

Independent

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Quetta

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PM urges OIC to put end to 'abominable practice' of desecration of holy books

Condemns Quran's desecration in Sweden; vows to campaign for decisions' reversal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday called upon the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the civilized world to come forward and take steps to put an end to the abominable practice of desecration of the holy books. "The attitudes that incite religious hatred, promote violence and encourage terrorism and militancy, need to be checked," he said in a tweet. The prime minister said no civilized society would allow the desecration of holy personages, symbols and divine books in the name of freedom of expression. "The grant of permission to desecrate the Holy Quran, Torah & Bible is part of a sinister, vile and despicable agenda whose sole aim could be to threaten world peace," he said. The prime minister said: "We should not let a handful of Satanic characters undermine our shared values of peace, and tolerance, pluralism."

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden and vowed to launch a campaign to seek a reversal of the decision of allowing the sacrilege of holy books. The prime minister, in a statement, said that from the platform of the Organisations of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the government would help create a common strategy to get rid of evil. He said, "The OIC has

to play a historic role in representing the sentiments of the Muslim Ummah and to do away with this evil." The prime minister said that he would campaign to reverse the decision to allow the desecration of the Torah, the Bible, and the Holy Quran. He said the permission to desecrate the holy books, persons, and rituals was not the freedom of expression but rather a way to constantly torment the world.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the 2nd meeting of Apex Committee of SIFC.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar meeting with Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in Governor House. Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali, Member National Assembly Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi and Senator Abdul Qadir are also present

Governor Balochistan meets Chairman Senate; discusses politics, law & order situation

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar called on the Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here at the Governor House on Friday. During the meeting, also present were the Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Member National Assembly, Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi and Senator Abdul Qadir.

The matters pertaining to the country's overall political situation and law and order situation in Balochistan were discussed. During the course of meeting, the ongoing development process and matters of mutual interests came up for threadbare discussion. Moreover, both the leaders were agreed upon making the relations between center and provinces further and pleasant.

Bilawal vows to provide ownership rights to flood-stricken people

LARKANA (INP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday vowed to provide ownership rights to the flood-stricken people. Addressing an event, Bhutto-Zardari expressed his resolve to build two million homes in Sindh during a speech. He continued, "From today, good days have started for the flood-stricken people". He admitted the masses were facing severe economic hardships. Bhutto-Zardari continued, "That is why

we are bringing revolutionary projects for the public". He pledged to adopt the ideology of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto to every nook and cranny of the Sindh districts. Bhutto-Zardari asserted: "By winning the general elections, we will expand the projects". The foreign minister took a swipe at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, saying, "The PTI's doctrine is to make the rich even richer."



LARKANA: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari distributes Land Titles among flood affectees during the ceremony of Distribution of Land Titles for Flood Affectees held in Larkana.

Excellent arrangements made to cope with challenges of terrorism, says IGP

Independent Report QUETTA: The Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khalique Sheikh has stated that the police is facing the challenges of law and order in the province. However, excellent arrangements have been made to cope with the challenges of terrorism, maintained the IGP while speaking after inauguration of the new conference room in Deputy Inspector Gen-

eral of Police office here on Friday morning. The IGP mentioned that there's shortage of resources with the police in Balochistan while on the other hand, the issues are abundant mainly because the province's border is situated along two countries, he maintained. He said that the sectarian incidents have been reported in the province in

Interim setup, polls PM makes 5 members negotiation committee

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has made five member negotiation committee over the issue of caretaker setup and upcoming general elections.

Important task given to committee comprised of Pmln seniors leaders. Sources told that Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Khawaja Asif, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Ahsen Iqbal and Ishaq Dar are included in committee. Committee will hold talks with Pakistan People Party (PPP), Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazal (JIUF), Muthahida Qoumi Movement (MQM), and other allies.

Prime Minister also asked allies to make negotiation committee. Pmln negotiation committee will be in direct contact with their supreme Nawab Shareef. Committee will discuss two important issues, dissolution of National Assembly, and caretaker setup. Discussion will be made on which people be included in interim setup, who will be interim prime minister. Committee will consult on names.

Petroleum dealers defer strike for two days

Monitoring Desk KARACHI: The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) on Friday deferred fuel strike across country for two days. The moves comes as State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik arrived in Karachi to convince the PPDA to call off the strike. The association would hold another round of negotiations with the government after two days, the PPDA said.



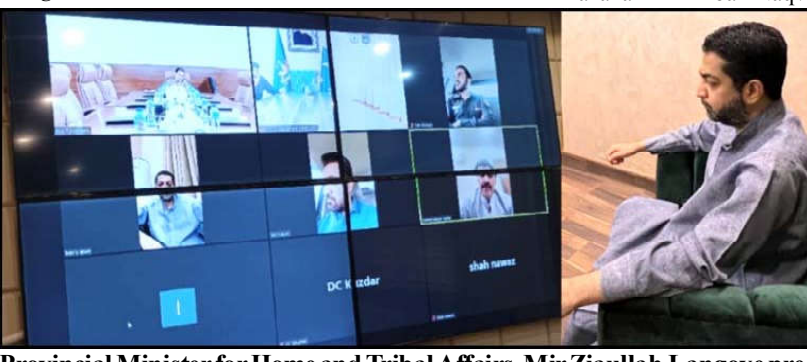
QUETTA: Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court Mr. Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan presiding over meeting of Provincial Justice Committee

SIFC approves projects for attracting investments from friendly countries

PM Shehbaz chairs second apex committee meeting of SIFC; COAS, CMs, federal and provincial ministers attended

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Apex Committee of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Friday approved the projects for attracting investments from friendly countries in agricultural, livestock, minerals, mining, information technology, and energy sectors.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, chairing the second meeting of the Apex Committee, directed to extend impeccable facilitation to the investors, interested in undertaking and actualising the projects. The meeting, which was attended by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, chief ministers, federal and provincial Ministers and high-level government officials, reviewed various projects presented by ministries for broaching with investors under the umbrella of SIFC. The Apex Committee expressed satisfaction on functioning of the SIFC and its strategy to outreach the potential investors through conduct of seminars and project inaugurations.



Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove presiding over a video link meeting on the Wadh situation from Karachi

Presides over meeting on Wadh situation: We want to resolve matters sitting together: Zia

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has stated that we want to resolve all the matters sitting together. He was addressing the meeting held on the tense situation of Wadh area of Khuzdar district on Friday afternoon.

The Minister Home presided over the video link meeting on the Wadh situation from Karachi. The Commissioner Kalat Division, Dadood Khan Khilji, Secretary

Home, Inamul Haq, Colonel Asad from 12 Corps Headquarter, Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar, Captain (Retd) Jamil Ahmed, Senior Superintendent of Police and other concerned senior officials also participated in the meeting through video link. The Commissioner Kalat briefed the meeting about the latest situation in Wadh area. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Home said that law enforcement agencies have taken all necessary measures from the day one.

Hold meetings with both parties Reconciliation delegation led by Nawab Raisani reach Wadh

Independent Report QUETTA: A reconciliation delegation led by the Chief of Sarawan and former Chief Minister Balochistan, Nawab Aslam Khan Raisani reached Wadh on Friday. The delegation was comprised of the younger brother of Nawab Raisani and former Senator, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani, and other notables and tribal elders. The members of delegation held meeting with both the parties and discussed the matters related to decrease the ongoing tension in Wadh.

Earlier, Nawab Aslam Raisani had meeting with the Commissioner Kalat, Dawood Khilji and other police high ups. The members of delegation were briefed about the situation of Wadh. Earlier, the spokesman of Sarawan House told a communique that it would be attempted to reduce tension between the two parties. Quoting Nawab Raisani, the spokesman said that our own people are suffering due to the prevailing tension in Wadh.

Military trials of civilians should not begin without informing SC: CJP

Right of appeal at an independent forum against the decision of a military court was a guarantee of fundamental rights, the chief justice observed; SC adjourns May 9 accused trial cases for indefinite time

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned hearing of petitions challenging the trial of accused involved in the May 9 riots in army courts for an indefinite time. A six-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi

and Justice Ayesha Malik heard the cases. During the course of proceedings, CJP Bandial questioned that how the trial of accused involved in the May 9 incidents had affected the discipline of army, and whether "creating a hindrance in the work of an army officer and breaking of discipline" were mentioned in the law. The AGP replied that it was mentioned in the act. Justice Yahaya Afridi

asked whether the accused, civilians or army personnel who come under the purview of the Army Act, would not be entitled to basic human rights. The CJP remarked that the independence of judiciary was the base of justice in the country. The prosecution would decide the case under the Army Act and also hear the appeal mentioned in the act. **Continued on page 2**

SC dismisses curative review reference against Justice Qazi Faez Isa

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the curative reference against SC puisne judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial dismissed the pleas after they were withdrawn. The apex court announced the detailed verdict on the review petition filed by Justice Isa. Court dismissed the plea with 6-4. The verdict also annulled the instructions issued by the FBR and the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC).

The verdict stated that the government filed a review petition against the judgement on review petition. SC Registrar said, as per SC rules, another review petition could not be filed. The petitioner filed an appeal in chamber against the objections raised by SC Registrar. On March 31, President Arif Alvi requested to withdraw the curative review petition and the cabinet approved the withdrawal of the reference.

Action to be taken against PTI Chairman under Article 6: Babar

QUETTA (APP): Spokesperson of Chief Minister Balochistan Babar Yousafzai on Friday said that action should be taken against the chairman of PTI under Article



6 because he tried to mislead the nation by telling lies through the cipher. He expressed these views while addressing a press conference at the Chief Minister's Secretariat here. He said that the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) created a cipher drama based on lies to hide his politics and tried to save his power by misleading the country and the nation, in which he did not face failure.

Anti-polio campaign to be started in Balochistan from August 1

Independent Report QUETTA: The anti-polio campaign is scheduled to begin in all districts of Balochistan from August 1, 2023. According to the sources of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio eradication, the campaign would run for seven days in four high risk districts of the province. While in other remaining districts, the campaign would be launched for five days. The four high risk dis-

tricts of the province are included: Quetta, Killa Abdullah, Pishin and Chaman. The EOC sources informed that it is targeted to vaccinate around 2.6 million children below five years of age during the upcoming campaign. The necessary arrangements and preparations are being made for the polio immunization campaign in the province. It may be mentioned here that no fresh polio case has been reported since January 2021.

Energy efficient technologies crucial to cope energy crises: Khuawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defense Minister Khuawaja Asif on Friday stressed the need for adopting energy-efficient technologies in order to fight against energy challenges in the country. The minister made his remarks during a national-level consultation on "Energy Efficiency and Conservation Action Plan 2023-30, Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC)-2023 and Pakistan Energy Labels Regulations".

The consultation was organized by the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA).

The minister said that fans and air-conditioners were two main sources of electricity consumption in peak loads which was around 18000 MW out of the total demand of 30000 MW.

"We are still manufacturing Fans of 120 W and 100 W while Fans with capacity 40 W and even 30 W are also available, and it is a globally adopted technology. We can address the issues of peak loads by adopting energy-efficient technologies," he added.

He said that motorbikes constituted the major portion of energy consumption in the transport sector and the country badly failed to introduce electric bikes due to the resistance by the big guns.

