also planned to plant maximum trees at available sites in FDA City besides activating the owners of private housing colonies to take part in the drive for arresting environmental pollution.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Saddar area are burn tires and blocked road as they are holding protest demonstration against non-installation of electricity transformer since 3 days, in Hyderabad.

Joint security plan by PSCA, Lahore Police issued for Ashura

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Safe Cities Authority and Lahore Police have issued a joint security plan for Muharram and Youm-e-Ashura. According to the plan, the Lahore Police would provide security cover to 5,235 majalis and 650 mourning processions in the city. The monitoring of Majalis and mourning processions across the city are being carried out through 650 safe city cameras round the clock, besides all essential locations covered by additional portable cameras. The Safe City Operation and Monitoring Center have assigned police communication officers and technical teams for 24/7 duty. As per SP Awais Shafiq, the central mourning processions will be provided three-tier security comprising Dolphin Squad, Police Response Unit, and effective patrolling of police vehicles. Continuous moment-to-moment monitoring will be carried out through Safe City cameras during central mourning processions and gatherings.

International News

Putin promises no-cost Russian grain shipments to 6 African countries

Monitoring Desk ST. PETERSBURG: Russian President Vladimir Putin told leaders and officials from most African countries that his nation is making full efforts to avert a global food crisis despite concerns that its withdrawal from a deal allowing grain shipments from Ukraine will cause price spikes. Putin spoke at the opening session of a two-day Russia-Africa summit attended by a sharply lower number of African heads of state and government compared with a previous summit in 2019. While discussing the halted Black Sea grain deal, he promised large no-cost shipments of grain to six African countries.

Our country will continue supporting needy states and regions, in particular, with its humanitarian deliveries. We seek to actively participate in building a fairer system of distribution of resources. We are taking maximum efforts to avert a global food crisis," Putin said. "I have already said that our country can replace Ukrainian grain, both on a commercial basis and as grant aid to the neediest African countries, more so since we expect another record harvest this year," he said.

Putin thanks North Korea for 'unwavering support' for Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Vladimir Putin lauded North Korea's "unwavering support" for the "special military operation" in Ukraine as Russia joined China in Pyongyang to celebrate the hermit kingdom's 70th anniversary of the Korean War truce. Mr Putin sent defence minister Sergei Shoigu who was seen alongside North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and held one-on-one talks with him, reported the Korean nation's state media. Mr Putin sent his congratulatory message wherein he lauded "the DPRK's unwavering support for [Russia's] special military operation" in Ukraine. The Russian president lamented "Western policies" for "undermining the supremacy of international law, the indivisibility of security and the establishment of a truly multipolar and just world," the state media reported.

Biden orders US to share Russian war crimes evidence with ICC -official

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: U.S. President Joe Biden has ordered his administration to begin sharing evidence of alleged Russian war crimes in Ukraine with the Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC), a U.S official said. The Pentagon had been resistant to the move and privately argued that any cooperation with the court could open the way for politicized prosecution of American troops deployed overseas. The ICC, a permanent war crimes tribunal, in March issued an arrest warrant for Putin for suspected deportation of children from Ukraine, which would be a war crime. The news was first reported by the New York Times, which said the Biden administration had started notifying lawmakers on Tuesday.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and President of the Republic of Burundi Evariste Ndayishimiye meet on the sidelines of the Russia Africa Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia.

North Korea's Kim shows off banned missiles to Russian minister

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: Russia's defence minister accompanied North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to a defence exhibition that featured the North's banned ballistic missiles as the neighbours pledged to boost ties, North Korea state media reported. The Russian minister, Sergei Shoigu, and a Chinese delegation led by a Communist Party politburo member arrived in North Korea this week for the 70th anniversary of the end of the Korean War celebrated in North Korea as "Victory Day". The nuclear-capable missiles were banned under U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted with Russian and Chinese support but this week they provided a striking backdrop for a show of solidarity by three countries united by their rivalry with the U.S. and a revival of what some analysts see as their Cold War-era coalition. Shoigu is making the first visit by a Russian defence minister to North Korea since the fall of the Soviet Union. For North Korea, the arrival of the Russian and Chinese delegations marks its first major opening up to the world since the COVID-19 pandemic. Shoigu gave Kim a letter from Russian President Vladimir Putin, North Korean media reported. Kim thanked Putin for sending the military delegation led by Shoigu, saying the visit had deepened the "strategic and traditional" relations between North Korea and Russia. "(Kim) expressed his views on the issues of mutual concern in the struggle to safeguard the sovereignty.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu visit an exhibition of armed equipment on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War armistice in this image released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency.

