

# Independent

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

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.



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.

## Sindh CM Murad says: Excellent security arrangements in place despite Ashura threat alerts

**Monitoring Desk**

KARACHI: Threat alerts during Ashura, but excellent security arrangements are in place, said Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Friday.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah attended the prime procession in Karachi and reassured the public about the stringent and well-organized security measures in response to potential threat alerts during Ashura.

During the visit, the chief minister issued necessary instructions to the administration concerning security. He inquired the Sindh IG about security passes, to which the IG clarified that passes were granted only to house owners, Sabeel distributors, Niaz distributors, and scouts.

The Sindh IG informed the chief minister that a total of 4,698 police personnel have been de-



Accompanied by Sindh Labour and Human Resources Minister Saeed Ghani, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, chief secretary, and IG police, the Sindh CM reviewed the security arrangements in place for Muharram 9 procession.

## Sindh Governor holds meeting with scouts performing duties on Muharram processions

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday held an online meeting with various scouts organizations which assist law enforcement agencies in security of Muharram processions as well as organizers of Majalis and mourning processions across Sindh.

The Governor praised the services of the scouts on important occasions, said a spokesperson of Governor House.

He also directed the scouts to perform their duties to assist the participants of processions and also law enforcers for ensuring the security of mourning processions across the province, in an efficient manner.

He said that the scouts have an important role in the maintenance of discipline in the mourning procession and ensure following the designated route.

Kamran Khan Tessori called upon the scouts to keep in close contact with the processions' organizers and the administration during Muharram processions. All possible measures should be taken to ensure the peaceful start and end of the majalis and processions, he added.

## Govt decides to return more Rs 12 billion to pilgrims under govt hajj scheme

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ministry of religious affairs has decided to return more Rs 12 billions to the pilgrims who have performed Hajj under government Hajj scheme.

According to ministry of religious affairs, the payment of Rs 97000 to every Hajji who has performed Hajj under government scheme will start from Monday.

Additional amount to the tune of Rs 21000 per pilgrim will be returned to 22600 hajjais who could not avail train facility and whom facility of temporary accommodation in Minda could not become available.

## Police chief discusses security arrangements

KARACHI (APP): Additional IG Javed Alam Odhu during visits to various Imambargahs in the city discussed the security and other important issues with the management of Imambargahs, here Friday.

According to the police spokesman on Friday, the Additional IG visited Hussainiya Iranian Imambargah Baghdad Crossing, Bara Imambargah Kharadar, Imambargah PECHS, Abbas Town, Imambargah Yasrab, and Imambargah Saba Avenue.

The Police Chief held discussions with the relevant management of the Imambargahs and discussed their security and other related issues.

Additional IG Javed Alam Odhu also reviewed the security measures in and around Imambargahs.

On the occasion, the Police Chief also directed the policemen deployed on security duties to ensure foolproof security in accordance with the security plan.

## President expresses grief over death of brother of UAE president

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Arif Alvi has expressed grief and sorrow over the death of Sheikh Saeed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, brother of President of the UAE Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Commiserating with the bereaved family, the President prayed for the departed soul.

The President said his sympathies and those of the Pakistani nation are with the people and royal family of the UAE in this hour of grief.

## Pakistan, Australia agree to further expand military to military cooperation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), General Sahir Shamsah 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 JCSC 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.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior minister Rana Sana Ullah has said PML-N supreme 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 Qaid 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.

## 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.

## 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 caretaker 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 never given his name ever for the slot of care taker PM nor has expressed such desire at any stage.

## Mayor Karachi Murtaza says: Local bodies finalizes arrangements for Ashura-e-Muharram

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Thursday said that the local bodies have completed the arrangements to facilitate the mourners on the occasion of Ashura-e-Muharram. The mourners will be provided with all municipal facilities on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of Muharram. Carpeting of various roads as well as on routes of processions has been completed, he said in a statement.

The Mayor said that the problems of sewage around Imambargahs and mosques have also been resolved. Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that he himself and the chairmen of different towns are visiting different areas of Karachi and holding a series of meetings with scholars, Zakirs, elders and organizers of processions. Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that we are fully aware of the problems of the people. Being the Mayor, it is his duty to look after all the citizens irrespective of religion, sector or language and not only to protect their rights but also to try to provide them with civic facilities.



LARKANA: Umme Rubab Chandio is talking to media persons after court case hearing in famous triple Mehar murder case by Sindh High Court in Larkana.