He appreciated the NEECA team for their efforts to make energy efficiency a workable agenda and presentation of content in an impressive manner.

Khuawaja Asif also inaugurated the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Behavior Change Campaign launched by NEECA and requested the media to play their role in the dissemination of public service messages.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch stressed the need for national collaboration among all the segments of society in order to fight with the

energy crises in the country.

He said that within limited span of time, under the leadership of Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan, National Energy Efficiency & Conservation (NEEC) Policy 2023 was approved in April this year and several drastic measures like preparation of Energy Efficiency Conservation Action plan 2023-30, banning on inefficient bulbs have been taken.

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology Muhammad Abdullah Khan Sumbal, highlighted the role of the ministry for gearing up energy efficiency and conservation agenda in Pakistan.

He said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan formulated two high-level committees for energy conservation measures led by Ex Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Federal Minister for Defence Khuawaja Muhammad Asif.

He said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan formulated two high-level committees for energy conservation measures led by Ex Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Federal Minister for Defence Khuawaja Muhammad Asif.

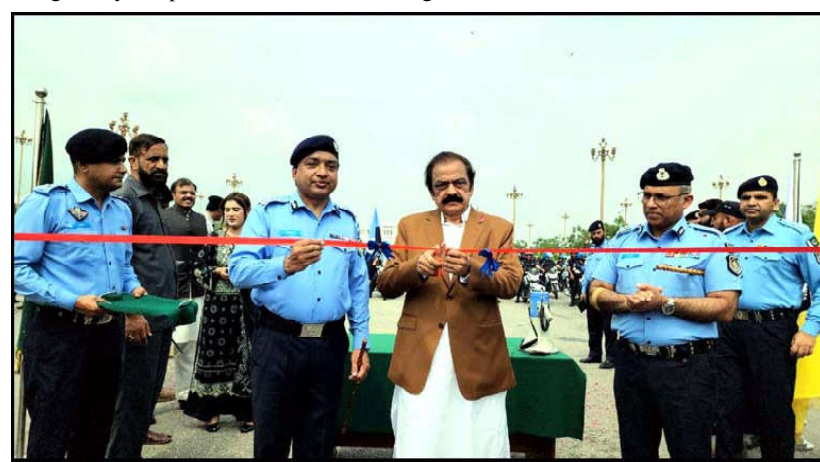
Pakistan hopes Ukraine conflict to be solved soon: FO

ISLAMABAD (Online): Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch has expressed the hope that Ukraine conflict will be solved soon on the basis of negotiations and Pakistan is ready to play its part in promoting a dialogue to end this war.

Responding to a question at her weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Friday, she said Pakistan and Russia are friends we have a very solid relationship. She said Pakistan's engagement with Russia will continue and Islamabad is concerned about sufferings of the civilian population on both sides.



QUETTA: Chairman Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani meeting with founder of Balochistan Awami Party Senator Saeed Ahmed Hashmi. Speaker Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali, MNA Mir Khalid Khan Magsi, Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar and Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir are also present



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan cutting ribbon during the inauguration of Dolphin Force in Islamabad.

Excellent arrangements made....

Continued from page 1

proof security would be provided to the processions of mourning sessions to be held during the month.

He said that the army would remain on high alert for support of the civil administration during Muharram. However, there would not be such situation to call army, he added.

Referring the tribal enmities and clashes, the IGP said that political and tribal enmities are appearing as the general elections are imminent.

The IGP said that police should be given preference in the budget and future plans enabling it to deal with the issues of law and order and terrorism more effectively.

He said that all the stakeholders have been told that police can steer solution of the issues.

Six killed, 2 injured as jeep falls into ravine in Shangla

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least six persons including women were killed on the spot while another two persons sustained injured after an over-speeding Jeep falls into Ravine near Shangla district of Malakand division in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday afternoon.

According to the details, the rescue sources informed that the accident occurred in Chakesar tehsil of Shangla when a driver of the jeep lost control due to over-speeding of the vehicle, private news channels reported. The two women were among the killed while two people also received critical injuries, the rescue officials added.

Fehmida thanks DG Health for provision of ambulance to Mach Hospital

QUETTA (APP): Former Central Vice President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Women's Wing, social leader Fehmida Kausar Jamali on Friday thanked DG Health Dr. Qazi Noor and MS of Mach Hospital Dr. Sajad for provision of an ambulance and medical equipment to the hospital.

She said that Health officials won the hearts of the people of Mach by providing an ambulance for people of Mach, saying that the provision of medical facilities along with an ambulance would significantly reduce the difficulties of patients, especially delivery cases.

She expressed these views while talking to the media representatives after receiving the key of the ambulance provided by the Health Department from DG Health.

She said that the people of Mach were deprived of basic facilities like health and education, in this regard, she was trying day and night to solve problems so that the common man has access to this modern era of health and education in the area.

She said that for a long time, the former officials deliberately kept the people of Mach backwards, they spared no effort in depriving them of basic rights like health and education.

She said that she has always raised her voice on every forum for the rights of the poor and oppressed people of Mach and would continue efforts for the provision of basic facilities to them in the area.

She said that education was the basic right of every child and the secret of development was hidden in education adding that an educated Balochistan was her dream and we were working hard for it.

Arshad Iqbal's five-haul takes Pakistan Shaheens into grand final

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka) (APP): Arshad Iqbal's five-wicket haul and half-centuries by Omaid Bin Yousuf and Mohammad Haris led Pakistan Shaheens to a 60-run victory over Sri Lankan-A in the first semi-final of the ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup at the P Saravanamuttu Stadium here on Friday.

Defending Champions Shaheens will now play India in the final. The final will take place on Sunday at the R Premadasa Stadium, where the first ball will be bowled at 2.00 p.m local time. Chasing 323 to win, Sri Lankan-A lost three wickets in quick succession with 33 runs on the board. Opening batter Avishka Fernando and Sahan Arachchige got together and added 128 runs for the fourth wicket.

After the departure of Fernando 97 of 85 balls with a dashing 12 boundaries and two towering sixes, Sri Lankan-A lost wickets at regular intervals which included the prized scalp of Arachchige, also on 97 off 109, with twelve cracking boundaries and one six, and were bundled out for 262 in 45.4 overs.

Arshad, playing a key role, ended up with match figures of five wickets in his 7.4 overs off 37 runs - his maiden list-A five-wicket haul. Mubasir Khan and Sufiyan Mueqem grabbed two wickets each.

Earlier after opting to bat first, Shaheens lost opening batter Sahibzada Farhan on 12 runs off 22 balls hitting one boundary in the sixth over to Lahiru Samarakoon. Saim Ayub was joined by Omaid Bin Yousuf and the pair added 37 runs for the second wicket before Saim was caught behind for 22 off 41 balls, which included three fours as Shaheens' scorecard read 61 for two in 13 overs. Omaid - the top run-getter for his side in Friday's match - partnered with Tayyab Tahir, who scored 26 runs off as many balls with four boundaries and stitched a 61-run partnership for the third wicket.

After Tayyab and Qasim departed with the score at 145 for four in 26 overs, captain Mohammad Haris and Omaid knitted a 48-run

partnership for the fifth wicket. Omaid scored 88 off 79 balls, smashing 10 fours and a six. Haris and Mubasir, who made 42 off 45 balls with two boundaries and as many sixes added another 73 valuable runs for the sixth wicket stand.

Haris made a quick-fire 43-ball 52, hitting five boundaries. Shaheens were dismissed for 322 on the final ball of the innings.

For Sri Lankan-A, Chamika Karunaratne, Lahiru Samarakoon and Pramod Madushan bagged two wickets each.

Scores in brief: Pakistan Shaheens beat Sri Lanka A by 60 runs

Pakistan Shaheens 322 all out, 50 overs (Omaid Bin Yousuf 88, Mohammad Haris 52, Mubasir Khan 42, Lahiru Samarakoon 24, Chamika Karunaratne 2-55, Pramod Madushan 2-56)

Sri Lanka-A 262 all out, 45.4 overs (Avishka Fernando 97, Sahan Arachchige 97, Arshad Iqbal 5-37, Sufiyan Mueqem 2-44, Mubasir Khan 2-45) Player of the match - Arshad Iqbal (Pakistan Shaheens)

NA body unanimously...

Continued from page 1

regard.

Besides The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill 2023, the committee also discussed The Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill 2023.

Minister of Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, briefing the committee, said amending the PEMRA law was the need of the hour as the entire scenario of the media had changed.

She said the PEMRA Ordinance, which was promulgated in 2002, was being amended first time. Its nine clauses were amended while five new ones were added.

The minister said under the amended law, for the first time media workers were being given the right to file complaints in the Council of Complaints, whereas in the past they were sacked even for demanding salaries.

Under the new bill, a three-member committee would now have the powers to close down a channel instead of the PEMRA chairman, she added.

Marriyum said in the past, an unsuccessful attempt was made to bring a black law like the Pakistan Media Development Authority.

However, the incumbent government took 13 months to prepare the amended bill as extensive consultations were held with all stakeholders, including media workers or organizations and owners of media houses.

The minister said that the definitions of fake news, disinformation and misinformation had also been included in the bill. Disinformation and misinformation had been interpreted separately.

She said under the new

bill, the fine for deliberately spreading false news had been increased from Rs 1 million to Rs 10 million. In the past, the channels used to take the plea that the fake news by aired by them was filed by journalists in their personal capacity, but now they (channels) would also be made accountable.

The minister said nine clauses, including 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 24, 26, 27 and 29 had been amended whereas five new ones 20, 20-A, 29A, 30B and 39A were added to the bill.

She said in the preamble of the bill, instead of "the news", words like "certified news, patience and tolerance, economic and energy development and children-related content have been added".

Under the bill, the scope of public entertainment, education and information had been expanded, she added.

Marriyum said the electronic media would have to use authentic news, besides the content related to tolerance in the society, general development, energy and economic development.

She said as per the amended bill, "timely payment refers to payments made to electronic media employees within two months".

The electronic media would be bound to abide by all decisions and orders of PEMRA and the grievance council for timely payment of salaries.

She said at the federal and provincial levels, government advertisements would not be given to the electronic media houses for non-payment of salaries.

The duration of airing advertisements would not exceed five minutes during a regular programme on the electronic media, he added.

The minister said the broadcast media licenses would be issued for 20

Military trials of civilians...

Continued from page 1

peal, he added.

The right of appeal at an independent forum against the decision of a military court was a guarantee of fundamental rights, the chief justice observed.

CJP Bandial said as per the Attorney General for Pakistan, the trials of the accused in military courts had not yet started and instructed the AGP to inform the bench before initiating of such trials.

The trial would be conducted in open courts and evidences would be recorded, he added.

The chief justice directed that the arrested accused should not suffer from physical or mental problems. The bench would summon the responsible if its orders were violated even after the tenure of the government ended, he added.

The court could appoint any retired judge as a focal person to meet 102 arrested persons, he said.

The court wanted that they should be given basic facilities and have permission to meet their families, the CJP added.

AGP Mansoor Usman Awan said what happened on May 9, had never happened in the country's history and that could not be allowed in future again. All the accused could be clearly seen in footage of the incidents, he added.

