

# Independent

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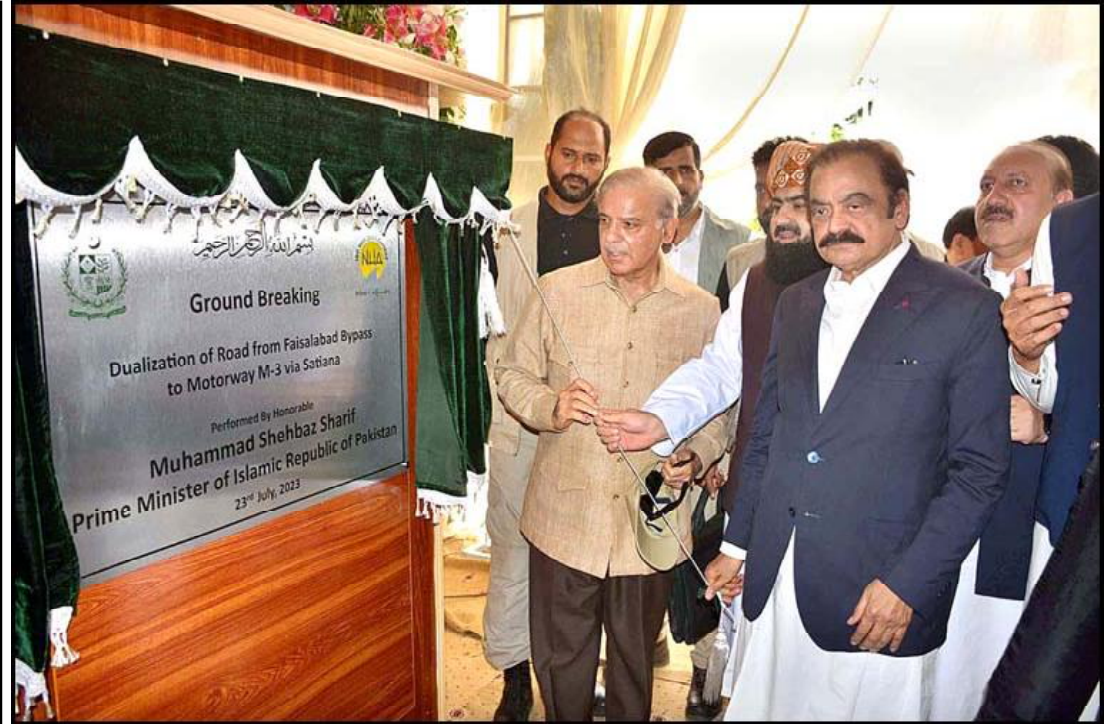
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## IK's corruption, bad governance cause of economic malaise: PM

Slams Imran for instilling despair, avows 'no mercy' for May 9 doers; Premier feels satisfied with preventing default despite harming political capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said Imran Niazi was responsible for current economic difficulties as he destabilized the country's system for his vested political interests, committed massive corruption, badly governed, undermined relations with friendly countries and grossly violated agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before the vote of no confidence against him. In an interview with a private television, he said Imran Niazi damaged relations with friendly, brotherly countries including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and China. "Imran Niazi falsely accused me of corruption of 45 percent in Chinese assisted projects and damaged relations with China," he remarked. He said corruption was rife during the tenure of Imran Niazi and every day a new scandal of corruption surfaced, including sugar, wheat and Malam Jabba scams. The prime minister said the coalition partners assumed government in very difficult conditions and with great efforts his government succeeded in securing the IMF programme, after getting consent of Nawaz Sharif. He said the most difficult matters he dealt with during his government were the revival of IMF agreement, devastating floods, price hikes, restoration of ties with friendly countries and appointment of army chief. Talking about inflation, he said price hikes were caused by skyrocketing commodity and fuel prices in the international markets and the Ukraine war. His party saved the state at the cost of its politics, he emphasized, admitting that due to price hikes the popularity of the his coalition government suffered and political capital was exhausted. He said the government brought cheap oil from Russia and now was importing liquefied natural gas from Azerbaijan at a lower cost to provide much needed relief to the people. He recalled that Imran Niazi did not buy gas from the international market at the rate of three dollars, and the negligence added to the economic difficulties of the people. He said May 9 was an anti-state activity and was an internal conspiracy led by Imran Niazi and his associates who attacked installations of armed forces.



FAISALABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is unveiling the plaque during groundbreaking ceremony for dualization of a road from Faisalabad Bypass to Motorway (M-3) via Satiana.

## Announcing polls in Pak is encouraging: US

WASHINGTON (Online): US principle deputy assistant secretary of state for south and central Asia Elizabeth Horst said there is no immediate solution to Pakistan's economic situation but IMF agreement will help to control chaos. She said holding election announcement in Pakistan is welcoming and encouraging. We hope for free, fair and peaceful election in Pakistan: Elizabeth Horst Talking to Pakistani journalists living in Washington she said we support International Monetary Fund (IMF) stand-by arrangement. This will give Pakistan breathing space. Pakistan's bureau head in US state department said Pakistan should continue his program with IMF, there is solution but not immediate solution.

She accepted that upcoming days are very hard for Pakistan's people but they have to go through this tough phase to stabilise their economy. She said I make sure to Pakistanis that America and Pakistan has long term relations and this situation will not affect it. US senior official said incumbent government election announcement is hopeful for America when this party is no one's favorite in Pakistan. Further she maintained that people of Pakistan will decide to whom they chose in election. We don't support one party against other, we support rule of law and democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan and US did \$9 billion bilateral trade in 2022 and this volume makes Pakistan biggest partner of US, she added.

## President, PM felicitate Hamza Khan ends Pakistan's wait for World Junior Squash title after 37 years

MELBOURNE (INP): In a triumphant display of skill and determination, Pakistan's squash sensation, Hamza Khan, etched his name in history on Sunday as he staged a remarkable comeback to seize victory in the World Junior Championship held in Melbourne. The nation's long-awaited return to the world squash podium was sealed when the young prodigy defeated Egypt's formidable Mohamed Zakaria in a gripping final. Jansher Khan was the last Pakistani player to secure this coveted trophy, achieving the feat precisely 37 years ago in 1986. Hamza Khan was first Pakistani finalist since Aamir Atlas Khan in 2008. Only five Pakistanis have reached World Championship final, Sohail Qaiser (1982), Jansher Khan (1986), Yasir Butt (2004), Aamir Atlas (2008) and Hamza Khan (2023). The gripping final clash between Hamza and Zakaria



commenced with a flurry of action, as both players fiercely contested two back-to-back games that culminated in intense tiebreakers. Nonetheless, Hamza showcased his mettle and seized control, convincingly claiming the trophy after two games, securing a splendid 3-1 victory. APP adds: President Dr Anif Alvi on Sunday appreciated Hamza Khan for winning the first World Squash Championship 2023 for Pakistan. On a Twitter handle account, the president said that Pakistan had an unprecedented and yet unmatched supremacy in squash. "I had personally watched many finals among our giants. After a long time a resurgent ray of hope. Well done," he tweeted. Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday congratulated Hamza Khan on clinching the title of World Junior Squash Champion, 2023. The prime minister thanked the new champion for winning the title for Pakistan after a gap of 37 years and observed that his win had reminded the triumph of Jansher Khan in the 1986 World Squash championship, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.



KARACHI: Jamaat Ulema-e-Islam (F) President Maulana Fazlur Rahman addresses a protest rally held in connection with desecration of holy Quran in Sweden outside Karachi Press Club.