UN chief warns 'handful of donations' can't replace Black Sea deal

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that a "handful of donations" won't correct the dramatic impact of the end of a deal that had allowed the safe Black Sea export of Ukrainian grain for the past year. Global wheat prices have spiked about 10% in the past 10 days after Russia quit the pact - brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in July 2022.

China open to deepen partnership with Indonesia, says Xi - state media

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China is willing to deepen its strategic cooperation with Indonesia, state media cited President Xi Jinping as saying. Xi made the remarks in a meeting with Indonesian President Joko Widodo in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu, CCTV reported. Widodo is visiting China to attend the opening ceremony of the FISU World University Games in Chengdu. China and Indonesia should ensure the high-standard completion of the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway as it nears commercial operation, Xi told Widodo. The high-speed rail, a flagship project of the Indonesian president and part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, was set back by budgetary problems and already four years behind schedule. "The two sides should make every effort to do a good job in the last kilometre of construction and ensure the high standard and high quality of the project."

'Fading Vistas' reminds Northern Areas of Pakistan at stakes amid climate change: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman said the coffee table book 'Fading Vistas' underscoring the beauty of Northern Pakistan reminded that what was at stakes in the highly glaciated region of the country due to climate change.

The Minister expressed her views while launching the coffee table book launched under the GLOF-II project with the title "Fading Vistas—Beauty of Northern Pakistan" which was followed by a photograph exhibition

showcasing the natural beauty and unprecedented scenic ecosystems existing in the mountainous region of the country. The GLOF-II is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, United Nations Development Programme-Pakistan (UNDP) supported by the Green Climate Fund.

In her keynote address, Senator Rehman appreciated the book and also lauded UNDP partnership in Pakistan. She said the mountains of the country were stunning and had emerged like a poster child at the content of every tour-

ism company, social media magnets showcasing natural beauty and nature.

Pakistan had the largest glaciers outside the polar region and the experience of watching Indus River passing by the mountains in the north was a humbling feeling. "Many cities are holding direct flights to northern areas bringing plethora of tourists despite knowing the fact that it might not accommodate such huge number of masses," the Minister said.

She added that these mountains were facing real risk as these glaciers were melting faster than average.

Senator Rehman in a calculated estimate said that the glacial melt was probably beyond 300% which she said on the basis of the past glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) event.

The Minister noted that there was no data available on the pace of melting glaciers. However, she said the melting of glaciers varied from glacier to glacier as some of it were more resilient due to rocks on it, hence causing slow melt. She underlined that littering at snowy peaks was reaching at a critical level event at the highest peaks that were hard to access.



ISLAMABAD: President Sajjad Haider along with senior members presenting souvenir to chief guest Mir Chakar Bhugti in annual training workshop of Rawalpindi Islamabad Photojournalist Association (Professional) held at PID center.



ISLAMABAD: Mourners touching tazia during 9th Muharram-ul-Haram at G-6 Imam Bargha.

Gwadar airport best example of Pak-China cooperation: Jamali

BEIJING (APP): Gwadar airport's construction in a short span of time is the best example of cooperation between Pakistan and China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), said Senator Sana Jamali.

Senator Sana Jamali, who is also a member of Senate Committee on Power Affairs, National Health Services Regulation and Coordination Committee, appreciated the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China.

She expressed the confidence that both Pakistan and China would achieve a lot of benefits from the Belt and Road Initiative launched by China a decade ago.

Senator Sana Jamali also expressed gratitude for China's support on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative and appreciated the commendable progress in the Gwadar project.

Talking to Urdu Service of China Media Group (CMG) during her visit to China, she particularly highlighted the rapid progress of Gwadar development project.

