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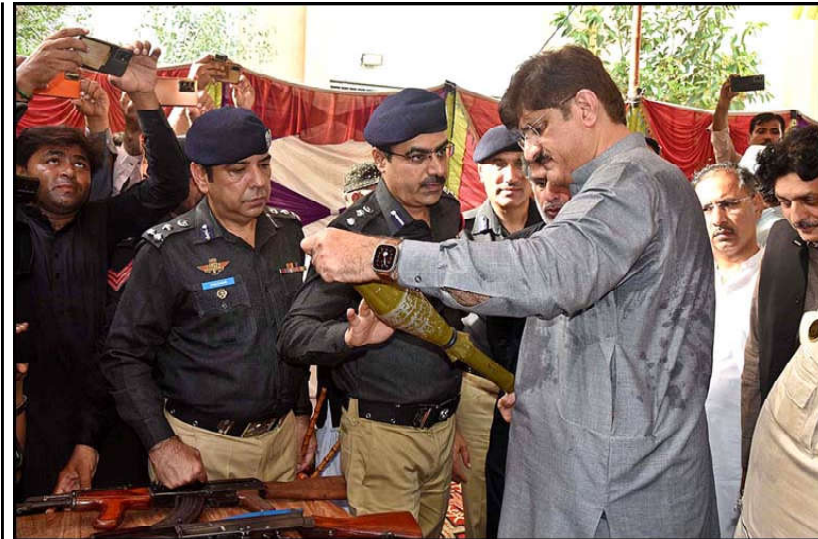
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President, PM, others condemn 44 martyred, over 100 injured in suicide blast at JUI-F convention in Bajaur

PESHAWAR (APP): Maulana Hameedullah Haqqani, General Secretary JUI-F Tehsil Navagai and Maulana Zir Ur Rehman, Ameer Tehsil Khar were martyred along with 44 other workers and over 150 others injured in the huge suicide bomb blast during the JUI-F Worker Convention at Dubai More (Shindai), Khal, Bajaur District on Sunday. Rescue 1122 officials confirmed. District Health Officer Bajaur Dr. Faisal also confirmed that they have received 40 dead bodies with more than 150 injured and among them, 16 persons were in critical condition that have been airlifted by Army Helicopters to CMH Hospital Peshawar. The Bacha International Airport Officials are said to have received 16 critically injured persons through two Army Helicopters. Soon after arrival, the injured were shifted to CHM Peshawar. The number of dead people is more than forty, including the local leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Ziaullah Jan, and former senator Maulana Abdul Rasheed was slightly injured. Dr. Faisal Kamal has confirmed that 40 people have died in the blast and more than 150 people have been injured in the Bajaur blast. He said 16 seriously injured had been sent to Peshawar CMH by helicopter, DHO Dr Faisal Kamal said. He said, many were injured in Lower Dir Timergara, and many have been sent to Peshawar.



LARKANA: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inspects Mortar Shell recovered from the possession of dacoits after operation in the Kashmir area.

CM Murad announces special allowance for police

By Tanveer Ahmad Soomro
KANDHKOT: Chief Minister (CM) Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah has announced special allowance and modern weapons for Police personnel deployed in Katcha, Kandhkot. As per details, the Chief Minister said that the Sindh martyrs package is less than that of Punjab but it will soon be balanced. He said that the dacoits are now abducting innocent children after witnessing their defeat. They are targeting those people who can become a headline on TV channels so that the police back off, he added. Murad Ali Shah claimed that the Kashmir area will be cleaned off from the dacoits in 10 days. He said that back in 2007 people used to travel in groups from Sukkur and Jacobabad as the entire area was in dacoits' control. Earlier, Sindh Inspector General (IG) Police Ghulam Nabi Memon said that as many as 67 dacoits had been killed and another 68 arrested in the ongoing operation in Katcha area. He revealed the details while apprising about the "success of the ongoing operation" in the Katcha areas of four districts (Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Kandhkot-Kashmore, and Ghotki) to restore complete peace in the province. Sindh IG informed that the provincial government was extending all possible cooperation in this regard by providing funds, weapons, gadgets, vehicles, and intelligence services.

Inefficiency, criminal negligence of PTI's govt cost country dearly: PM

National Assembly to be dissolved before August 12, says Shahbaz Sharif



LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday lambasted the criminal negligence and inefficient performance of Pakistan

vendetta. The prime minister expressed these views after performing the soft launching of various development projects which included Rs 50 billion Medical City, Rs 52 billion National Health Support Programme, and Rs 30 billion Population Welfare Programme. On the occasion, he also broke grounds for the SL-3 Lahore Ring Road project, Shadara to Kala Shah Kaku Metro Bus extension project, and inaugurated 1263 MW Punjab Thermal power plant in Jhang with a capacity of generating 10 billion inexpensive units annually.

Benazir Bhutto's wax statue unveiled at Madame Tussauds in Dubai

DUBAI (APP): Wax figure of former Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was unveiled at



Madame Tussauds Dubai in UAE on Sunday. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also attended the unveiling event. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is the first Pakistani whose wax figure is displayed at Madame Tussauds Dubai. Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, senior officials of the Embassy and Consulate General of Pakistan and prominent community members were also present. In his remarks on the occasion, the Foreign Minister highlighted that the wax figure is a befitting tribute to Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He added that her legacy- being the first female Prime Minister from the Muslim World- continued to inspire the young generation - women in particular. He further remarked that the former Prime Minister of Pakistan was consistent and passionate in advocating peace, stability, and cooperation amongst nations at international fora.

Chinese Vice Premier arrives in capital on two day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): At the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the Special Envoy of President Xi Jinping, the Vice Premier of China and a Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party He Lifeng arrived here on Sunday on a two-day visit to attend the 10th anniversary celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah received the visiting dignitary at the airport. "During his visit, He Lifeng will call on President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He will also be the chief guest at an event celebrating the 'Decade of CPEC'." said a Foreign Office spokesperson.



BAJAUR: Rescue workers shifting an injured worker of JUI (F) in an Army Helicopter after the bomb blast in Bajaur district. At least 60 people were killed and dozens more wounded on July 30 by a bomb blast at a political gathering of a radical Islamic party in northern Pakistan, police said.

Most welcome Excellency He Lifeng in Pakistan



The Vice Premier of China and Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, H.E He Lifeng has arrived Pakistan on three-day visit.

We heartily welcome the Excellency Hi Lifeng on his high profile visit being paid at the invitation of the Government of Pakistan.

Needless to mention here is that the important visit of the Vice Premier of China, who also happens to be the Special Envoy of President H.E Xi Jinping, is in connection with the 10th-anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

We are highly pleased to mention that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by President Xi Jinping, and also the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

There's no denying the fact that the H.E He Lifeng has remained actively involved in the progress of CPEC projects and has contributed to the dynamic growth in the implementation of CPEC initiatives.

