

Independent

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PM resolves to crush every conspiracy against Pakistan and state institutions

Denounces 'vile social media campaign' against COAS Asim Munir; Says Imran's 'trick of using proxies' badly exposed; Orders legal action against elements behind campaign.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday vehemently condemned social media campaign about threats of an assassination attempt on Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir and expressed the resolve to crush every conspiracy against Pakistan and the state institutions.

The prime minister, in a press statement shared by PM Office Media Wing, said that on May 9 (Black Day) similar minds were involved in the conspiracy. The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to take legal action against those involved in such media campaigns inside the country and

abroad. "It is a clear message to 9th May planners, facilitators and handlers that conspiracy against Pakistan and its institutions will be crushed", he added.

He further termed the vile, malevolent and malicious media campaigns a result of the planning of miscreants, adding the conspirators had again become active against the political and economic stability in the country.

The new media campaign was a part and parcel of that abhorrent campaign, which was launched against Shuhada, he maintained.

The prime minister observed that the media drive against armed forces and its chief did not fall within the

domain of freedom of expression, but it was only a conspiracy, and it was a legal responsibility to eradicate such tendency with full strength.

He said the nation would foil such attempts in such a manner as it had frustrated the attempt on May 9 to stir violence and vandalism in the country.

The entire nation was standing behind its armed forces and its chief and resolved not to allow the disappointed and panicked elements to create new crises in the country.

Separately, on his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Manager PIA Balochistan Abdul Ghaffar Miankhalil receiving pilgrims as the post Hajj flight operation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) commenced from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Quetta here on Sunday

302 pilgrims reach Quetta as PIA's Hajj flight operation starts from Saudi Arabia

Independent Report
QUETTA: The post Hajj flight operation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) commenced from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Quetta on Sunday. On start of the Hajj operation, two flights of the national flag carrier airlines were landed at the Quetta International Airport on Sunday morning.

In all 302 (151 each) pilgrims were brought to Quetta from the holy land by the two flights. The Airport Manager, Malik Mazhar Hussain, District Manager PIA, Abdul Ghaffar Khan Miankhalil along with other PIA and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) welcomed the pilgrims reaching Quetta by first two flights.

Moreover, a large num-

ber of relatives of the pilgrims were also present at the passenger lounge and outside the premises of airport building to receive their dear ones reached Quetta after performing the Hajj pilgrimage.

Mr. Miankhalil informed on the occasion that while 302 pilgrims were brought to Quetta from the holy land on Sunday by two Hajj flights, the operation would remain continued till June 30, 2023.

Around 8,000 pilgrims would be brought by 47 flights to Quetta from the holy land, the District Manager told further.

He said that special arrangements have been made to board and transport pilgrims from the Saudi Arabia to Quetta by PIA.

Five dead as explosion flattens three-storey building in Jhelum

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least five people were killed and many others received critical injuries when a three-storey building collapsed suddenly due to a powerful LPG cylinder blast in Jhelum on Sunday.

According to details, Rescue officials informed that the cylinder exploded in the kitchen of a three-storey hotel on GT Road, resulting in the collapse of a building, private news channels reported.

As a result, five people lost their lives and as many as 12 people were injured in the tragic incident.

Soon after the incident, the rescue teams, police and other personnel of law en-

forcement agencies arrived at the site and cordoned off the area. An emergency has been declared in the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) Jhelum. Dust was seen rising from the rubble of the collapsed building in the surrounding streets for a long time.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the incident of building collapse in Jhelum that resulted in death of five persons.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the Prime Minister commiserated with the bereaved families and prayed for eternal peace of the deceased.

Elections to be held on time: Maulana Fazal

PESHAWAR (INP) Pakistan Democratic Movement head Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Sunday elections would be held on time.

He said hopefully, the nation would not put the country to any test again by electing unpopular leaders.

Talking to senior journalists, the PDM chief said after one month the term of the central government would be completed and the prime minister made it clear that the PDM would dissolve the assemblies after the completion of term.

He further said that help from friendly countries and IMF had also been received mentioning that the country was very weak economically and highlighted that the investment of friendly countries in Pakistan would be the second big step to improve the economy.

India leaves water in Chenab river

LAHORE (Online): Water left from Indian side in Chenab River entered into Pakistan, Water flow in head marala reached to 122184 cubic feet.

Administration issued alerts.

According to flood control room water flow in Chenab river was 60,000 cubic feet on Saturday morning and continues rise in water flow threatens high level flooding.

Gujranwala district administration declared 20 villages sensitive.

Beraj administration said Marala Barrage Sialkot have the capacity of 11 thousand cubic water.



GWADAR: View of huge fire flames rise from burning truck after traffic accident due to over speeding, at Makran Coastal Highway in Gwadar.

Through screen tourism Revolutionary steps being taken to promote Pak image, narrative globally: Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that revolutionary steps were being taken to implement the vision and directive of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to promote the country's culture and heritage and its narrative through screen tourism.

She said this while addressing a ceremony after performing ground breaking of the site for cinema and inauguration of Classical Musical Research Cell, Digital Broadcast Training Lab and Podcast Studio here at the Radio Pakistan.

She said that through using platforms like Pakistan Television, Radio Pakistan, Lok Virsa and Pakistan National Council of Arts, the people especially, the youth could be con-

nected with the country's heritage.

She said that infotainment and entertainment were highly required for people especially the younger generation because during the last four years, hatred and intolerance had been promoted in the country.

Marriyum said that it was a high time when people and especially youngsters should be provided an alternative through which they could engage themselves in positive activities.

She said that in 2017 and 2018, a foundation of the country's first culture policy and film policy was laid, adding that implementation of the policy was started in the 2018 budget

Continued on page 2



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

Nawaz, Zardari have agreed on caretaker setup: Khurshid Shah

NOWSHERA (INP): Senior leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Shah has said that Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari have agreed on installing the caretaker setup in the country for general elections, and the polls will not be delayed even for a day.

The federal minister said that the government and the coalition partners were on same page in holding the general elections according to the constitution and law. The deal with IMF and the budget were the major achievements of the coalition government, he

said. Mr Shah said that transparent and impartial general elections were the only solution to the prevailing crisis. He said inflation had started decreasing in the country.

The federal minister said that the Pakistan People's Party had always brought the nation out of disappointments.

The census was conducted transparently and according to the rules in the entire country including Karachi and Sindh and the objections of Muttahida Qaumi Movement and Jamaat-e-Islami had been removed.

Father & son gunned down over resistance during bike snatching

Independent Report
QUETTA: Two persons identified as father and son were shot dead by unknown armed bandits upon resistance in the motorbike snatching incident on Sunday morning.

According to the police, the incident of brutal killing of a person and his teenage son was occurred on Qambrani road. As per details, the two were on their way riding on their motorbike when at least two armed dacoits intercepted them and asked them to hand over their bike

to them. However, both identified as Abdul Karim and Eaz Ahmed showed resistance in handing over their bike to the bandits, they sprayed bullets targeting them from close range.

As a result, both sustained serious bullet wounds and thus died before they were provided any medical assistance, the reports suggested.

The armed bandits fled from the scene leaving them in the pool of blood. Later,

Continued on page 2

3 died as truck of diesel overturns, caught fire at Makran Coastal highway

Independent Report

QUETTA: Three persons including a driver and two aides were killed when a diesel-laden vehicle overturned and caught fire at the Makran coastal highway on Sunday morning.

According to the reports reaching here, the vehicle carrying Iranian diesel was on its way on the Makran coastal highway when it overturned at a sharp turn. Soon after the truck carrying the diesel overturned at the highway, it caught fire resulting in on the spot death of all three persons on board.

Although the area levies and administration rushed towards the spot of accident, but it couldn't extinguish the fire until it put out by itself after sometime. Later, the bodies of ill-fated driver and two others were retrieved from the burnt vehicle and shifted to the nearby hospital. In the meantime, the flow of traffic remained suspended for hours at both sides of the highway from the spot where the accident occurred.

They also discussed ongoing projects in the Sindh province, cooperation of the federal government, measures pertaining to the restoration of metropolis infrastructure and other issues of mutual interests.

Kamran Tessori, on the occasion, said that the development of the province through the cooperation of the federation was certain.

He said that steps were being to ensure the welfare of the people.

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Accused Muhammad Saleem jeweler arrested from Gujrat, who is brother of prime accused Greece boat incident Asif jeweler.

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CM directs IGP, DIGP to take steps on war footing bases to better law and order in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: Taking strict notice of the gruesome act of killing of a person and his son during motorbike snatching incident on Qambrani road Quetta city on Sunday, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has directed the Inspector General of Police and DIG Police Quetta to take steps on war footing grounds to improve law and order situation in the city.

The Chief Minister sought a report from the police command about this incident and similar other crimes including the robberies and dacoities.

Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo expressed anguish over the incidents of road robberies and killing of people in these incidents.

The Chief Minister asserted that the police would have to show its performance to end dangers posed to the citizens of Quetta.

He said that the citizens of Quetta are insecure after increase in incidents of robbery and snatching in the

city. He said that it is prime responsibility of the police to protect life and property of the masses. Abundant resources are being provided to the police for from the public tax money, he added.

He said that the trust of people would have to be restored on police anyway. He directed the concerned high ups to prepare security plan for Quetta city afresh.

In addition to this, patrolling of the security personnel should also be increased, adding he stressed.

Moreover, an effective system of the checking on entry and exit routes should also be developed, he maintained.

The Chief Minister warned that action would be taken against the incharge of police station where the act of crime would occur in future.

He expressed sympathy and condolence with the bereaved family of those died in the Qambrani road motorbike snatching incident.

Governor Sindh calls on President Alvi



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

According to a Governor House communique, the Governor felicitated the President on performing Hajj.

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QUETTA: Activists of the Pakistan Muslim League Women's Wing hold a protest against the desecration of the Quran in Sweden in front of the press club.

JCC meeting to explore new avenues of China-Pak coop., chart future course

BEIJING, July 9 (APP): The Special Commemorative 12th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is to be held on Tuesday in Beijing, as the two countries celebrate a decade of achievements linked to the project.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal who will lead the Pakistani delegation, said before his departure for China that the two sides will explore new avenues of cooperation and chart the future course for the

CPEC in emerging sectors during the meeting, Global Times reported.

This year marks a decade of the CPEC.

The landmark project was formalized on July 5, 2013, when the then prime minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif visited China to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Pakistan and China representing the official commencement of the project.

The CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in Northwest China's

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which encompasses energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

The 12th Special CPEC JCC meeting holds great significance as it not only represents a decade of fruitful collaboration but also sets the stage for the next phase of the project.

The meeting aims to forge stronger ties, explore new opportunities and reinforce the foundation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).



COLOMBO: Pakistan cricket team arrived in Sri Lanka to play two match Test series

Pakistan cricket team reaches Sri Lanka for two Test match series

First Test of series between two sides will be played at Galle International Cricket Stadium on July 16

COLOMBO: The national cricket team on Sunday arrived in Colombo to play two Test matches against Sri Lanka.

The Pakistani cricket team reached Colombo from Karachi via Dubai. Before the Test series, the national team will play a two-day warm-up match in Hambantota from July 11.

The first test match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka will start from July 16, whereas the second test match between the two

teams will be played on July 24.

Pakistan last toured Sri Lanka in July 2022 for a two-match Test series that ended in a 1-1 draw.

Pakistan squad © Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan (vc & wk), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Huraire, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Noman Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi and Shan Masood

Sri Lanka win Cricket World Cup qualifier tournament in Zimbabwe Sports Desk

HARARE: Spinner Maheesh Theekshana took 4-31 as Sri Lanka claimed victory over Netherlands by 128 runs in the final of the 2023 Cricket World Cup qualifier tournament at the Harare Sports Club on Sunday.

Both teams had already qualified for the main event that will be held in India from Oct. 5-Nov. 19, but Sri Lanka will leave Zimbabwe with the trophy, having won all eight matches they played in the tournament.

Having been sent in to bat, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 233 in 47.5 overs as Sahan Arachchige top scored with 57.

Netherlands were in trouble from the start of their reply and, after slipping to 49-6, were dismissed for 105 in 23.3 overs.

Theekshana was the chief wicket-taker with seamer Dilshan Madushanka also pitched in with 3-18.

"First goal was to qualify and we did it. Second was winning the tournament and we have fortunately done that as well. We can go home happy," Sri Lanka coach Chris Silverwood told reporters.

Arrest warrant of Zulfi issued

ISLAMABAD (Online): Judicial Magistrate Muhammad Shabir issued arrest warrant of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and former federal minister Zulfi Bukhari.

Case is filed against Zulfi Bukhari under many articles including terrorism act in Golra Police Station.

Zulfi Bukhari is also nominated in £190 million illegal transaction case. In this regard written answer has been submitted to National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

It was opined in written reply that he received information regarding NAB call up notice today, and he is out of country so cannot appear in NAB.

NAB had summoned PTI leader Shehzad Akbar and Zulfi Bukhari in their office Rawalpindi on June 23.

It was stated in NAB notice in £190 million transaction Shehzad Akbar as public office holder used his jurisdiction illicitly for personal gain as he was the personal special assistant to former prime minister.



HUB: Photo highlights of the Eid Milan party given by Pakistan Peoples Party Hub District President Mir Ali Hassan Zahri in honor of party leaders, tribal and political leaders and workers.

Preparation of Pakistan Street Child Footballers for Norway Cup at peak

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Final training camp for Pakistan Street Child Football Team, hailing from various parts of the country including AJK - mostly belonging to the illustrious UK-based NGO Muslim Hands International, for the upcoming Norway Cup tournament, continued in the federal metropolis for the second consecutive day on Sunday.

