

# Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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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 abortive campaign, which was launched against Shuhada, he maintained.

The prime minister observed that the media drive against armed forces and his 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 resolved not to allow the disappointed and panicked elements to create new crises in the country.



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

## Governor calls on President

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 me-

tropolis 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.

## Through screen tourism 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 this 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

## Photographers play vital role in the world of publication: CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while felicitating the Journalist Panel on winning the Pakistan Association of Press Photographers (PAPP)'s annual elections, said that photographers had always played a significant role in the world of publication.

He said, "I congratulate the newly elected President Mohammed Jameel, Vice President Aijaz Korai, General Secretary Mohammed Noman and other candidates."

## 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.

## Nawaz, Zardari have agreed on caretaker setup: Khurshid Shah

NOWSHERA (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 achieve-

ments 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.



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

## Next PM to be from PPP or PML-N: Manzoor Wassan

KARACHI (INP): Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Manzoor Ahmed Wassan has claimed that next prime minister will be from PPP or Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

In a statement issued on Sunday, the Advisor to CM on Agriculture said that there was possibility of dissolution of assemblies between August 08 to 10, 2023.

Manzoor Wassan said that he sees holding of general elections in No-

vember instead of October this year, as weather was quite harm in October.

He said that PPP desires timely holding of general elections so the countrymen should be aware of the results.

The general elections will sweep away all and nothing will be left behind, he claimed. The PPP leader said that many people will be emboldened, some would be imprisoned. We want holding of general election on old census, Wassan concluded.

## Bilawal pays homage to Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah on her 56th death anniversary

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid homage to Mother of the Nation Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah on her 56th death anniversary.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said that Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah played an important role in the Pakistan Movement by supporting the two-nation theory and strongly opposing the British rule. The foreign minister said that the lady co-founded Pakistan Women's Association.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori laid a floral wreath and offers Fateha at the shrine of Hazrat Abdullah Shah Ghazi (RA) on the occasion of 1293rd Annual Urs celebrations during his visit at his shrine in Karachi.



TANDOMUHAMMADKHAN: 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.

## Governor inaugurates 1293rd Urs of Hazrat Abdullah Shah Ghazi

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurated the 1293rd Urs of Sufi saint Hazrat Abdullah Shah Ghazi by laying a floral wreath.

The Governor also offered Fateha and prayed for the development, stability and prosperity of the country including Sindh province and nation.

On the occasion, he said that it was necessary to follow the footprints of the Sufi saints for the promotion of religious harmony.

Kamran Tessori said that the religion of Islam spread due to their character.

The sufi saints always taught love, tolerance and brotherhood, he added.

## In order to enhance urban travel facilities Govt committed to expanding number of buses: Sharjeel

**Independent Report** Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that, as per the instructions of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and



KARACHI: Sindh Minister of Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference held in Karachi.

Sharjeel Inam Memon, along with Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh for Investment and Public-Private Partnership, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, addressed a press conference at Archives Complex Clifton on Sunday. They announced that the chargers for electric buses have arrived, and starting from tomorrow, these buses will once again operate on the roads of Karachi. The Sindh government is consistently taking measures to provide optimal travel facilities to its citizens, and in this regard, another fleet of buses will arrive in Karachi tomorrow.

Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, the Sindh government is committed to expanding the number of buses in order to enhance urban travel facilities. Furthermore, he mentioned that the new buses will be replacing the older ones.

He mentioned that the bus monitoring app has been launched, which has made people's lives easier in this era of inflation. He highlighted that the Sindh government has undertaken significant work in mega projects. The government hospitals in Sindh offer excellent health facilities, with even individuals

from Afghanistan and Iran utilizing Sindh hospitals for medical treatment.

He stated that the Dhabji Special Economic Zone is commencing operations, which will create numerous investment and employment opportunities. Investors are being facilitated through a streamlined one-window operation process, there is a high likelihood of establishing an electric bus plant in Sindh.

During the press conference, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, the Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh for Investment and Public-Private Partnership Unit, emphasized the importance of creating a business-friendly environment for investors and businesspeople. He mentioned that the Sindh Government has dedicated significant effort to develop the Dhabji Special Economic Zone, underscoring their commitment to this endeavor over an extended period.

He announced that the development work of the Dhabji Economic Zone will commence on July 15, marking a significant milestone that has been achieved.