He said that the sections regarding the trial of civilian accused by military courts were included in the Army Act through amendments in 2015. As per the section-II, the civilian accused come in jurisdiction of army act if they created an hindrance in defence measures or tried to damage the discipline of the force.

He said the Parliament had the authority for the legislation and that before amendments the Army Act could be applied only on military men.

He said the procedure

for trying an accused in military courts was in front of the bench. Firstly a report regarding the certain incident used to be submitted to the military courts and then a commanding officer conducted a complete investigation into it in a court of inquiry.

After if the civilian accused could be arrested under sections 73 and 76 of the Army Act, he said, adding the accused was also given an opportunity for cross examination during recording of the evidence. After cross examination, the charges used to be framed against them under section 19 and a three member panel was set up for the trial.

The AGP said the accused were used to be given an opportunity to hire lawyers for their defence during the trial. The accused could hire any officer of the legal branch of army or a private lawyer, he added.

The accused was sentenced if he confessed the crime or faced the trial if he denied charges against him, he added.

The attorney general said the accused could file an appeal to the courts of appeal against his conviction, and could also consult a legal advisor during the trial. The accused was given a complete opportunity to defend the allegations against him, he said.

The AGP said apparently none of the 102 accused would be given death penalty or 14-year jail term as such punishment was used to be given to those involved in a foreign conspiracy. To a question, he said that prohibited areas were those which were mentioned in the Official Secrets Act.

The attorney general assured the bench that the civilian accused would be given the right to hire private lawyers during their trial in military courts. He said the arrested people had been kept in jails and were being provided all basic facilities.



NASERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Naserabad, Ayesha Zehri held a meeting with EOC through video link regarding the polio campaign, in Naserabad.

درخواستیں طلب ہیں

مقامی شہر (کنٹرول) ضلع نارتھ میں ایک نیا جینک ٹاور کی تعمیر کے لیے 11 فوٹو کی درخواستیں طلب ہیں۔ اس کے لیے درخواستیں جمع کروانے کے لیے درخواست دہندگان کو درج ذیل معلومات فراہم کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔

نام	پتہ	تعلق	زیر اثر	05 تا 05	05 تا 05	05 تا 05
آئی بی پی چارنگ	ایب اسٹنٹ	ڈراما	ایب اسٹنٹ	6	7	4
سید علی محمد چوہدری	سید علی محمد چوہدری	سید علی محمد چوہدری	سید علی محمد چوہدری	0	0	0
آئی بی پی چارنگ	ایب اسٹنٹ	ڈراما	ایب اسٹنٹ	0	0	0
آئی بی پی چارنگ	ایب اسٹنٹ	ڈراما	ایب اسٹنٹ	0	0	0

نظامت تعلیمات
ایب اسٹنٹ

PRQ No. 177 /21-07-2023



QUETTA: QESCO workers busy in maintenance of electric wires in the city.

Program launched to help Somalian students in science & technology, higher education

ISLAMABAD (APP): In order to support Somalian students in their endeavors in science and technology as well as in the higher education sector, COMSTECH-the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation has launched a specialized "Somalia Science and Technology Cooperation Program" in a ceremony here on Friday.

The initiative was launched with the efforts of the Embassy of the Republic of Somalia here in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Addressing the ceremony, COMSTECH Coordinator General Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary emphasized the need for joint collaborative country-specific programs to address the specific needs of each OIC member state with tailor-made solutions.

He appreciated the efforts of Somalian Ambassador Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim and the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan, for launching this program.

The Charge de Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Somalia, Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim appreciated the visionary initiative taken by the COMSTECH leadership to address the Science and Technology needs of his country.

He thanked Prof. Choudhary for starting country-specific programs for OIC member states specifically in the African continent, adding the program will contribute to further mutual collaboration.

The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Nairobi, Kenya, Saqlain Syedah addressed the launching ceremony online and appreciated the COMSTECH initiative for Somalia, and other African OIC member states.

The University of

Lahore Rector Dr. Muhammad Ashraf applauded the efforts of COMSTECH for expanding collaborative programs with African countries, stating being a member of CCoE the University of Lahore is an active partner in all its programs.

He informed that over 500 foreign students including 360 African students were enrolled at the University of Lahore and it has also established a Medical College in Uganda.

Chairman, Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Ch. Abdul Rehman extended his heartfelt support on behalf of his university and the Association of Private Sector Universities to the COMSTECH-Somalia Science and Technology Cooperation.

He said, "We will foster scientific and technological advancements, promote collaboration, and contribute to the development and progress of Somalia and the entire OIC region."

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim addressing during lunching ceremony of Somalia Science and Technology Cooperation Program jointly with the Embassy of the Republic of Somalia and in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Science and Technology at COMSTECH Auditorium, in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim addressing during lunching ceremony of Somalia Science and Technology Cooperation Program jointly with the Embassy of the Republic of Somalia and in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Science and Technology at COMSTECH Auditorium, in Federal Capital.

I'abad Police introduce Dolphin Unit for enhanced citizens' protection

ISLAMABAD, Jul 21 (APP): The official inauguration of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan for establishing this unit in a short time to ensure public safety.

Addressing the personnel of the Dolphin Force, Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah Khan emphasized the noble duty entrusted to them, stating, "Your duty is the protection of the citizens, which is a form of worship." He expressed the hope that they would diligently safeguard the lives and property of the citizens.

The minister appreciated the establishment of the Dolphin Force and commended the entire team especially, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan for their commitment to ensuring public safety and security. He highlighted the importance of the Force in controlling street crime and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Rana Sanaulah Khan expressed the confidence in the capabilities of the Force and their ability to significantly reduce street crime in the capital city.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaulah Khan, who marked the occasion by officially initiating the operational activities of the Dolphin Unit of Islamabad Police.

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ISLAMABAD: Former Ambassador to Germany Shahid Kamal cuts the ribbon along with others to inaugurate the paintings exhibition of German Artist Dagmar Rauwald entitled "Invention VS Convention" at Comsats Art Gallery in Federal Capital.

Islamabad airport set for 15-year outsourcing to enhance operational activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique on Friday said that Islamabad International Airport would be outsourced for a period of 15 years to improve its operational activities.

In response to a calling attention notice in National Assembly sponsored by MMA lawmaker Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali regarding the outsourcing of the airport, the minister clarified that the move does not equate to privatization. Instead, it aims to bring in proficient operators to enhance airport operations, he said.

Khawaja Saad Rafique emphasized that open competitive bidding would be ensured, allowing the best bidder to be given the opportunity to operate the airport. The process, he said, will be profit-oriented, ultimately benefiting the national exchequer. The International Finance Corporation will serve as the consultant, and already 12-13 companies have shown interest in participating in the bidding process, he added.

The minister assured that the process would be transparent and adhere to all rules and regulations.

However, the minister clarified that the runway and navigation operations would not be included in the outsourcing process.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Friday granted time to the prosecution for submission of documents in a sedition case against former minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain. Additional District and Session Judge Tahir Abbas Saprha heard the case against Chaudhry Fawad Hussain who appeared before the court along with his lawyers.

Defence lawyer Faisal Chaudhry Advocate adopted the stance that the prosecution was yet to provide the case documents to them. However, the prosecution had submitted its report to the judge and stated that the phone set of the accused had been sent for forensic analysis. The voice matching of the accused had also been conducted.

The court was told that forensic analysis of one mobile phone of the accused couldn't be conducted due to none availability of the code. The prosecution prayed the court to grant some time for provision of the documents to the defence side. The court adjourned further hearing of the case till July 31.

IRSA releases 448,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 448,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 540,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1521.73 feet and was 123.73 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 285,300 cusecs and 251,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1211.85 feet, which was 161.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

Court grants time to share documents with defence

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Horrified collision in Ghotki killed two brothers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two brothers were killed on the spot when a speeding Mazda vehicle collided with a trailer near Motorway Ubauro a town in Ghotki District of Sindh on early Friday morning.

According to details, Police officials said the accident happened on a motorway when a speeding Mazda collided with another vehicle and claimed two precious lives of brothers in Ghotki, a Private news channel reported.

Police added that the deceased were residents of Sukkur.

Illegal occupation of state land case against qulfi vendor: 3 months punishment is far less: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Tariq Jahangiri remarked the charge is this that he not only set up his cart therein but he also got set up carts of others too. While charge of extortion of money has also been leveled against him and you are only making mention of kulfi. Therefore, punishment of 3 months is far less. Punishment should be more than this.

The counsel for the accused said setting up cart is no offence. I will assist court.

The court remarked why it is not offence. If some one sets up cart before your home then is it not offence.

Justice Tariq Jahangiri remarked terrorism clause is also applicable on extortion of money.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) on Friday commenced the admissions for matriculation to Ph.D. programs in the autumn semester of 2023 across the country.

Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood Vice Chancellor of AIU, has desired that not a single student should be deprived of higher and quality education owing to lack of financial resources.

In this regard, AIU is providing scholarships, fee concessions, and financial assistance schemes for underprivileged and marginalized strata living in far-flung areas of the country.

Moreover, to utilize these schemes, deserving candidates are required to contact their respective regional offices of AIU established in all four provinces of Pakistan, including Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

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Delaying tactics are being used in Tosha Khana case, Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (PM) Atta Tarar said that delaying tactics are being used in Tosha Khana case.

Why Chairman PTI is not appearing?

Allegations are leveled against judges to cover up theft.

While holding a press conference in Islamabad on Friday he said that Imran Khan has admitted that he has sold gifts of Tosha Khana.

He said that who said him to sell gifts and not to keep record?

He said that Why is the record of money received from selling gifts not being submitted?

He said that absence from court is sign of cowardice.

Where they feel their rigging is caught they accuse the judge.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Shaukat Mukadam, the father of slain girl Noor Mukadam on Thursday appealed to the Supreme Court of Pakistan to take up and expedite the case of his daughter's murder for being a matter of great public interest.

At a commemorative meeting marking two years since the tragic passing of Noor Mukadam, Ambassador Shaukat Mukadam addressed a gathering here.

Mukadam's father appeals to SC to expedite case

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Dr. Qibla praises China's model of religious freedom, inclusivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz on Friday lauded China's commitment to religious freedom and inclusivity, dispelling any negative impressions of interfaith disharmony in the country. He, in an exclusive interview with APP, highlighted that China ensures the protection of legal rights for minority communities, including Muslims, without any discrimination or bias.

Sharing his recent personal experience, Dr. Qibla Ayaz revealed that he had visited various regions of China alongside a delegation of prominent religious scholars and leaders. They were invited by the Chinese foreign affairs ministry to

assess the state of religious pluralism in the nation. The chairman expressed that he was impressed to witness a country where people from all segments of society enjoy equal rights and have the freedom to practice their religious rituals without hindrance.

During this trip, Dr. Qibla observed that minority communities in China joyously celebrated their religious festivals and other social and cultural events, alongside the majority population.

The Chinese government played an active role in supporting and promoting these religious and cultural activities, extending all possible assistance, he maintained.

MNAs raise various issues in NA, seek prompt action by concerned quarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the 2nd day of its farewell session on Friday, members of the National Assembly (MNAs) raised various issues and problems of their respective constituencies and sought prompt action by the concerned quarters for its quick addressal.