The regional head media wing of the Muslim Hands AJK Raja Qamar Atta told APP here Sunday evening that the training camp of the National Street Child Football Team had begun on July 8, Saturday, 2023 at the Islamabad Sports Complex.

According to the declaration unveiled by the Pakistan Street

Child Football Team the selection of the squad for participation in the World Youth Football Cup "Norway Cup" scheduled to be held in Norway from July 27, 2023, will be finalized in the training camp", Atta said quoting an official announcement made by the Pakistan Street Child Football Team on Sunday.

Earlier, the management of the Pakistan Street Child Football Team had organized trials across the country last month in which thousands of youths participated, the Muslim Hands media head in AJK said.

It may be added that Pakistan Street Child Football Team won second position in Norway Cup 2015 and third position in Norway Cup 2016.

PM resolves... Continued from page 1

Khan continued to engage in a vile, sinister and malicious campaign against COAS General Syed Asim Munir. "His trick of using the proxies to threaten the Army Chief of an assassination attempt has been badly exposed. After his methodically planned attack on the State symbols failed, he is clearly desperate & wants to coerce his way back into power, little knowing that the time of his politics of intimidation, violence & hatred is over," he added.

Through such highly condemnable antics, the prime minister said he (IK) was only exposing himself, the core of which was defined by putting his personal interest (power grab) over everything else.

The people of Pakistan and the political parties stood behind their Army Chief and the armed forces like a rock and would thwart any attempt and conspiracy at undermining their prestige, honour and integrity, he added.

Economy improving owing to govt's prudent policies: Dar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has said economic situation of the country is improving due to prudent policies of the coalition government.

He was virtually talking to a representative delegation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries and business organizations of 25 districts of Punjab in Lahore on Sunday.

He said bringing traders and industrialists together at one platform is commendable.

Speaking on the occasion, Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said one window facility will be provided for issuance of NOCs for setting up new industries and starting new business.



LAHORE: Federal minister of Information and Broadcasting Maryam Aurangzeb taking keen interest in the portraits of Pakistan favorites classical Singers during her visits of Radio Pakistan in Provincial Capital.

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

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

PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif was disqualified under a conspiracy when the "Panama verdict was

changed to Iqama", he said while talking to a private news channel.

PML-N supreme leader and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will return to the country soon before the election campaign, he added.

"Chairman PTI's time has come to an end, he said, adding, he himself stuck under the burden of his own poor performance", he added.

Nation observes 56th death anniversary of 'Madr-e-Millat' Fatima Jinnah

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 56th death anniversary of Madr-e-Millat (mother of the nation) Fatima Jinnah was observed with reverence and respect across the country today.

The younger sister of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, played a vital role in the creation of Pakistan.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah was deeply affected after his wife's death in 1929. Fatima Jinnah worked side by side with her brother and gathered the women of sub-continent on one platform which made the struggle for achieving a separate state of Muslims easier.

In 1947, Fatima Jinnah formed the Women's Relief Committee, which later formed the nucleus for the All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA). She also played a significant role in the settlement of Muhajirs in the new state of Pakistan.

Fatima Jinnah is referred as the Madar-i-Millat or Mother of the Nation for her role in the Freedom Movement. She returned to the political forefront to contest the 1964 elections at the age of 71 against the military administrator, Ayub Khan.

Mohatma Fatima Jinnah was born on July 31, 1893 in Karachi and passed away on July 9, 1967.

Fatima Jinnah is still remembered for her passionate support for civil rights and devoted struggle in the Pakistan freedom movement.

3-day Shandur polo festival concludes successfully

CHITRAL (INP): A three-day enthralling colourful celebrations of traditional Shandur polo festival concluded successfully in Chitral valley where thousands of tourists from all across Pakistan including International tourists had participated in the event and enjoyed polo matches.

The provincial government in collaboration with Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has made all-out efforts to promote sports and tourism while the polo game found special attention for the tourists, PTV News channel reported.

The world's highest polo field, Shandur, Upper Chitral, is the site of the annual polo festival, which features teams from Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral.

A foreign tourist admired that the unique location of the polo ground makes it a popular destination for adventure seekers and polo enthusiasts.

The final match of the festival was played between Chitral and Gilgit Baltistan teams, said a local visitor.

The festival also concluded with special traditional, cultural, and adventurous activities including music and dance in the evening at the world's highest polo ground at Shandur.



Along with this, administration officials, including high civil and military officials, a large number of local people and other guests had attended the event.

On this occasion, local artists also performed Waziristan dance and sang national songs.

EU mulls extending Pakistan's GSP+ status

ISLAMABAD (INP): European Union (EU) mulling over extending Pakistan's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) Plus status.

In a video statement, European Union Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Riina Kionka said that Pakistan will continue enjoying the preference in access to the European markets as no changes have been made in the planned extension of GSP regulation.

She said that the report will be presented in the European parliament and the member states and the EU will keep an eye on the proceeding regarding the GSP plus status.

The ambassador high-

Father & son gunned down... Continued from page 1

lighted the areas where the EU wants improvement from Pakistan, which include freedom of expression, media freedom, women's rights, minority rights, and gender equality.

Dr Riina Kionka maintained that EU and international experts are keeping an eye on the crackdowns after May 9 and the trials in the military courts and anti-terrorism courts.

Pakistan is a party to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which states that every citizen has the right to a fair and public trial. The charter also states that the trial must be held in court which is free and unbiased.

England beat Australia in 3rd Test thriller to keep Ashes hopes alive

ISLAMABAD (INP): England beat Australia by three wickets in a nail-biting third Test at Leeds' Headingley Cricket Ground on Sunday to keep the five-match Ashes series alive.

Harry Brook and Chris Woakes shared a crucial partnership of 59 that took England to the brink of victory before Brook fell for 75 to Mitchell Starc (5-78).

The recalled duo of Woakes (32 not out) and Mark Wood (16 not out) then saw England home with more than a day to spare to cut Australia's series lead to 2-1.

The series continues with the fourth Test at Old Trafford starting on July 19, with Australia now having two games in which

England beat Australia in 3rd Test thriller to keep Ashes hopes alive

to seal their first Ashes campaign triumph in England in 22 years.

England are bidding to become just the second team to win a Test series from 2-0 down after the 1936/37 Australia side, inspired by batting great Don Bradman, recovered from that deficit to win the Ashes 3-2.

Australia 1st Innings 263 (M Marsh 118; M Wood 5-34, C Woakes 3-73)

England 1st Innings 237 (B Stokes 80; P Cummins 6-91)

Australia 2nd Innings 224 (T Head 77; S Broad 3-45, C Woakes 3-68)

England 2nd Innings 254-7 (H Brook 75; M Starc 5-78)

Result: England won by three wickets



NASEERABAD: Members of All Pakistan Korai Ittehad are holding protest demonstration against killing of Asif Ali Korai and demanding justice for him, at Benazir Bhutto press club in Naseerabad.

1.2m BISP beneficiaries of South zone Punjab receive quarterly installment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The fourth quarter installment under BISP Kifalat program for the fiscal year 2022-23 has been released as around 2.3 million families enrolled in Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) South Zone Punjab would avail of the facility.

Zonal Director BISP South Zone Punjab, Sheikh Muhammad Ameen, expressed these views while talking to APP here.

He said that such families who had received messages from 8171 and didn't receive their amount so far could contact nearby HBL connects PoS or BISP Tehsil offices for getting assistance.

He informed that nearly 1.2 million beneficia-

ries had obtained their quarterly aid so far across the zone which is about 50 percent of the total figure.

Mr Ameen said that the funds for the BISP education scholarship program have also been released with a quarterly stipend and beneficiaries could get it.

He informed that an education stipend was being offered from primary to higher secondary level to both girls and boys on a quarterly basis.

BISP Zonal Director said that Rs 1500 scholarship fixed for male students and Rs 2000 for female students at the primary level.

Likewise, Rs 2000 for male students and Rs 2500 for female students at secondary. Rs 3000 for male

students and Rs 3500 for female students at higher secondary school level was being offered.

He said that Rs 500 extra is fixed for female students at each level to encourage them to get an education.

The cash could be withdrawn from Habib Bank's designated retail centers.

Deserving women were asked to receive their full amount and never forget to get the receipt.

The beneficiaries could report to BISP toll-free helpline 080026477 or DG office helpline number 04235415143 in case of any complaint pertaining to deduction of amount, payment hurdle, or others, he concluded.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people enjoying picnic at Shahdara valley near outskirts of the Federal Capital.

UNA to hold virtual workshop on Global Media Congress

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA) is set to host a virtual workshop for news agencies introducing the Global Media Congress on Thursday (July 13, 2023) in cooperation with the Emirates News Agency (WAM) and the Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC).

The workshop will aim to present the event in its second edition, which will be hosted by Abu Dhabi on

November 14-16, 2023, under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, with the attendance of regional and international media industry pioneers,

said a press release received here yesterday.

The workshop will also highlight available opportunities for news agencies participating in the congress, including how to book a space for exhibitions and side events.

UNA Director-General Mohammed Al Yami said the workshop is part of the union's keenness to promote engagement among member news agencies during international media events, which will help to promote their performance and update their tools.

The workshop, the first event of its kind in the region, will also provide an opportunity for member news agencies to exchange ideas, especially amidst the rapid developments in the media sector.

Islamic calligraphy & painting exhibition held at PAC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Arts Council (PAC) on Sunday organized a two-day Islamic calligraphy and painting exhibition in collaboration with VSCOPK.

The chief guest of the opening ceremony was Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal Amir Fida Paracha.

Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed, Naheed Manzoor, Muhammad Sulaiman and Mian Afzal Javed were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, MD Bait-ul-Maal Amir Fida Paracha said that calligraphy was the common heritage of Islamic countries and also a means of connecting and deepening the relations of Islamic societies.

He said that the art of calligraphy and all other real arts keep man safe from deviating from the paths leading to Allah.

Aamir said that Allah is the creator and manifestation of beauty.

Finally, the chief guest also congratulated the painters and calligraphers for presenting the best work. Naheed Manzoor said that the colours of nature and earth were prominent in the paintings.

She said that children had presented the positive face of Pakistan to the world, adding "We should encourage our children towards formal education as well as non-formal activities." Director Waqar Ahmad while speaking said that combining various themes in an exhibition was also an art.

Arts Council had always provided a platform to the youth so they can present their work to the world, he said and added that the Punjab government's initiatives for the welfare of art and artists were exemplary.

The exhibition featured Islamic calligraphy and artworks on mountains, birds of prey, villages and other themes.



ISLAMABAD: A view of clouds on the sky during pleasant weather in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: People from different walks of life making Quran Chain organize by the Muslim Talba Mahaz Pakistan at Appara against the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.

Urban Unit, CCP ink MoU to enhance cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Urban Unit and the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance the professional expertise of both institutions by undertaking exchange and joint activities in the fields of training, research, data sharing and capacity building.

The MoU was signed by Muhammad Omar Masud, CEO of the Urban Unit and Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan, Chairperson of CCP. Senior officials from Urban Unit and CCP were in attendance, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The Urban Unit provides policy advice, services, and expertise in urban planning, transport, waste management, water and sanitation, economic development, finance, capacity building, service delivery improvement, as well as consultation and support in communication, branding, marketing, and stakeholder engagement. The agreement aims to facilitate exchange programs, joint training initiatives, and consultancy services in specific areas of mutual interest. Through this part-

nership, the Urban Unit will extend its support to the Commission by granting access to its data resources for research studies, competition assessment reports, and inquiries.

Expressing his views on the collaboration, Omar Masud said that the MoU would help the Urban Unit to collaborate in conducting joint training, consultancies and capacity-building programs in defined areas of interest. The collaboration aims to support access to data established and maintained by the Urban Unit for research studies, competition reports and inquiries. The Urban Unit will provide technical support to the Commission in the establishment and maintenance of the Data Resource Centre, databases, and related applications, he expressed.

Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan highlighted the importance of joint training, consultancies and capacity-building programs in defined areas of interest, which would be conducted collaboratively between the two institutions to enhance their professional expertise. She expressed her confidence that the MoU would lead to greater collaboration.

Incubator mishap: Newborn girl to undergo another surgery

ISLAMABAD (INP): The newborn girl, whose both legs were burnt due to alleged mishandling of incubator temperature at a private hospital in Islamabad, will undergo another surgery.

The affected newborn girl's condition is still unstable and facing severe blood deficiency after her both legs were burnt due to mishandling of incubator temperature at a private hospital in Islamabad.

According to the hospital, the infant was put on a ventilator at the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at the PIMS Children's Hospital.

The father of the newborn said that doctors decided to conduct another surgery for his daughter on Monday. He added that his daughter's toes were turned completely black and she cannot move her legs.

"The doctors are trying their best to save my daughter from disability. The private hospital's administration is continuously pressuring him, on the other hand, police officials were delaying to lodge a case."

On Thursday, the father of the affected newborn girl had filed a formal complaint against the private hospital in Islamabad.

Rivers Ravi, Chenab likely to become furious in next 48 hours: FFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that medium to high flood discharge is expected in River Ravi at Jassar (first control structure on River Ravi in Pakistan) and high-level flooding in River Chenab and associated Nullahs of River Ravi during next 48 hours. According to the daily FFC report on Sunday, except for River Kabul which continues to flow in "Low Flood" at Nowshera, all major rivers of the country are presently flowing in "Normal Flow Conditions".

At present combined live storage of three major reservoirs show a healthy position (61.04% of total 13.443 MAF as against 18.74% last year). According to Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Lahore, yesterday's deep Trough of the West-

erly Wave still persists over Northern parts of Pakistan whereas Seasonal Low lies over North western Balochistan. Upper air cyclonic circulation (the main source of streams of air at higher altitude) yesterday over Northwestern Madhya Pradesh (India) lies over Western Rajasthan (India).