He also mentioned that the Dhabji Special Economic Zone offers a tax holiday for a period of 10 years.

## Ignazio Cassis expresses commitment to bring Pakistan, Switzerland closer

**The love and peace that you have experienced here will be carried back to your own country; Syed Sardar Shah: Karachi offers abundant prospects for Swiss companies and other organizations to engage in business operations and investment activities. Mayor Karachi Muratza Wahab**

**Independent Report** KARACHI: A cultural reception was held at the Arts Council of Pakistan in Karachi to honor the visit of Ignazio Cassis, the Swiss Foreign Minister, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, representing the Swiss government. Accompanying Minister Cassis were members of the Swiss Parliament.

The event was attended by various dignitaries, including Sindh's Minister of Education and Culture, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Minister of Local Govern-

ment Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Minister of Industries Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Abdul Bari Pitafi, Minister of Universities and Boards Ismail Rahu, Karachi Mayor Muratza Wahab, and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh, Jawed Nayab Laghari, among others. Swiss Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan after 17 years has been warmly received by the Sindh government, who organized a brief ceremony under the banner of "Melodies of Sindh" to

celebrate his honor. Upon their arrival, Minister Cassis and the parliamentary delegation from Switzerland were greeted with traditional Sindh dance performances.

Syed Sardar Ali Shah, the provincial Minister of Culture, welcomed the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs and the parliamentary delegates, expressing gratitude and acknowledging their role as ambassadors of Pak-Swiss friendship and promoters of Sindh culture. He expressed hope that the love

and peace they experienced here will be shared in their own country, Syed Sardar Shah emphasized the need for collaboration in cultural exchange and promotion of tourism. Speaking at the occasion, Ignazio Cassis described the reception ceremony as a splendid memory and expressed his gratitude. He mentioned that he has cherished many delightful moments of his life in Pakistan and expressed his commitment to continue the series of meetings aimed at bringing Pakistan and Switzerland closer.

He affirmed his intention to visit Sindh again in the future.

In his address, Mayor Karachi highlighted the unfortunate challenges faced by the country, especially the so-called negative impact of Karachi.

He emphasized that the delegates must have realized through their warm reception that the people here are peace-loving. He further emphasized the ample opportunities for Swiss companies and other organizations to work and invest in Karachi.





## 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.

## Don't stop press



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

## Mini forums



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

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 in-person 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 1,92,000 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 being 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

agriculture (Expansion) 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 secretary 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.

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 secretary 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 khanyeh 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.**

## 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.

## 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 the 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.

## 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 cusecs, which would be a medium level flood, however, there was a capacity of 1,100,000 cusecs of water to be released from Head Marala.

## All departments directed to remain alert during Monsoon

RAWALPINDI (APP): Secretary Housing and Urban Development Punjab, Sajid Zafar Dall 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 Dall.

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 cusecs upstream in River Chenab at Head Marala-Sialkot while the downstream flood water was 98,430 cusecs in River Chenab near 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 indication 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 situations 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.

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**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.**

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 Haitham Mohammed 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 ongoing 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.



## 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 prospecting 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 declared 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.

## Governor, Swiss FM discuss bilateral relations

KARACHI (APP): The Foreign Minister of the Swiss Federation Ignazio Cassis called on the

strengthening Pak-Swiss bilateral relations and other mutual interests.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori presenting shield to Ignazio Cassis, Swiss Foreign Minister during meeting held at Governor House in Karachi.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Sunday.

Later, the Governor saw off Ignazio Cassis at the Jinnah International Airport.

## Bilawal felicitates journalist panel on winning PAPP elections

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari congratulated the journalist panel on winning the Pakistan Association of Press Photographers (PAPP)'s annual elections here on Sunday.

He said that photographers were the main pillar of media.

Bilawal said that the photographers played a vital role in the picturization of an event.

He said, "Pakistan People's Party has always accorded importance to all sections of the media."

He congratulated all the winning candidates in the elections of the Pakistan Association of Press Photographers.



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.

## Governor pays homage to Madr-e-Milat Fatima Jinnah on her anniversary

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Tessori visited the mausoleum of Madr-e-Milat Fatima Jinnah and paid her tremendous homage on her anniversary here on Sunday.