## Main mourning procession of Muharram 9 emerges from Nishtar Park

KARACHI (APP): The main mourning procession of Muharram 09, 1445 AH was taken out amid stern security arrangements from Nishtar Park here on Friday.

The main procession is led by Shabbar Raza Zaidi while the scouts of Pak Haidery Scouts also assisting the police and rangers in the security arrangements.

Earlier, a Majlis was held at the Nishtar Park, under the foolproof security arrangements by the law enforcers.

After emerging from Nishtar Park, the participants of the procession offered Namaz-e-Zoharain at the Imambargah Ali Raza-M.A. Jinnah road here.

Later, the procession proceeded to its traditional route towards Mansfield Street while after passing through, Preddy Street, Ti-

## SSP says: 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.

The dacoits were wanted to police in heinous crimes like dacoities, kidnapping for ransom and murders, SSP Amjad Shaikh said.

A search operation is being carried out in the area.

## Traffic plan for Muharram processions announced

KARACHI (INP): The Karachi traffic police chief on Wednesday issued a traffic diversion plan for the processions scheduled to be taken out on Muharram 8, 9 and 10.

As per the traffic plan, the main procession of Muharram 8, Thursday (July 27) will commence from Nishtar Park at 1:30pm and pass through Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Road, Mehfil-e-Shah-e-Khurasan, MA Jinnah Road, Mansfield Street, Preddy Street, MA Jinnah Road, Baba-e-Urdu Road, Nishtar Road, Bara Imam, Altaf Hussain Road (Old Napier Road), Bolton Market, Bombay Bazaar and Nawab Mohabbat Khanji Road and culminate at the Hussainian Iranian Imambargah in Kharadar.

On Muharram 9 (July 28), the procession of religious scholars will start at 9am from the Liaquatnagar Imambargah on Martin Road and reach at around 12pm Nishtar Park, where the main assembly will be held afterward.

From there the procession will resume, passing through Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Road, Mehfil-e-Shah-e-Khurasan, MA Jinnah Road, Mansfield Street, Tibet Centre, Preddy Street, MA Jinnah Road, Bolton Market, Bombay Bazaar, Kharadar and Nawab Mohabbat Khanji Road to end at the Hussainian Iranian Imambargah. On 10<sup>th</sup> Muharram (July 29), a large assembly will be held at the Nishtar Park from 7:30am to 9am, following which the main procession will proceed to the Hussainian Iranian Imambargah through Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Road, Mehfil-e-Shah-e-Khurasan, MA Jinnah Road, Mansfield Street, Preddy Street, Tibet Centre, MA Jinnah Road, Bolton Market, Bombay Bazaar, Kharadar and Nawab Mohabbat Khanji Road.

As soon as the procession departs from Nishtar Park, all traffic coming from the city will be diverted from Soldier Bazaar (Bahadur Yar Jung Road), Coast Guards HQ, Ankle Saria Chowk to Jubilee or Nishtar Road.

All traffic coming from Nazimabad to MA Jinnah Road will be diverted from Lasbela Chowk on Nishtar Road leading towards Garden.

Meanwhile, the traffic coming from Liaquatnagar to MA Jinnah Road will be diverted from Teen Hatti Chowk on Jail Road leading towards Martin Road.

All these vehicles will be allowed to use the Jail Chowrangi Flyover and Jail Road to go towards Jamsheed Road, Dadabhai Noorji Road, Kashmir Road, Highway Leaders and Highway Faisal.

All traffic on the University Road towards MA Jinnah Road will be allowed to move towards the New MA Jinnah Road



HYDERABAD: Shiite Muslims attending the mourning procession of 9th Muharram-ul-Haram at Latifabad area, in City.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### 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.

The innocuously titled 'Personal Data Protection Bill' and 'E-Safety Bill' are, critics say, much more sinister in intent than their titles suggest. Internet rights activists have slammed the government, with a statement circulating on the internet, co-signed by industry pioneers as well as prominent digital rights activists, lawyers and journalists, stressing that "legislation prepared in secrecy and passed in haste disregarding input and clear reservations, serves no protective purpose but reeks of nefarious designs to further curb the rights and liberties of citizens". The signatories to the statement believe that "these bills must not be passed".