At the reporting time, strong monsoon currents from the Bay of Bengal has weakened slightly and thus moderate monsoon currents from both sources (Bay of Bengal & Arabian Sea) are now penetrating into the upper parts of Pakistan upto 7,000 feet. Widespread wind thunderstorms/rain with heavy falls at isolated places and very heavy falls at one or two places over the upper catchments of rivers Ravi & Sutlej is expected.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the handmade pots stand from bamboo sticks as made by nomad people to protect their kitchen holds, at their shanties in Golra area of Federal Capital.

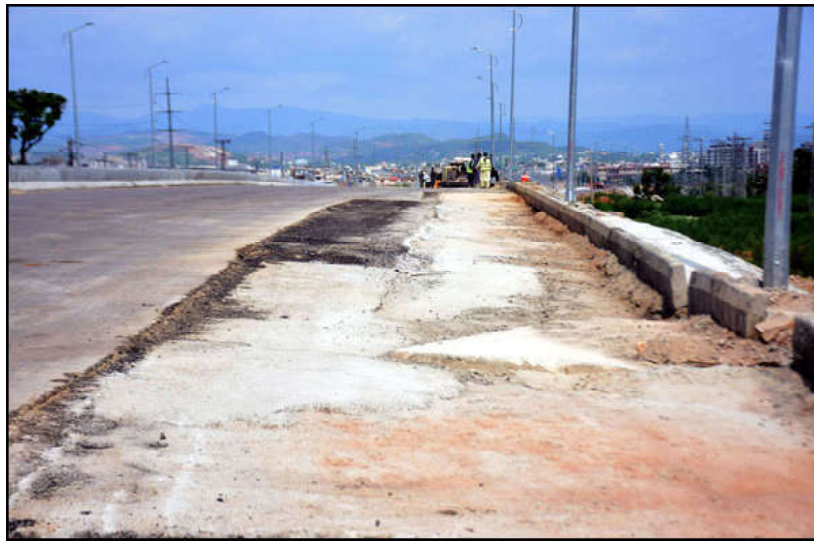
Kashmiris determined to carry on freedom struggle from Indian yoke; APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that Kashmiris are determined to carry on their struggle for the liberation of their motherland from Indian yoke. The APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on Sunday, said the killings, arrests and torture cannot defeat the Kashmiris' urge for freedom and they are ready to face Indian bullets but will not surrender.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the Modi regime cannot defeat the spirit of Kashmiri people

to win freedom and they have no option but to fight Indian illegal occupation. Kashmiris will continue sacrificing their lives till freedom from Indian clutches, he added.

The APHC spokesman said that Kashmiri people were united to defeat India's nefarious designs in IIOJK and salute to the Kashmiri people for refusing to accept Indian hegemony. He maintained that the ongoing people's struggle against Indian tyranny would remain a golden page in Kashmir's history and the day was not far when Kashmiris would see the dawn of freedom.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the sink patch of the newly construed road of Bara Kahu Interchange, in Federal Capital.

ICP continues its campaign to check traffic rules violations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The campaign of Islamabad Capital Police to check violation of traffic rules is in full swing and special efforts are being made to maintain traffic discipline in the city.

The main objective of this road safety campaign is to ensure safety to the people while road users are being educated for lane discipline during driving.

Following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital

Police has constituted special teams to control lane violations on various roads and ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. Strict checking is being made against those not using helmets during bike ride. Police teams remain present on all important roads and boulevards of the city in order to educate road users about traffic rules. FM Radio 92.4 is also disseminating the messages about road safety and to educate the audience about traffic rules.

Islamabad Capital Po-

lice has appealed to the citizens to cooperate with the force by following traffic laws. He said that action would be taken against those not following lanes while drivers the sole purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the city.

Islamabad capital police hoped citizens will follow traffic rules and help police through their cooperation in ensuring a secure traffic system in the city. Those violating traffic rules will be fined and a safer road environment would be ensured through constant monitoring.

Campaign for registration of house servants and tenants data in full swing

ISLAMABAD: According to details, following the special orders of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), the Islamabad Capital Police "Knock the Door" campaign for the registration of employees and tenants is in full swing, a police public relations officer said. He said that, during this campaign, various teams of Islamabad capital police are going to the streets and door-to-door to

Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has registered a data of 180 house servants of 281 houses from Kohsar police station jurisdiction. The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any untoward incident by maintaining law and order in the federal capital Islamabad adding that the registration of tenants and domestic workers could not only keep a close watch on miscreants but also prevent the elements involved in

ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers as well as to inquire about the problems faced by the citizens.

In this regard, the

Harnessing AJK's power, tourism potential for socio-economic uplift

ISLAMABAD (APP): Bestowed with marvelous bounties of nature, snow-covered peaks, enchanting valleys and gushing rivers, Azad Jammu and Kashmir offer ample opportunities to develop the different sectors for the welfare, well-being, and socio-economic uplift of local people.

If tapped properly, its hydropower generation, tourism, forests and trade and industrial potential besides massive contribution in foreign exchange by Kashmiri Diaspora can really turn around things to make the region a hub of massive economic activity.

Although respective governments of AJK had launched integrated socio-economic uplift plans under Annual Development Programs, there is still ample room for private sector growth to ameliorate the lot of people in three divisional headquarters and 10 districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

In order to give an impetus to already-determined and new development projects, the AJK government has prioritized a set of incentives during the fiscal year 2023-24 including the promotion of state's income resources like hydel power, minerals exploration, tourism, farming of fruits and grains for rural populace, development of roads and telecommunications and promoting technical education.

Moreover for creating a congenial environment for business activities, the government is also strengthening linkages and mutual harmony among all sections of society to promote national cohesion, tolerance, moderation and feelings of mutuality, humility and humanity.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir is enriched with at least 10,000-megawatt hydropower generation projects at present besides billions of dollars tourism

industry if foreign tourists are properly attracted and they are provided facilities and environment of international standards. "We can enhance power generation to 30,000 MW by attracting investment and opening up vistas for billions of dollars economic activity within the next decade," remarked Zulfiqar Abbasi, a leading entrepreneur and former President Azad Jammu Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Abbasi was of the view that AJK could enhance the annual taxes revenue to over Rs. 100 billion from the present Rs. 42 billion with the formal operation of Mirpur Dry Port. "Its construction is awaited since the last two when its foundation stone was laid the AJK Prime Minister."

Given the hydropower potential, the AJK is currently producing at least 3700-megawatt hydropower from various public and private sector

projects including 1120 MW from Mangla Dam in Mirpur, 969 MW from Neelum-Jhelum and 148 MW from Chattar projects both in Muzaffarabad, 200 MW from Kotli-based Gulpur and 840 MW from Azad Pattan based Karote Hydropower project. Moreover, there is 130 MW Muzaffarabad-based Jagran Hydropower project as 45-MW power is to be generated from the under-construction Jagran-II power project. Other than that tourism, fishing and farming, the youth populace also provide for a potential resource in the Information Technology sector as the state government is diligently pursuing its agenda under the annual development programs to achieve the set targets of prosperity and economic growth.

Therefore, to achieve the targets of an overall socio-economic uplift of the state, the AJK Government has recently announced

over Rs. 232.47 billion tax-free budget for fiscal 2023-24 allocating Rs. 42 billion for development projects.

Total estimated non-development expenditure for the new fiscal is Rs. 190.047 billion including Rs. 7.5669 billion for Services and General Administration, Rs. 1.672 billion for Board of Revenue, Rs. 0.044 billion for stamps, Rs. 51.300 million for Land Record and Settlement, Rs. 1,992.200 million for relief and rehabilitation, Rs. 35 billion for pension, Rs. 3.0114 billion for Judiciary, Rs. 8.1372 billion for police, Rs. 6.2067 billion for Communication and Public Works department, Rs. 40.133 billion for Education, Rs. 17.526 billion for public health, Rs. 14.53 billion for State Trading, Rs. 10.64 billion for Energy and Water Resources, Rs. 278.2 million for industries, labor and mineral resources and Rs. 176.9 million for tourism and archaeology.

Monday July 10, 2023

Keeping promises

The commentariat has been abuzz ever since it emerged that the IMF had held separate meetings with two political parties over the \$3bn sought by Pakistan under a Stand-by Arrangement. While the IMF also held a similar one-on-one meeting with the PPP, it was the agency's meeting with the PTI leadership that piqued the most curiosity.

However, the ensuing gossip, which gave the meeting a political tint, ignored a simple fact: the only reason the IMF had sought the meetings was to secure assurances that whatever agreement was eventually signed with the current government would not be jeopardised by the next. To this end, all parties seem to have endorsed the deal that will be presented to the IMF board on July 12. However, they must also reflect on why an international lender felt the need to approach them individually.

As a nation, we have had a big problem keeping our promises. From the Reko Diq fiasco to the IPP contracts signed in the PPP era, to the repeated violation of IMF deals — Pakistan has a habit of failing to honour contracts and agreements, which has left it in a very weak position in negotiations that must be backed by some form of sovereign guarantee.

The usual reason behind our inability to keep our promises has either been a change of policy following a change of government, or interference and 'intervention' by the other branches of the state. The country has paid billions of dollars in direct fines and suffered incalculable secondary losses due to this.

Even if the original agreements in the aforementioned cases may have been deleterious to our national interests, refusing to honour them after they were signed was indefensible under the timeless, universal laws that guide formal contracts.

When the wise talk about the need for a 'charter of economy', this is one of the main issues they seek to address. The IMF, or any foreign entity interested in taking a stake in the country, should not feel the need to have our officials jump through hoops in order to satisfy it that they are, indeed, serious about the commitments they are making. It is essential for this to happen that creditors and investors see some continuity in policy. This can be ensured if government leaders involve the opposition in the decision-making process so that any major reservations within political circles are cleared up well before the country enters into any sovereign agreement.

All contracts should also be vetted thoroughly beforehand by the relevant parliamentary committees to ensure that they are lawful. Once an agreement is finalised and inked, it must then be honoured consistently. Protecting the national interest is important, but what it means cannot keep changing, especially where sovereign contracts are concerned.

**Muhammad Amir Rana**

The trilateral dialogue between China, Iran and Pakistan last month was a significant development following the Saudi Arabia-Iran peace deal facilitated by China earlier this year. This dialogue aimed to reduce mistrust between Iran and Pakistan, broadening the prospects for enhanced security and economic cooperation.

This could be good news for Balochistan, which faces security and economic integration issues. However, the benefits of any productive output reaching the province depend on the intentions of state institutions. In the regional security and political context, credit goes to Chinese diplomacy for resolving hurdles in bilateral relations among the coun-

tries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its associated projects.

For China, terrorism poses a major concern for the safety of BRI projects and regional cooperation, making it a prime enemy of terrorist groups. However, China is positioned to assume a leading role in the fight against terrorism, employing a distinct strategy compared to the US-led coalition in Afghanistan and the Middle East. China's objective focuses on fostering trust and assisting nations in addressing their respective issues. But China does not intend to engage directly in military campaigns against terrorist groups in the region, including the TTP, Al Qaeda, IS-K, or Baloch insurgents targeting its nationals in Pakistan. From the Chinese perspective, establishing trust between Iran and Pakistan is important for regional stability.

China's resolution framework aims to help states enhance their capacities to combat terrorism. Most terrorism threats are interstate, and weak counterterrorism cooperation between states undermines their ability to fight

terrorist groups. For instance, Iran has frequently expressed concerns about the presence of Jaishul Adl in the bordering region with Pakistan, believing it to be a Saudi proxy with support from Western allies. Pakistan has formally lodged complaints about Baloch insurgents using Iranian soil against its security forces and CPEC-related projects.

In May of this year, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif jointly inaugurated a marketplace and power transmission line at the border between the two countries. The China-Pakistan-Iran collaboration can enhance regional security and counter the activities of the Baloch insurgents who seek refuge in Iran. It was hoped that Iran's Saudi peace pact would facilitate counterterrorism cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, and that the Saudis would refrain from supporting anti-Iranian regime elements. Iran's entry into the Shanghai Organisation for Cooperation (SCO) has been portrayed as a move to bring the country into the border security-related cooperation fold. Many ex-

perts conceive it as a move by China to reduce Indian influence in Iran, which is tasting bitterness in their bilateral relations, and it has provided an opportunity for China to facilitate a dialogue between Iran and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the regional security dynamics are changing fast; the terrorist groups are also feeling the heat, and changing their tactics and struggling hard to expand their areas of operations. Recently, a series of attacks occurred on three checkpoints in the Sherani district along the Ghwar-D.I. Khan highway, resulting in the martyrdom of four security personnel, including two officers. These areas have been facing TTP threats, including bombings of mobile phone towers and attacks on security checkpoints. The banned TTP claimed responsibility for these attacks. The Jamaat-i-Islami chief Sirajul Haq narrowly escaped a bomb blast targeting his convoy near Ghwar. In response, security forces launched an operation in the Sambaza area of Ghwar to prevent terrorists from using suspected routes to cross the Pakistan-Af-

ghanistan border and infiltrate KP, endangering citizens and security forces. Since the Afghan Taliban assumed power in Kabul in August 2021, religiously motivated groups such as the TTP have carried out 22 attacks in Balochistan, resulting in the deaths of 57 individuals. The majority of these attacks, about 14 in total, were attributed to the TTP, primarily targeting the Pakhtun areas of Balochistan, including Quetta, Pishin, Qilla Abdullah (Chaman border), Sherani, and Zhub. Some attacks also occurred in the Ghwar and Makran regions, which are crucial for CPEC projects and the Ghwar port.