Speaking on point of order, Salahuddin of Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM) said Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) power distribution system has obsoleted and excessive power load-shedding has made the lives of people miserable in the summer season. Electricity in many areas of Hyderabad remained suspended for

Murtaza Javed says: PM's Grievances Wing addresses 98 percent complaints this year

ISLAMABAD (APP): In-charge Minister for Prime Minister's Public Affairs and Grievances Wing, Murtaza Javed Abbasi said on Friday that over 98 percent of the complaints received by the Wing this year have been successfully resolved.

Talking to the media during the launch of a special WhatsApp number for the wing and the option to send text messages, the minister revealed that a total of 11,471 written complaints were received this year, out of which 11,280 (98.3 percent) have been resolved, with the remaining under process. The wing is also addressing complaints related to provincial matters and the provinces have been directed to appoint focal persons to ensure efficient resolution, he said.

The minister said that

the introduction of the WhatsApp number and other social media platforms was aimed at providing an avenue for lodging complaints related to both federal and provincial institutions. These initiatives, he said are in line with Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's directives to further strengthen the Prime Minister's Public Affairs and Complaints Wing.

To enhance the transparency of the verification process for complaints, necessary steps are being taken while open Kutcheries at the district and divisional levels will be organized to address complaints effectively, he said and added disciplinary actions will be taken against officials of institutions providing false statements about complaint resolution.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Energy and Economy, Bilal Azhar Kayani addresses to media persons during press conference, in Islamabad.

Bilal accuses PTI chief for creating 'cypher drama' for political gains

ISLAMABAD (APP): "Imran Khan constantly damaged diplomatic relations and pushed the country to the verge of default", he added.

Kayani explained that a vote of no confidence motion was filed on March 08, and on April 10, the PTI chief was legally removed from his position following the vote of no confidence motion.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) had chosen Shehbaz Sharif as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, he added.

He expressed firm resolve that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would continue to take the country's journey towards economic stability and growth.

Highlighting the accomplishments during the PML-N's tenure, he mentioned the successful launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) between 2013 and 2018, the addition of 12,000 megawatts of electricity to the national grid and the eradication of load shedding.

Under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, the country completed the first International Monetary Fund (IMF) program in the history, he asserted.

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According to details, Police officials said the accident happened on a motorway when a speeding Mazda collided with another vehicle and claimed two precious lives of brothers in Ghotki, a Private news channel reported.

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ISLAMABAD: Large number of motorcyclist stand under the Rawal bridge during rain.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used to build new lanes on Islamabad Expressway.

KP CM inaugurates Phase-I of Rashakai Special Economic Zone

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan inaugurated Phase-I of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone, marking a significant milestone in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) here on Friday.

The Rashakai Special Economic Zone, strategically located at the nexus of economic growth, stands as a testament to the strong partnership between Pakistan and China. CPEC has become a symbol of friendship between the countries and a model for cooperation between developing countries.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister appreciated the exceptional efforts and unwavering commitment of China Road

and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KPEZDMC) for successfully completing Phase-I of the project six months before the completion date.

The chief minister thanked the government of China, the companies involved and public sector entities for their unflinching support to the project and all those who contributed to the completion Phase-I Rashakai SEZ.

Encompassing 247 acres of modern facilities designed to attract domestic and foreign investors, Phase I of the Rashakai SEZ promises to spur economic growth and job creation, further strengthening Paki-

stan-China cooperation and bilateral relations under the umbrella of CPEC. Presently, Phase-I houses 18 zone enterprises, with 07 under construction; mobilizing an estimated investment of Rs. 85 billion.

As the Rashakai SEZ takes its place on the path to becoming a catalyst for regional prosperity, creating employment opportunities for the local population, and attracting foreign direct investment, plans are already underway for the subsequent phase.

These forthcoming endeavors will focus on expanding in infrastructure, streamlining business processes, and attracting key industries, unlocking the SEZ's full potential, as part of the ongoing decade of CPEC.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori and others are offering funeral prayer of Nawab of Junagadh Muhammad Jahangir Khanji, at Fatima Jinnah road in Karachi.

IGP appreciates role of scholars in promoting peace, inter-faith harmony, unity among Muslims

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police Punjab (IGP) Dr. Usman Anwar, while appreciating the role of Ulema in promoting peace, inter-faith harmony, and unity among Muslims said that the Ulema who propagate peace are champions of character as well as speech.

He said this while meeting the delegation of Ulema, and Scholars led by Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad, the Chairman of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee at the Central Police Office here on Friday. In a delegation led by Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad eminent scholars from

all the schools of thought visited the Central Police Office and met IGP Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar.

During the meeting, IGP Punjab said that the miscreants who are spreading hatred and anarchy on social media will be dealt with iron hands.

He said that police focal persons have been appointed for coordination among stakeholders during Ashura Muharram. Control rooms have been established for the monitoring of security of Muharram programs in all regions and districts including CPO office.

The IGP Punjab said that more than 125,000 police officers and person-

nel are on duty for the security of Majalis and processions across the province. He urged for cooperation with police regarding loudspeaker act and time restriction during Muharram programs. He Punjab further said that the police grows stronger with the support of Ulema-e-Karam and they are always there to cooperate with them.

On this occasion, Additional IG Operations Shahzada Sultan, DIG Operations Waqas Nazir and AIG Operations Dr. Asad Ijaz Malhi informed the scholars about the security arrangements of Punjab IGP during Muharram.

Dr. Javed says: Efforts being made to ensure best medical facilities to masses

MULTAN (APP): Punjab Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram said on Friday that the provincial government ensuring all possible efforts to provide the best medical facilities to masses across the province.

After participating in the 13th syndicate meeting of Nishtar Medical University, the caretaker minister said that as per directives of the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, all possible measures were being taken for bringing improvement in the performance of the health department and service delivery.

He said that the officers concerned have been directed to set up a model pharmacy in Nishtar Hos-

pital, adding a screening of school kids would be made at educational institutes.

He said that a health screening certificate would be made compulsory for participating in the examination of the 9th class. He said that special focus was being paid on research work in medical institutes of the province. Earlier, the committee gave approval to different initiatives including the construction of the statue of Nishtar Medical University, the nomination of new members of the syndicate and members of the board of advanced studies and research, new members of the selection board, the start of Farm-D program at the university, syllabus of a nursing degree program.



LARKANA: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari offering Fataha for the departed soul of Prof. Dr. Bilqis Malik during condolence meeting with family members, in Larkana.

Mayor Karachi calls for ample arrangements for monsoon rains

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday directed elected representatives of the local government that during the monsoon rains, arrangements should be made for sanitation, drainage and disinfectant spray in all districts of Karachi.

He said this while presiding over a meeting with the chairman and elected representatives of Malir, Gadap and Lyari towns in his office here.

He said that mud and garbage should be cleaned from the National Highway and availability of sanitary workers and better working relationship with the town administration should be ensured. Machinery required for municipal services should be transferred without delay and staff posted in different areas to monitor roads, streets and other places and respond immediately in case of any complaint, he added.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, General Secretary of PPP South District Karamullah Waqasi, Managing Director Sindh Solid Waste Management Board Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah, Chairman Malir Town Jan Muhammad Baloch, Chairman Gadap Town Tariq Baloch, Vice Chairman Malir Town Syed

Muzmil Shah, Chairman Lyari Town and other elected representatives were also present.

During the meeting, the sanitation situation in the areas located within the boundaries of different towns was reviewed in detail and various suggestions were made to improve it.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that steps will be taken to supply machinery required for sanitation and disinfectant spray according to the needs of the town administration.

He said that the solid waste management board is responsible for picking up the waste and transporting it to the landfill sites, so the town administration should make a strategy in collaboration with the solid waste management board to keep all the areas within the town's boundaries clean. In places where there is a complaint of unavailability of dust bin, the relevant organization should be informed immediately, he added.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the local bodies provide basic services to the citizens at the grassroots level and the citizens of Karachi have trusted the local representatives belonging to the Pakistan People's Party and we will fulfill their expectations.



Federal Minister for overseas Pakistani and HRD Mr. Sajid Husain Turi is inaugurating the residential flats for project of worker welfare Board at Peshawar.

Dr. Ansari says: Sindh Bureau of Statistics to expand its internship program

KARACHI (APP): Director General Sindh Bureau of Statistics Dr. Ishaque Ahmed Ansari, on Friday, said that SBoS will further expand the facility of internship for fresh graduates while steps would be taken to provide an honorarium to the interns.

He was addressing the certificate distribution ceremony held here on the completion of SBoS's first-ever Summer Internship Program for graduate students of Statistics departments from all the Universities of Sindh.

The program that started on July 03, 2023, was aimed at providing students of statistics departments an opportunity of learning new and practical skills and gain work-related experience in their field.

Dr. Ishaque Ansari said that the internship program would prove very beneficial for the students of statistics departments of

various public universities and open up new avenues of career development in the field.

Viewing to make the internship program compatible with global standards he sought cooperation from all the educational institutions.

He noted that internship programs help the young blood in professional networking and exploring career paths when they step into practical life after leaving their Alma mater.

Senior Statistician, Nisar Akhtar, graced the event as chief guest and distributed the certificates among successful candidates.

He lauded the efforts of SBoS regarding the Internship program and informed the audience that Dr. Ansari always remained innovative as he witnessed him during his service at the State Bank of Pakistan.

Delegation of Bajaur calls on Governor KP

PESHAWAR (APP): A 60-member delegation of the merged district of Bajaur called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali at Governor House here Friday.

The delegation discussed in detail ways and means regarding the problem being faced by them in the District. They apprised the Governor about the prolonged load-shedding, lack of educational facilities and trade related issues in their area.

The Governor told the delegation that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was taking his personal interest in the problems of the merged districts. He urged the local leaders to play their role for peace and law and order in the district.

Six dead, 1053 injured in 1027 crashes in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least six persons were dead and 1,053 injured in 1,027 road traffic crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 557 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 496 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals, said a spokesperson for Rescue-1122. Around 536 drivers, 38 underage drivers, 141 pedestrians, and 382 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes, he said and added that 272 RTCs were reported.

May-9 cases: LHC withdraws stay order issued to Imran

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday withdrew a stay order issued to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan against coercive measures in May-9 cases, wherein he was not nominated.

The single bench comprising Justice Aalia Neelum heard the petition filed by the PTI chairman for consolidation of all cases of May-9 riots against him.

A junior counsel informed the court that senior counsel Sardar Latif Khosa was busy before the Apex court and requested to adjourn the proceedings. He also requested the court not to withdraw the stay order issued on the last hearing.

However, the court adjourned further proceedings for an indefinite time but did not extend the stay order. On July 14, the LHC had stopped police from taking coercive measures against Imran Khan in May-9 cases, wherein he was not nominated.

ANF recovers 101 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover 101 kg of drugs and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that two operations were conducted at Islamabad International Airport and ANF recovered 146 Ice-filled capsules from the possession of three passengers, going to Oman and Bahrain by flight number PK-187 and WY-348.



KARACHI: A view of accumulated rain water after rain at nagal chorangi locality.

JUI-S chief advocates for peaceful observance of Muharram

AKORA, KHATTAK (APP): Chairman of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (S) Maulana Hamidul Haq Haqqani, on Friday urged the scholars and leaders nationwide to maintain a peaceful atmosphere throughout Muharram-ul-Haram.