## Desecration of Holy Quran is unacceptable: Fazal

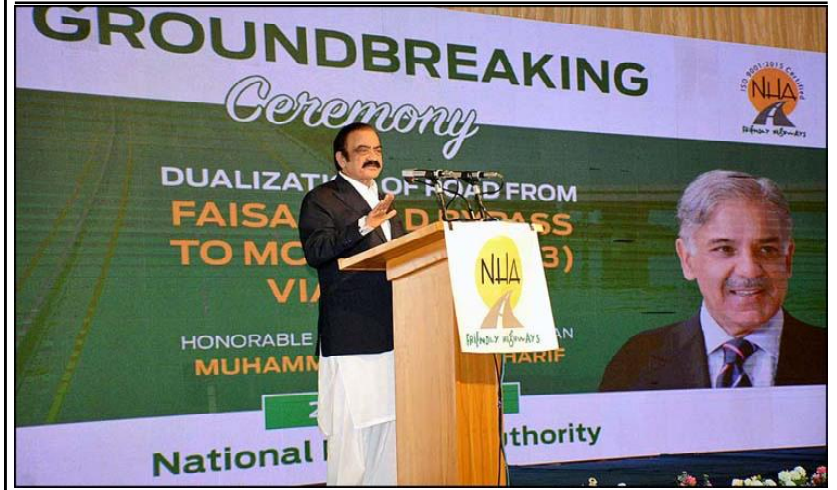
KARACHI (APP): Jamaat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazlur Rahman on Sunday termed the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden as an open war against the Muslim Ummah. While addressing a protest demonstration against the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, outside the Karachi Press Club (KPC), he said that the desecration of the Muslims' Holy book would never be tolerated. He said that the Muslims knew how to protect the Holy Quran. Maulana urged the Muslim country to call back their ambassadors from Sweden. The JUI-F chief said that the drive had started with a drop of rain from Karachi and it would continue. He also condemned Israel, US and Western countries. On the occasion, JUI-F Sindh Chief, Maulana Rashid Soomro and other leaders of JUI-f also addressed the protest demonstration.

## FM Bilawal says Turkiye role in securing grain deal commendable

ISLAMABAD (INP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed his resolve to work with Turkiye and other Islamic countries to prevent incidents of desecration of the Holy Quran. In a tweet on Sunday, he strongly condemned the acts of desecration of the Holy Quran in several European cities. Bilawal Bhutto also commended the role of Turkiye in achieving the landmark Black Sea Grain Corridor agreement last year, which has played a significant role in stabilizing global food prices, especially in developing and the poorest countries. The foreign minister said that he spoke to his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan and lauded his efforts in this regard. Bilawal extended Pakistan's full support to international efforts in reviving the landmark Black Sea Grain Corridor agreement.

## Emergency declared in Lower, Upper Chitral 9 killed in rain-related incidents in KP

PESHAWAR: At least nine people were killed in rain-related incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the last 48 hours due to heavy rainfall while an emergency was declared in the province's Lower and Upper Chitral districts till August 15. Heavy rain with strong winds and thunderstorms lashed parts of the province on Saturday, triggering landslides and destroying infrastructure. The rain continued intermittently through the day, resulting in a "large-scale devastation" in the district. The deluge also triggered flash floods in Chitral, which washed away bridges, roads, and livestock. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, several areas of the country are likely to continue to receive rain until July 26. The latest report issued by KP's Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said nine people had died over the last 24 hours, including two in Swat, two in Battagram, four in Manshara and one in Buner. The report further said that seven people had been injured, including three in Swat, three in Battagram and one in Manshara. The PDMA said nine houses had been fully damaged while 67 were partially damaged. Separately, a notification issued by the Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department said that the deputy commissioners of both districts had requested for an "emergency" to be declared in order to enable them to "launch immediate rescue and relief activities".



FAISALABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan is addressing a public gathering during groundbreaking ceremony for dualization of a road from Faisalabad Bypass to Motorway (M-3) via Satiana.