She said that the construction of Gwadar airport was the best example of success in a short time and wished to start direct

flights from Beijing to Gwadar soon. About the Balochistan's progress, she said that the largest province of Pakistan was experiencing a significant development under the CPEC, a pilot project of the BRI launched by the Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Stressing a need for Chinese language learning programs, she said that the Chinese learning centers were being introduced in Pakistani universities to further promote bilateral cooperation and understanding.

The senior politician

Country's politics to be in decisive phase from Aug 1: Sheikh Rasheed

RAWALPINDI (INP): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed has stated that the country's politics will be in the decisive phase from Aug 1. Taking to Twitter, the former interior minister said the judiciary could give important decisions in line with the constitution and law.

"The decisions of judiciary are being mocked publicly. There is no respect for law, constitution and justice in the country these days," he lamented. He said amendments to Article 224 and 230 were contrary to the constitution and therefore, the judiciary shouldn't remain silent on it.

He said the country was going through the darkest time in the history.

Int'l Day of Friendship to be marked on July 30

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Day of Friendship will be marked on July 30 (Sunday) across the globe including Pakistan.

The day promotes the role that friendship plays in promoting peace in many cultures. It is observed on July 30 each year.

PMD warns of scattered heavy falls with risk of urban flooding in 3 days

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD) has warned that the upper and central parts of the country were likely to receive scattered heavy falls during the next three days (upto July 30).

According to the weather department, monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea were continuously penetrating while a westerly wave was also present in the upper and central parts of the country.

Under the influence of these systems, rain/wind-thundershowers (with few heavy falls) were expected in Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbella, Awaran, Kech, Gwadar, Panjgur, Mastung, Sibbi, Naseerabad, Zhob, Sherani, Barkhan, Musakhel, Kohlu, Jhal Magsi, Loralai, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Multan, Khanewal, Layyah, Kot Addu, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan from the night of July 27 to July 28.

The UN wanted for the day to involve young people, as future leaders, in community activities that include different cultures and promote international understanding and respect for diversity.

While the same weather was expected in Kashmir, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Shangla, Buner, Manshera, Abbottabad, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Kurram, Lakk Marwat, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Karak, Waziristan, Murree, Galiyat, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock,

Chakwal, Jhelum, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Hafizabad, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Kasur, Mianwali, Sardogha, Khushab, Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Bhakkar, Sahiwal, Bahawalnagar and Okara with occasional gaps.



ISLAMABAD: Traffic Police clear the route of Shiite Muslim procession of 9th Muharram at Sector G-6/2 in Federal Capital.

PML-Q candidate for PA murdered in private housing society

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-Q candidate for provincial assembly from Sahiwal, Mian Allah Yar has been allegedly murdered in a private housing society in Islamabad.

As per sources Mian Allah Yar was thrown from the 4th storey of building in the private housing society. Police took into possession his dead body from footpath.

Police have taken into custody 3 persons staying with him and the body was handed over to the family members after post-mortem.

On information PML-Q information secretary Mustafa Malik reached the police station and ascertained the details of the incident.

He informed IG Islamabad about the incident and demanded of him to investigate the matter on merit.

3 members of criminal gangs held; valuables recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Koral and Phulgran police teams have arrested three wanted members of criminal gangs involved in numerous snatching and theft activities and recovered snatched mobile phone, motorbike and weapons with ammunition used in crime from their possession, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens. Following these directions, a Koral police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending two wanted members of a snatcher gang involved in snatching activities. The accused were identified as Fasi ud din and Hamza Azram. Police team also recovered a mobile phone, motorbike and weapons with ammunition used in crime from their possession.

Masroor urges Indian govt to release all religious leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leader in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari has urged the Indian government to release all the religious leaders, detained in different jails of India and the territory.

According to Kashmir media service (KMS), Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari talking to media men in Srinagar said that the ban on large Eid prayer gatherings in the occupied territory should also be lifted.