Addressing a gathering at Jamia Darul Uloom Haqqania, he emphasized the essence of Islam as a religion of peace and harmony, advocating for moderation and tolerance.

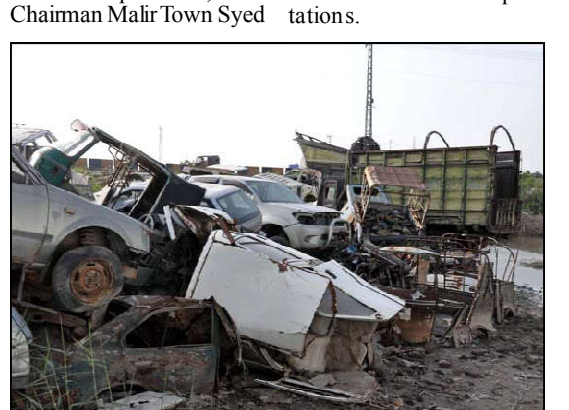
He drew inspiration from the historical martyrdom of Imam Hussain (RA), highlighting its profound message of standing against injustice.

The events of Karbala, Maulana Haqqani stressed, offer invaluable lessons of patience and resilience.

With these principles in mind, he passionately appealed to all religious scholars and leaders to ensure that congregations and processions during

Muharram remain free from discussions on controversial issues and disrespectful dialogues about Islamic sacred figures. He firmly advised against engaging in any activities that could disrupt the peace and harmony of the holy month.

"Let us, as Muslims, come together and wholeheartedly cooperate with the government and authorities to maintain peace and security during Muharram," he urged.



HYDERABAD: Impounded vehicles are ruining outside Hatri Bypass Police Station, showing the negligence of concerned authorities, in Hyderabad.



HYDERABAD: Security officials are standing high alert to avoid untoward incident during the shiite muslims mourning procession in connection of 2nd Muharram-ul-Haram, at Qadam Gha Mola Ali (A.S) in Hyderabad.

Dr Jamal directs to devise backup plan for Muharram's security

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir on Friday directed the district administration and police to re-examine the security of all Masajids, Imambargahs, and sensitive places and devise a backup plan to deal with any emergency. Presiding over a meeting at Deputy Commissioner's office, he directed the officials to identify flaws in the security plan so that anti-Pakistan forces could not get an opportunity to disturb the law and order situation in the country on the pretext of sectarian hatred during this holy month.

The minister said that all institutions must be on red alert while fool-proof

security should be provided to all Imambargahs and the provision of necessary police force must be ensured.

He asked the administration to keep close liaison with the scholars of all schools of thought and implement the code of conduct in letter and spirit.

Dr Jamal further directed the officials to remove the hanging electric wires, and building materials and ensure the cleanliness of mourning processions routes. He directed the officials to activate the peace committees set up at the Police station level for the implementation of the code of conduct.

On the occasion, the administration and police briefed the minister about the security, cleanliness.

GB Tourism – Enjoy nature but not on others cost

GILGIT-BALTISTAN (APP): Gilgit Baltistan, known for its stunning landscapes, snow-covered peaks and rich cultural heritage has always been an enchanting attraction for tourists with the region receiving staggering 10,000 tourists daily.

This influx of visitors brings economic prosperity to local people by flourishing their hotels, guesthouses, and resorts business and generating employment opportunities for local people especially youth running trekking, rental equipment, handicrafts, driving, and local delicacies businesses.

Although the breathtaking landscapes and adventurous opportunities leave indelible imprints on the minds of tourists, yet there are challenges like environmental degradation and careless driving, resulting in the loss of precious lives.

Popular tourist spots like Naltar, Fairy Meadows, Rama Astore, and Hunza once to be pristine, are now grappling with litter and pollution. Plastic waste, in particular, has become a major environmental hazard, threatening the health of wildlife and ecosystems.

Unregulated camping and trekking activities have also led to habitat disturbance that may have far-reaching consequences on biodiversity.

"Growing tourism is a blessing for our hotel business. We receive marvelous responses every year. It grows our business and generates employment opportunities for local people," said Qaiser Abbas a hotel owner from Naltar Bala, Gilgit.

"However, it exerts extra pressure on local habitats and the environment which direly needs to align business operations with

sustainable practices for environmental protection."

"Tourism industry makes us earn bread for our children. But it should not be at the cost of environmental degradation," he said. "We can encourage responsible tourism by educating our guests and local people to use eco-friendly amenities, reduce plastic waste and protect habitat to ensure the region's ecological balance."

Therefore, conservation efforts need to be intensified to protect the beauty of GB by striking a balance between tourism and environmental protection to ensure long-term sustainability and leave behind an asset for future generations.

"Improper waste generation especially plastic waste due to rising tourists" influx poses serious threats to the region's ecosystem and wildlife," said Abul Rehman Bukhari an envi-

ronmental activist.

"Moreover, unregulated trekking and camping activities also cause habitat degradation in some areas."

He suggested awareness campaigns, workshops, and seminars to educate tourists about the harmful impact on the environment by their irresponsible behavior towards nature.

Besides environmental degradation, people also come across numerous instances of unruly and ruthless driving that result in accidents inflicting losses of vehicles and human lives as adventurers very often miscalculate the driving tendencies in hilly terrains.

"This is a tragic aspect of booming tourism in GB. The region's challenging and winding mountain roads demand cautious driving, especially for those unfamiliar with hilly terrains," said Asif Raza, a Peshawar-based tourist.

Asif said, "The region's roads are usually treacherous, and some drivers – both locals and exotic – least care for safety measures. I witnessed numerous instances of reckless driving that risks drivers themselves and others' lives." Therefore, he said, the first and foremost priority of authorities should be stricter enforcement of traffic regulations.

"Both the tourists and tour operators must be issued strictures for immediate action if they do not behave sensibly and go for irresponsible driving."

Despite the government's efforts for road safety, accidents continue to claim precious lives, Chief Secretary (CS) GB Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani drew the attention of all tourists to observe safety measures and guidelines.

"Attention all adventurous tourists exploring

our beautiful destinations, we want to ensure your safety while driving through these mountains," he said warning the visitors of mountain roads that often twist and turn with varying degrees of elevation.

"Drive at a speed of 50 kilometers per hour or even lesser, if you want to maintain control of your vehicle, especially around sharp corners or steep inclines. Never rush and keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead," Wani advised.

"When descending steep slopes, engage lower gears to control your speed, use engine braking to avoid brake overheating, and allow your vehicle's transmission to assist you in maintaining control," he added. "Mountainous regions can surprise drivers with unexpected rock falls or sliding so they need to be vigilant and prepared to react accordingly."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on the establishment of Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund (PSWF), at Finance Division in Islamabad.

Forex reserves reach highest position since October 2022: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Friday said that the foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) were at their highest position now since October 2022.

In a tweet, the federal minister said the total liquid foreign reserves stood at \$14.6 billion.

"Total liquid foreign reserves at \$14.06 billion, SBP's reserve position highest since October 2022," he tweeted.

It is pertinent to mention that the total liquid for-

ign reserves rose to US\$ 14,065.3 million while reserves held by the central bank reached \$8,727.2 million owing to inflows from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The central bank in a statement issued the previous day informed that SBP received US\$ 2.0 billion from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, US\$1.2 billion from International Monetary Fund, and US\$ 1.0 billion from the United Arab Emirates.

Consequently, SBP reserves increased by US\$

4,203 million to US\$ 8,727.2 million during the week ended on July 14, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at US\$ 5,338.1 million, it added.

In the previous week ending on July 07, total liquid foreign reserves held by the country was US\$ 9,838.5 million.

Among them, foreign reserves held by the central bank were US\$ 4,524 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were US\$ 5,314.5 million.

Khawaja Saad says: PIA has a debt of Rs. 742 billion

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that has debt of Rs 742 billion.

PIA will stand closed in one and a half years if restructuring is not done.

Due to the careless statement of Ghulam Sarwar, there has been a loss of 70 billion rupees.

PIA has expensive stations. The flights of British Airlines will be restored very soon.

He expressed these views in meeting of National Assembly on Friday.

He said that European Airlines will also restore flights in 3 to 4 months.

Outsourcing of airports will be done to the best bidder.

He said that Airports are operated through private operators in the world.

Outsourcing does not mean that airports are being closed.

If someone puts pressure then it will not be tolerated. Islamabad Airport will be outsourced for 15 years. IFC is our consultant.

PEPRA law should be followed.

After Islamabad, the turn of Lahore and Karachi Airports will come.

Some people want to go their own way. Everyone knows that I am not in favor of privatization.



KARACHI: President Real Estate Association Johar Iqbal addressing press conference at Press Club in Provincial Capital.

Pak, US should invest more in bringing two peoples closer: Khan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan says Pakistan and United States should invest more in bringing the two peoples closer.

Addressing the concluding session of a day-long 'Conference on Diplomacy for Development' at Houston, Texas, he urged the Pakistani diaspora to play its role for promotion of positive image of Pakistan in United States.

The Ambassador said American Centers in the past, and now the Lincoln Centres in Pakistan are effectively contributing towards creating a better understanding about the United States.

Masood Khan added

we need to have similar centres in the United States to promote awareness about Pak-US relations and to pass on this legacy to our coming generations. He said Pakistan Chairs in leading Universities of the United States would play a critical role in creating better understanding of the country, its people and the region.

The Ambassador urged the Pakistani diaspora to have complete confidence in Pakistan and its ability to rise as the leading economy of the world.

The Ambassador briefed the audience about the newly launched initiative, the Special Investment Facilitation Council, which has been created to facilitate the investors.

Rupee sheds Rs1.67 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed Rs1.67 devaluation against the US Dollar in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs286.81 against the previous day's closing of Rs285.14.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs289.5 and Rs292.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 53 paisa to close at Rs 319.13 against the last day's closing of Rs 319.66, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

SECP takes Actuarial Advisor on board for Insurance Division

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), in line with its focus on strengthening its insurance sector regulatory responsibilities, is pleased to announce appointment of Mr. Falak Sher Soomro as Advisor to the Commission on Insurance.

Mr. Soomro is an Associate of Institute of Actuaries, UK. He is a risk and insurance professional with over 15 years of experience in General & Medical insurance across KSA, the UAE, Oman, Lebanon, Pakistan, and Malta (EU).

The newly appointed advisor will be based in Karachi and will assist the Commission on its key re-focus agenda related to the insurance sector.

Mr. Soomro will bring his valuable expertise in Reserving, Motor Medical & Group Life Pricing and Underwriting, Solvency Capital Modelling and Financial Reporting, Reinsurance Optimization, Investments Strategies and Risk Management. His experience includes advising insurance/takaful and reinsurers on regulatory and non-regulatory assignments.

Korea to establish IT Centre in Karachi: CG Yi Sungho

KARACHI (APP): Consul General of the Republic of Korea Yi Sungho, on Friday, informed that the Korean Government was setting up an IT Centre in Karachi to provide young IT startups an opportunity to start working with Korea.

The Korean envoy, during a visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), said that the Korean government was keen to support Pakistan in developing its IT sector and an IT center has already been completed in Islamabad.