## PPP propose protocol reduction for CJP, COAS

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan People Party secretary general Nayyar Bukhari has proposed reduction in protocol of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS). He also proposed protocol reduction of high court judges and heads of defence institutes. Former Chairman Senate also proposed 50% reduction in provision of electricity, petrol of Chief Ministers (CM) and governors of four provinces, federal and provincial ministers. According to media reports Syed Nayyar Bukhari said elite class should set an example of sacrifices to relief the huge population of country. PPP believes on more and more relief to lesser the problems of people. He also demand that electricity price should not be increased for upto 300unite consumers of middle and lower class of the country.

## PML-N, PPP top brass likely to discuss caretaker set-up

DUBAI: Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz arrived in Dubai as Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and PML-N gear up for another huddle in the UAE, The News reported Sunday. PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrived Friday evening at Dubai's Al-Maktoum airport in a private jet from Karachi. It is likely that the PML-N and PPP leaderships will consult on who the caretaker prime minister will be once the government dissolves the National Assembly at the start of August. Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman will also be consulted for the future political set-up. Jamaat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl has expressed displeasure over the political meetings held in Dubai last month, saying it was not taken into confidence. Political observers expect that PML-N supremo Nawaz will meet Maulana Fazl to clear the latter's concerns. JUI-F leaders in Karachi have confirmed to The News that Maulana Fazl will be visiting Dubai next week and will travel to London after his stay in Dubai. On Friday, the head of the Pakistan Muslim League-Functional (PML-F), Pir Pagara Sibghatullah Rashdi, hosted a dinner for Maulana Fazl and his associates in Karachi. Discussions on future political alliances and upcoming elections occurred during the dinner. As the political situation in Pakistan continues to unfold, it will be interesting to observe how these consultations and discussions shape the future political setup.

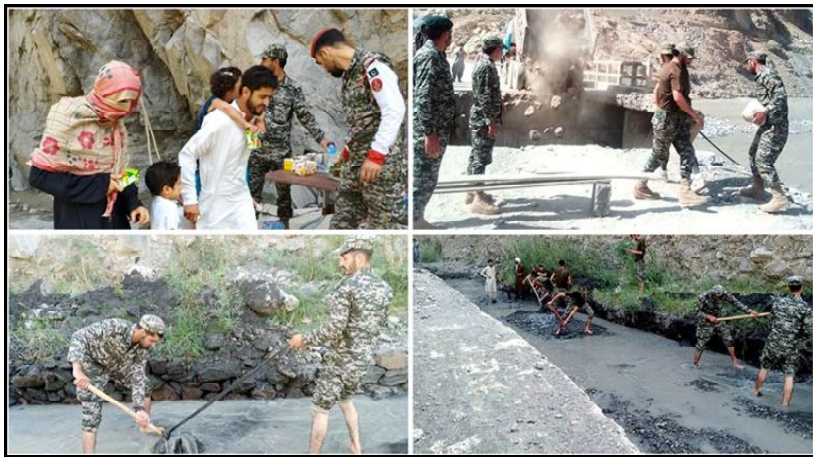
## People asked to eliminate PTI with vote power in up-coming polls: Rana San

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was cancer for national politics and the people should eliminate it with their vote power during upcoming elections. Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of dualization of a road from Faisalabad Bypass to Motorway M-3 via Satiana here on Sunday, he said that Pakistan was making progress by leaps and bounds in 2018 when PTI Chief Imran Khan was clamped on the nation. Imran Khan promoted the culture of hate and hatred only during his tenure. "Although we have saved Pakistan from nefarious designs of PTI Chief, yet public cooperation is imperative to completely weed out his hate politics" he added. The minister said that Pakistan was passing through a crucial stage as multifaceted crises checked