Separately, the Asia Internet Coalition has especially criticised the Personal Data Protection Bill, saying it "falls short of international standards for data protection and creates unnecessary complexities that will increase the cost of doing business and dampen foreign investment". The managing director of the organisation also pointed out that "the bill creates additional barriers to digital trade at a critical time, when Pakistan's economic growth demands paramount attention". The question naturally arises: how does the PDM government, which has pinned much of its economic turnaround hope on growth in the country's nascent IT industry, square its vision with such measures that, if they do not kill the nascent IT industry, will surely cripple it?

It defies understanding, and it is unsurprising that the reaction to its secretive new laws has been swift and condemnatory. The government clearly has no clue about how to empower the industry and unlock its potential.

It is obvious that the need for these legislative interventions has not arisen from any pressing public concern. This much is evident from the manner in which the two bills were quietly drafted, tabled before the cabinet, and hurriedly passed. Even the government's allies, it seems, were unaware of their existence. Observers fear it is the state that has been unable to shut down the unbridled ridicule and criticism it has lately been receiving online, which is pushing these laws. To them, it wants the same control over online publishing platforms that it has over traditional media. The PTI learnt after its ouster that, had it not been for the Islamabad High Court striking down very similar rules and laws it had introduced towards the tail-end of its tenure, it would have quickly been crushed by the state. The PDM should not repeat the same mistake.



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.

Today, we are faced with a bizarre situation: girls outnumber boys in medical colleges — 70 per cent are girls — but half the number do not enter the medical profession after graduation and opt for the stereotypical role of a homemaker assigned to them by a patriarchal society. This also happens to be a time when there is an acute shortage of doctors in the country.

It seems to pose an ethical dilemma since the common belief is that female medical graduates who do not work are not interested in doing a job, and that they join medical college to enhance their worth in the marriage market. As a result, they encounter public disapproval as the general opinion is that they should pay society back the benefit they had received from the subsidised education offered in public medical colleges.

I decided to visit Dr Farhat Moazam, professor and founding chairperson of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Culture, Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplan-

## Wasted talent

ation. 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.

Marriage is central to our societal values. The girls who participated in interviews and focused group discussions conducted by Dr Moazam also conceded that marriage was their preference although it left them little control over their lives. Thereafter, they had to accept the role assigned to them of the homemaker and mother.

In the absence of support from family and society — few institutions provide for day-care centres for young children of working mothers — female medical graduates simply don't work. A hospital job is, after all, tough and time-consuming. No girl can handle a medical job, her home and her baby singlehandedly. Dr Moazam also points to the poor training facilities and their insufficient numbers in teaching hospitals.

The CPSP only conducts specialisation examinations. As for the stipends, they are not enough to support a family. If all the students who pass their MBBS

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.

A proposal worth trying out is to have a number of shared jobs, which means one job should have two women working for the position on a part-time basis. This would reduce the number of hours a woman is required to work every day though it will take them longer to obtain their degree requirement. All this is possible if the authorities are serious about finding a solution to the problem of the shortage of doctors. Dr Moazam insists that more research is needed on these issues to ensure that the changes introduced are meaningful and feasible. Underpinning these reforms should be a change in the general mindset. Only then will the family step in to facilitate a young doctor who wants to work. It would also ensure stability in the life of the working mother's child. --

Courtesy Dawn

## 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.

At the other end of the water crisis are cyclones and floods of 'Biblical proportions' that have killed thousands of people, damaged infrastructure and worsened the financial woes of poor countries. Sea level rise due to global warming is affecting coastal communities and leading to salinisation of groundwater resources.

Water stress is tipped as one of the top global risks in the coming decade. According to the WHO, about two billion people lack access to safe drinking water, while 4.2bn do not have adequate sanitation. Demand for drinking water and sanitation is outpacing supply in most developing countries.

Oceans, which hold over 95 per cent of Earth's water, are also threatened by global warming. The temperature of the water in them is rising fast, leading to increased moisture in the air, which translates into heavy rains and intense hurricanes and typhoons. An analysis at the University of St Thomas in Minnesota found that last year the oceans were at their hottest ever.

The truth of climate change cannot be faced

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.

The imperative for urgent action was reiterated this month at the High-Level Political Forum which reviewed SDG progress. A synthesis report of SDG6, relating to water targets, notes that for reaching the global target of universal access by 2030, "progress needs to increase six times faster for safely managed drinking water, five times faster for safely managed sanitation and three times faster for basic hygiene". According to the report, water stress has increased globally, with some regions experiencing substantial increases, particularly in the arid areas, representing a serious concern for food security and the resilience of agricultural systems facing

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 Counselor 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.