He urged Pakistan to come up with strong policies to train and educate young people in the IT sector and must also invest more money in education and training to find some geniuses who could bring revolution not only in IT but also in other sectors of the economy.

Korean Envoy pinpointing the low volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Korea observed "Trade between the two countries kept growing until 2019, but it suffered setbacks after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic which was followed by some economic difficulties in Pakistan".

Efforts were being made to enhance existing trade volume, he added while expressing optimism

that trade between Korea and Pakistan will rebound again in the future.

He said, "To support Pakistan's economy in its quest for fetching maximum workers' remittances, the Korean Government encourages Pakistani workers to work in Korea, hence, we extended the maximum quota for Pakistani Workers to 4,000 workers, of which 3,000 workers have already been called to Korea." Commenting on the investment potential of Korean textile companies, the envoy pointed out that most of the Korean companies moved their manufacturing units to Bangladesh with the passage of time where they were doing quite well. "If Pakistan provides a good business environment, these Korean companies will certainly move their units here in Pakistan mainly due to low labor cost which is the most important element of cost of doing business," he said.

He mentioned that Korean companies moved to Bangladesh due to low labor costs but now, the cost of labor in Pakistan was even lower than what it was in Bangladesh which could encourage many Korean companies to move businesses to Pakistan but the other conditions for doing business must also be the same as being offered in

Bangladesh. The Korean CG informed that Pakistan's Embassy in Korea will also be holding an Investment and Trade Promotion Conference next week wherein the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and Board of Investment (BoI) will be explaining the overall investment environment and regulations in Pakistan to Korean companies.

"A University in Islamabad has also started offering Korean Language Courses but no such course is, unfortunately, being offered here in Karachi," he mentioned while expressing his willingness to open such Korean Language Learning Centre in Karachi.

Earlier, President KCCI Tariq Yousuf, while warmly welcoming the Korean Ambassador, stressed that Pakistan and South Korea need to accelerate bilateral trade volume and devise a clear roadmap for Free Trade Agreement which would pave the way for improved trade relations and open up new dimensions. He urged Korean companies to explore JVs and investment in SEZs under CPEC and added that the One-Belt-One-Road initiative could prove to be beneficial for enhancing trade between the two countries whereas the Visa regime also needs.



ISLAMABAD: A view of rush on petrol pump after Pakistan fuel pump operator association calls national strike for July 22.

PSX witnesses bullish trend as index gains 522 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Friday, gaining 522.42 points, a positive change of 1.15 percent, closing at 45,920.73 points against 45,398.31 points the previous trading day.

A total of 504,550,463 shares were traded during the day as compared to 464,226,100 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 12,012 billion against Rs 10,104 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 339 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 197 of them recorded gains and 121 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 21 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 106,503,443 shares at Rs 1.46 per share; Fauji Foods Ltd with 44,280,040 shares at Rs 6.88 per share and Cnergycio PK with 35,911,615 shares at Rs 3.32 per share.

Colgate Palm witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 89.45 per share price, closing at Rs 1,475.00, whereas the runner-up was Mehmood Tex with an Rs 29.00 rise in its per share price to Rs 729.00.

Bhanero Tex witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 30.00 per share closing at Rs 920.00, followed by Philip Morris Pak with Rs 14.99 decline to close at Rs 419.01.

PCJCCI for Pak-China Women's Development Employment Initiative

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki has said that there is a dire need to establish Pak-China Women's Development Employment Initiative to empower the women of Pakistan and China at broader level.

In a meeting with Fang Yulong, Senior Vice President PCJCCI, Ghurki said, "We should start such projects under BRI for the growth of young Pakistani businesswomen to instill a significant impact on the gender equality and women empowerment."

The experience of China women will help in the social growth of Pakistani women. The PCJCCI President added that through this initiative various short courses related to technical and vocational training will be launched like; garments, food, handicrafts, languages, and I.T sector.

These courses will be a part of China's efforts for women empowerment, offering them an excellent chance to become an integral component of the "high-tech man force" directly needed for Gwadar free zones as well as national and internationally competitive markets.

PTEA demands govt's intervention to save textile industry from collapse

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) has demanded the government's intervention to save textile industry from total collapse. PTEA spokesman in a statement here on Friday said, "Our textile exports are witnessing drastic downfall on account of disadvantage in respect of production cost." If the government does not interfere on urgent basis, the textile industry might lose its compatibility against the regional competitors at international markets, he apprehended.

Terming high production cost as the major fac-

tor behind this decline, he said that due to unfriendly socio-economic environment, the cost of doing business in Pakistan has escalated enormously due to intermittent rise in the prices of raw materials and production inputs rendering the exports uncompetitive in international market.

He termed the Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) sector as a major economic driver, accounting for almost a quarter of the total GDP and said that in May 2023, LSM sector experienced a concerning 14.37% year-on-year decrease.



QUETTA: A vendor selling carpets at Nawan Kali area.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, CMA CGM Ivanhoe, JBU Opal and IVS Okudogo, carrying Container, Palm oil and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Nord Agano, Sea Elegant and Sea-Ranger also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

A total of 06 ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours.

China to explore more 5G use scenarios

ISLAMABAD (APP): China will explore more use scenarios for 5G technology in a wide range of sectors including industry, mineral mining and ports operation, with more than 3,000 enterprises expected to build 5G-wired factories in 2023, said a senior government official.

Zhao Zhiguo, chief engineer of China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), said that the country will accelerate research and development (R&D) of the

next-generation 6G technology.

By the end of June, a total of 2.93 million 5G base stations have been put into services in China, with the number of 5G smartphone users reaching 676 million and the connected Internet of things (IoT) devices hitting 2.12 billion, according to the MIIT.

5G has been applied in 60 major economic categories in China and is expanding to sectors including manufacturing, medical treatment, education and transport.

Weekly inflation falls by 0.07 pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed nominal decrease of 0.07 per cent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on July 20, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 258.45 points as compared to 258.63 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 29.16 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100

is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.51 per cent and went up to 267.24 points from last week's 265.88 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517 and Rs 29,518-44,175; however increased by 0.35 percent, 0.20 percent and 0.03 percent respectively while it declined by 0.28 percent for consumption group above Rs 44,175.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 30 (58.82%) items increased, 09 (17.65%) items decreased and 12 (23.53%) items remained stable. The items, which re-

corded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW), included onions (10.29%), chicken (8.57%), bananas (8.34%), wheat flour (0.98%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (0.49%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (0.39%), cooking oil 5 litre (0.30%), petrol (3.40%) and diesel (2.64%).

The items that recorded an increase in their average prices on a week-on-week (wow) basis, included tomatoes (36.06%), chillies powder (20.17%), sugar (4.77%), eggs (4.70%), gur (3.66%), shirting (2.64%) and garlic (2.31%).

The commodities that witnessed a decrease in price on a Year-on-Year (YOY) basis, included onions (35.27%), electricity for q1 (14.58%),



MULTAN: People selecting and purchasing old clothes displayed by the roadside vendor to attract the customers.

Putin tells Poland any aggression against Belarus is attack on Russia

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Friday accused NATO member Poland of having territorial ambitions in the former Soviet Union, and said any aggression against Russia's neighbour and close ally Belarus would be considered an attack on Russia.

Moscow would react to any aggression against Belarus, which forms a loose "Union State" with Russia, "with all the means at our disposal", Putin told a meeting of his Security Council in televised remarks.

Warsaw's Security Committee decided on Wednesday to move military units to eastern Poland after members of the Russian Wagner mercenary force arrived in Belarus, the

state-run news agency PAP quoted its secretary as saying on Friday.

On Wednesday, Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin was shown in a video welcoming his fighters to Belarus, telling them they would take no further part for now in the war in Ukraine but ordering them to gather strength for Wagner's operations in Africa while they trained the Belarusian army.

Prigozhin says Wagner, which led the conquest of the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, is Russia's most effective fighting force. But his frequent clashes with the Moscow defence establishment led him to stage an armed mutiny four weeks ago.

The insurrection ended with an agreement

that Wagner fighters - many recruited from prison - could move to Belarus if they wished.

On Thursday, Minsk said Wagner mercenaries had started to train Belarusian special forces at a military range just a few miles from the Polish border. Russia has in recent weeks begun stationing tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus for the first time. The Kremlin said Putin would meet Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, with whom he speaks regularly, in Russia on Sunday.

German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said on Friday that Germany and NATO were prepared to support Poland in defending the alliance's eastern flank.



UXBRIDGE: Prime Minister Rishi Sunak visits Uxbridge to congratulate Conservative Party candidate, Steve Luckwell, after he won the Uxbridge and South Ruislip by-election in Uxbridge, Britain.

Russia hits grain terminals in southern Ukraine - governor

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian missiles hit grain terminals at an agricultural enterprise in the Odesa region in a fourth successive night of air strikes on southern Ukraine, the regional governor said on Friday.

But Russia's attacks appeared less intense than on the three previous nights, when missiles and drones struck southern cities and ports after Moscow quit a U.N.-brokered deal allowing safe shipments of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea.

Odesa's regional governor, Oleh Kiper, said two people had been hurt in the attack on an agricultural enterprise but did not say where in the region the enterprise was located.

"Unfortunately, the grain terminals of an agricultural enterprise in Odesa region were hit. The enemy destroyed 100 tons of peas and 20 tons of barley," he said on the Telegram messaging app.

Kiper said Russia had attacked with Kalibr cruise missiles that were fired from the Black Sea at low altitude to bypass air defence systems.

He said two missiles hit the grain storage facilities, causing a fire. Another missile struck the same enterprise as the blaze was being extinguished, damaging agricultural and rescue equipment. Photographs from the scene showed a fire burning among crumpled metal buildings that appeared to be storehouses, and a badly damaged fire-fighting vehicle. Moscow says it has been carrying out "retaliatory strikes" this week after quitting the Black Sea grain export deal and accusing Ukraine of being behind blasts on Monday.

Erdogan says Putin talks could lead to restoring Black Sea grain deal - media

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said his planned talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin could lead to restoration of the Black Sea grain initiative, and called on Western countries to consider Russia's demands, Turkish broadcasters reported on Friday.

"The termination of the Black Sea grain deal will have a series of consequences, ranging from the increase in global food prices to scarcity in certain regions and, potentially, leading to new waves of migration," Erdogan told reporters on a flight returning from a trip to Gulf coun-

tries and northern Cyprus.

"I believe that by thoroughly discussing the matter with President Putin, we can ensure the continuation of this humanitarian effort," Erdogan added.

Russia this week quit a deal - brokered by the United Nations and Turkey - that allowed the safe Black Sea export of Ukraine grain for the past year, and revoked guarantees of safe navigation. Since then, no ships have sailed from Ukrainian ports.

Moscow says it will return to the deal only if its demands are met for easier access for its own food and fertiliser exports to world markets.



Spain's far-right Vox party leader Santiago Abascal, left-wing Sumar leader Yolanda Diaz and Prime Minister and Socialist candidate Pedro Sanchez attend a televised debate ahead of snap elections, in Madrid, Spain.

UN chief says the world is in a new era marked by the highest major power competition in decades

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the world's nations Thursday that the post-Cold War period is over and the world is moving toward a new multipolar era already marked by the highest level of geopolitical tensions and major power competition in decades.