The Foreign Office spokesperson has termed the visit of the Chinese Vice Premier as a significant step to further strengthen the high-level bilateral ties and deepen the friendship between Pakistan and China.

Similarly, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning rightly stated that "Over the past decade, as an important pioneering project of the BRI, CPEC has achieved fruitful results and become a new benchmark for the friendship between China and Pakistan."

To mark the 10th anniversary of the launch of CPEC, the Pakistani government will hold a grand celebration event in Islamabad, wherein the Vice Premier of the State Council would be participating. In addition to this, Excellency He Lifeng is also scheduled to call on President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Undoubtedly China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and iron-clad friends. The friendship is time-honored.

One also hopes that this very visit of the Vice Premier will be an opportunity for both sides to jointly implement the important consensus between leaders of the two countries, renew the traditional friendship, build on past achievements and upgrade the development of CPEC, consolidate and deepen the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, advance the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era and contribute to the development and prosperity of the region and beyond.



PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

Space donated by: Syed Farooq Shah Editor-in-Chief Independent Group of Newspapers

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Fluid & resilient

The militant landscape is nothing if not resilient, adapting to the changes in its environment and the pressures exerted upon it by counterterrorism forces. Law-enforcement agencies must therefore constantly stay one step ahead if they are to even reduce its lethality, let alone eliminate it.

The 32nd report of the UN's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team offers insight into how militant outfits readjust their strategies; where Pakistan is concerned, political developments in Afghanistan are having an impact whose long-term consequences could be devastating.

For instance, the document notes that in Africa's Sahel region, Al Qaeda and the militant Islamic State group "compete for resources, territory, and hearts and minds" which leads to violent conflict between them. However, there is "greater fluidity in Afghanistan where relationships and affiliations have a longer history and are more complex. The distinctions between members of Al Qaeda and affiliated groups, including TTP, and [IS-Khorasan] are at times blurred at the edges". Thus, in this region, militants may identify with more than one group, with a tendency to align themselves with the "dominant or ascending power".

The Afghan Taliban's assumption of power is giving increased operational space to the TTP in Afghanistan, and the spike in cross-border attacks by the banned outfit against Pakistan is compelling evidence of this. Although pressure by the government here did compel Kabul to relocate certain TTP elements away from the border area, the Taliban's refusal to take coercive measures against the group could add another layer of complexity to the situation. According to the report, evidence suggests that "other sanctioned terrorist groups are using support to TTP as a means to evade control by the Afghan Taliban". It adds, this could even lead to a range of foreign outfits coalescing under the TTP's umbrella; already, there are indications that Al Qaeda is providing "guidance" to the TTP for carrying out attacks inside Pakistan, and that TTP fighters have access to training camps of foreign terror groups in Kunar province.

Al Qaeda and IS have also given considerable autonomy to groups affiliated with them; decentralising terror networks enhances their operational effectiveness and ability to tackle CT measures. Perhaps that is why in Pakistan, one has of late been witnessing attacks by little-known outfits claiming to have links with one or the other of these major terrorist entities. There is also the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, with its on-again, off-again relationship with the TTP, whose members are suspected of involvement in several recent acts of terrorism. The Punjab CTD yesterday claimed to have arrested in several intelligence-based organisations 17 suspected militants belonging to various banned groups. We cannot afford to let up. On no account must violent extremist groups get the opportunity to hold Pakistan hostage again.

Hussaini values



Qasim A. Moini

The battle of Karbala, more than being an encounter between two political forces, was a battle of values. On one end of the spectrum is Imam Hussain, the apogee of human values, representing undaunted courage in the face of immense odds; a manifestation of compassion and divine grace for the weak and the down-trodden, but as firm as steel while confronting the wicked and oppressors.

Indeed, throughout his noble life, and particularly in the desert of Karbala, Imam Hussain was a true representation of what it means to be ashraf al-makhlouqat — the crown of creation.

On the other end, where those who encircled and martyred Imam Hussain and his companions are concerned, these forces represent all that is lowly and mean about mankind.

The 'values' exhibited by the Syrian and Kufi forces include subjugation of the weak, blood-curdling cruelty and lack of any empathy. In short, Imam Hussain's opponents are an apt example of what the Holy Quran refers to in Surah Teen as asfala safileen (the lowest of the low).

Therefore, the mourning for and remembrance of Imam Hussain should lead one to reject the corrupt values of his enemies and killers, and to adopt the sublime Hussaini values. If this is done — that is following the Hussaini example — the spiritual journey becomes much easier, as one rejects base and self-centred desires by walking in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet's

(PBUH) beloved grandson. Ashura is an annual 'invitation' to all mankind, to all those who wish to learn from Imam Hussain, to choose the right path and resist the nafs-i-ammara (base self). The values of Karbala are universal and beyond sect, religion, ethnicity and tribe. Anyone who wants to reach the innate goodness in their soul will recognise Imam Hussain as a guide and, as he has been referred to in ahadith as Safina-tun-Nijaa (the Ark of Salvation) and Misbah al-Huda (Lamp of Guidance). On the other hand, if one is immersed in material pleasures and ignorant towards all suffering and misery on earth — like Imam Hussain's opponents were — then the heart-wrenching episode of Ashura will have little effect on them.

As noted by Iranian scholar Dr Ibrahim Ayati in his seminal A Probe into the History of Ashura, the Imam "felt that the Islamic society had reached a stage of spiritual and moral degradation which could not be reformed except by means of rising and martyrdom".

While Imam Hussain's example is unparalleled, the Islamic world today, and indeed all of humanity, can benefit immensely by following in his footsteps. After all, man's condition today is still not too different from what it was in 61AH, when the event of Karbala took place. True, man has advanced by many strides materially, but spiritually he still remains hollow.

In the lands of Islam there is much talk of piety, but very little practice. Justice eludes the common man, while the rich and powerful live much as the kings and sultans of antiquity did.

Meanwhile, many non-Muslim societies, despite having ample resources and better infrastructure than poorer states, have high rates of depression and suicide.

This points to the fact that despite living in plenty, there is a spiritual void.

But Imam Hussain offers a way out. His example proves that if one stands firm even in the face of the greatest adversity, even after physical death, his memory will live on and inspire countless others, while the names of those who oppressed him will forever be remembered with opprobrium.

The late Ayatollah Muhammad Taqi Misbah Yazdi put it succinctly when he said that Ashura "is still fresh... and anyone who becomes aware of this incident, feels as if he has lost one of his own".