He laid a wreath and offered foteha. He also prayed for the development and prosperity of the country.

Meanwhile, he also visited the mausoleum of father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah and laid a wreath.

The Governor also offered foteha and inked his

impressions in the visitors book.

While talking to media persons, he said, "I pay homage to madre-e-milat Fatima Jinnah on her anniversary."

He said that the Madr-e-Milata was a role model for our women.

He said that Fatima Jinnah mace untiring efforts after the death of father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

Replying to a question, he said that Mayor of Karachi must be given time of 100 days for the welfare and development of the city.

## MPA lauds efforts of Mayor, HMC for dewatering of accumulated rain water

HYDERABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples' Party MPA, Abdul Jabbar Khan on Sunday said that the dewatering process was made possible for the first time in Hyderabad after visiting the Mayor and Municipal Corporation administration to Pumping stations round the clock. In a statement, MPA said that concerted steps were taken for the dewatering of rainwater in densely populated areas, Kachi Abadis and low-lying areas.

He said that the situation after rainfall could be better if the administration played an active role, but unfortunately, hard workers were being criticized instead of encouraging them. He said that People of Hyderabad had elected for the first time the representatives of Pakistan People's Party while Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Town Nazims, UC Chairmen have performed their responsibilities collectively and citizens had expressed satisfaction on their performance.



KARACHI: Members of Karachi Bachao Tehreek are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Karachi press club.

## DC chairs meeting regarding Muharram-ul-Hraam arrangements

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner of Mirpurkhas Zain-ul-Abideen has said, the month of Muharram ul-Haram teaches us the lesson of interfaith harmony, peace, stability, brotherhood, Sacrifice and selflessness because Shuhada-e-Karbala laid their lives for the sake of protecting humanity and religion.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the district peace committee here Sunday to review Muharram arrangements.

The DC said that the problems highlighted by the organizers of Azaadari, processions and Mjaalis would be resolved on priority basis including cleanliness, electricity load shedding, clean drinking water and other issues.

He clearly said that

## Youth dies after being hit by train

**Independent Report**  
MIRPUR MATHELO: Garhi Chakar's youth died after being hit by a train, Ghulam Abbas was crossing the railway track at Naykot when he was hit by a train going from Lahore to Karachi and died on the spot.

According to details, a resident of Kabir Kori, a village on the outskirts of Matheolo, was killed by a goods train going from Lahore to Karachi while crossing the railway line, while his identity card identified him as Ghulam Abbas son of Muhammad Ismail Kori, the body of the young man.

## Body of one of two drowned brothers retrieved from River Indus

HYDERABAD (INP): Dead body of one of the two drowned brothers was retrieved from River Indus on Sunday, rescue sources said.

According to details, three young brothers drowned in River Indus on Saturday while taking bath near Mehran Bridge.

The Divers of Rescue-1122 initiated an operation soon after the incident and managed to save one youth.

Dead body of Hasnain 14 was retrieved on Sunday and divers were engaged in operation to retrieve the body of missing youth.

The dead body was shifted to hospital for medico-legal formalities.

## 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 Archaeology Departments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



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

## Assemblies to dissolve on completion of tenure: Asif

SIKOT (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.

Former members of provincial assembly Muhammad Manshaullah Butt, Chaudhry Muhammad Ikram, District President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Chaudhry Tariq Subhani, Babar Khan, Rafique Mughal, Chairman Union

Council Neikapura Sheikh Ashraf Haider, PML-N City Information Secretary Naseer Saeed, Sheikh Enjaz, Rana Amjad, Sheikh Munawar, Sheikh Sohail, Malik Humayun, Chaudhry Nawaz, Farrukh Hafeez Butt and PML-N workers were also present.

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.

## PTI's conspiracies against Nawaz Sharif unmasked before public: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal Sunday criticized that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's leadership who was busy in the conspiracy behind Nawaz Sharif, misled the people and pushed the country years behind have been unmasked before the public.

PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif was disqualified under a conspiracy when the "Panama verdict" was changed to "Iqama", he said while talking to a private news channel.

PML-N supreme leader and former prime

minister Nawaz Sharif will return to the country soon before the election campaign, he added.