Floriculture is a high-profit industry. In recent years, multiple related programmes started in Pakistan to encourage farmers to plant flowers. Hashopee

Garden in Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the examples.

"We want to show people that flowers are not only used for beauty, for weddings and funerals, but also an important economic crop. Farmers can get maximum income from a small area through floricultural crop production," said GM Saqib, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture, Shigar, Gilgit-Baltistan. Now, the new cash crop, flower, is gaining popularity among local farmers.

"Here you will find more than 80 flower varieties in Hashopee Garden. It is a very profitable business that we should bring people to. For instance, one kanal

of land can produce 10,000 sticks of lily flower, and one stick can sell for 400 rupees in the market of Karachi.

The lily bulbs left in the ground after cutting is also a separate asset with separate value. This is dual income," Saqib said, emphasizing the high profit of the flower industry.

"Two important climatic factors are required for flower bulb production. One is the large difference in temperature between day and night.

The other is the dry weather with low rainfall. These conditions are very suitable in Gilgit-Baltistan and many other places in Pakistan," he added.



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.

### 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,

"Each one plays a crucial role in shaping the overall strength and resilience of a country," said a news release issued here.

He said, "Political stability is essential for ensuring security within a nation. "A stable political system with effective governance and the rule of law can establish a secure environment for citizens,

businesses, and investors."

"A secure environment is fundamental for a flourishing economy," he added. "Conversely, a secure environment fosters economic activity, encourages entrepreneurship, and attracts foreign direct investment, contributing to overall economic prosperity," he remarked.



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

### 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.

For international flights, SAUDIA is providing more than 4.2 million seats, achieving a 16% increase. Additionally, the airline is introducing over 14,800 flights, reflecting a 15% increase. On domestic routes, over 3.2 million seats will be available through 17,600 flights.

### 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 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.

The contravening banks were also advised to strengthen their controls and processes in the identified areas and ensure meticulous compliance with the regulatory instructions.

The central bank imposed a penalty of Rs.144,207 million on National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) on charges of violation of regulatory instructions pertaining to customer due diligence (CDD), know your customer (KYC) and Asset Quality. In addition to pe-

nal action, the NBP has been advised to enhance the internal processes and controls.

The SBP imposed a penalty of Rs.125,253 on Bank Alfalah Limited for violation of regulatory instructions pertaining to anti-money laundering (AML) and counter financing for terrorism (CFT), CDD and KYC, foreign exchange (FX) and General Banking Operations while the bank has also been advised to ensure meticulous compliance with the regulatory instructions.

### 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.

that the cherries from Pakistan meet the required standards and regulations for export to China. This not only opens up new avenues for trade but also showcases the quality and taste of Pakistani cherries to a wider international market," he added.

Arman Shah, CEO of Hashwan Group and Arman Shah Farm, which is the largest farm approved by Chinese Customs told China Economic Net (CEN) that the collaboration between China and Pakistan in promoting agricultural exports.

"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 Of-

ficer will be bound to personally deliver the original results, he said.

Murtaza Abbasi said that the Presiding Officer would be obligated to provide election results by 2 am on the polling day. In case of any delays, the Presiding Officer will be given a deadline of 10 a.m. the next day, with criminal proceedings initiated against them in case of non-compliance, he told.

The minister said that under this bill, a decision on violations of the Code of Conduct would be made within 7 days instead of 15 days. The polling station

will not be changed within 5 days before the polling day and for election expenses, previously used bank accounts can be utilized, but an affidavit must also be provided, he expressed. Murtaza Abbasi said that security personnel would be deployed outside the polling stations adding, in case of any emergencies, they will be allowed inside with the permission of the Presiding Officer. To ensure transparency in the postal ballot, the number of votes issued in each constituency and the polling day will be informed on the website, he added.



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

## 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.

## 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.

He informed that he was visiting DG Khan following instructions from Caretaker CM Punjab Mohsin Naqvi to review security arrangements. Teamwork can help face challenges amicably, Wahab added. Commissioner DG Khan Dr Nasir Mahmood Bashir briefed the meeting participants about the overall security plan.

## 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.

## 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:

## 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.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Saddar area are burning tires and blocking 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.