Imam Hussain sacrificed all he had: his children, nephews, brothers, supporters, while the women of his noble household — including granddaughters of the Holy Prophet — along with his sole surviving son Imam Ali Zain al-Abidin were taken captive and mercilessly marched to Kufa and Damascus. His stand was only for the sake of justice and to resist an oppressive structure that humiliated the weak and trampled on their rights.

While listening to the harrowing struggle of the Imam and his family softens hearts, repetition of the tragedy of Karbala also gives the wretched of the earth the strength to stand up for truth and resist tyranny in all its forms. Indeed, this is why, as said in the hadith, the Holy Prophet is believed to have said that the martyrdom of Hussain "has ignited a flame in the hearts of the believers that will never be extinguished". It is this 'fire' of divine love that inspires men and women centuries after that tragic day in Karbala, and across continents, as people continue to mourn for Hussain, and pledge to resist the tyrants of the day following his example. -- Courtesy Dawn

India's future path



Javid Husain

India's rapid economic growth and military build-up over the past three decades has catapulted it to a pre-eminent position both at the regional and global level, making it a strong contender for "great power" status in the years to come.

As a neighbour, it is incumbent upon Pakistan to assess India's internal, regional and global policy aims and directions because they directly affect its security and economic well-being.

As the famous dictum by Sun Tzu goes, "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles."

According to the World Bank, India occupied fifth position in world economies in 2022 with GDP in nominal dollar terms amounting to \$3,385 billion as against \$25,462bn and \$17,963bn for the US and China respectively.

By 2030, India is expected to move up to the third slot, with China and the US occupying the first and second positions. By way of comparison, Pakistan's GDP in 2021-22 was estimated at \$376bn only.

India's rapidly growing economic strength has enabled it to increase its military expenditure at a fast pace.

According to Sipri, an independent research institute looking into various aspects of armed conflict, India's military expenditure was estimated at \$81.4bn in 2022, ranking fourth globally.

Pakistan's military expenditure, according

to official estimates for 2023-24, is projected to be \$8bn only.

India's higher military expenditure has enabled it to build up its military strength in various fields at a fast pace. Its fast-developing strategic partnership with the US and its allies has added to its military weight, upsetting the strategic balance in South Asia to Pakistan's disadvantage.

India poses an enduring threat to Pakistan's security and economic well-being if one considers the dangerous trends in its internal, regional and global aims and policies.

Internally, the growing sway of Hindutva and Hindu extremism as propagated and practised by the Narendra Modi-led BJP and, arguably, a large majority of Indians has dangerous implications not only for India's religious minorities but also for Pakistan which, despite its shortcomings, is seen as an embodiment of Islamic ideology, which teaches social equality. In contrast, the caste system is part and parcel of the Hindu faith.

At the regional level, India is systematically pursuing its goal of establishing its hegemony in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

Henry Kissinger in his book, "World Order" (2014), takes note of India's hegemonic designs and points out that India has established "in practice a special position in the Indian Ocean region" and like the American Monroe Doctrine conducts "its policy on the basis of its own definition of a South Asian order".

India views Pakistan as a major obstacle in the fulfilment of its hegemonic designs in South Asia. A large section within India entertains hopes of the reversal of the partition, which

led to the creation of a Muslim-majority Pakistan. The causes of many Pakistan-India disputes can be traced to these two fundamental factors.

At the global level, as pointed out by well-known Indian security analyst C. Raja Mohan, India wishes to take its place as one of the great powers, that is, a key player in international peace and security or as a major pole in the emerging multipolar world.

Its membership of G-20 and BRICS, the grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and its quest for permanent membership of the UN Security Council show-uid be seen in that context.

India's long-term and rapidly-developing strategic partnership with the US and its allies, bilaterally or through such forums as the Quad (Australia, India, Japan and the US), promotes its economic progress and military build-up and helps it counter Beijing's ingress in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region, while serving the US policy of containment of China.

However, India is too big to be reduced to the status of a satellite of the US. Therefore, there will be occasional policy differences between the two as they pursue their respective national agendas.

The foregoing analysis underlines the need for Pakistan to stand on its own feet through policies of austerity and self-reliance, strengthen its political stability, and develop itself economically and technologically on a fast track, while maintaining a credible security deterrent and following a low-risk foreign policy. Its failure to do so will expose it to grave dangers internally and externally. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Over 130 Chinese companies to exhibit products in FoodAg 2023 in Karachi

BEIJING (APP): Over 130 Chinese entrepreneurs will participate in the first international food and agriculture exhibition being held in Karachi from August 10 to 12, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir said on Sunday.

We are getting an overwhelming response. So far, 130 Chinese businessmen have been registered with the Pakistan embassy and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) for participation in the exhibition, he told APP. FoodAg 2023 is the

first international food and agriculture exhibition being organized by TDAP. With its theme of a Sustainable Future, the exhibition will bring international and local communities together to generate hope for building a common future.

Ghulam Qadir said that there had been a great impact of the TEXPO which was attended by a large number of Chinese businessmen. Now, more people intend to go to Pakistan to explore business opportunities there. Pakistan and China have finalized five protocols of cooperation after Prime Minister

Shahbaz Sharif's visit to China. These protocols included boiled beef, chilly, dairy products, cherry and donkey skin which have attracted a lot of interest among Chinese businessmen, he added.

He informed that herbal medicines, seafood, rice, sesame, and boiled meat have big potential to attract the Chinese market. The commercial counsellor said that the upcoming food exhibition will connect hundreds of foreign delegates, media personnel, and regulators from 55 countries with established and budding Pakistani exporters.

Cash prizes for peasants on bumper production of cotton announced

MULTAN (APP): Punjab government announced cash prizes for contestants on maximum per acre production of cotton for the year 2023-24 in order to revive and promote white gold in the province. According to official sources, "The farmer who will secure the first position at the provincial level will be awarded Rs 1.5 million."

"Similarly, the farmers who will be at the top at the district level will be given Rs 800,000."

"The basic aim behind the cash prizes is to revive and promote cotton. As criteria for participation, the farmers who will cultivate cotton at five acres or more five will be eligible for appearing in the contest," the sources informed.

"The intending participants can get forms from the website www.agri.punjab.gov.pk. A committee at the divisional level will examine the participants' criteria.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed about 1263 MW Punjab Power Plant Dist Jhang.

FTO Coordinator advocates for corporate farming to boost Pakistan's economy, agriculture

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday said with corporate farming, Pakistan would not only stimulate economic activities but also revolutionize its agriculture sector

unlocking potential opportunities in food-related various industries. Speaking at a seminar on "Corporate Farming Promise Food Security" held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, he

said adopting corporate farming on state lands will not only facilitate the implementation of modern irrigation systems but also contribute to land development in Pakistan, said a news release issued here.