The terrorist activities in Balochistan, particularly in the Pakhtun areas, indicate the hand of the TTP. Recently, attacks on checkpoints resulted in the martyrdom of four security personnel and the killing of a suspected terrorist. It appears that the TTP has decided to create disturbances in the Pakhtun areas of Balochistan and provoke the Baloch. The BLA and other insurgent groups are restraining themselves from joining an open alliance with

the TTP. However, they desire to see large-scale disturbances in Balochistan, especially in the regions bordering south Punjab and northern Sindh, which already struggle with the problem of extremism. These developments not only threaten Chinese interests in Balochistan, as previously mentioned, but also jeopardise stability in the latter province.

The security institutions have successfully countered the plans of terrorist groups. However, even a few terrorist acts in a new region raise concerns within the country's security circles and abroad. Establishing a trilateral security mechanism between China, Pakistan and Iran reflects their shared concerns regarding security in Balochistan. Stability in Balochistan is crucial for the successful implementation of CPEC projects there. China's relations with Pakistan and Iran in and around Afghanistan acquire an interesting dimension within the regional framework of the SCO. The troubled situation in Afghanistan is a cause for concern. -- Courtesy Dawn

Justice(s) on trial**Ghazi Salahuddin**

While the stage is abuzz with a medley of 'dramatis personae', the spotlight this week has mostly been on the higher judiciary. Specifically, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has moved to the centre. With its capacity for judicial engineering, what are its decisions likely to be? So much has happened in this context that I am not able to deal with all the developments in any detail. However, there are some reminders of this country's fateful encounters with judicial yawningness, inspiring serious concerns for the present state of affairs.

Where do I begin, then? If you crave for a bit of cheer in this otherwise gloomy scenario, there was this ceremony on Friday in which Justice Mussarat Hilali took oath as the second female judge of the Su-

preme Court. She is also the first female judge from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

We may take a pause here to celebrate this promotion because Justice Hilali has excellent credentials of being a social activist in her early career as a lawyer. I remember the time when she was associated with the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. I wish Asma Jahangir were alive to see this vindication of a defender of human rights.

Now, let us turn the page. On Tuesday, Hamid Khan, a leading lawyer of the country who is associated with Imran Khan's party, said on Hamid Mir's show on Geo that the disqualification of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had already been decided before the Supreme Court put its stamp on it. This was a common perception but, coming from Hamid Khan at this time and in such an authoritative manner, the revelation was bound to generate a lot of political comment.

Incidentally, this reference to the Panama Case judgment in July 2017 has coincided with moves that are being made to allow Imran Khan to return —

triumphantly — to lead his party's election campaign and, possibly, become the prime minister for the fourth time. On Thursday, an accountability court verdict said that there was political motive behind an old allotment case against him.

I am tempted to invoke the opening lines of that famous 'Panamagate' judgment penned by the then Justice Asif Saeed Khosa: "The popular 1969 novel 'The Godfather' by Mario Puzo recounted the violent fate of a Mafia family and epigraph selected by the author was fascinating — Behind every great fortune is a crime. Balzac." With this literary flourish was conveyed a message that has now become a bit fictional.

Expectedly, the PML-N leaders were quick to commemorate Hamid Khan's remarks. They were quick to recall the supposedly sympathetic attitude of the Supreme Court of Pakistan towards Imran Khan. There was a lot of mention of former chief justice Saqib Nisar. The present chief justice is also seen to have provided hints that he has a softer corner for the PTI leader — or that is what Imran Khan's adversaries

claim.

Very briefly, it was alleged on social media that in a meeting with some YouTubers, the chief justice had expressed his tilt towards the PTI leader. Justice Umar Ata Bandial was posed questions about this at the oath-taking ceremony on Friday but he did not accept or reject reports about that meeting.

However, there is no doubt about the conflict that has raged between the judges of the present Supreme Court. Very briefly, again, let me refer to the notes of two judges of the Supreme Court who were members of the initial nine-member bench formed on June 21 to hear appeals against military trials of civilians.

These notes written on June 22 were released late in the evening on Tuesday. Justice Masood said that he was not consulted before inclusion in the bench. He endorsed Justice Qazi Faez Isa's view about first settling the dispute over the formation of benches. Justice Shah said he had decided to sit on the new seven-member bench with certain reservations. This was the week

when, on Wednesday, the anniversary of Gen Ziaul Haq's imposition of martial law to remove the then prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto from power was observed. That is when a very long night of military rule began that changed the entire sense of direction of this country.

Naturally, when you think of July 5, 1977, you also think of a charismatic leader who had politically awakened the masses of this country. He remains the only person of high status who was executed on the basis of a totally flawed judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The late Justice Nasim Hasan Shah was on the bench which sent Bhutto to the gallows. It so happened that he was very apologetic about the verdict in a television interview many years after Bhutto's execution. Former CJ Justice Khosa is his son-in-law.

There was another kind of focus on the Supreme Court this week when the salaries of the chief justice and other judges were increased by 20 per cent and the figures reported became a

topic of somewhat incensed discussion in the bazaars, tea shops and drawing rooms. The CJP will now be paid Rs1,229,189 per month while the other judges will get Rs1,161,163.

It was pointed out by some that the top lawyers earn a lot more than these salaries. That is how those who preside over the ruins of our justice system are 'sentenced' to virtually live in palaces.

By the way, I have this week read many stories and columns about the Supreme Court of the United States in The New York Times. Their Supreme Court has recently made some very controversial and conservative decisions. There is also a very long list of books written about the verdicts and the politics of the top court in the US. There is one titled 'Supreme Inequality' by Adam Smith. Its sub-title is: "The Supreme Court's fifty-year battle for a more unjust America". What would be the title of an authoritative history of our Supreme Court? A battle for justice? -- Courtesy TheNews

Don't stop press**Muna Khan**

As I prepare my course outline for a new university-level class on media literacy next month, I am struggling on how to mandate newspaper reading into the syllabus. I mean physically reading a paper, a habit I still practise at home and in travels. That practice has changed over the years thanks to technological advancements, but I prefer holding a paper and reading it — at cafés, planes, trains etc. When I was at graduate school in the US in 2016, I could only afford to subscribe to the digital version of a paper, but also began a new habit of listening to the news as that was the norm among my peers. I hope we return to listening to the news, like my grandfather did on his trusted radio when he tuned into BBC Urdu so many decades ago, because it is a handy way to consume news.

Sadly, newspaper trends are on the decline everywhere. I'm writing this in New York, a city I have regularly frequented since the birth of my nephew in 2014, and can't find newspapers as easily as I did. There is a Starbucks every few blocks, but none of them stocks papers and I've not seen paper stands either. I want to be clear this is anecdotal and not meant as an indictment on the state of the industry. I passed one news kiosk at the entrance of Central Park, which sold major papers, but the owner said there were very few buyers, largely tourists. He said

he sells more celebrity magazines than legacy publications, though I suspect that's always been the case.

It's against this backdrop that news of the printing of the last edition of the 320-year old Austrian paper Wiener Zeitung on June 30 should come as no surprise. But it still merits a moment of mourning because it may be the writing on the wall for many others. Widely recognised as "the world's oldest paper" — world meaning the Western world — the government-owned (since 1857) but editorially independent paper began publishing in 1702. According to its final edition, it "saw 12 presidents, 10 emperors and two republics". It was shut down in 1939 by the Nazis but began re-printing in 1945 under allied occupation, according to a report in The Guardian.

Mozart and Beethoven advertised in the paper, said Judith Belfkih, co-deputy editor of the paper. "It's an example of historical awareness that I miss among politicians," she said in an interview to Deutsche Welle (DW).

But in the end, it was unable to survive financially. Because of its role as an official gazette, it relied on firms publishing their annual results on their pages for a fee, as was legally required. A new law changed that, resulting in the paper losing 18 million euros, according to Der Spiegel. While the paper has moved online, it had to cut 63 jobs, roughly two-thirds of its staff. It hopes to print a monthly edition, but did not elaborate on when or how.

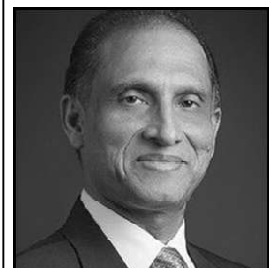
Journalists in Austria have expressed concerns about the news media industry, which, DW noted, dropped 18 places in the World Press Freedom Index in five years. It's worrying when papers of

record and repute lose space to tabloid, disinformation machines.

The closure of the Wiener Zeitung means one less paper will serve the public interest. One can't overestimate the value of reporting done in the public interest as it caters to the very basic fundamentals of journalism, which is to inform the public. That is essential to the functioning of democracy, a form of governance yet to be seen in Pakistan. Here, one sees all sorts of folks posing as journalists, pretending to report when they're likely spreading disinformation.

It's important for readers to know who receives government advertising and the relationships between companies and state institutions. The media is meant to be a watchdog holding all powerful entities to account, not allowing owners to nurture relationships that compromise editorial independence.

Here, organisations like newspaper co-unions have a role to play in calling for solutions to save print publications from dying, especially because people's livelihoods are at stake. It requires trying new business models — and there are several studies like the one done by Pew Research Centre's Project for Excellence in Journalism in 2012 which examined how papers that applied a successful digital strategy and retrained staff to acclimatise to the changing environment managed well. There are also several success stories about papers that invested in hyper-local journalism which caters to audience needs. There is hope amid the doom and gloom — if media outlets are committed to getting creative and ahead of the game. I'm hoping to convince a new generation of readers to help make that happen. Wish me luck. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry**

Asia-Pacific has been the primary venue for the US-China strategic competition. However, the competition is now spilling into other regions too, including the Middle East, where the US is gradually losing its influence. In order to bolster its standing in the Middle East, the US facilitated the process of normalisation of ties between Israel and the Arabs. Initially called the Abraham Accords, the UAE was the first to normalise ties with Israel in August 2020, followed by Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco. In the follow-up, a grouping that came to be known as the 'Negev Forum' was formed to promote economic cooperation amongst Arab states that had normalised ties with Israel.

Encouraged by the Abraham Accords, the US facilitated the formation of a forum for economic cooperation among India, Israel, the UAE and US. Called the I2U2, the foreign ministers of the grouping first met in October 2021. The forum is also referred to as the West Asian Quad, the western counterpart of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue where the US, India, Australia and Japan are weaving a kind of containment arc against China.

The I2U2's stated aim is to promote economic cooperation among its four members. Political or ideological issues are not included in the agenda. Described as 'economic pragmatism', the Palestine issue has been relegated to the

Mini forums

back-burner. Geoeconomics has overtaken geopolitics. But, behind its overtly economic agenda, lies an attempt by the US to revitalise its partnerships in the Middle East, especially in technology, trade, climate, pandemics and security. There has been talk of broadening the I2U2 to include S2 (Saudi Arabia and South Korea). However, Saudi Arabia has yet to take a decision on this. It is recalled that after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and the ensuing sanctions imposed by the US and Europe on Russia, a serious energy crisis erupted. The US tried to persuade Saudi Arabia to lower its oil production to stabilise oil prices; however, Saudi Arabia decided to protect its own interests. Saudi Arabia, feeling unsure of US security guarantees after its failure in Afghanistan and Iraq, seems to be diversifying its options.

All this while, China has maintained its economic outreach, including with the Middle Eastern countries. It has deepened its ties with Iran and Saudi Arabia, and in a move that surprised everyone, has brokered a rapprochement between them. Meanwhile, Russia, impacted gravely by the sanctions, has also started leaning on China and become a kind of partner of Beijing in its strategic competition with the US. Russia also engaged with India and some other countries to sell its oil.

India has so far played all sides, citing strategic autonomy. However, India is increasingly finding itself in a tight spot. This was illustrated in a recent summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, chaired by India. Given the recent high-profile state visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US, India was awkwardly placed to invite President Vladimir Putin to the in-person summit. India also

did not sign onto the para referring to China's Belt and Road Initiative in the joint statement. The Goa experience probably weighed in on the decision vis-à-vis the invitation to Pakistan's prime minister. India's escape route was to go for a virtual summit even at the cost of diluting its commitment to the SCO.

In the I2U2 also, India is walking a thin line given the regional political and ideological dynamics. To avert polemics, the I2U2 countries seem to be focusing on the economic agenda. For instance, in the virtual summit meeting held by I2U2 countries in July 2022, discussions were focused on food security and clean energy.

In terms of concrete outcomes of the I2U2 summit, the UAE offered to invest \$2 billion to develop integrated food parks across India, incorporating climate-smart technologies to reduce food waste and conserve freshwater. India would provide the land and facilitate farmers' integration into the food parks. The US and Israeli private sectors would provide expertise. In another major decision, the I2U2 countries would cooperate in generating 300 megawatts of wind and solar power in India's Gujarat state, with a complementary battery energy storage system. India wanted to use this project to become a global hub for alternative supply chains in renewable energy.

Mini-lateral groupings, such as I2U2, are filling space that once belonged to relatively larger multilateral organisations, and are diverting their focus from politics to economics. There are lessons for Pakistan. Geoeconomics is the pathway to economic security and political clout. Given the developments in the Gulf, Pakistan must expedite north-south connectivity and prioritise setting right its economic house. -- Courtesy Dawn

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

Nation remember 'Madar-e-Millat' on her 56th death anniversary with great reverence

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

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

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

The Governor also offered fatha and inked his impressions in the visitors book.

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

anniversary.'

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

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

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

Meanwhile, the 56th death anniversary of Madr-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah was observed across the country on Sunday with great respect and reverence.