1,572 newly passed out officials transferred to different divisions

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Police announces the deployment of 1,572 well-trained personnel from the 38th Basic Recruits Course to various divisions, reinforcing its commitment to enhancing security and ensuring public safety in the capital city, a police public relations officer said. He said that, under the directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the passing out officials from the 38th Basic Recruit

Course have been assigned to different crucial divisions within the Islamabad Capital Police. The operation divisions will be bolstered by 482 personnel, including 335 male police personnel and 75 female officers, all equipped to handle various challenges and emergencies. To fortify security measures, 400 personnel have been assigned to the security divisions, which include 44 women police personnel, while enhancing logistical support, 190 personnel have been allocated to the logistics divisions.

Special Traffic education, enforcement campaign in full swing

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police took prompt action against underage motorcyclists and drivers and imposed fines on them under the campaign of Special Traffic education and enforcement.

Following the directions of Islamabad Capital City

Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police launched a special traffic education and enforcement campaign in order to solve the traffic related problems faced by the citizens on roads, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, campaign is underway against underage bikers, those involved in rash driving and violating traffic rules. Under the supervision of chief traffic officer Islamabad, zonal DSP's are ensuring strict action against those violating traffic rules.



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AJK leadership express grave concern over HR situation in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq and President Baristar Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry have expressed deep concern over the deteriorating human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a meeting held in Mirpur (AJK) on Thursday, both the leaders discussed mutual interests, regional developments and the continued oppression faced by religious minorities in India.

They particularly highlighted the brutal treatment of the Christian community in Manipur, stating that, in addition to the suppression of Muslims in occupied Kashmir and the Sikh and Muslims in Gujarat and Punjab, Hindutva forces were now targeting the Christian community in Manipur.

They termed this oppression of religious minorities as a severe form of state terrorism and called on the international community to take notice of these atrocities in India.

PGF-2023 adopts resolution to implement STAR governance system

ISLAMABAD (APP): The forum committed to upholding a governance framework that embodies the principles of STAR.

This commitment underscores the resolve to promote peace, enhance transparency, and ensure public accountability while focusing on improved service delivery, embracing innovation and technology, and adapting to emerging challenges. According to the resolution, stability entails the continuity of inclusive, consultative, and evidence-based policies between all organs of the state including the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary; the Federal, Provincial, and Local tiers of government; as well as the political leadership, bureaucracy, and military.

Effective measures should be taken to pro-

teach harmony and teamwork among state institutions within the constitutional framework, the resolution said.

Ensuring stability necessitates incorporating the views and aspirations of all segments of society, especially under-represented groups such as youth, women, and diverse religious and ethnic communities.

It said this inclusivity must be institutionalized within all tiers of government through affirmative action and adopting an all-of-government approach, as emphasized by the resolution in highlighting the key feature of stable governance.

Furthermore, the resolution stressed the need for establishing peace within the country and the region, ensuring law and order, and upholding the rule of law

to create a conducive environment for good governance.

It called for resolving conflicts along political, ethnic, religious, and other lines through peaceful means, unequivocally rejecting violence.

Regarding transparency in governance, the resolution underscored the importance of enhancing transparency to eradicate corruption and strengthen public accountability at all tiers of government.

Utilizing advancements in technology, particularly in prudent and responsible spending of public money, offers unprecedented opportunities to increase transparency in all government functions.

The resolution stressed the importance of making data accessible to the public through digital formats

and ensuring the enactment and enforcement of "right to information" laws. The principle of agility, as per the resolution, necessitates placing effective and efficient service delivery at the core of the government's function.

This involves making incremental but consistent improvements to public service delivery through refining administrative structures and processes and transitioning from an output to an outcomes-oriented approach.

The resolution further emphasized the need for structural and forward-looking reforms in public sector management, particularly civil service reforms.

It said that overhauling public servants' recruitment, induction, training, administrative structures, performance

management, compensation, and retirement benefits is vital in this regard.

Additionally, it said politically, administratively and financially empowered local governments must be established in all federating units to ensure efficient service delivery and grassroots inclusion.

Furthermore, the resolution highlighted that the needs, interests, and aspirations of Pakistani citizens must be the primary focus, prioritized over the narrow or short-term political interests of individual stakeholders.

It called for efforts to forge consensus on a minimalist set of core national interests in the domains of the economy, foreign policy, and security through meaningful and inclusive deliberations among all stakeholders.