He said, "It entails reclaiming barren lands including deserts and hilly areas and transforming them into arable lands suitable for farming and agriculture."

"Corporate farming requires simultaneously

addressing the needs of small-scale farmers giving them access to modern processes, quality inputs, tools, and techniques for sustainable competition," he emphasized.

He said, "For attracting foreign direct investment, the government must declare agriculture as an industry and implement a timely investment policy tailored to induce foreign investment which will pave the way for the country's progress and prosperity."

'Relay cropping can help revolutionize agriculture sector'; says Saqib Ateel

MULTAN (APP): Secretary of Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ateel said that there was a dire need to relay cropping to get maximum production from available pieces of land.

"The best utilization of available resources is of vital importance to stabilize the economy by promoting the agriculture sector. Relay cropping is a method of multiple cropping where one crop is seeded into a second standing crop, before the

harvest of the second crop," he added.

In a statement, he observed that the agriculture sector could be improved by following modern techniques.

He urged research bodies to conduct experiments of inter and relay cropping.

The separate trial at research bodies and the Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture should be done and data should also be arranged regularly.

President ICAP calls on Dar, donates Rs 5m in PM relief fund

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) Muhammad Ali Latif on Sunday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and donated Rs 5 million to Prime Minister Relief Fund. According to the official account of the finance ministry, the president presented a cheque of Rs 5 million as a donation to the Prime Minister Relief Fund for Floods, Earthquakes,

Malik highlights China's expertise in agricultural technology, hybrid seed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik Sunday said China had made substantial advancements in agricultural technology, including hybrid seed development, and had the expertise to share the practices with Pakistan.

Shahzad Ali Malik currently visiting China with a delegation said, "More collaboration between Pakistan and China in the agricultural sector, particularly in the development of new varieties of hybrid

seeds in the private sector, is possible and could have significant benefits for both countries," said a news release issued here.

He said, "Collaboration in the private sector allows for joint research and development initiatives between both countries."

He said, "Such projects can lead to the creation of tailored hybrid seed varieties that cater to the specific needs of Pakistani farmers and align with the country's agricultural practices and climate."



MULTAN: Labourer are cutting huge wood into pieces at the Timber Market.

ICCI to give awards to conveners of its top performing sub-committees

ISLAMABAD (APP): President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Sunday said that the top performing sub-committees of the Chamber would be given awards to recognize and acknowledge their effective role in resolving the issues of the business community of their respective sectors. He said this while presiding over a meeting of the conveners of ICCI sub-committees, said a news release issued here.

A large number of conveners including women attended the meeting and briefed the President ICCI about the performance of their

respective sub-committees.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that during his tenure, 150 sub-committees had been formed in the Chamber, but only some of them were showing good performance. He urged all the conveners to further improve the performance of their committees and present their performance reports on a monthly basis to ICCI. He assured that ICCI would provide all possible support to the committees in discharging their responsibilities.

He announced that conveners of high performing committees will be given special awards while inactive committees will be replaced next year and the whole process will be done.



ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Ali Latif, President Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division and presented a cheque for Rs.5 million as donation in the PM Relief Fund for Floods, Earthquake & Calamities on behalf of ICAP.

LCCI resident lauds development projects inaugurated by PM

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar lauded six development projects, inaugurated by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, here on Sunday.

After attending the inaugural ceremony at the Governor's House, he told the media that transformative projects would propel the area's progress in the sectors of healthcare, transportation,

and energy infrastructure. He mentioned that centerpiece of the event was the grand unveiling of Rs 50 billion Medical City, a state-of-the-art healthcare complex designed to revolutionise medical services in the province. Equipped with cutting-edge facilities and advanced equipment, the Medical City holds the potential to elevate healthcare standards and cater to a larger number of patients.

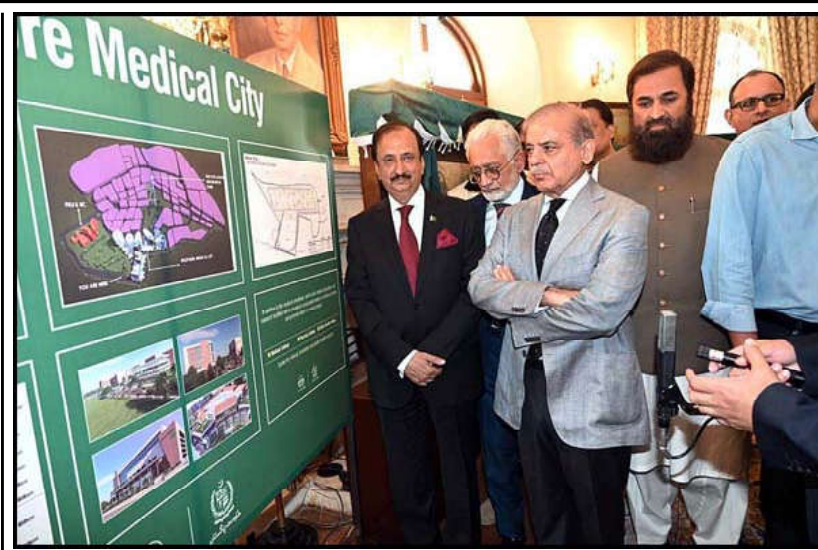
CM inspects construction work on Gujranwala link project

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Gujranwala-link project with the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway and inspected the ongoing construction work on the project.

While directing the authorities concerned to expedite work on the project, he said that high quality construction work should be ensured on the project. Additional resources should be utilised to complete the project in the stipulated period of time.

Mohsin Naqvi also visited the under-construction roads of Gujranwala Motorway-link road project. He issued necessary directions to the officials concerned to complete the project in the stipulated time period.

The CM was informed during the briefing that issues causing obstructing in early construction of the project worth Rs 11 billion had been resolved amicably. The dual carpeted road stretching 15.2-km long will provide excellent access to the motorway. All resources are being utilised to complete the project within 90 days, he was informed. With the latest travel facilities, time and fuel will be saved along with lessening of traffic rush on the GT Road.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed about Lahore Medical City.

PMLN's politics revolves around masses, development of Pakistan: Muqam

SHANGLA (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister, Engr Amir Muqam has said that the politics of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was revolving around the welfare of the masses and the development of Pakistan.

Addressing a big public gathering here in the Dandai area after the inauguration of various projects including the Kabalgram bridge, Engr Amir Muqam said Hazara Motorway constructed by Nawaz Sharif Govt has brought positive changes in the lives of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially of Hazara division. He said the distance between Shingla and Islamabad has been significantly reduced after the construction of Hazara Motorway which promoted trade, business and tourism in Hazara in particular and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in general.

Engr Amir Muqam, who is also the President of PML-N KP, said that his party vision was uniform development of Pakistan, people's socioeconomic welfare and resolution of problems at their doorsteps.