its development pace. These crises were the outcome of ill-conceived policies of previous government, he said, adding that Imran Khan firstly made an agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and then violated it due to which the entire Pakistani nation had to experience unprecedented price spiral. He said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) had taken the government during very tough situation. However, with the help of Allah Almighty, it succeeded in saving the country from default. He said that Imran Khan was neither sincere with the nation nor loyal with the country and it was clearly evident from the mayhem of 9th May when the arsonists of his party not only vandalized the monuments of national heroes but also disgraced and put them ablaze. Now, the accused would have to face the music and they would be punished according to the law because they committed national crime, he added. He said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was the best combination of politics and masses' service. This party always preferred the national interests against its personal gains. Whenever the people posed confidence in PML-N during tough situation, its leadership dragged the country out of crises. He said that in 1998, the India made atomic explosions which put the entire Pakistani nation under extreme stresses. The world community was pressurizing Pakistan to avoid from atomic explosions. In this connection, American president made five phone calls but then Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif despite international pressure and threats made six atomic explosions to equalize the balance of power in the region.

## Rescue, relief operation underway in rain-affected areas of Swat, Dir, Chitral

SWAT (APP): Rescue and relief operations are continuing by the security forces after the communication system was affected in Swat Dir and Chitral due to heavy rains. The communication system in the nearby areas in Dir turned faulty after the water level in the Panjkora River rose due to heavy rains. Shringal-Kumrat road in tehsil Kalkot was badly affected due to landslides, whereas an under-construction bridge in Shamsi Khan area was damaged. The security forces are mobilized with heavy machinery to maintain traffic in the area after damage to affected roads and bridges. A key bridge between Chitral and Bonny areas was washed away due to heavy rains. The security forces, through an immediate rescue operation, ensured traffic by constructing an alternate route.



Similarly, security forces are also carrying out rescue operations in Swat and Shangla, and communication systems and damaged roads are being restored in the affected areas. Besides, the security forces are also actively providing food and drinking water to the people in the rain-hit areas of Swat, Dir, and Chitral. The security forces will continue to play the role of vanguard to protect and serve the people of Pakistan.

**Daily Voice of Masses**  
**Independent**

## Hapless province

Balochistan presents a variety of complications spawned by the historical neglect of its people's rights and the perverse determination to press on with ruinous security-centric policies. The ferocious conflict that has engulfed Wadh, Khuzdar district, since Wednesday — although a tenuous ceasefire is currently in place — is another manifestation of the same.

On the surface, it is a feud sparked by notorious outlaw Shafiq Mengal's men forcibly occupying land belonging to tribal chief and BNP-M president Akhtar Mengal. With both sides heavily armed, an extended confrontation could lead to things spinning further out of control. Former chief minister Aslam Raisani has stepped in to broker peace.

However, as Akhtar Mengal himself said in a bluntly worded tweet, this is part of a far bigger problem, that it does not pertain to a specific area or a particular tribe but is an outcome of the shocking impunity with which 'death squads' have been allowed to operate in Balochistan.

Indeed, no lasting solution to the conflict can be found if individuals like Shafiq Mengal remain 'in play'. He was part of the state's response to the Baloch insurgency, whereby extremist groups and tribal militias — such as his Baloch Musalla Difa Tanzeem — were given carte blanche to hunt down separatists.

Had there been any rule of law in Balochistan, instead of short-sighted policies that generated cycles of bestial violence, Shafiq Mengal and his gang would not have been able to commit the serious crimes they are alleged to be involved in, including murder, robbery and kidnapping for ransom. Locals still refuse to speak on the record about that reign of terror in Khuzdar district during which journalists, teachers and doctors were slain in targeted killings. It was only after the public outcry over the discovery in Tootak of mass graves of missing people, with evidence suggesting his group's involvement in the crime, that he was reportedly asked to step back. But he remained free. In fact, Shafiq Mengal was a candidate in the 2018 elections for the National Assembly seat from Khuzdar — further evidence of a political landscape engineered to a point where it bears little resemblance to a representative democracy. After all, even sardars like Akhtar Mengal, who won the seat, need to be reminded of the limits to their power.