He warned that these divisions are undermining the cornerstone of the United Nations - having all countries work together to solve global challenges.

The U.N. chief ticked off a host of challenges - more complex and deadly conflicts, re-emerging concerns about possible nuclear war, growing inequalities within and between countries, widespread terrorism, the climate emergency, mounting

distrust in public institutions, and human rights under attack globally - including a pernicious pushback against women's rights.

The secretary-general said Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine has made it even more difficult to address these challenges. And without naming Russia he clearly criticized it, saying if every country fulfilled its obligations under the U.N. Charter—which include respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations - "the right to peace would be guaranteed."

Guterres presented his grim view of the world in a policy paper outlining his "New Agenda for Peace" to diplomats from the U.N.'s 193 member states. It is the U.N.'s attempt to address the new threats, he said.

Turkiye urges Sweden to act over terrorism for NATO membership support

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Turkey will act to ratify Sweden's NATO membership bid in conjunction with cooperation from Stockholm in the fight against terrorism, President Tayyip Erdogan was quoted on Friday as saying. Sweden and Finland applied for NATO membership last year in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, abandoning policies of military non-alignment that had lasted through the Cold War. Their applications must be approved by all members of the alliance.

Having held up ratification of Sweden's NATO bid for more than a year, Erdogan unexpectedly agreed after the alliance's summit in Lithuania.

China supplying equipment to Russia it shouldn't, French diplomat says

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron's top diplomatic adviser said China was delivering items that could be used as military equipment to Russia, although not on a massive scale. Asked at the Aspen Security Forum if the West had seen any evidence that China has armed Russia in any way in the war in Ukraine, Emmanuel Bonne, the head of Macron's diplomatic team at the Elysee Palace, said: "Yes, there are indications that they are doing things we would prefer them not to do," he told the moderator late on Thursday.

When pressed on whether China was delivering weapons, Bonne said: "Well, kind of military equipment... as far as we know they are not delivering massively military capacities to Russia but (we

need that to be) no delivery." French officials told CNN that Bonne was referencing both dual-use technologies and non-lethal assistance, such as helmets and body armour.

The White House and Macron's office did not immediately return Reuters' requests for comment. China has repeatedly denied sending military equipment to Russia since Moscow's all-out invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The Chinese embassy in Paris did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment. Bonne rarely speaks to the media on-the-record, but regularly briefs reporters on background. He was part of Macron's diplomatic delegation during the French president's trip to China in April and has been Macron's point of contact with top Chinese officials.

Philippines will not cooperate with ICC in drugs war probe, Marcos says

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said on Friday his government will not cooperate with the International Criminal Court's (ICC) investigation into the thousands of killings committed during his predecessor's "war on drugs".

Marcos maintained the ICC has no jurisdiction over the Southeast Asian country, which withdrew from the ICC in March 2019.

"We will not cooperate with them in any way, shape or form," Marcos told reporters, just days after appeals judges at the ICC rejected the Philippines' attempt to block an investigation by the court's prosecutors into the anti-narcotics campaign of former president Rodrigo Duterte.

Iran denies oil on tanker seized by Indonesia belongs to Tehran

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's oil ministry said the oil cargo of an Iranian-flagged supertanker seized by Indonesia last week does not belong to Tehran, Iranian state media reported on Friday.

An oil ministry statement, reported by the country's state media, did not identify the owner of the cargo of MT Arman 114, an Iranian-flagged supertanker suspected of involvement in the illegal transshipment of crude oil, which Indonesia's coast

guard said on July 11 it had seized.

"Published news linking the cargo of this ship to... Iran have no validity and this is done with the aim of creating a negative atmosphere against our country," the oil ministry statement said, without elaborating.

Tensions between Tehran and Washington have been rising after Iran tried to seize the Richmond Voyager tanker, which was managed by U.S. oil major Chevron, earlier in July in international Gulf waters.

Largest ever Australia-US joint military exercise gets underway

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Australia and the US began two weeks of war games involving more than 30,000 troops and participants from 11 other countries on Friday, in a show of force and unity at a time when China has emerged as an increasingly assertive power in the Indo-Pacific.

Held every two years, the first Talisman Sabre joint military exercises were conducted in 2005, and this year's drills will be the largest yet.



Members of the Assam Pradesh Mahila Congress (Assam PMC) shout slogans as they take part in a demonstration against ongoing ethnic violence in India's north-eastern state of Manipur, in Guwahati.

Doctors Without Borders says armed men beat up its team working at a hospital in Sudan's capital

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Armed men attacked an 18-member team of Doctors Without Borders working at a key hospital in Sudan's war-torn capital of Khartoum, the aid group said Friday.

The MSF medical team was stopped on the road on Thursday while transporting supplies to the Turkish Hospital, located in the district of South Khartoum, the aid group said. The armed men first questioned the MSF team about why it was in Sudan, then started beating some of them. "After arguing about the reasons for MSF's presence, the armed men aggressively assaulted our team, physically beating and whipping them," the group said on its website.

One of the drivers was briefly detained, MSF added. The group did not say whether the attackers were in uniform or provide other details. Sudan has been rocked by violence since mid-April, when tensions between the country's military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohamed Hamden Dagalo, burst into open fighting.

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: A wealthy Russian businessman on Friday lost a legal challenge against Britain over the detention of his \$50 million superyacht.

Sergei Naumenko's 58.5 metre yacht Phi was detained in London under the government's Russian sanctions in March 2022, the first time the regulations had been used to detain a ship.

Indian women set fire to house of suspect as Manipur sex assault case triggers outrage

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Women in India's northeastern state of Manipur attacked the house of the main suspect in a sexual assault case that has enraged the nation, police said on Friday.

The person allegedly dragged two tribal women onto the streets in May and later incited a mob to rape and parade them naked, police said on Friday, as ethnic clashes engulfed the state.

The sexual assault took place over two months ago but it captured national attention after a short video went viral on social media earlier this week.

The main suspect, a resident of violence-hit Manipur state, was arrested on Thursday hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned the alleged sexual assault as "shameful" and promised tough action.

Three others also were arrested and a police official said were tracing at least 30 others involved in the crime. "Local women pelted stones and burnt some parts of the house belonging to the prime accused in a village."

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: A wild animal, believed to be a lioness, was on the loose in Berlin's southern outskirts on Thursday, with residents urged to stay indoors as hunters joined police in a major search operation.

Police first issued the alarm in the early hours after two people saw what appeared to be a lioness chasing a wild boar down a street less than five kilometres from the German capital.

The two passersby spotted the feline around midnight in the Kleinmachnow suburb, southwest of Berlin.

Russian businessman loses appeal against UK over detained superyacht

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LONDON: A wealthy Russian businessman on Friday lost a legal challenge against Britain over the detention of his \$50 million superyacht.

Sergei Naumenko's 58.5 metre yacht Phi was detained in London under the government's Russian sanctions in March 2022, the first time the regulations had been used to detain a ship.

Police hunt 'lioness' on the loose around Berlin

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US plans second summit with Pacific island leaders in September

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: U.S. President Joe Biden will host a second summit with leaders of Pacific island nations in September, Joseph Yun, the U.S. official responsible to negotiations with three key Pacific island states said on Thursday. U.S. officials have said the summit is expected to take place around the time of the U.N. General Assembly meetings in New York in September.

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said in May Biden would arrange another summit of Pacific island leaders this year after the disappointment caused by his cancellation of a visit to Papua New Guinea due to the domestic debt ceiling crisis. Biden hosted a first summit with the leaders last year. "He has committed (to) holding a second summit in September this year," Yun told an event hosted by the Heritage Foundation think tank.

Yun stressed the im-

portance of the U.S. Congress approving new funding for the three Pacific island countries he has been negotiating with by the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, given China's strategic ambitions in the region.

Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands all have what are known as Compacts of Free Association (COFAs) with the United States, under which the U.S. has responsibility for their defense and provides economic assistance, while gaining exclusive access to huge strategic swaths of the Pacific.

In May, Yun said he had finalized terms with Micronesia and Palau to renew their COFAs and hoped to do so with the Marshall Islands in coming weeks. However, the foreign minister of the Marshall Islands called last week for more U.S. money to deal with the legacy of massive U.S. nuclear testing to enable the renewal of its agreement, the economic terms of which expire on Sept. 30.

Chinese cities brace for floods as heat scorches inland regions

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Beijing and other cities braced for severe flooding on Friday as summer storms rolled across many parts of China, while inland regions basked in intense heat, threatening to shrink the country's biggest freshwater lake.

Wild weather swings have gripped China since April, causing deaths, damaging infrastructure and wiping crops as well as raising fears of its ability to cope with climate change.

Historically, China enters its peak rainy season in late July, but extreme weather has made storms more intense and unpredictable, exposing heavily built-up megacities with poor or insufficient drainage to potentially deadly floods.

In Beijing, authorities have deployed more than 2,600 people to drain dozens of pumping stations in advance and clear thousands of water drainage outlets along roads. Several bus routes playing the suburbs and mountainous areas were halted.

Authorities in the neighbouring city of Tianjin also ramped up flood control efforts in the Hai basin, a major northern drainage system. By contrast, scant rainfall in Jiangxi province has resulted in Poyang Lake, the country's largest body of fresh water, ebbing to its lowest level for this time of the year since records began in 1951.

Poyang Lake, known as the kidneys of China due to the role it plays in regulating the flow of the Yangtze river, normally swells in summer due to rain and retreats in winter. Last year, it also unexpectedly shrank due to drought.

The Central Meteorological Observatory on Friday issued warnings for heavy rain in eight provinces and autonomous regions until Saturday evening, according to state media. Some areas could get short-term heavy downpours with maximum hourly rain of 30 to 60 millimetres (1.2 to 2.4 inches), and more than 70 mm (2.76 inches) in other places, CCTV reported.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the concluding ceremony of the Global Rehabilitation Leadership Institute Course.

Pakistan succeeds in creating a roadmap for energy conservation at national level: Agha Hassan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch Friday said that Pakistan had succeeded in creating a roadmap for energy conservation at the national level that directly impacted the country's foreign exchange. He was addressing the National Stakeholders Consultation 2023 on Energy Efficiency and Conservation in Pakistan held at a local hotel.

The federal minister stated, "The country can conserve more energy through reducing dependence on imported energy and crude oil."

Agha Hassan Baloch said, "The sustainable economic and industrial development of any country in modern times depends largely on the supply of uninterrupted, constant quality and alternative sources of energy."

Addressing the participants, which included representatives of the industrial sector and senior officials, the federal minister stated, "The present coalition government has approved the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy 2023 for which the valuable opinion of all the stakeholders will serve as a catalyst for making this policy more viable."

Agha Hassan Baloch said, "His ministry has succeeded in making energy conservation building codes in Pakistan in a very short period of time, as per the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif."

Pakistan, US should invest more in bringing two peoples closer: Masood

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan says Pakistan and United States should invest more in bringing the two peoples closer.

Addressing the concluding session of a day-long 'Conference on Diplomacy for Development' at Houston, Texas, he urged the Pakistani diaspora to play its role for promotion of positive image of Pakistan in United States.