Fatima Jinnah played a vital role in the creation of Pakistan. Mohammad

Ali Jinnah was deeply affected after his wife's death in 1929. Fatima Jinnah worked side by side with her brother Mohammad Ali Jinnah and gathered the women of sub-continent on one platform which made the struggle for achieving a separate state of Muslims easier.

Fatima Jinnah is referred as the Madar-e-Millat or Mother of the Nation for her role in the Freedom Movement.

Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah was born on July 31, 1893 in Karachi and passed away on this day in 1967. Fatima Jinnah is still remembered for her passionate support for civil rights and devoted struggle in Pakistan Movement.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori addresses during the Tree Plantation Drive opening ceremony held in Karachi.

SACM directs to provide basic facilities to prisoners

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Prison Hidayat Uallah Khan Afridi issued directives to jail authorities on Sunday to provide basic human rights alongwith other facilities to prisoners in lock ups.

He said that it is the need of the hour to bring positive reforms in the jail system aimed at tackling crimes and making the prisoners responsible citizens of society.

The Special Assistant issued these directives on the occasion of his surprised visit to District Jail Swat. He visited various sections of the jail while the jail superintendent Riaz Khan Mohmand gave a detail

presentation on the administrative system of the prison.

The caretaker special assistant urged the jail staff to keep a special focus on the cleanliness of the goal, adding that strict steps should be taken for jail security and no excuse will be tolerated in this regard.

Hidayat Uallah Khan said that the caretaker provincial government is taking tangible steps for bringing reforms in KP jails. He said that solid steps are also taking for providing basic human rights along with other facilities to detainees in jails.

He maintained that the provision of standard meals in jails and the cleanliness of lockups are included in our priorities.

PPP terms IK's demand of election from IMF as inciting to interfere in internal affairs

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab leaders have termed the demand of Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from the IMF delegation to seek guarantee for timely election as tantamount to inciting to interfere in the internal affairs of the country.

In a joint statement issued here by PPP Central Punjab Acting President Rana Farooq Saeed, Faisal Mir, Mian Ayub and Afnan Butt on Sunday they said that Niazi should stop plotting against the state.

They said that Imran is not stopping himself from conspiracies against the state, so the judicial concessions given to him should be terminated

immediately. They said that the hearing of the Tosha Khana case against Imran Niazi was being started from July 10, Monday by the session court of Islamabad. While appreciating the initiative, they said that the leader of the anti-state events of May-9 considered himself beyond the constitution and law. The PPP leaders said that the whole nation would hear and see the hearing of this historic case.

They said that despite being repeatedly summoned by the court, hison-appearance proved that Khan wanted to escape by getting interim bails. "He wants to waste the time of the judiciary and the nation by getting relief," they said.

7 dead, 1146 injured in 1084 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least seven persons were killed and 1,146 injured in 1,084 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 586 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 562 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals.

Furthermore, the analysis showed that 481 drivers, 31 underage drivers, 113 pedestrians, and 420 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

The statistics show that 306 crashes were reported in Lahore which affected 310 persons placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 81 in Multan with 79 victims and at third Faisalabad with 76 crashes and 71 victims.

Akbar Chowk flyover project to be inaugurated on August 14

LAHORE (APP): Akbar Chowk flyover project is likely to be inaugurated on August 14, 2023, sources in CM office told APP on Sunday.

In this connection, the Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi had already directed to complete the project as early as possible.

Meanwhile, thousands of citizens of Johar Town, Faisal Town, Model Town and Township, Quaid-e-Azam Industrial Estate, PECCO Road and Canal Road would benefit with the construction of Akbar Chowk flyover.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkwa Haji Ghulam Ali enquiring about health of DSP and CTD official injured during terrorist attack at Mardan Medical Complex.

CM Punjab says: Saints Mazars to be renovated, extended

Independent Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday chaired a meeting at CM Office in which mega decisions were made for making renovation, extension and bringing improvements in the administrative affairs of the Mazars of Religious Saints and Aulia Karam.

Online donation portal will be established to donate attiyat, sadkaat and nazrana. Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) had been assigned the task to set up online donation portal. Facilities to give nazranas, sadkaat, langar within the country and abroad will be provided through the online donation portal.

Online payment facility will be provided for giving langar, laying Chaddar and wreath on the mazars from abroad.

The caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi has ordered to widen entry and exit passages of mazars to provide comfort in the transportation of devotees and pilgrims visiting mazars. It was principally decided during the meeting to establish a library attached with every mazar and other essential facilities like sarai, langar khaney and wash rooms will be provided with the mazars.

A waiting place and parking will be established on the mela ground attached with the mazar of Baba Bulleh Shah.

Naqvi directed to immediately start renovation and extension work of the mazar of Shah Shams Tabrez in Multan. He ordered to prepare a plan of the renovation and restoration of Chiniot Shahi Masjid.

Photographers play vital role in the world of publication: CM

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

significant role in the world of publication.

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



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

Dr Jamal says: Rs 300 mln to be helpful for averting flooding

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir has said that the Rs 300 million amount provided by the Federal Flood Commission will be helpful for averting urban flooding.

The minister told APP that Chairman Federal Flood Commission Ahmed Kamal had assured him in a meeting that to deal with the challenges of urban flooding the federal flood commission would provide an amount of Rs 300 mln to the Rawalpindi administration for the cleanliness of Nullah Leh and adjacent areas.

He said that the timely accommodating funding of the federal government would be

utilized as per SOPs.

Dr Jamal informed that proper desilting of Nullah Leh had been completed during the ongoing monsoon season while heavy machinery was continuously working at the site.

He said that strict action was being taken against those throwing building materials in Leh Nullah and regular police patrolling had also been started for this purpose.

He said that special attention was being paid to the cleaning of tributaries of Nullah Leh and the teams of WASA, RWMC and Rawalpindi Metropolitan Corporation were doing their part.

He said that an operation had also been started to eliminate

Swiss Foreign Minister receives warm welcome

KARACHI (APP): A cultural reception was held at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi to honour the Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis, who is on an official visit to Pakistan.

The event was attended by various dignitaries, including Sindh Minister for Education and Culture Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Minister for Industries Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdul Bari Pitafi, Minister for Universities and Boards Ismail Rahu, Karachi Mayor Muratza Wahab and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh, Jawed

Nayab Laghari among others.

Swiss Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan after 17 years has been warmly welcomed by the Sindh government, which organized a brief ceremony under the banner of "Melodies of Sindh".

Minister Cassis and the parliamentary delegation from Switzerland were greeted with traditional Sindh dance performances.

The Minister for Culture Syed Sardar Ali Shah welcomed the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs and the parliamentary delegates, expressing gratitude and acknowledging their role as ambassadors of Pak-Swiss

friendship and promoters of Sindh culture.

He expressed hope that the love and peace they experienced here will be shared in their own country.

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

Low-level Flood in River Chenab

SIALKOT (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sialkot Adnan Mehmood Awan on Sunday said that there was low level flood in River Chenab with 1,14,000 upstream and 98,430 downstream flood water at Head Marala-Sialkot.

According to handout issued here, the water level recorded 1,14,000 cusecs upstream in River Chenab at Head Marala-Sialkot while the downstream flood water was 98,430 cusecs in River Chenab near Head Marala.

River Chenab has total capacity of 1,100,000 cusecs water in it at Head Marala-Sialkot here.

All departments directed to remain alert during Monsoon

RAWALPINDI (APP): the Meteorological Department, all the departments concerned need to be alert, said Sajid Zafar Dall.

He said that WASA Rawalpindi had made extensive preparations for Monsoon, including timely cleaning of major drains and sewage lines of the city along with Nulla Lai.

While giving instructions to Managing Director (MD) WASA, the Secretary said that next two months are very important during which there is a need to be alert all the time and work.

He informed that the Secretary also inspected the cleaning work of Nullah Lai at Gwalmandi bridge.

After the forecast of

PDMA DG visits Sialkot, reviews relief camps

SIALKOT (APP): Director General (DG) Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Imran Qureshi visited Head Marala Sialkot and inspected all Naullahs passing through the city.

He also chaired a meeting to review the preparations for rescue and relief activities. He expressed satisfaction over the measures taken by the district administration for setting up 22 relief camps, health department, livestock counters, rescue and relief in the four tehsils.

The DG said that in the next 24 hours, the flow of water in Chenab river was likely to be between 2,00,000 and 2,15,000 cusecs, which would be a medium level flood, however, there was a capacity of 1,100,000 cusecs of water to be released from Head Marala. He added there was the information of 60,000 cusecs of water streaming into the river Jammu Tawi.

He said that the situation was being continuously monitored and the district administration Sialkot.



LAHORE: Children of civil society are protesting outside Lahore Press club against the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.

CPEC projects rapidly ushering Pakistan's development landscape

LAHORE (APP): Experts on Sunday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was playing a key role in transforming the development landscape of Pakistan with the launch of several multi-billion-dollar projects.

Talking to APP in connection with the completion of 10 years signing of CPEC, the experts opined that the mega project helped Pakistan making progress in the region and the world.

The experts said the country, during the last one decade has ushered in a new era of development with the completion of hundreds of projects under the umbrella of CPEC, which included coal-fired power

plants, the Orange Line mass transit project, and road infrastructure.

Dr. Nadeem Javaid Chief Economist and PD CPEC said that it was worth welcoming that the synergistic convergence of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision is going to transform Pakistan into an Asian tiger by 2025.

This collective vision aimed to shift the nation's focus from geopolitics to geo-economics, harnessing Pakistan's strategic location as a crossroads between South Asia, Central Asia, China, and the Middle East, he said.

The goal was to establish Pakistan as a regional hub for trade,

commerce, manufacturing, and agriculture, he said, adding that the CPEC is all about a story of hard work and untiring commitment between the leadership of Pakistan and China.

Through industrial diversification, the long-term economic development of any country is dependent upon its productive material capabilities and the types of products which it produces for exports.

To a query Nadeem said that even, South-East Asian countries are now gradually moving up the industrial ladder and have developed capabilities for production of more complex and sophisticated products, which are much in demand in the global

markets. Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) former President Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo told APP that in the prevailing situation, industrialisation has the potential to become a dynamic engine of economic growth for the country, adding that it would help make significant contributions to meeting Pakistan's economic and human development goals.

Regarding development of industrial sector and Vision-2025, he said that Pakistan's economic planning and policies should be formulated under a long-term productive development vision and

modern technology capabilities in the sectors where there is a high scope of diversification and innovation, which would be attractive for the investors.

He appreciated the incumbent government for announcing the main pillars of GDP growth for the next fiscal year, including exports, construction, industries, agriculture, IT, poultry and foreign remittances.

In terms of geo-economic growth and regional connectivity, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is also a blessing for Pakistan's extensive industrial revivalisation, as well as for other regional countries in South Asia, he remarked.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Radio Pakistan area are blocked road and burn tires as they are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding in their area, in Hyderabad

CPEC's projects attract \$ 25.4bln of direct investment during last 10 years

BEIJING (APP): The projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are flourishing all across Pakistan and have attracted US\$25.4 billion of direct investment from China during the last 10 years.

"After ten years of development, a '1+4' cooperation layout has been formed, with the CPEC at the center and Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation being the four key areas," according to a senior official of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The projects under the CPEC framework have created 192,000 jobs, producing 6,000 megawatts of electric

power, building 510 kilometers of highways and adding 886 kilometers to the core national transmission network, he added.

Terming the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor a signature project of China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era, he said that it is an important project under the Belt and Road Initiative.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of CPEC. After ten years of development, a 1+4 cooperation layout has been formed, with the CPEC at the center and Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation being the four key areas.

The CPEC has made a tangible contribution to

the national development of Pakistan and connectivity in the region. China and Pakistan have also explored new areas for cooperation under the framework of CPEC, creating new highlights in cooperation on agriculture, science and technology, telecommunication and people's well-being.

"China stands ready to work with Pakistan to build on the past achievements and follow the guidance of the important common understandings between the leaders of the two countries on promoting high-quality development of CPEC to boost the development of China and Pakistan and the region and bring more benefits to the people of all countries," the official said.



CHINIOT: Farmers busy in plucking of vegetables on their field at river Chenab bank.

Special cell would be established to resolve issues relating to remittances: Naqvi

LAHORE (APP): A representative delegation of Chambers of Commerce & Industries and trader organizations of 25 districts met with the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi here on Sunday.

Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar participated in the meeting via video link from Islamabad.

Industrialists, Presidents of traders community and office-bearers presented their problems, proposals and recommendations.

The caretaker CM noted down all the problems and proposals and assured them of resolving their implementable proposals. A special cell would be

established with the assistance of Federal Finance Ministry to resolve the issues relating to remittances. On widow facility would be provided for the issuance of NOC to set up new industries and starting a new business.

Announcing to establish a special cell for the traders and industrialists in the Industries Department, the CM apprised that a special cell would be established in two days. He vowed to resolve the problems of industrialists on priority basis, saying that the government would entirely change the obsolete system of getting NOCs from different departments to set up an industry. New industries would be issued NOCs through one

window operation in 30 days.

Office-bearers of textile industries and APTMA (All Pakistan Textile Mills Association) congratulated the caretaker CM and his team on getting record cotton field and lauded the performance of his team.

The CM stated that the traders and industrialists were the backbone for the national economy. We want to create ease in business for the promotion of trade activities," he said. Implementable proposals of traders and industrialists community would definitely be reviewed. A team had been activated to resolve the problems of traders at the provincial level.

FTO Coordinator identifies De-dollarisation signs in global economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday said that the payment of oil imported from Russia in "Yuan" is continuation signs of de-dollarisation surfacing in the global economy.

Speaking at a seminar on "Impact of de-dollarisation on the health of the economy" organized under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said the sanctions that have frozen Russia out of the global banking system have seen a fresh push since March by the "BRICS" nations, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, to challenge the dollar's hegemony, said a press release.