Underlying all these machinations is the real tragedy being endured by the people of Balochistan. Among the most backward and regressive areas of the province, Khuzdar district has a deeply entrenched tribal culture. Neocolonial policies of divide and rule have exacerbated the existing problems. What will it take for the state to place the people of Balochistan, their right to provincial autonomy and ownership of the natural resources that lie beneath their soil, above its own narrow interests?



Muna Khan

My social media timeline was recently filled with images of Bollywood actors Zeenat Aman and Rekha on the covers of Vogue India and Arabia, respectively. Folks gushed at how incredible the women looked at their age — 71 and 69, respectively. I couldn't help but feel the praise was filled with a dash of disbelief; that they could be this age and still look good. It's indicative of how society expects women to age, but also a reminder that women tend to get erased from screens post 50, so seeing them slay (slang for 'impressing') is cause for celebration.

I don't mean to be cynical here. Aman joining Instagram has been one of the best things to happen on social media. She says her children had been telling her to join Instagram because she loves writing, and while she wondered, 'isn't this a young person's game?', she caved. 'This isn't a comeback, but it is something of a coming around,' she wrote in a post.

I believe Aman has a much higher rate of engagement than the current lot of leading Bollywood actors because her content is real. Whether it's sharing stories about working in the 1970s, or about adopting dogs — and then resharing other people's pictures — she's not shilling products, projects or plasticity. 'There was far more interest in my face and figure than there ever was in my intellect,' she wrote in Vogue. 'This is one reason that I have loved ageing — it has

## Wisened up

evened the scales.' Rekha, who has not accepted any role since 2014, said of her Vogue shoot that 'I am amazed at what one photoshoot can do, but I also realise that the success of it has to come from a deep place of honesty, pure intentions, originality, and consistency, every step of the way.'

Their words are resonating — across ages. Over in the West, media entrepreneur Martha Stewart became the oldest model at 81 to appear on the cover of a Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition. Seinfeld alum Julia Louis Dreyfus' podcast *Wiser than Me*, a series of interviews with acclaimed older women in the arts, has featured on the best podcast lists so far this year. The publishing world has woken up to unpublished women aged 60, who 'are now at a premium' wrote the Guardian.

While I'm happy to see progress since Susan Sontag wrote about 'the double standards of ageing' in 1972, I'm also a little cautious. 'An instrument of oppression,' wrote Sontag, 'is the social convention that ageing enhances a man but progressively destroys a woman.' Women must destroy that convention to 'liberate themselves'.

While I laud Aman for doing just that, I'm concerned that an older woman's worth is still tied to her youthful appearance. I worry the celebration is a trend for the sake of representation or inclusivity to sell magazines, books, movies, etc. No real change can come about if capitalism gets its hands on it. There was a time, not too long ago, when people didn't record birth dates; growing older wasn't about clinging onto youth at whatever cost.

I look forward to the 'older women moment' hitting Pakistan's shores and screens, provided it's

organic and not sponsored by the very industry that creates unrealistic standards. I'm hopeful. There was an outpouring of support for actors Samina Ahmed and Manzar Sehbai when they married in 2020, and I would love for it to translate to watching dramas where older women are in charge of their lives; ie, not dependent on men. There was that TV commercial for a mattress in 2020 which showed adult children marrying their mother off — which was different to the usual hysteria around anything related to a woman's choice.

I believe it's a woman's choice not to care or conform that ripples people. 'As they do grow older and more mature in their careers, [women] lose some of the fear of speaking their mind. And certain men don't like that,' said gender equality researcher Amy Diehl in a report for Harvard Business Review in June. Misogyny happens at every stage of a woman's career, the authors found. 'Women under 40 in the study saw their experience and credibility dismissed because of their age, while women between 40 and 60 continued to experience gendered ageism, too,' they wrote.