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

## 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.

## 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.

# 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.

Russia intends to ship up to 50,000 tons of grain aid to Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, Eritrea and the Central African Republic in the next three to four months, Putin said. The Russian mercenary group Wagner has been active in Mali and Central African Republic, and Eritrea has voted against more U.N. General Assembly resolutions criticizing Russia's invasion than any other African nation.

Burkina Faso is seen by some observers as a likely next target for Wagner, and Zimbabwe has long been bitter about U.S. sanctions against it. Somalia, while a U.S. ally, is often held up as an African country most affected by any restrictions on grain supplies related to the conflict in Ukraine.

Both Russia and Ukraine are major grain suppliers. They agreed a year ago on a U.N.- and Turkey-brokered deal that reopened three Ukrainian Black Sea ports blocked by fighting and provided assurances that ships entering the ports would not be attacked. Russia declined to renew the agreement last week, complaining that its own exports

were being held up. Promising Russian food exports to Africa is key to Putin's stated goal of using the summit in St. Petersburg to bolster ties with a continent of 1.3 billion people that is increasingly assertive on the global stage. Africa's 54 nations make up the largest voting bloc at the United Nations and have been more divided than any other region on General Assembly resolutions criticizing Russia's actions in Ukraine. The Russia-Africa event follows South African authorities announcing last week that Putin had agreed not to attend an economic summit in Johannesburg next month because the trip could expose him to arrest under an International Criminal Court warrant for alleged war crimes in Ukraine.

Putin on Thursday announced other moves to deepen relations with Africa, including increased enrollment of African students in Russian universities, the opening of Russian state news media bureaus in many African countries and a proposed "common information space in Russia and Africa, within which objective, unbiased information about events taking place in the world will be broadcast to Russian.

## 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.

Mr Putin accused the West of disregarding "respect for the sovereignty and national interests of states." 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.



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 Korean 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,

## 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.

The White house declined to discuss specifics of any cooperation with the ICC. "Since the beginning of Russia's assault on Ukraine, the president has been clear: there needs to be accountability for the perpetrators and enablers of war crimes and atrocities in Ukraine," a National Security Council spokesman said.

"On the ICC specifically, we are not going to discuss the specifics of any cooperation, which is consistent with the court's practice of treating requests for cooperation in a confidential manner," the spokesman added.

Republican and Democratic lawmakers have accused the Pentagon of effectively undermining war crimes prosecution of Russia by blocking the sharing of U.S. military intelligence with the ICC.

## 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 Ukraine 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."



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.

# 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 account-

able 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.



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.



KARACHI: Newly elected opposition leader Raana Ansar meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

## 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 @SenToddYoung, 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.

## 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.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab during the visit said that it was important to know the current situation

## 10<sup>th</sup> of Muharram teaches us the lesson of sacrifice for Islam: Governor Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori in his message on the day of 10<sup>th</sup> of Muharram-ul-Haram said that the day teaches us the lesson of sacrifice for Islam.

We have learned a lot from the great sacrifice of Imam Hussain (R.A), his relatives and companions who established the tradition, which is a glowing example for those who follow the straight path in every era, he said.

The Governor Sindh further said that the martyrs of Karbala created a great history of martyrdom in the path of truth and righteousness by their words and deeds.

This great sacrifice is the greatest honor for Muslims today, he added.

The Governor said that the sacrifice that Imam Hussain (R.A) and his companions made in Karbala for Islam would remain alive forever.

## UNGA adopts Pak-backed Moroccan resolution condemn attacks against religious symbols, holy books

ISLAMABAD (APP): The UN General Assembly Tuesday adopted, by consensus, a Moroccan resolution, co-sponsored by Pakistan, calling for countering hate speech, and strongly deploring attacks against places of worship, religious symbols, and holy books.

The resolution, entitled: 'Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech', won the approval of the 193-member Assembly amid growing acts of desecration of the holy Quran.

Diplomats said that Pakistan led the efforts, along with Malaysia and Egypt, to work toward the resolution of the language aimed at upholding the sanctity of religious sites, symbols, and holy books.

The paragraph reads: "Strongly deploring all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as any such acts directed against their religious symbols, holy books, homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centers or places of worship, as well as all at-

tacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law." Spain submitted an amendment asking for the last words of that paragraph "in violation of international law" to be deleted.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, the Spanish delegate emphasized that although such actions are deeply offensive and disrespectful, they do not constitute a violation of international law, and thus proposed the elimination of the reference to "in violation of international law".