He said "some signs of de-dollarisation are emerging," adding the trend was likely to persist even

as the dollar maintains its "large footprint".

Efforts by BRICS countries and other major commodity exporters to loosen the dollar's stranglehold on global commerce have ramped up since the start of the war in Ukraine, which saw the U.S. freeze a large chunk of Russia's foreign reserves.

Since then Saudi Arabia and China have begun talks to settle Chinese oil sales with the yuan, Brazil and China have announced the phase-in of a yuan clearing arrangement for some trade between the two countries while China and Russia are also now doing a significant portion of their trade in yuan. Meher Kashif Younis said the rise in Yuan payments has given a boost to Beijing's endeavours to internationalise its currency.

Storm of inflation continues in city

PESHAWAR (APP): The storm of inflation continued in the provincial capital as the price of ginger touched the Rs 1000 mark while the district administration claimed to control the rates according to the official price list of various food items.

A visit to the vegetables and fruits markets revealed that the storm of inflation in the markets continued with ginger touching all-time high marks of Rs 1050 per kilogram, garlic at 300 and lemon at 140 per kg remained unchanged.

Onion 50, tomato 80, green pepper 80, peas 250, okra 90 and turnip 80 rupees sold per kg while Potato 110, Kachalo 130, Cauliflower 120, Eggplant 30, Zucchini and Tenda 100 rupees per sale.

Among fruits, apples reached Rs 400, mango Rs 250, peach Rs 220 per kg, Cherries 430, potatoes 260 and bananas 200 per dozen were sold.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling fruits on his stall at weekly Sunday bazaar Peshawar Morri in Federal Capital.

Shahzad Shah says: Access to modern farming techniques, infrastructure key challenges facing agri sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Rice Research and Development Board Punjab Shahzad Ali Malik on Sunday said that the agricultural sector in South Asia is confronted with various multiple challenges of limited access to modern farming techniques, inadequate irrigation facilities, fragmented land holdings, and insufficient post-harvest storage and processing infrastructure.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Muhammad Hussain Shah Pindi Shaikh Musa district Faisalabad said these factors affected productivity and contributed to food insecurity, said a press release.

He said food insecurity continues to be a significant issue in many parts of South Asia. While

on the other hand, the region has made progress in recent years in reducing poverty and improving overall food security, several factors contribute to the persistent challenges faced by many countries including Pakistan, he added.

He emphasized that efforts must be made at the national and international levels to address food insecurity in South Asia said adding that these initiatives should include promoting sustainable agriculture practices, improving irrigation and water management, enhancing infrastructure for storage and transportation, investing in rural development, strengthening social safety nets, and supporting nutrition programs to address malnutrition.

Operation speed up against fake, low quality agriculture medicine: Agri Secretary

FAISALABAD (Online): Agriculture Secretary Punjab Iftikhar Ali Saho said that to make quality agriculture medicine available operation has been speeded up against sellers fake and low quality medicines on the basis of secret information.

Cases against involved peoples will be entered under MPO act: agriculture secretary.

Agriculture secretary Punjab chaired meeting to review the current situation of cotton crops in civil secretariat Lahore.

Director General Agriculture (Pest warning) Punjab Rana Fakir Ahmed, Director General Agriculture (crop reporting) Punjab Abdul Qayyum, Director Agriculture (Expansion) Head Quarter Lahore and other officers participated

in the meeting.

Additional Secretary Agriculture (Task Force) Punjab Muhammad Shabir Ahmed, Director General Agriculture (Expansion) Punjab Dr. Muhammad Anjam Ali including Director agriculture (Expansion) attended meeting virtual format.

Director General Agriculture (pest warning) Punjab Rana Fakir Ahmed briefed secretary agriculture on cotton crops' situation and said white bee, mealybugs and thrips attacked has been witnessed in some areas of cotton crops however it is not beyond the economic damage. further he said special attention is being paid to pest scouting of cotton crops this month because attack of harmful insects increased due to heat humidity.



FAISALABAD: Farmer using modern agriculture machine for seedling of rice crop in his field.

PAC directions ignored, 500% increase in household consumers gas bill

ISLAMABAD (Online): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) increased household consumers gas bills upto 500%. 400PKr gas bill of summer increased to 3000PKr.

Despite less consumption of gas in summer at least 2000PKr other than taxes has been added to gas bills on the name of adjustment.

Despite clear direction of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) overpayments are ongoing from household consumers of gas.

SNGPL started taking 500% extra payments from consumer in bills and also added 2000PKr on the name of adjustment.

SNGPL has added fixed charges of 475PKr, general sales tax PKr161 and 2000 to 2500 on the name

of adjustment and correction added in bills of 400 gas price and haven't issued any explanation in which regard they are taking this money from consumers. Keep clear that secretary petroleum told PAC that now household consumer will pay winter's bills in summer and some amount will be added in their bills on which committee raised strict objections and said how they will receive bills of the gas that consumer has not consumed yet.

Committee strictly barred petroleum ministry from receiving any kind of extra charges from household consumers however including ministry, gas companies ignored directions of PAC and started taking atleast 2000PKr from each household consumer.

Three days mango festival concludes

MULTAN (APP): The three-day mango festival organized by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Agricultural University, DHA Multan and Mango Research Institute has been concluded.

Colorful programmes were organized for children, including kids mango modeling, story telling, magic show and mango eating competitions on the third day of the mango festival.

More than 200 types of mangoes were exhibited, in which visitors and families showed keen interest to know about mango varieties.

A ceremony was held at the end of the Mango Festival in which Director Marketing DHA Multan Col. Sarfraz Nazar was the

chief guest.

On this occasion, Col. Sarfraz thanked the Agriculture University Multan, Mango Research Institute Multan, growers and all the stakeholders.

The main objective of the festival was to provide a platform to mango stakeholders to showcase mangoes and mango products.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asif Ali thanked the DHA Multan administration for their cooperation to give the mango growers, processors and exporters an opportunity to showcase their mangoes and mango products. The mango museum built at DHA Multan will become the identity of Multan not only in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the trucks parked outside Floor mills at Sector I-II as waiting for laborers to unload them, in Federal Capital.

Kiyani says: PTI had breached IMF pact to get cheap fame

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kiyani said on Sunday that PTI government had breached the IMF agreement to catch up cheap fame, and propagated a false cipher when the PDM's no-confidence motion was passed in National Assembly.

Addressing a press conference here, he added that after ousting from power, the PTI Chairman had tried hard to spread chaos in the country by raising hollow slogan of imported government. Bilal Azhar Kiyani said, the person who had launched cipher drama, hatched conspiracies and used to say that his government was ousted through America's conspiracy but today, the same person is seen begging America. "And they are calling us an imported government despite the fact that PTI

itself is imported and its chairman speaks what for others, actually he himself involved in it."

Kiyani said that present coalition government corrected the wrong decisions of the previous government; the staff level agreement signed with the IMF was the link of the last year's hard work, while the PTI government had breached the IMF agreement to get cheap fame. The present government brought the IMF to the table and completed its seventh, eighth review.

He said that instead of celebrating the meeting of IMF delegation with PTI chairman a few days ago, PTI people should apologize to the whole nation that he had abrogated the agreement with IMF. He asserted that bad deeds of PTI were being exposed to the public, and PTI government had spoiled the

money, it had received from IMF, citing that all the four PTI's incompetent finance ministers had failed to get the country's economy on its feet rather pushed it further into debt mire. PTI government had deviated from its promise with IMF regarding the prices of petroleum products, he said and explained that when the PTI chairman realized that his government was about to collapse, he planned to break the IMF agreement so that the country would go into default because at that time Pakistan did not have the money to repay the loans.

The PTI could go to any extent to push the country into default. He claimed that PTI had tried its best not to restore the IMF agreement with Pakistan, asserting that PTI should apologize to the nation for conspiring against the country and the nation.

Barlas elected as chairman SIAL

SIALKOT (APP): A Sialkot based leading exporter Sohail Barlas was elected unopposed as chairman of Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL), while Mian Daud Sair was elected unopposed as vice chairman of SIAL for the year 2023-24 during its annual elections held here.

On this occasion, the newly elected chairman SIAL Sohail Barlas pledged to make all out sincere efforts to make the SIAL as a model airport of Pakistan. He revealed that SIAL had been a hallmark of the sincerity, dedication, enthusiasm and unity of the Sialkot exporters, who had established this international airport on self help basis, setting a unique example of self help.

The new leadership aims to bring fresh perspectives and drive further growth.

Business leader urges govt for serious efforts for extension in GSP+ status

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Sunday demanded of the government to redouble efforts to get GSP+ status that is set to expire at the end of current year.

The European Union (EU) is considering GSP+ status for Pakistan and other eight countries, and it will continue monitoring the human rights, freedom of media and labour rights in all the countries enjoying the status, he said.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the EU has decided to introduce fresh legislation to continue the scheme for another 10 years, but there

is a deadlock between the EU Council and the EU Parliament on the issue of migration.

The EU Parliament strongly believes that trade should not be linked with the migration issue but the EU Council thinks otherwise, he added.

The business leader informed that the EU Council includes ministers from each EU country, they meet to discuss, amend and adopt laws, and coordinate policies. The ministers have the authority to commit their governments to the agreed actions.

It has been proposed that the current scheme should be extended for four years. The proposal will now be put to vote in the EU Parliament.



QUETTA: People are busy purchasing from the weekly Sunday Bazar at Joint Road.

China's bulk commodity index rallies in June

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): The index tracking the development of China's bulk commodity market rose for the second consecutive month in June, industry data shows.

The China Bulk Merchandise Index stood at 102.8 percent in June, up 2.1 percentage points compared with that registered in May, according to the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing.

A reading above 100 indicates expansion, while a reading below 100 reflects contraction.

Sub-indices measuring bulk commodity supply and sales both rose from the previous month, while the sub-index for inventory declined.

In June, the demand-side rebound was stronger than the supply side, easing the pressure on market inventories, said the federation.

CTI commends EDF training programs to improve export sector

LAHORE (INP): Chairperson of Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Ijazur Rehman has said that the ongoing training programs in the institutes established by the Export Development Fund (EDF) need to be further improved according to contemporary requirements.

While talking to the beneficiaries of the training programs of CTI here on Sunday, he said that keeping in view the promotion of exports, these programs should be research and development based to make them industry friendly. By equipping the skilled with modernity and technology, the best export products can be supplied in the global markets, he added.

Ijazur Rehman said that the objective of the EDF is to remove the

barriers faced by the exporters of export services, manufacturers of export products and general exporters in Pakistan so as to increase the efficiency of the export sector. "It is gratifying to see that the Export Development Fund has established institutions across Pakistan to support key export sectors with specific objectives and targets.

He said that it is requested that the process of consultation with the institutions associated with the Export Development Fund should be increased and the training programs should be made research and development based to make them more contemporary and industry friendly, thereby further improvement.

Yellen says Washington might 'respond to unintended consequences' for China due to tech export curbs

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Sunday said she agreed Washington will listen to Chinese complaints about security-related curbs on U.S. technology exports and might "respond to unintended consequences" as she ended a visit to Beijing aimed at reviving strained relations. Yellen defended "targeted measures" on trade that China's leaders complain are aimed at hurting its fledgling tech industries. She said the Biden administration wants to "avoid unnecessary repercussions" but gave no indication of possible changes.

Relations between the two biggest economies are at their lowest level in decades due to disputes about technology, security and other irritants. A key Chinese complaint is limits on access to processor chips and other U.S. technology on security grounds that threaten to hamper the ruling Communist Party's development of smartphones, artificial intelligence and other industries. "We will open up channels so that they can express concerns about our actions, and we can explain and possibly in some situations respond to unintended consequences of our actions," Yellen said at a news conference. Yellen talked with China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang, and other officials during 10 hours of meetings. She had a five-hour session Saturday with her Chinese counterpart, Vice Premier He Lifeng. Treasury officials said in advance there were no plans for her to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Yellen received a warm welcome and prominent coverage by the state press, but Chinese officials gave no sign they would change industrial or other policies that Washington and other governments say violate Beijing's free-trade commitments. On Saturday, He said Washington should "adopt a rational and pragmatic attitude" to improve relations. On Sunday, Yellen announced no agreements on major disputes or plans for future activity but said her department and Chinese officials would have "more frequent and regular" communication. U.S.-China political strains are adding to uncertainty that is dampening the willingness of consumers and businesses to spend and invest.



Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev votes during an early presidential election in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks during a press conference at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China.

Poland moves troops to eastern border amid Wagner fears

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland began moving over 1,000 troops to the east of the country, the defence minister said, amid rising concern in the NATO-member that the presence of Wagner Group fighters in Belarus could lead to increased tension on its border. Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to offer mercenary fighters of Yevgeny Prigozhin's Wagner group the choice of relocating to Belarus has led to fears among eastern NATO members that their presence will cause greater instability in the region. "Over 1,000 soldiers and almost 200 units of equipment from the 12th and 17th Mechanized Brigades are starting to move to the east of the country," Mariusz Blaszczak wrote on Twitter.

Six dead in private jet crash outside Los Angeles

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: All six people aboard a small jet died when the aircraft crashed and burned in a field near an airport near Los Angeles on Saturday, local and federal authorities said. The aircraft, a Cessna C550 business jet, was travelling from Las Vegas and crashed near French Valley Airport in Riverside County, about 137 kilometres south of Los Angeles, at around 4:15am, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement. The passengers and pilot who died were all adults, Elliott Simpson, an aviation investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, said at a news briefing. The privately-owned plane crashed 500 feet from the runway at the small airport, after attempting an instrument landing as a marine layer weather phenomenon settled on the area, Simpson said.