I understand the pressure to look youthful is no longer limited to people in the entertainment industry. My friends recently recounted how regular folks are being advised to get fillers sooner than later, as if ageing is a terrible fate. It's not. Women have other choices, wrote Sontag. 'They can let themselves age naturally and without embarrassment, actively protesting and disobeying the conventions that stem from this society's double standard about ageing ... Women should allow their faces to show the lives they have lived. Women should tell the truth.' — Courtesy Dawn

## Marriage rights



Tahera Hasan

Marriage is a sacred partnership that brings individuals together. However, what is mostly overlooked in our society and culture is the fact that it is also a legal contract that governs the rights and responsibilities of both partners.

In Pakistan, the nikahnama is a crucial document that outlines the terms of a marriage. However, despite its significance, a lack of awareness prevails among women regarding their rights contained in this document. Where there is awareness, there is a fear of social and cultural implications of advocating for their rights at the time of marriage. When the bride or any person on behalf of the bride engages in negotiation or asserts her rights, it is often frowned upon and perceived as socially inappropriate.

The nikahnama, also known as the marriage contract, serves as a legal agreement between the bride and groom in Pakistan. It is signed by the couple, the officiating cleric and witnesses during the wedding ceremony. The document details various essential elements, including the haqmehr, rights of divorce and maintenance. However, the lack of awareness among women about the contents of the nikahnama invariably leads to unfortunate outcomes and a significant power imbalance in a marriage.

Pakistani law recognises the rights of both spouses and the nikahnama is a clear indication of this. However, the patriarchal norms deeply entrenched in Pakistani society and culture often re-

sult in women being unaware of their legal rights and entitlements. The right to consent, maintenance and inheritance are fundamental rights that women should be aware of and assert in their marriages. Unfortunately, due to cultural and societal pressures, many women find it challenging to exercise their rights, leading to various forms of discrimination, abuse and inequality within marriages.

One of the primary reasons for the lack of awareness among women regarding their rights is the absence of proper education, information, and social and cultural barriers. In many cases, women are not adequately informed about the terms and conditions mentioned in the nikahnama. This ignorance places them at a disadvantage, as they may unknowingly relinquish their rights or agree to unfair terms that are contrary to their best interests.

Such a lack of awareness perpetuates a cycle of gender inequality and reinforces the subjugation of women within marriages. Furthermore, even in situations where women are economically empowered, educated and aware, they are unable to protect themselves through what is, for all intents and purposes, a prenuptial agreement.

In addition to promoting awareness campaigns that focus on women's rights, it is crucial to also target and address men in these initiatives. By doing so, we can work towards fostering a change of mindset and awareness in society.

Engaging with young men is particularly vital, as they represent the future generation and have the potential to drive significant societal transformation. One of the primary objectives of these awareness campaigns should be to sensitise and educate men along with

women about women's rights as enshrined in both legal frameworks and religious beliefs. Currently, there exists a great deal of misinformation and misunderstanding surrounding these rights. By equipping men and women with accurate information and fostering empathy and understanding, we can lay the foundation for substantial progress in gender equality.

The nikahnama plays a crucial role in defining the terms and conditions of a marriage. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness among women about their rights contained in this document perpetuates gender inequality and reinforces their subjugation.

Empowering women through education, legal aid and community engagement is essential to creating a society where women can agitate for and protect their rights. The evolution of social and cultural norms regarding women's rights within a marriage is a process that faces considerable resistance and cannot be achieved overnight. However, heightened awareness is crucial to empowering women so that they can acknowledge and assert their rights.

By striving for a better understanding of the nikahnama, Pakistani women can protect themselves. Furthermore, by actively involving men in awareness campaigns and discussions that focus on women's rights, we can pave the way for a more just and equal society. Empowering men with knowledge and sensitivity is paramount if we want to dismantle harmful gender norms, dispel misinformation, and ultimately realise a future that embraces equality for everyone. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

## Attracting foreign investment vital to save livelihood of millions: Mian Anjum

**LAHORE (INP):** Chairman Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Mian Anjum Nisar has said that with energy cost continuing to escalate, the new investment challenges keeping on burdening the already weak economic landscape in the country, as the FDI in FY23 was down by 25 percent annually.