The Prime Minister's aide said that Besham-Khwazakheh Expressway was cleared by Central Development Working Party and approved by ECNEC which would be completed with an estimated cost of Rs80 billion.

Upon its construction, he said the distance between Shingla, Swat, Dir, Mardan and Peshawar districts would be reduced significantly besides making the entire Malakand Division a hub of trade and investment.

First comprehensive labour policy being finalised: Tasneem

SARGODHA (APP): State Minister for Production and Industries Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi said on Sunday that for the first time in the country's history, a comprehensive labour policy was being finalised, under which people working at their homes would also be registered and given wages according to the set rules.

Talking to APP, he said that a mobile-phone application, namely Domestic Workers had also been introduced across country, which would be helpful in registration process for the home-based workers.

To solve problems of sewerage and clean drinking water, consultations had been done with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), whereas work had been started on projects at a rapid pace, the minister said adding that while funds would also be spent for provision of clean drinking water and sewerage facilities to the area people.

The government has announced huge funds for the health sector in 2023-24 budget and work on 50 new hospitals and 63 new colleges was also under way.



LARKANA: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah along with other ministers offering condolences to the family of late Mir Shabbir Ali Bijarani after the sad demise of his brother and nephew at his residence Jacobabad.

Ombudsman orders Rs 14.137m financial relief for applicants

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab ombudsman has ordered provision of cumulative financial relief of Rs 14.137 million to applicants hailing from various districts. In a statement issued on Sunday, a spokesman said the ombudsman's office had received applications for provision of financial relief, death grant, talent scholarships, outstanding dues, and resolution of employment-related issues, including non-payment of pension, leave encashment, GP fund matters, and creation of an OSD [officer on special duty] post, among others.

The ombudsman provided justice to Rana Muhammad Ali by ordering his son's appointment as a junior clerk in BPS-11 to the Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) in Okara. Similarly, the School Education Department was directed to appoint Abrara Saadia from Toba Tek Singh and Shahzad Bibi's son from Bahawalpur as naib qasid under Rule 17-A of the Punjab Civil Servants (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1974.

Moreover, the Punjab Government Servants Benevolent Fund Board was directed to release an educational stipend of Rs 22,000 to Atta-ul-Haq Bhatti's daughter from Okara, Rs 32,000 to Gulshan Parveen's son from Talagang, and monthly grant arrears amounting to Rs 187,000 to Rao Muhammad Anwar from Bhakkar. Additionally,

Nawabzada Iftikhar to inaugurate three uplift schemes

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Minister of State for Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Nawabzada Iftikhar Ali Khan will inaugurate three uplift projects here Monday (on July 31). The projects include inauguration of the newly established Division Office, Sub Division and Revenue Office of Multan Electric Power Company (Mepco) in Khangarh and Wasindaywali, respectively.

Governor Punjab condemns blast in JUI-F workers' convention

LAHORE (Online): Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rahman has strongly condemned the explosion in the workers convention of JUI (F) in Khar area of Bajaur.

He expressed his condolences to the families of those who died in the blast.

Governor Punjab prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the blast.

He said that the nation is united against the monster of terrorism.



KARACHI: People searching body of a child who drowned in a Nullah at UP More area in the Provincial Capital.

Experts stress society free from abuse of children, child labourers

LAHORE (APP): Experts on Sunday called upon all concerned, including the media, government and private organisations to play their role in making institutional and non-institutional sectors free from child abuse and child labour. It is a social stigma and a gigantic problem in both developing and industrialised countries and low-income communities, they said.

Ms. Munawar Sultana, National Project Coordinator, Asia Regional Child Labour (ARC) project, said that around 160 million children aged 5 to 17 years were engaged in child labour in 2020, with 79 million children involved in hazardous work. About 3.3 million of Pakistani children are trapped in child labour, who are deprived of their childhood, their health and education, she said.

Hameed Alam, an elderly social activist, told APP here that children in all provinces of the country are being exploited physically, morally, socially and mentally. He said that hundreds of millions of girls and boys around the world are affected due to the child abuse and child labour menace. They are forced to spend a life of poverty and harassment, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) revealed in its recent report.

To prevent child labour, global organisations like the International Labor Organisation (ILO) and SPARC must work jointly to save children from the curse of child abuse and child labour, he stressed. Child abuse is a serious problem in Pakistan that often goes unpunished; however, there are laws in place that offer severe penalties for those who are convicted of abusing children, he added.

A total of 160 million children – 63 million girls and 97 million boys – are in child labour globally, accounting for almost one in 10 of all children worldwide. Peter Buwembo, officer-in-charge, ILO Country Office, stressed in a statement the importance of reliable data on child labour. He mentioned that an ongoing child labour survey in Pakistan would generate updated and accurate evidence for programme and policies.

He acknowledged the Government of Pakistan for ratifying all eight fundamental conventions of the ILO including C182 in 2001 and C138 in 2006 and enacting national and sub-national legislation, prohibiting the employment of children in general and hazardous work in particular. Buwembo underscored the need for harmonising the age of children in all relevant laws by federal and provincial governments, urging all stakeholders to work together for a long-lasting solution and accelerating progress towards achieving the SDG targets by 2025.

International News

US announces \$345 million military aid package for Taiwan

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The U.S. on Friday announced \$345 million in military aid for Taiwan, in what is the Biden administration's first major package drawing on America's own stockpiles to help Taiwan counter China. The White House's announcement said the package would include defense, education and training for the Taiwanese. Washington will send man-portable air defense systems, or MANPADS, intelligence and surveillance capabilities, firearms and missiles, according to two U.S. officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters ahead of the announcement.

U.S. lawmakers have been pressuring the Pentagon and White House to speed weapons to Taiwan. The goals are to help it counter China and to deter China from considering attacking, by providing Taipei enough weaponry that it would make the price of invasion too high.