## Action of SFA team in Lee Market Provision of food items being ensured during Muharram: DG Agha

KARACHI: The team of Sindh Food Authority has taken action in Lee Market. The action was taken under the direction of Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha

other officers. A mobile testing lab was also present along with the Sindh Food Authority team on this occasion.

Sindh Food Authority team inspected shops selling food items, especially



Fakhar Hussain.

A special team formed by Director General Agha Fakhar Hussain took action in Lee Market to ensure the supply of food items, especially milk, free from adulteration, during Muharram ul Haram. SFA team was led by Director Operation Rafique Memon, deputy directors Bashir Khan, Maryam Talpur and

milk. During the inspection fines were also imposed on the sellers of substandard milk.

Besides, Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain has said in a statement that in the holy month of Muharram ul Haram, the supply of food items, especially milk free from adulteration, is being ensured.

## Hub Dam fills up, bringing hope for 100m gallons of daily water supply to Karachi

HUB (INP): The recent rains have resulted in the filling of the Hub Dam, a development that brings hope to the citizens of Karachi. The dam is now expected to provide 100 million gallons of water per day to the residents of Karachi for a duration of three years.

Abdur Rahman, the Project Director of Hub Dam, expressed optimism about the potential water supply. He mentioned that the dam has the capacity to deliver 160 million gallons of water to both Karachi and Balochistan. Highlighting another crucial aspect, Abdur Rahman stressed that

ensuring the proper repair of the Hub Canal and putting security measures would be instrumental in enabling Karachi to receive its full water quota.

The filling of the Hub Dam comes as a significant relief for the water-scarce city of Karachi, and the increased water supply is expected to alleviate the ongoing water shortage in the region. The Hub Dam, constructed in 1981 on the and plains north of Karachi, serves as a critical water supply source for irrigation in Lasbela District and provides domestic and drinking water to the city of Karachi.

## Provincial selection board-II meeting on July 31

KARACHI (INP): The meeting of the provincial selection board - II will be held on July 31 under the chair of Chief Secretary Sindh.

According to the notification, the selection board will consider promotion cases of officers of BPS 18 to BPS 19.

The board headed by Sindh Chief Secretary with the chairman, planning and development board Sindh, senior member board of revenue Sindh and Secretary (Services) SGA&CD as its members. All members have been requested to attend the meeting on the given date and time.

## HESCO declares emergency, calls officers and employees on duty till Youm-e-Ashur

HYDERABAD (APP): The management of Hyderabad Electric Supply Company has declared emergency and called all officers and employees on duty in order to ensure uninterrupted power supply till Youm-e-Ashur.

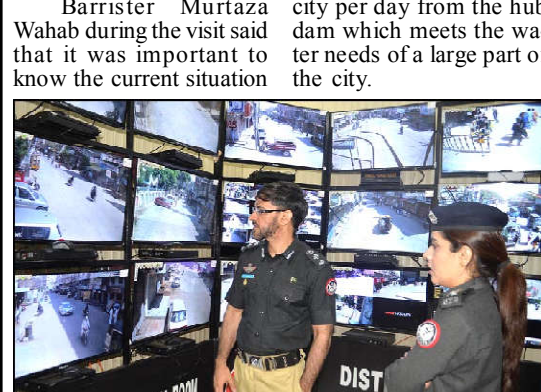
According to announcement, emergency control rooms have been set up in premises of Sadaat Colony and Imamia Trust Latifabad, Qadamgah Mulla Ali, Karbala Dadan Shah, Mehfil-e-Hussaini and other areas of Hyderabad where officers from Operation Division, GSC, GSO and Construction wings have received tasks to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

## Mayor Karachi visits Hub Pumping Station, Hub Canal

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab along with Chief Executive Officer Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) Syed Salahuddin Ahmed and Corporation Chief Operating Officer Engineer Asadullah Khan paid a detailed visit to Hub Pumping Station and Hub Canal.

On this occasion, Chief Engineer Bulk Sikandar Zardari, senior officials and other notables were also present.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab during the visit said that it was important to know the current situation



HYDERABAD: District police SSP Sajid Suddozai ASP Aleena Rajpar visiting monitor room during 9th Muharram ul Haram procession.

## SSP reviews security of Qadeemi mourning site

HYDERABAD (INP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sajid Amir Sadozai has visited the oldest mourning site in the Tando Jahaniyan area, here.

According to a police spokesman on Friday, SSP met with the organizer of the traditional mourning Syed Moazzam Ali Shah.