Zelenskiy brings Azovstal commanders back to Ukraine from Turkey

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskiy brought home from Turkey five former commanders of Ukraine's garrison in Mariupol, a highly symbolic achievement that Russia said violated a prisoner exchange deal engineered last year. Russia immediately denounced the release. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Ankara had promised under the exchange agreement to keep the men in Turkey and complained Moscow had not been informed. In honour of the 500th day of the war, Zelenskiy also visited Snake Island, a Black Sea outpost which Russian forces seized on the day of the invasion and later abandoned. The five commanders have been lionised in Ukraine after leading a fierce three-month defence of Mariupol from the Azovstal steel plant last year, the biggest city Russia has captured. "We are returning home from Turkey and bringing our heroes home," said Zelenskiy, who met Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan for talks in Istanbul on Friday. Thousands of civilians were killed in Mariupol when Russian forces laid the city to waste in the first months of the war.

Over dozen killed as rain lashes northern India

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: More than a dozen people were killed in northern India over the last two days as heavy rainfall continued to lash parts of the country, Indian media reported on Sunday. NDTV reported that the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy to extremely heavy rain for New Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Punjab and occupied Kashmir. The report said that Delhi had recorded 153mm of rainfall in 24 hours, highest in single day in July since 1982. NDTV reported that heavy rain continued to lash the Indian capital and its adjoining areas on Sunday, with several areas of Gurugram also experiencing waterlogging and power outages. "An interaction between a western disturbance and monsoonal winds is leading to an intense rainfall spell over northwest India, including Delhi which experienced the season's first 'very heavy' rainfall," India Today reported. Meanwhile, Indian media reported that five people lost their lives in rain-related incidents in Himachal Pradesh.

Sikhs protest in Toronto against leader's Vancouver shooting

Monitoring Desk
TORONTO: Sikh community demonstrated outside the Indian consulate here to protest the unsolved murder of one of their leaders last month in the Vancouver area. They accused the Indian government of being responsible for the gunning down of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, president of a Sikh temple and campaigner for the creation of an independent Sikh state that supporters hope to call Khalistan. "When an Indian agency and system commit a crime, they have to be held accountable," Kuljeet Singh, spokesperson for Sikhs for Justice, a US-based organisation behind the rally, told AFP. Nijjar, whom India had declared a wanted terrorist, was gunned down on June 18 in Surrey, a suburb of Vancouver that is home to one of the largest Sikh populations in Canada. Another protester, Hakirt Singh, a lawyer, told AFP that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police "should investigate this murder" as a political assassination. "When there is vandalism against a member of parliament you see tweets and reactions from politicians. Here it is an assassination of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil. That is foreign interference." Nijjar advocated for the creation of an independent Sikh state to be carved out of parts of northern India and perhaps part of Pakistan.



Sikhs protest in Toronto against leader's Vancouver shooting.

Biden begins three-nation tour with stop in London

Monitoring Desk
DELAWARE: US President Joe Biden departed on Sunday on a three-nation trip that will be dominated by a NATO summit in Lithuania aimed at showing solidarity with Ukraine in its fight against Russia while not yet accepting Kyiv as a member of the alliance. Biden's first stop will be in London, where he will meet British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at 10 Downing Street on Monday and then travel to Windsor Castle for a visit with King Charles. The talks with the king, expected to include climate initiatives, will give Biden a greater sense of the man who succeeded his mother, Queen Elizabeth, who died last September. Biden had tea with the queen at Windsor in June 2021 and they discussed many of the same issues that remain a top priority today, like Russia and China. Biden will travel on to Vilnius, Lithuania, on Monday night and hold talks with NATO leaders there on Tuesday and Wednesday. Biden and the allies aim to show support for Ukraine and give President Volodymyr Zelenskiy a sense of what he will have to do to gain NATO membership at some point in the future. In a CNN interview previewing his trip, Biden urged caution for now on Ukraine's drive to join NATO, saying the alliance could get drawn into the war with Russia due to NATO's mutual defense pact. "I don't think there is unanimity in NATO about whether or not to bring Ukraine into the NATO family now, at this moment, in the middle of a war," Biden said. A centerpiece of Biden's visit to Lithuania will be a speech that he will deliver at Vilnius University on Wednesday night. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters the speech will cover Biden's vision of "a strong, confident America flanked by strong, confident allies and partners taking on the significant challenges of our time, from Russia's aggression in Ukraine to the climate crisis."

S.Korean lawmakers berate IAEA chief over Japanese plans to release treated Fukushima wastewater

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korean opposition lawmakers sharply criticized the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency's nuclear watchdog on Sunday for its approval of Japanese plans to release treated wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant. They met with Rafael Grossi in a tense meeting in Seoul that took place while protesters screamed outside the door. Grossi, the International Atomic Energy Agency's director general, arrived in South Korea over the weekend to engage with government officials and critics and help reduce public concerns about food safety. The IAEA last week approved the Japanese discharge plans, saying the process would meet international safety standards and pose negligible environmental and health impacts. South Korea's government has also endorsed the safety of the Japanese plans. In his meeting with members of the liberal Democratic Party, which controls a majority in South Korea's parliament, Grossi said the IAEA's review of the Japanese plans was based on "transparent" and "scientific" research. He acknowledged concerns over how the Japanese plans would play out in reality and said the IAEA would establish a permanent office in Fukushima to closely monitor how the discharge process is implemented over the next three decades. "Our conclusion has been that this plan, if it is carried out in the way it has been presented, would be in line, would be in conformity with the international safety standards," Grossi said. The lawmakers responded by harshly criticizing IAEA's review, which they say neglected long-term environmental and health impacts of the wastewater release and threatens to set a bad precedent that may encourage other countries to dispose nuclear waste into sea.

Nine missing in China landslide sparked by heavy rains amid flooding and searing temperatures

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Nine people are missing in central China after a landslide sparked by heavy rains amid flooding and searing temperatures across much of the country, authorities said on Sunday. Five people were rescued from under the rubble at a highway construction site in the central province of Hubei, where the accident occurred on Saturday. Crews were still excavating in hopes of finding more survivors. Tens of thousands of people have been moved to shelters amid heavy flooding in northern, central and southeastern China. Seasonal flooding is a regular occurrence in China, but this year's rising waters have been accompanied by unusually prolonged stretches of high temperatures. With its more than 9 million square kilometers (4 million square miles) of land area, China is being hit simultaneously this summer by heatwaves, flooding and drought. Cities have opened their air raid shelters to offer residents relief from the heat. Earlier this week, Beijing reported more than nine straight days with temperatures above 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit), a streak unseen since 1961. Authorities have issued health alerts and, in the capital and elsewhere, suspended outdoor work, although many workers continued to deliver packages, lay bricks and haul goods amid fears over a faltering economic recovery. So far, two deaths in Beijing have been attributed to the scorching heat. Health authorities said a tour guide collapsed and died of heat stroke Sunday while giving a tour of the Summer Palace — a vast, 18th century imperial garden. Last month, a woman in Beijing also died from a heat stroke. Health authorities in Shaoyang, a city in Zhejiang province, said on Thursday they have recorded deaths caused by the heat but did not specify any details. Chinese cities such as Chongqing, a southwestern metropolis known for its torrid summers, have for years used their air raid tunnels as public cooling centers. The shelters are now often equipped with seating areas and offer access to water, refreshments, heat stroke medicine and in some cases amenities such as Wi-Fi, television and table-tennis equipment.

UN chief says Sudan is on the brink of a 'full-scale civil war' after nearly 3 months of fighting

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sudan is on the brink of a "full-scale civil war" as fierce clashes between rival generals continued unabated Sunday in the capital of Khartoum. Guterres warned late Saturday that the war between the Sudanese military and a powerful paramilitary force is likely to destabilize the entire region, according to Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for the U.N. chief. Sudan descended into chaos after months of tension between military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and his rival, Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open fighting in mid-April. Health Minister Haitham Mohammed Ibrahim said last month that the clashes have killed over 3,000 people and wounded over 6,000 others. The death tally, however, is highly likely to be much higher, he said. More than 2.9 million people have fled their homes to safer areas inside Sudan or crossed into neighboring countries, according to U.N. figures. The fighting began 18 months after the two generals led a military coup in October 2021 that toppled a Western-backed civilian transition government. The coup and ensuing conflict dashed Sudanese hopes of a peaceful shift to democracy after a popular uprising forced the military removal of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. The war has turned the capital Khartoum and other urban areas across the country into battlefields. Residents in Khartoum said fierce fighting was underway early Sunday south of the capital. The warring factions were using heavy weapons in battles in the Kalaka neighborhood and the military's aircraft were seen hovering over the area, said resident Abdalla al-Fatih. In his statement, Guterres also condemned an airstrike Saturday that health authorities said killed at least 22 people in Omdurman, a city just across the Nile from the Khartoum. The assault was one of the deadliest in the conflict so far. The RSF blamed the military for the attack in Omdurman. The military denied the accusation, saying in a statement Sunday that its air force did not carry out any airstrikes in the city Saturday. The secretary-general also decried the large-scale violence and casualties in the western region of Darfur, which has experienced some of the worst fighting in the ongoing conflict, Haq said in a statement. "There is an utter disregard for humanitarian and human rights law that is dangerous and disturbing," Guterres said. U.N. officials have said the violence in the region has recently taken on an ethnic dimension, with the RSF and Arab militias reportedly targeting non-Arab tribes in Darfur, a sprawling region consisting of five provinces.



German police face participants of an Eritrean Festival in Giessen, while a police vehicle with water cannon can be seen in the background.

BBC to investigate presenter allegations 'swiftly', British government says

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Britain's BBC was questioned by the government on Sunday about its handling of an allegation that one of its star presenters paid a teenager thousands of pounds to pose for sexually explicit photos, beginning when they were 17 years old. Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer held urgent talks with the broadcaster's director general, Tim Davie, on Sunday about the allegations, which she described as "deeply concerning". "Davie has assured me the BBC are investigating swiftly and sensitively," she said on Twitter. "Given the nature of the allegations, it is important that the BBC to conduct its investigation, establish the facts and take appropriate action."

NATO flexes muscle to protect Vilnius summit near Russia, Belarus

Monitoring Desk
KANIUKAI: NATO has turned Vilnius into a fortress defended by advanced weaponry to protect U.S. President Joe Biden and other alliance leaders meeting next week only 32 km (20 miles) from Lithuania's razor-wire topped border fence with Russian ally Belarus. Sixteen NATO allies have sent a total of about 1,000 troops to safeguard the July 11-12 summit, which will take place only 151 km (94 miles) from Russia itself. Many are also providing advanced air defence systems which the Baltic states lack. "It would be more than irresponsible to have our sky unprotected as Biden and leaders of 40 countries are arriving," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda said. The Baltic countries of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, once under Moscow's rule but part of both NATO and the European Union since 2004, all spend above 2% of their economies on defence, a larger share than most other NATO allies.

Election of a far-right candidate since the Nazi era raises concern in Germany

Monitoring Desk
SONNEBERG: Mike Knoth is more than thrilled that a far-right populist party's candidate recently won the county administration in his hometown in rural eastern Germany for the first time since the Nazi era. The gardener despises the country's established parties, he doesn't trust the media and he feels there are too many migrants in the country. The far-right party Alternative for Germany, or AfD, he hopes, will improve everything that's not going well in his eyes in Sonneberg, which is in the southeastern state of Thuringia. "I think the fact that so many people voted for Alternative for Germany has already given it legitimacy," Knoth, 50, said during an interview this week as he walked his dog down the town's deserted main shopping street. But some in Sonneberg haven't been won over by the AfD's nationalist and antidemocratic rhetoric. Margret Sturm, an optometrist whose family has been selling glasses in Sonneberg for almost 60 years, voiced her concern in an interview with a public television station. "I told them that I don't think it's good to vote for the AfD. And whoever votes for the AfD must know that they have the Nazis in tow," Sturm told The Associated Press in an interview in her store. Sturm can barely fathom what happened after the interview was aired last week. "We got hate mail, threatening phone calls, every minute. We were insulted by people we don't even know, who don't know us, who don't know the business."

Brother of France man who died in police custody injured in arrest

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: A man arrested in Paris during a memorial rally for his brother, who had died in police custody seven years ago, has been released from hospital Sunday, amid calls for more protests. The calls came with France still on edge after the police killing of a teen near Paris sparked the worst rioting in the country since 2005. Youssouf Traore, 29, was detained by police Saturday amid protests across the country that commemorated the death of his brother Adama Traore in 2016, many of them in defiance of police bans on gatherings.

President directs SLICP to improve policy on pre-insurance medical tests

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP) to improve its policy on medical tests before the issuance of Life Insurance policies to prospective policyholders.

He asked SLICP to constitute a panel of doctors which should suggest as to what were the most prevalent and common diseases in Pakistan and what tests should be conducted before the issuance of the policy.

The president gave these orders in view of the fact that a number of representations were being filed with him by the insurance companies as well as citizens in cases where insurance companies were denying the payment of death insurance claims to family members of the insured policyholders on the ground that they had willfully hidden ailments at the time of obtaining the policy, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Sunday.

The payments were being refused despite the fact that the policies had been issued after the policyholders had been de-

clared medically fit by the authorized medical officers as well as the field officers of the insurance companies.

The president issued directives while rejecting two separate representations filed by SLICP against the decisions of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (WM) directing it to pay Rs 3.68 million to the family members of two policyholders to whom SLICP had denied payment on account of their hiding pre-insurance ailments.

As per details, Muhammad Yousaf and Abida Bibi had obtained life insurance policies from SLICP for the sums assured of Rs 3,485,000 and Rs 200,000 respectively.