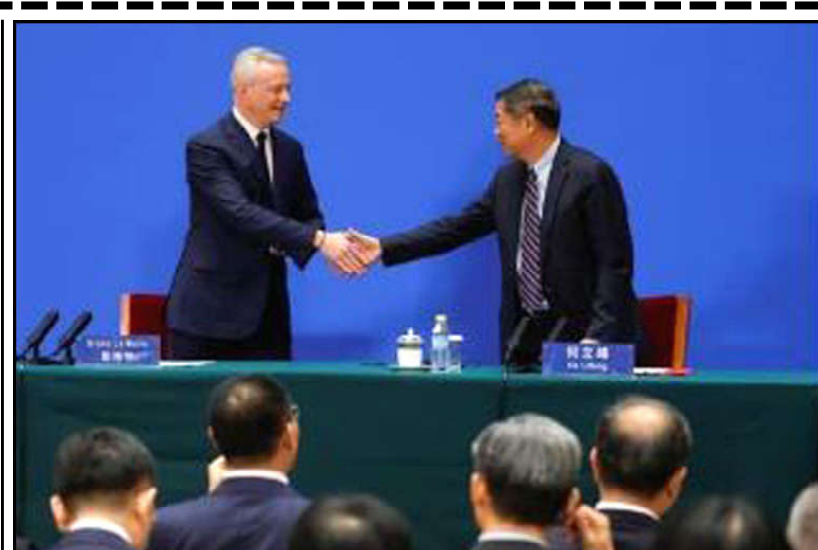
China says US military aid to Taiwan will not deter its will to unify the island

Monitoring Desk TAIPEI: China accused the United States of turning Taiwan into an "ammunition depot" after the White House announced a \$345 million military aid package for Taipei, and the self-ruled island said Sunday it tracked six Chinese navy ships in waters off its shores.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office issued a statement late Saturday opposing the military aid to Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory.

"No matter how much of the ordinary people's taxpayer money the... Taiwanese separatist forces spend, no matter how many U.S. weapons, it will not shake our resolve to solve the Taiwan problem. Or shake our firm will to realize the reunification of our motherland," said Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office.

"Their actions are turning Taiwan into a powder keg and ammunition depot, aggravating the threat of war in the Taiwan Strait," the statement said.



China's Vice Premier He Lifeng and French Economy and Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire attend the China-France Economic and Financial Dialogue at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China.

3 Ukrainian drones downed over Moscow: Russia defence ministry

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Three Ukrainian drones were downed over Moscow early on Sunday, Russia's defence ministry said, in an attack that briefly shut an international airport.

While one of the drones was shot down on the city's outskirts, two others were "suppressed by electronic warfare" and smashed into an office complex. No one was injured.

Moscow and its environs, lying about 500 kilometres from the Ukrainian border, had been rarely targeted during the conflict in Ukraine until several drone attacks this year.

The attack reported on Sunday is the latest in a series of recent drone assaults – including on the Kremlin and Russian towns near the border with Ukraine – that Moscow has blamed on Kyiv.

The defence ministry called it an "attempted terrorist attack".

"On the morning of July 30, the Kyiv regime's attempted terrorist attack with unmanned aerial vehicles on objects in the city of Moscow was thwarted," it said on Telegram.

"One Ukrainian UAV was destroyed in the air by air defence systems over the territory of the Odintsovo district of Moscow region."

"Two more drones were suppressed by electronic warfare and, having lost control, crashed on the territory of Moscow-City's non-residential building complex."

Moscow-City is a commercial development to the city's west.

African leaders leave Russia summit without grain deal or a path to end the war in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk NAIROBI: African leaders are leaving two days of meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin with little to show for their requests to resume a deal that kept grain flowing from Ukraine and to find a path to end the war there. Putin in a press conference late Saturday following the Russia-Africa summit said Russia's termination of the grain deal earlier this month caused a rise in grain prices that benefits Russian companies. He added that Moscow would share some of those revenues with the "poorest nations."

That commitment, with no details, follows Putin's promise to start shipping 25,000 to 50,000 tons of grain for free to each of six African nations in the next three to four months – an amount dwarfed by the 725,000 tons shipped by the U.N. World Food Program to several hungry countries, African and otherwise, under the grain deal. Russia plans to send the free grain to Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, Eritrea and Central African Republic. Fewer than 20 of Africa's 54 heads of state or government attended the Russia summit, while 43 attended the previous gathering in 2019, reflecting concerns over Russia's invasion of Ukraine even as Moscow seeks more allies on the African continent of 1.3 billion people.



Rescuers evacuate residents in a flooded area after Typhoon Doksuri landfall in Quanzhou, in China's eastern Fujian province.

Bangladesh police clash with protesters blockading capital

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Bangladesh police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse stone-throwing crowds blockading major roads in the capital Dhaka on Saturday in the latest protest demanding the prime minister's resignation.

The opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its allies have staged a series of protests since last year demanding Sheikh Hasina step down and allow a caretaker government to oversee elections due next January.

Clashes erupted in several locations when police moved in to clear thousands of people who gathered in the morning to block traffic on key arterials around the city.

"Some officers were injured," Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman Faruk Hossain told AFP. "We fired tear gas and rubber bullets."

At least four protest sites around the city saw clashes between police and protesters, Hossain said, with 20 officers injured and 90 protesters arrested.

Putin says Russia does not reject talks with Ukraine

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that an African initiative could be a basis for peace in Ukraine but that Ukrainian attacks made it hard to realise.

He was speaking at a press conference after meeting African leaders in St Petersburg on Friday and hearing their calls for Moscow to move ahead with their plan.

"There are provisions of this peace initiative that are being implemented," he said. "But there are things that are difficult or impossible to implement."

Reuters reported in June that African mediation in the conflict could begin with confidence-building measures followed by a cessation of hostilities agreement accompanied by negotiations between Russia and the West.

Putin said that one of the points in the initiative was a ceasefire. "But the Ukrainian army is on the offensive, they are attacking, they are implementing a large-scale strategic offensive operation... We cannot cease fire when we are under attack."

On the question of starting peace talks, he said, "We did not reject them... In order for this process to begin, there needs to be agreement on both sides."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has rejected the idea of a ceasefire now that would leave Russia in control of nearly a fifth of his country and give its forces time to regroup after 17 grinding months of war.

EU sanctions Rwandan army officer over involvement in Congo rebellion

Monitoring Desk PARIS: The European Union on Friday added a Rwandan army captain under its sanctions list for his involvement and support to the M23 rebel group that launch an offensive in eastern Congo last year, displacing over a million people in the restive region.

The M23 is a Tutsi-led rebel group, which the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Western powers including the United States and Belgium, as well as reports from a United Nations expert group, say is supported by neighbouring Rwanda. Rwanda has denied the accusations. The group is one of a myriad of armed rebels in eastern Congo who are fighting in a complex web of local politics and regional conflicts over ethnicity.

Joining China's Belt and Road was an 'atrocious' decision: Italy minister

Monitoring Desk ROME: Italy made an "improvised and atrocious" decision when it joined China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) four years ago as it did little to boost exports, Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said in an interview published on Sunday.

Italy signed up to the BRI under a previous government, becoming the only major Western country to have taken such a step. Crosetto is part of an administration that is considering how to break free of the agreement.

The BRI scheme envisions rebuilding the old Silk Road to connect China with Asia, Europe and beyond with large infrastructure spending. Critics see it as a tool for China to spread its geopolitical and economic influence. "The decision to join (the new) Silk Road was an improvised and atrocious act" that multiplied China's exports to Italy but did not have the same effect on Italian exports to China, Crosetto told the Corriere della Sera newspaper.