"Chairman PTI's time has come to an end, he said, adding, he himself stuck under the burden of his own poor performance", he added. Replying to a question, he said that in the light of the Supreme Court verdict, Nawaz Sharif should have been given the same relief that was given to other accused. He said that Nawaz Sharif will return to power, and the journey of progress, which was disrupted by conspiracies, will resume from where it left off.

## On the special instructions of Bilawal Bhutto Sindh gov't. announces to start Yatri bus service for Shri Hinglaj Mata Yatra

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh Minority Affairs Department has

stay there for a couple of days during the pilgrimage will be provided with this



announced to start Yatri bus service for Shri Hinglaj Mata Yatra, which is being started from July 15.

This was announced by Sindh Minister for Minority Affairs Giyan Chand Esrani at Swami Narayan Mandir while inaugurating the construction work of the hall under the development scheme for Guru Nanak Darbar in Karachi.

The provincial minister further said that on the special instructions of Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, this Yatra bus service for Shri Hinglaj Mata is being started for those people who cannot afford the travel expenses of Yatra.

He said that lunch will be provided to the pilgrims during the journey, while those pilgrims who want to

facility by the department. He said that the application for the pilgrimage would be sent to the Sindh Director of Minority Affairs through District Panchayat.

He said that the first Yatri bus in Karachi will depart from Swami Narayan Mandir from July 15. Speaking at the opening ceremony earlier, the provincial minister said that as a minister of the People's Party, I tried hard.

I want people's problems to be solved at their doorsteps, whatever problem is told to me by the concerned people, it should be solved immediately regardless of whether it is a development scheme, someone's medical problem or someone's financial assistance adding that it was quickly resolved.

## 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.

tally 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 against him.

## Protest held against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden

**Independent Report**  
MIRPUR MATHELO: Against the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sudan, the National Peace Committee held a protest in front of Bhitai Chowk. The desecration of the holy book in Sweden was strongly condemned. On this occasion, leaders Ali Shah Rashidi, Mian Abdul Rahim Bharu, Ali Anwar Sial and others said that the incident in Sweden has hurt the hearts of Muslims all over the world.

## Met Office forecast more rainfall in southeast Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Met Office Sunday said that monsoon currents continue to penetrate in southeast Sindh predicting more rainfall in the region.

Thunderstorm and rain with isolated heavy falls likely in Karachi, Hyderabad, Tharparker, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal and Matiari districts today, according to the weather department. Isolated thunderstorm or rain also expected in Sukkur, Khairpur, Kashmore, Ghotki, Jacobabad, Kambar-Shahdadkot, Larkana, Dadu and Jamshoro distts at evening or night, Met Office said.

## 20<sup>th</sup> KC Westbury national seniors, juniors Tennis championship begins

KARACHI (APP): The prestigious 20<sup>th</sup> KC Westbury National Seniors & Juniors Tennis Championship commences at the Hard courts of Karachi Club, Sunday. According to a communiqué, in Juniors Under 18 Singles 1<sup>st</sup> Round Malik Hasnain beats Rayyan Shoaib 6-1, 6-1, Taimoor Ansari beats 6-2, 6-3 Rayan Ahmed, Ejaz Abbasi beat Ahsan Ahmed

Baseer 4-0, 4-0, Muhammad Noor beats Permaish Chohan 4-1, 4-1, Muhammad Yahaya w/o Mammad Malik. Under 12 Singles 1<sup>st</sup> Round AbouBaker Admani beats Arman Ali 4-0, 4-2, Zayd Zaman beats Ansarullah 5-3, 4-2, Arsh Imran beats Rohan Das 4-2, 3-5, 4-0, Abdul Baseer beats Umer Zaman 4-0, 4-1, Meer Abbas Bhagat beat Aahil Imran 4-1, 1-4, 4-0.

Men Singles 1<sup>st</sup> Round Taimoor Ansari beat Rayan Ahmed 8-0, Ibrahim Nouman beats Muhammad Hussain Abid 8-0, Farhan Mustafa beats Arshad Shahid 8-0, Salman Dinani beats Maj, Zulfikar 8-2, Muhammad Ahmed Khalid beats Haseeb Jawed 8-3, Saad Salim beats Ammad Danish 8-6, and Assaad beats Idrees Nooruddin 8-1.



KARACHI: Heavy machinery being used to restore track after Pakistan Business train derailed near Kalapal.