After their deaths, their family members approached SLICP for the payment of insurance claims but SLICP refused to pay them the respective amounts on the ground that they were patients of diseases, such as Hepatitis C, chronic kidney disease, heart condition and hypertension and they did not disclose the existence of these ailments before SLICP.

Feeling aggrieved, the family members separately filed complaints with the Wafaqi Mohtasib, that passed the orders in their favour. SLICP, then filed representations with the President, which were rejected.

The president in his decision observed that the two policyholders were declared medically fit by the concerned medical officers as well as the field officers of SLICP who stated that they knew the policyholders for a number of years.

He noted that pre-insurance ailments could easily be diagnosed and detected by the medical officers as the services of these officers were arranged to examine policyholders prior to the issuance of policies.

He maintained that SLICP could not take the plea of pre-insurance ailments to deny payments as under Contracts Acts 1872, where the consent was caused by misrepresentation or fraudulent means, the contract was not voidable if the party whose consent was so caused had the means of discovering the truth with ordinary diligence.



LAHORE: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony Maulana Tahir Ashrafi addressing a seminar on Hazrat Usman Ghani (R.A) at Press Club

May 9 mastermind advances his anti-state agenda through overseas proxies: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday castigated the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief for furthering his anti-state agenda through his "proxies and puppets" sitting abroad.

"Some elements have been engaged in anti-state activities and treason while sitting abroad, but it is the PTI chief who will be held responsible if any incident of political extremism strikes the country," the minister said in a news statement.

She said the relentless

campaign of the PTI chief against the state has continued unabated, with only the faces involved being swapped out periodically. The reprehensible and shameless media campaign launched against the national institutions was a direct result of his malevolent planning and mindset, she added. Marriyum emphasized that the "foreign agent" was afflicted with an incurable ailment, characterized by an insatiable desire to be in the limelight. He has been suffering from "FOMO" (Fear of Missing Out) syndrome following his ouster from power.

"This person is mentally sick and should be in a mental hospital," the minister said while lashing out at the PTI chief for resorting to unfounded accusations, mischief, and conspiracies against others.

She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had already made it clear that propaganda against the state institutions would not be tolerated under any circumstances. The minister said Imran Khan sought another conspiracy to divert attention from his corruption from Tosha Khana whose trial had been commenced unearthing evidence.

CM tweets Govt. of Balochistan all set to introduce Green Bus Service

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan is all set to introduce the long-awaited and much-needed Green Bus Service in Quetta.

The trial operation of the Green Bus Service would kick off on July 13, and the full-scale operation would be inaugurated on July 17.

This was announced by the Chief Minister, Mir Abdulquddus Bizenjo in a tweet on his social media account, Twitter on Sunday.

He said that after dedicated efforts, we are delighted to bring the long-awaited and much-needed quality public transport system to Quetta.

The inauguration ceremony would be graced by a member of the general public who actively utilizes public transportation.

In his tweet, the Chief Minister described the launch of Green Bus Service as a great news for the citizens of Quetta especially students.

Moreover, he said that the elderly women, children and students would benefit from the facility. He mentioned that the Green Bus Service project was delayed for long time. However, by the grace of Allah, it is going to be functional, he added.



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

PM, FM to address inaugural session of Gandhara symposium

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will address the inaugural session of a three-day Gandhara symposium, being held here from July 11 to July 13.

The symposium titled "Cultural Diplomacy: Reviving Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan", is being held under the prime minister's vision of interfaith harmony, aiming to raise global awareness about the historical and cultural significance of the Gandhara civilization and Buddhist heritage in Pakistan.

Chairman, Prime Minister's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankani and Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Talha Mehmood will also address its different sessions, besides keynote by different foreign and local dignitaries, said a press release issued here Sunday.

The delegates will also call on President Dr Arif Alvi.

The symposium is jointly organized by PM's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), the National Heritage and Culture Division and Archeology Departments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Qambrani road bike snatching: Zia for arrest of killers within 24 hours

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has taken serious notice of the brutal killing of a father and his son during the motorcycle snatching incident on Qambrani road on Sunday and directed the Secretary Home to make arrests of those involved in it.

In an official letter to the Secretary Home, the Provincial Minister directed to arrest the killers within 24 hours. If the criminals were not arrested within 24 hours, then he would take action on Monday (today), the Minister Home asserted.

Mir Ziaullah Langove said that no compromise would be made on the law and order situation. He said that the government pays salary to the police and other institutions to protect the life and property of the masses. He said that stern action would be taken in view of the deteriorating law and order.

Moreover, he strongly condemned the incident of killing and expressed deep grief and sorrow over it. He also asked the police and levies force to take steps as he can't see blood-shed in the province anymore.



PESHAWAR: Members of Minority Community are expressing solidarity with Muslims as they are holding protest demonstration against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden, at Gor Kathri Park in Peshawar.

Monsoon rains kill 9, injure 8 in 24 hours; death toll reaches 76

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: NDMA says 31 children, 30 men, 15 women among those who have died due to rains in last fortnight.

Nine more people have died, and eight others were injured due to the monsoon rains in the last 24 hours, as per the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Since June 25, the number of deaths from monsoon rains across the country has reached 76.

According to the NDMA, 31 children, 30 men and 15 women are among those who have died due to rains in the last fortnight.

The highest number of deaths, 48, has been reported in Punjab.

Rains have also claimed 20 lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, five in Balochistan and three in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, among the more than 130 people injured in rain-related incidents are 49 men, 38 women and 48 children, the authority says in a report.

So far, 78 houses have been damaged by the rains across the country, while there is a fear of urban flooding in different cities of the country due to torrential rains.



TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Syed Naved Qamar, Federal Minister for Commerce Visited H/P Bund and issued directive regarding repair and maintenance of H/P Mulaktiyar Bund Bulri Shah Karim.

Ashrafi terms interfaith dialogue essential in current times

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Ashrafi, on Sunday strongly condemned the recent incident of Quran burning in Sweden.

Addressing a seminar, held here in Lahore Press Club in honor of the martyrdom of Hazrat Usman Ghani (RA), he emphasized the urgent need for interfaith dialogue and global legislation against blasphemy or desecration of any celestial religion or scripture.

The event was attended by distinguished scholars including Allama Abdul Haq Mujahid, Maulana Muhammad Rafiq Jami, Maulana Asad Zakaria Qasmi, Maulana Nauman Hashir, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Maulana Assadullah Farooq, Allama Zubair Abid, Maulana Islam Siddiqui, Qari Abdul Hakeem Athar, Allama Tahir Hassan, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Pitafi, Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Mufti Falk Sher, Mufti Syed Naseem-ul-Islam, Mufti Rehmat Din, Qari Abdul Majid Haqqani, Qari Kifayatullah, Maulana Abdul Jabar, Qari Muhammad Islam Qadri, Maulana Qari Mubashir Rahimi, Maulana Abdul Ghaffar Farooqi, and Maulana Nasir Haqqani.

Ashrafi highlighted that the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) promote interfaith dialogue.

He expressed gratitude towards Pope Francis, Christian leaders, and leaders of other non-Muslim

faiths in Sweden for their condemnation of the Quran burning incidents.

He further affirmed the Pakistan Ulema Council's full support for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its agreements under the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He urged the government to take immediate action against individuals involved in promoting campaigns against the armed forces and the nation.

He demanded swift justice for the perpetrators of the May 9 incidents and the release of innocent individuals who have been detained without evidence.

He emphasized that extremist and foreign ideologies had caused the most damage to Islam and Muslims.

Flour price continues to rise despite Chief Minister's notice

Independent Report
QUETTA: The flour price continued to increase despite the notice taken by the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdulquddus Bizenjo in this regard.

According to the market sources, an increase of Rs. 70 was recorded in the 20-kilogram bag. With this, the price of 20-KG bag has been increased to Rs. 1720. Previously, the bag of flour was being sold at Rs. 1650.

The market sources told that the price of flour has been increased for second time during last two weeks. Earlier, the bag of 20-KG flour was being sold at Rs. 1600 last month.

On the price increase, the flour mills owners association sources informed that the price has been increased due to shortage of the wheat and increase in its rates recently.

If we would get wheat at the government's rate, then we would be able to sell the flour at the prescribed rate, the sources of association told.

Needless to mention here is that the Chief Minister Mir Abdulquddus Bizenjo had taken notice of the reports of increase in price of flour in Quetta city.

The Chief Minister had directed the district administration to ensure sale of flour at the prescribed

Three medical teams moved to Aranji

Independent Report
QUETTA: Three medical teams have been moved to Aranji area of Wadh, Khuzdar after the gastro epidemic hit the area, on Sunday. According to the Director General Health Services, Dr. Noor Qazi, two medical teams have been dispatched to Aranji from Quetta while another moved to the area from Lasbela. All the medical teams are carrying the necessary medicines and facilities to treat the gastro patients in the affected areas. Moreover, a base camp has already been set up by the teaching hospital Khuzdar in Aranji. The DG Health Dr. Noor Qazi is personally supervising the situation of gastro outbreak in Khuzdar.



QUETTA: Activists of Balochistan National Social Forum hold a protest rally in favour of their demands.

Chairman NDMA discusses disaster management coop. with Swiss Foreign Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Sunday held an interactive meeting with Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis to discuss key points related to disaster management and resilience upon his visit here to NDMA headquarters.

The meeting focused on various aspects of disaster preparedness and collaboration between the two countries in the field of disaster management, a news release said. The Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) emphasized the significance of local community engagement in order to enable disaster resilience.

He highlighted the unprecedented Floods 2022 emphasizing the need for an efficient Early Warning System (EWS) in place to mitigate the adverse impacts of such disasters.

He stressed the crucial role of disaster preparedness in Pakistan, stating that managing two simultaneous disasters can be a daunting task and have severe consequences. He apprised the Swiss delegation of inclusive and people-centric disaster preparedness system, mentioning three National Simulation Exercises (SimExs) conducted by NDMA to enhance disaster preparedness in Pakistan. The Chairman NDMA informed about the establishment of NEOC to generate National Common Operating Picture (NCOP) for all relevant stakeholders to mitigate likely impacts of disasters and setting up NDMA's Think Tank, NIDM to collaborate with think tanks, NGOs, INGOS, academia, and industry stakeholders both domestically and globally to develop effective policy recommendations and reduce disaster risk. He underlined the importance of reaching out to regional universities for knowledge sharing and capacity building. Swiss Foreign Minister, Ignazio Cassis, expressed his gratitude for MoU on disaster management cooperation between Switzerland and Pakistan. He highlighted the similarity in topography and challenges faced by both countries, and emphasized the importance of technological knowledge in dealing with complex disaster management challenges.

Fire erupts at Gujranwala oil refining unit

GUJRANWALA (INP): An oil refinery unit at Alipur Chattha has caught fire and a firefighting operation has been underway, sources said on Sunday.

Rescue teams rushed to the spot and initiated firefighting operation, sources said. According to preliminary reports five fire tenders of Rescue 1122 have been engaged in firefighting operation.

According to rescue sources, the fire ignited at the boiler and heating chamber of the oil refining unit.

"Around 25,000 litres of the crude stock has been present at the oil chamber of the refining unit," sources said.

Rescue sources said that the cause of the blaze could not be ascertained so far.

A fire broke out in an oil tanker near a plastic factory located in Gujranwala last month, severely injuring five individuals.

The incident occurred near the Mafi Wala Chowk - Gujranwala, where five employees of a plastic factory sustained injuries as a result of a fire that broke out in an oil tanker.

Sources said that the rescue teams controlled the fire with the assistance of six fire tenders.



PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) Leader, Haider Hoti addresses during the public gathering meeting to pay rich tribute to Haroon Bilour Shaheed for his services he rendered for Peshawarites.

Qureshi terms Ahsan's statement about China, CPEC irresponsible

Says under PTI govt implementation of various projects shows Pakistan's commitment to CPEC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Vice Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Shah Mehmood Qureshi has termed the statement of PML-N leader and Minister Planning Ahsan Iqbal pertaining to China and CPEC as unfortunate and irresponsible.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said that the insinuation that our iron brother would interfere in our domestic affairs was baffling and insulting.

Shah Mehmood said that with PTI, there has always been strong consensus on taking CPEC forward, and under Imran Khan's leadership they successfully implemented the important projects, deepening Pakistan's commitment to CPEC under the PTI government.

Faisalabad Rashakai Industrial zones were made operational during PTI government and the Dhabaji Industrial zone was finalised, which was under construction, he revealed.

Similarly, PTI Vice Chairman said that IT Science and Technology and Agriculture - Three new joint working groups negotiated and added in second phase of CPEC.

He recalled that all power plants under construction were completed; Power generation projects were completed and added to transmission project.

Iran deports another 35 illegal Pak migrants

CHAGAI (INP): Iranian border officials on Sunday deported another 35 Pakistani emigrants who had illegally entered the neighbouring country.

Pakistan's border authorities said that citizens deported from Iran have been handed over the detained persons to the Federal Investigation Agency's anti-human trafficking cell.

"The deportees were intending to illegally immigrate to European countries via Iran," Pakistan's border officials said. People from here used to cross into Iran in the hope to illegally emigrate to Europe in search of greener pastures. The issue of illegal immigrants has highlighted on global level with recent boat sinking incident near the coast of Greece, in which several Pakistani nationals have reported died. At least 78 people were drowned when the ill-fated boat with reportedly 400 to 750 people onboard sank in the Mediterranean Sea near the Greek coast.



QUETTA: Political Secretary of Balochistan Chief Minister, Malik Khuda Bakhsh Lango and Mir Attaullah Lango talking regarding tribal affairs