Turkiye urges Denmark to take urgent action to prevent Quran burnings

Monitoring Desk ANKARA: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Saturday urged Denmark to take urgent action to prevent burnings of the Quran, a Turkish foreign ministry source said. In a phone call with his Danish counterpart Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Fidan condemned the "continuous vile attacks against the Quran." He told Rasmussen it was unacceptable to allow such actions under the guise of freedom of expression.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshheed Ahmed Shah visiting Greater Karachi Water Supply Scheme K-IV project take-off site at Keenjhar Lak.

Five names finalized for Caretaker PM, assemblies to dissolve on Aug 9: Khurshheed Shah

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshheed Ahmed Shah has said that five names have been finalized for Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) and assemblies will dissolve on August 09.

He said a Committee of all parties finalized these names. The shortlisted candidates for Caretaker PM were neutral and they were not associated with any political party.

While talking to media persons after visiting the site of the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme K-IV project at Keenjhar Lake on Sunday, he said that they were making all-out efforts to complete the project by 2024 or at the start of 2025.

Replying to a question over the delay of the K-IV project which was expected to complete in 2018, he said, 'Where there is a will, there is a way.'

He said that their 'Will' was that they had to complete this project within two months before or two months later.

He said that an investigation should be carried out to know about the responsible for the project's design, and who become the cause of the failure of the first project. He further said that the delay was a big tragedy.

Khurshheed Shah said that the design of the project had been finalized while keeping in view the failure of the first project.

Replying to another question, he said that the water of the K-IV project would be supplied through pressure pumps.

While expressing his concerns over the non-availability of infrastructure to supply water to the K-IV project, he said that talks with the Sindh government were underway over the issue and he hoped that the provincial government would look into the matter immediately.

He said that the funding for the project was being provided.

Answering a question on additional water, he said that the KB Feeder project would be started this year and that would be based on a 50 per cent share each by the federal and Sindh governments.

Marriyum Aurangzeb reiterates govt commitment to upgrade PTV, Radio Pakistan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Sunday reiterated the government's commitment to upgrade Pakistan Television (PTV) and Radio Pakistan which were indispensable to promoting national heritage and narrative at the global level.

"The national broadcasting institutions are more than just structures as they hold a paramount position in representing the country's identity to the entire world," the minister said while talking to media men after laying the foundation of 1000 KW Digital DRM Medium Wave Transmitter Project at Radio Pakistan, Rawat.

Marriyum regretted that the previous regime of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was bent upon auctioning the national institutions including Radio Pakistan and others.

Highlighting the pivotal role of these national broadcasters, she stressed that the government was determined to leverage PTV and Radio Pakistan to enhance Pakistan's global presence and counter negative narratives about the country. At the outset of the media talk, the minister said Radio Pakistan accomplished a milestone today as the first time in history a Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) technology had been launched.

She said Radio Pakistan was based on analogue and short-wave technology since 1947 and most of its transmitters had already completed their life. The broadcaster was in dire need of DRM as analogue and short-wave technologies became obsolete a long ago, she added.

Marriyum said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to release funds for transforming Radio Pakistan on modern lines.

FM Bilawal embarks UAE on day long visit

DUBAI (Online): Foreign Minister (FM) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday landed in United Arab Emirates on one day visit.

UAE authorities and Pakistani envoy Faisal Niaz Tirmzi paid reception to FM on airport.

FM Bilawal will meet UAE FM Sheikh Abdullah bin Zaid Al-Nehyan. All aspects of bilateral relations among brotherly countries will be discussed during the meeting.

Foreign minister will attend the unveiling ceremony of 1st Pakistani personality Ms. Benazir Bhutto's statue in Madam Tusaad, Dubai.

Senate drops Prevention of Violent Extremism Bill after strong opposition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Sunday took a decision to drop an item, which pertained to 'The Prevention of Violent Extremism Bill, 2023,' from the house's agenda due to reservations expressed by several members of parliament.

Clarifying his position, he said the session was not summoned on the holiday due to this particular bill being introduced on behalf of Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan for

the prevention of violent extremism.

The chairman further made it clear that it was decided in the meeting of the advisory committee with the mutual understanding of all parliamentary leaders to summon the session on this day. However, Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan, terming the bill in the national interest said this legislation was made in the backdrop of United Nations Security Council Resolutions under 2178 and 2354.



LARKANA: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah during his visit to Guddu Barrage being briefed about the current flood situation by Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro and Secretary Irrigation Zarif Khoro.

Senator Sherry condemns JUI-F workers convention blast in Bajaur

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday strongly condemned the blast at Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) workers convention in Bajaur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. In her statement here, the federal minister expressed solidarity with the families of those martyred in the attack and the entire JUI-F.

PPP always focused on well-being of people: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf reaffirmed on Sunday that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)'s top priority is the progress of the nation and people's happiness. He conveyed these thoughts while addressing the participants of a public meeting held in Chhapra village, a Union Council Kori Dolal. Provincial Assembly candidate Khurram Pervez Raja was also present on the occasion. The speaker emphasized that the PPP had always focused on the well-being of the people.

He further stated that the party had relentlessly worked towards the nation's development and will continue to sacrifice anything for the prosperity of the people in the future. On this occasion, a significant number of people from Union Council Kori Dolal announced their formal joining of the PPP, saying goodbye to their previous parties.

COAS condoles UAE president on brother's death embassy shares photo

ISLAMABAD (Online): Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir condoled United Arab Emirates (UAE) president Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his brother during his visit to the UAE.

The Emirates Embassy in Pakistan shared a photo. In the picture released on the Twitter account by the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Pakistan, Army Chief General Asim Munir is seen expressing his condolences with the Emirati President Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

It should be remembered that earlier Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif also visited the United Arab Emirates. He went to the Emirates and expressed his deep sorrow to Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the death of his brother.

Governor lauds LEAs for foolproof security arrangements during Majalis, Muharram processions

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday lauded the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) for foolproof security arrangements during Majalis and Muharram processions. He also appreciated

the district administrations of the province, police and rangers.

Kamran Tessori said that the cooperation of the procession management and Majalis ensured the peaceful culmination of the processions.

Minister rejects Karunjhar Mountain Auction decision

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The Senior Minister of Sindh for Education and Literacy Syed Sardar Ali Shah on Sunday categorically rejected the decision to auction Karunjhar Mountains, a place cherished as the axis of love for the land of Sindh.

Alongside him, the Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs, Engineer Gianchand Esrani, stood in solidarity as they addressed the concerns surrounding the auction decision.

Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah passionately expressed, "We cannot even think of selling Karunjhar Mountain; it holds immense sentimental value for us. The newspaper advertisement for the auction has been cancelled, bringing relief to the anxious people of Thar."