The Ambassador said American Centers in the past, and now the Lincoln Centers in Pakistan are effectively contributing towards creating a better understanding about the United States. Masood Khan added we need to have similar centres in the United States to promote awareness about Pak-US relations and to pass on this legacy to our coming generations.

He said Pakistan Chairs in leading Universities of the United States would play a critical role in creating better understanding of the country, its people and the region. The Ambassador urged the Pakistani diaspora to have complete confidence in Pakistan and its ability to rise as the leading economy.

PM says: Pakistan has all ingredients to tap IT exports worth \$25 bln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that Pakistan had all the ingredients to increase its Information Technology (IT) exports to the tune of \$25 billion in two to three years.

"Investment in the IT sector can fetch quick rewards and dividends and go a long way in addressing our unemployment problem," he said on his tweet handle account.

The PM, who a day earlier attended the national seminar on untapping the IT potential of Pakistan, said the event held under the banner of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was a reflection of our collective resolve to make Pakistan an IT hub.

"The seminar, attended by all stakeholders from the public & private sectors, laid the groundwork for an IT revolution that the country so desperately needs," he said.

He said, "The SIFC, which represents the whole-of-the-government approach, will ensure the provision of policy continuity and predictability in the IT, agriculture, mines and minerals, and defense production sectors."

"Governments may come and go but the economic revival plan will be implemented with the same energy and passion" he said.

President urges society, family role to address disability, rehabilitation issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday emphasized that society and the family system would have to play their due role to facilitate the lives of disabled persons as well as those needing rehabilitative care.

The president, addressing the concluding ceremony of a course held by the Global Rehabilitation Leadership Institute, said the community welfare had been the basis for all religions including Islam, Christianity and Judaism, citing the examples of holy prophets, Prophet Muhammad and his companions.

He said at a time when the world lacked morality and humanism in its affairs, it was the society that would have to play its part, particularly for the welfare of persons with disabilities and those who could benefit from rehabilitation.

Citing a research study, the president told the gathering that around 24 percent of Pakistan's population suffered mental stress including 60-70 percent of the students.

He said the situation could not be addressed at a time when the country had just 600 psychiatrists and 1200 psychologists. In such a case, the family system could prove to be a good anchor to extend its support in the form of group therapy and stress sharing.

President Alvi said without depending on the state, the family system would have to come up to play its part as in Islamic societies where the communities always promulgated laws.

He stressed the need for the Pakistani society to show compassion towards the persons with disabilities as generally, their attitude towards them was not welcoming.

He said all the deprived segments of society including women and 27 million out-of-school children required due attention for redressal of their woes.

He said the enrollment of 27 million out-of-school children could take decades if left up to the state while Pakistani society could address the issue far earlier by utilising the already available infrastructure of mosques.

The president said children with physical disabilities should be enrolled in regular schools as it would sensitize other children towards their challenges.

Besides, he said more than a state, the society would have to make efforts to ease the movement of visually impaired people.

The president thanked the World Health Organisation (WHO) for extending support to Pakistan to address the issues of disability and rehabilitation.

He urged the countrymen to respect their legacy of love towards humanity, the environment and nature to bring a change just by investing the intellect, not money.

Earlier, WHO Representative in Pakistan Palitha Mahipala spoke highly of the "incredible" leadership and role played by President Alvi towards the issues of disabilities and rehabilitation.

Similarly, he also lauded the contribution and efforts by First Lady Samina Alvi on the issues including her traveling and interactions with the people on multiple health-related issues.



ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly & Chairman Balochistan National Party Sardar Akhtar Mengal on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Under trainee MCMC participants visit LOC Chakothi, Ori crossing

Independent Report
QUETTA: The officers currently attending Midcareer Management Course (MCMC) at Balochistan Civil Services Academy visited the Line of Control (LOC) at Chakothi and Ori crossing in Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

The visit of MCMC participants is part of the ongoing inland study tour of the ICT and areas of Azad Jammu Kashmir.

The Brigadier Amir, Commander IAK's Brigade warmly welcomed the MCMC participants and gave detailed presentation about the endeavours of border guards and Kashmir dispute.

The participants of the course also posed certain questions which were duly answered. Later, they visited the physical crossing point and bridge at the LOC.

The Director General Balochistan Civil Services Academy, Dr. Hafeez Jamali thanked the Brigadier Amir and presented him the Academy's commemorative shield and traditional Balochi shawl.



NASEERABAD: Participants are solving paper during examination for various vacant posts of Revenue Department Naseerabad Division.

Coordinated efforts related to hygiene of women yield encouraging results: Tahira

QUETTA (APP): Chairperson of MHM Secretariat Quetta and Director Health Department Dr. Tahira Kamal Baloch said that coordinated efforts related to the hygiene of women in Balochistan were yielding encouraging results.

She expressed these views while addressing a day-long training workshop organized to create awareness about MHM held at a local hotel here Friday.

The program was also attended by the representatives of GIZ, UNICEF, Qatar Charity and members of the civil society.

Media expert and lead facilitator, Shafaqat Aziz, on the occasion, highlighted various aspects of reporting on women's reproductive health.

Dr. Tahira Kamal Baloch while addressing the participants of the workshop, said that the formation of MHM Technical Working Group was implemented in 2020. Before its implementation, it was difficult to talk about the reproductive health of women in Balochistan, but it is a welcome thing that now it is openly expressed and measures are proposed to solve the problems, she told.

She underlined the need for taking joint efforts and said "Women and girls are facing serious problems, keeping in mind the traditions.

BAP to contest election on performance, vows Langove

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has categorically stated that the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) would contest next general elections on the basis of its performance.

In a statement issued here on Friday, the Minister Home said that we would succeed in the elections on the basis of public service. He said that we have always served the masses and would continue to do so in future, he maintained.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shehak Baloch presides over the meeting of Balochistan Shia Conference, Anjuman-e-Tajirun regarding Muharramur Haram

Abdullah Khan says PWD making efforts to improve reproductive health services

Independent Report
QUETTA: Secretary Population Welfare Department Government of Balochistan Mr. Abdullah Khan expressed a renewed commitment of making the contraceptives available to all the eligible couples for ensuring small family norms through proper child spacing.

Speaking to media here on Monday during a 'One-Day Seminar' that was held by District Population Welfare Office Quetta in connection with World Population Day. The purpose of the seminar was to sensitize people regarding the family planning as a fundamental human right, child spacing, personal hygiene and small family norms.

The seminar attracted a large number of participants, mainly women with Secretary Population Welfare Department Abdullah Khan in chair. Director General PWD Ghulam Mustafa, District Officer Ayub Kakar, Deputy Director Noor Ullah Tareen, Deputy Director Shahmir Mandokhail and others were also present on the occasion.

Mr. Khan further said that the purpose of such seminars was solely creating awareness regarding reproductive health and the choice of the number of children was the sole decision of the couples themselves.

Mariyum grieved over demise of Sanaullah's brother

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of the brother of senior journalist Sanaullah Khan.

In a condolence message, the minister expressed her heartfelt condolences to Sanaullah and his bereaved family.

"Hassle-free": Govt introduces online passport renewal facility

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a significant development aimed at easing the burden on citizens, Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has announced that passports can now be renewed online without the need to visit any government office.

The new initiative is set to revolutionize the passport renewal process and alleviate the longstanding grievances of citizens who were once plagued by long queues and waiting times. The announcement was made via a tweet on the official social networking account of Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah. "The hassle-free e-passport facility is now available, so passports can be renewed online from anywhere without visiting the office," the tweet read. With the introduction of the e-passport renewal facility.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Muslim Talba Mahaz shouting slogans during protest at Aabpara Chowk, against the burning of the Quran in Sweden.

Zamarak Khan Achakzai maintains: No dearth of talent; need to provide opportunities to youth to prove mettle

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Finance and Food and Chairman, Balochistan Food Authority (BFA), Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai has stated that there is no dearth of talent in the province, what's needed is to provide resources and opportunities to the youth to prove their mettle.

The Provincial Minister was speaking on occasion of the distribution of recruitment orders at the BFA office here on Friday.

He said that our youth have proved in different eras that if they get opportunities then they can play important role in development of the province and country.

In this regard, the present government is encouraging educated youngsters and providing them the necessary opportunities of livelihood in the province.

He said that the process of recruitments on the (temporary) vacant posts of the Food Authority has been kept transparent. The deserving youngsters have been recruited on the posts of food safety officers, lab technologists, food safety supervisors, food safety.

Referring the unsafe food, the Minister Food expressed concern over the deaths of people due to the substandard food while hundreds of thousands are affected due to the unsafe and unhygienic food.

The Secretary Food, Mujeeb Rehman Panezai and Director General BFA, Muhammad Naem Bazi and officers of the BFA were present on the occasion. He insisted that we have to ensure provision of quality food to reduce the burden on the hospitals and health sector so as to save the lives of people.

He exhorted the newly recruited officers and staff to play their effective role in better healthcare of the people. The Secretary Food and Director General BFA also addressed the ceremony. Later, the Minister Food distributed recruitment orders among the newly appointed food safety officers, lab technologists, food safety supervisors and interns.

Samina Zehri condemns persistent Islamophobia incidents in Sweden

QUETTA (APP): Senator Samina Zehri on Friday condemned the persistent incidents of Islamophobia in Sweden saying desecration of Holy Quran with the support of government was an intolerable act.

Expressing deep anger over the recent incident of Quran burning in Sweden, she in a news statement said persons involved in the incident and their backers should be brought to justice.

It is very disgusting, reprehensible and intolerable as such incidents have hurt the feelings of Muslims, said Senator and called upon countries including the Islamic world to raise voices to prevent such incidents in future.

She urged Muslim countries to call a conference to devise an effective strategy and action plan in that regard by severing relations from all countries, including Sweden, where incidents like Islamophobia were taking place.



AZAD KASHMIR: Director General Balochistan Civil Services Academy, Dr. Hafeez Jamali presenting Academy's commemorative shield to Brigadier Amir, Commander IAK Brigade during visit of officers currently attending Midcareer Management Course (MCMC) at Balochistan Civil Services Academy to Line of Control Chakothi and Ori crossing in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Emergency declared during Muharram in all hospitals of Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: An emergency has been declared during the month of Muharramul Haram in all hospitals of Quetta city.

All the doctors, medical staff and other concerned employees have been directed to remain on duty at their respective duty places to deal with any medical emergency during the month.

The decision to this effect was made in a meeting of the District Health Committee held with the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Quetta, Muhammad Anwar Kakar in DC office the other day.

The meeting took different decisions in view of the emergent situation during the Muharramul Haram.

In this regard, it was decided to set up a separate emergency ward in all hospitals. During the meeting, directives were issued to all the doctors and other staff of the hospitals to remain present at their respective duties as their leaves have been cancelled.

The emergency would also remain enforced in Trauma Center. It was also decided that at least 10 ambulances would remain alert in different points in the city. Moreover, the ambulances of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) would also remain on high alert. Camps would also be set up on Alamdar road, Bacha Khan and different other places in the metropolis.

The meeting laid emphasis on putting all close circuit TV cameras installed in the city in order.



QUETTA: Chairman BRA Noorul Haq Baloch briefed Secretary Finance Zahid Saleem.