Incharge of DIB Inspector Akber Lund, SHO Cantt Inspector Ejaz

Lakho, and other relevant officials were also present on the occasion.

SSP visited the Qadeemi mourning site and adjacent areas to check the security arrangements.

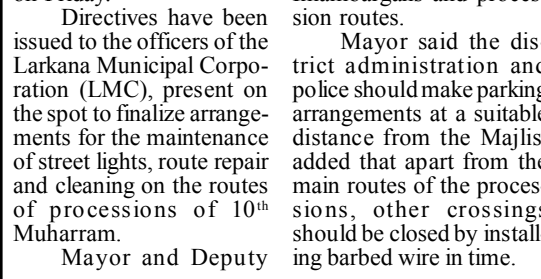
He also met with officers and jawans deployed for security at Tando Jahaniyan and issued special directives about ensuring strict security arrangements.

## Mayor Larkana visits various Imam Bargahs

LARKANA (APP): Mayor Larkana Municipal Corporation Anwar Ali Nawaz Lohar along with Deputy Mayor Muhammad Ameen Shaikh and officers of the Corporation paid a visit to main Imam bargahs and mourning procession routes in the city, on Friday.

Directives have been issued to the officers of the Larkana Municipal Corporation (LMC), present on the spot to finalize arrangements for the maintenance of street lights, route repair and cleaning on the routes of processions of 10<sup>th</sup> Muharram.

Mayor and Deputy



HYDERABAD: View of stagnant rain water after downpour of monsoon season due to poor sewerage system, showing negligence of concerned authorities, at Railway Colony in Hyderabad.

## May 9 incidents: Court orders to send 3 persons adiala jail

RAWALPINDI (Online): Civil judge, judicial magistrate Rawalpindi Khalid Hayat has ordered to send 3 accused including Seemabia Tahir former Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) of PTI to Adiala jail for identification parade.

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

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. The senior politician said the name of Ishaq Dar as nominee for caretaker prime minister became controversial the moment it was suggested. Criticizing the prime minister, the AML chief said Shehbaz Sharif was playing on both sides of the wicked and he was deceiving his brother.

"Shehbaz wants the caretaker government to act as his interim government but his wish will not be fulfilled," he added. "It is not democracy to pass 29 bills in just one hour as this legislation has been done on the pressure of someone," Rashid said.

The three accused including PTI former MPA Seemabia Tahir are arrested in May 9 vandalism and riots case.

The court ordered jail superintendent to make necessary arrangements for identification parade of the accused.

The court directed that the accused should not be allowed to meet any one till the completion of the identification parade.

## CAA employees protest against airport outsourcing in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) employees on Thursday staged a protest by putting on black armbands at Jinnah International Airport Karachi against the government's decision to outsource the significant airports of the country.

## PPP leader's house attacked after refusing to pay extortion money, no casualty reported: Police

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 Risalpur and escaped.

As a result, the house and the adjacent hujra were

damaged partially. However, Aslam and his family members remained unharmed. Police registered a case and started an investigation. Pir Aslam is the provincial leader of Pakistan Peoples Party and had contested elections twice on the party ticket, but he could not make it to Assembly. The civil society and politicians strongly condemned the attack and demanded the arrest of the culprits.



SUKKUR: Devotees of Imam Hussain (R.A) are using boats to participate in the religious mourning procession in memories of martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A), grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), in connection of 9th Muharram-ul-Haram, at Rohri in Sukkur.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Muharram processions held in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): All mourning processions of the 9<sup>th</sup> Muharram were taken out amid tight security in all big and small towns of the Sukkur division on Friday and concluded peacefully after marching on their designated routes. The administration had taken extraordinary measures to provide security to mourners by sealing off the routes with barbed wires and allowing entry of participants after thorough frisking.

Sabeels were set up along the processions routes to provide drinking water to weary mourners and passersby and food was distributed among the

poor. Towards the end of processions, religious scholars highlighted the supreme sacrifices laid down by the family of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) at Karbala.

In Sukkur, historic 'Tazia of Ziarat-i-Karbala Mualla' claimed to be continuation of a 500-year-old tradition, was taken out in Rohri before Fajr prayers in which thousands of mourners from different parts of the country as well as from abroad took part.

Thousands of mourners from all over Sindh participated in a mourning procession in Rohri and paid homage to the martyrs of Karbala.