The potential sale of Karunjhar Mountains had caused apprehension among the community, but the authorities' swift response allayed their fears, he added.

During the discussion, Education Minister Syed

Sardar Ali Shah also highlighted the strides made in education across Sindh. "The quality of education in our province is improving and surpassing that of other provinces. It is unfortunate that education is often criticized without acknowledging the progress made here, while similar challenges in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are overlooked."

Provincial Minority Minister Engineer Gianchand Esrani added, "We have established a committee comprising thirty-two members, with sixteen from Mirpurkhas division, dedicated to resolving various issues faced by minorities and ensuring their welfare. We are actively distributing medical and dowry funds for the benefit of the minority community."

In a heartwarming gesture, the two provincial ministers shared a simple meal at a public hotel in Mirpurkhas, reminiscing and reaffirming their commitment to serving the people of Sindh.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP) Leader, Jan Muhammad Junejo addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

MoU signed to ensure quality food to students at varsities

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Food Authority (SFA) and public and private universities have signed an accord to ensure the provision of quality food to the students.

According to a communiqué here on Sunday, the MoU was signed among SFA and the Dow University of Health Science, Government College University Hyderabad, Quaide-Awam Engineering Science & Technology Shaheed Benazirabad, Iqra University Karachi, Sir Syed Engineering Science and

Technology Karachi, Hamdard University Karachi.

The vice-chancellors of the public and private universities expressed their gratitude for the tremendous learning opportunities for their students through the provision of SFA internship opportunities to them.

The Director General of SFA expressed his pleasure on the MoU, stating that the authority had already established food testing laboratories at district and regional levels in cooperation with the universities across Sindh.

Hot, humid weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Sunday predicted hot and humid weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

However, light rain is forecast for coastal areas of the province at isolated places during the period.

The Minimum and maximum temperatures were recorded in Karachi 32-34 degrees Centigrade, Hyderabad 33-35 degrees Centigrade, Sukkur 36-38 degrees Centigrade, Thatta 32-34 degrees Centigrade, Mohenjodaro 36-38 degrees Centigrade.

Dadu is 39-41 degrees Centigrade, Mithi 34-36 degrees Centigrade, and in Nawabshah 37-39 degrees Centigrade.

Joint call in Senate to address Quran desecration incidents in Sweden, Denmark

ISLAMABAD (APP): The legislators from both sides of the aisle in the Senate on Sunday came together to urge the government to take concrete actions against the disgraceful incidents of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark.

During the session in the upper house, Senator Mushtaq Ahmed of Jamaat-e-Islami brought the matter to the attention of Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, stressing the importance of the upcoming Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) virtual meeting for the Council of Foreign Ministers of Member States on July 31. The meeting aimed to discuss measures against the repeated desecration of the

Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark, he added.

Senator Mushtaq emphasized the need to strengthen the OIC's strategy in dealing with the persistent menace of Quran burning on an international level.

He proposed the government halt diplomatic relations, particularly with Sweden and Denmark, to express its disappointment and protest against these recurrent incidents.

Supporting Senator Mushtaq's stance, Senator Molvi Faiz Muhammad of Jamaat-e-Islam-Fazl expressed astonishment that believers of other faiths would resort to such sacrilegious acts despite the Holy Quran mentioning the names of many prophets from various religions.



KARACHI: Participants hold banners during a walk, on the eve of World Friendship Day at Sea View in the Provincial Capital.

Dumper crushes woman, daughter to death in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A woman and her daughter died in a tragic accident in Karachi on Saturday.

According to the rescue sources, the victim family was going on a motorcycle near Parana Golimar when their bike fell down. A dumper ran over both the woman and her daughter, killing them on the spot.

Later, the woman was identified as Nagina (30) and her daughter Urnish (5). Police and rescue officials reached the site and shifted the bodies to the hospital.



KARACHI: Members of Christian Community hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club in the Provincial Capital.

Dar pledges to raise foreign reserves to \$15 bln in 7 weeks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Ishaq Dar, on Sunday, pledged to increase the country's foreign exchange reserves from \$14 billion to \$15 billion in the next seven weeks.

Speaking on a Point of Order in the Senate, Dar mentioned that the past 11 months had been challenging due to predictions from rating agencies about Pakistan's potential default. The country faced pressure to pay a significant sum of 3 billion dollars.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said China has extended the loan duration of \$2.4 billion for two years. This month, Pakistan, facing financial constraints, received a total of \$4.2 billion, which comprised \$2 billion from Saudi Arabia, \$1 billion from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and \$1.2 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF approved \$3 billion for Pakistan as part of a Standby Arrangement (SBA).

Wouldn't possible to delay elections on basis of holding a new census: Kaira

LALAMUSA (INP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira Sunday said that it would not be possible to delay elections on the basis of holding a new 'Census' by demanding establishing new parties.

Talking to a private news channel, Kaira informed that the process of electoral reforms was already started and the Elec-

tion Commission was busy in the preparation of conducting elections at its specific time and period.

Replying to a question, he said that delaying elections would not be favorable for the country's stability and PML-N was also not in favor to delay the process at any cost.

"The caretaker setup has a huge responsibility to run a country in an appropriate manner," he added.

Eleven labourers injured as factory's roof collapses in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): At least 11 workers were injured when the roof of a factory collapsed in Karachi's Korangi on Sunday.

The roof of the factory, located in Korangi's P&T Colony, collapsed trapping several workers under the rubble. Rescue teams reached the spot and retrieved the injured workers. The police said that the number of workers in the two-storey factory building was less due to Sunday. The injured workers were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The cause of the roof collapse is not yet known.

However, the police said that they are investigating the matter. This is the second factory roof collapse in Karachi in recent weeks. In June, a roof collapse at a garment factory in the SITE area killed at least five workers. The authorities have been urged to take measures to ensure the safety of workers in factories. They have also been asked to inspect factories regularly to ensure that they are safe.

Earlier, a factory in Landhi's Export Processing Zone took a hit as a container collided with its walls resulting in the roof collapsing over laborers.



KARACHI: View of site after factory building roof collapse incident as rescue operation is underway, at Korangi PNT Society Gate in Karachi.

Irrigation officials urged to adopt necessary measures due to high flood

KARACHI (APP): The Secretary of Irrigation Sindh directed all officers of the department to take necessary precautionary measures to face the flood situation in River Indus as the high flood was declared at Guddu and Sukkur Barrages.

According to a letter issued to the Chief Engineers and Managing Director SIDA, they were directed to take measures as per the Bund Manual and special arrangements like patrolling, material, machinery, and lighting be made along all vulnerable points and other locations and staff shall also be deputed there so that flood situations could be faced.