In a statement on Sunday, he asked the government to take concrete steps to attract foreign investment, saving the livelihood of millions of workers associated with various sectors.

Anjum Nisar observed that the focus should be on streamlining the long-standing structural bottlenecks in

the investment climate such as streamlining the FDI approval process. At the same time stability in the country's economic and political scenario is critical for any resurgence of investment in the country. Poor economic and political climate have been additional factors in bogging down the business and investment in the country over the last one year. Quoting the data, he said that the FDI in June more than halved to \$114 million from \$271 million in the same month a year ago while net FDI in FY23 has declined continuously over the last 4 years and was the weakest in FY23.

What is worrisome is the fact that the consecutive decline over the last 4 years was also seen in FDI inflows with weakest FDI

inflows in FY23 over the last 4 years. He said that the economic crisis has forced the global investors to put their new investment plans on hold, foreign direct investment (FDI) was 25% lower than the investment registered last year.

He said there is no visible improvement in employment while the small and medium industries (SMEs) — the main providers of jobs are struggling because of lack of funds and demand.

The BMP chairman said that the larger industries are also operating partially.

Textile sector that was the major provider of permanent and daily wage jobs has lost 50 percent of both domestic and export market.

## SECP registers 27,746 new companies in FY2022-23 with 5% increase

**LAHORE (APP):** Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 27,746 new companies in the FY 2022-23 showing an increase of around 5 percent as compared to the previous fiscal year.

According to SECP official source, due to the policy and performance of incumbent government, the total number of registered companies now increased to 196,805.

As a result of end-to-end digitization of the company incorporation process, about 99.8 percent companies were registered online while 1,256 foreign users were registered from overseas, the source added.

The total capitalization (paid-up-capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies for the FY 2022-23 stood at Rs 36.6 billion.



Senior Member Board of Revenue Nabeel Javed being briefed during his surprised visit to Revenue Department Bhawalpur.

## SAARC- Conference Durable peace must to achieve economic growth

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Durable peace is indeed a key factor for success in any region, including South Asia especially for economic growth and social prosperity as well as human development.

This was stated by former President SAARC Chairman of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday, while speaking as a chief guest at a seminar on 'Peace a key to stability in South Asia'.

The event was held under the aegis of IT

Professionals headed by Mian Faiz Bukhsh, said a press release issued here today.

'South Asia is a diverse and vibrant region comprising countries such as Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives,' he added.

'While the region has immense potential for economic growth, technological advancements, and social development, several conflicts and tensions have

hindered its progress,' he observed.

He said, 'Peaceful conditions are essential for economic growth and investment. When there is stability and security, businesses can flourish, trade can thrive, and foreign investments can flow into the region.'

He said, 'Peaceful relations promote the development of infrastructure, industries, and a conducive business environment, ultimately leading to economic success.'

## Rs7.5/unit raise in power tariff harmful for businesses, must be reversed: PIAF

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** Chairman Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Faheemur Rehman Saigol declared the government's decision to increase electricity base tariff by Rs7.50 per unit harmful for the trade and industry, as the businesses are already under financial stress, urged the government to reverse the proposed jump in power charges.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said the government's decision to increase the electricity tariff is anti-industry, and the PIAF strongly condemns the

government's move and calls on it to rescind it. He urged the power ministry to identify system constraints and communicate targets to all concerned departments in order to launch a wartime effort to upgrade the transmission system.

Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that it was unfortunate that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority is all set to accord final approval for massive raise in electricity base rates up to Rs 7.50 per unit (27 percent) for industry, commercial sector, agriculture tube-wells,

## Govt should patronize mango orchards at national level

**MULTAN (INP)** Mango trees should be given the status of a national tree and steps should be taken to increase mango exports as it will not only help earn foreign exchange but also improve the living standard of peasants.

This was recommended by different speakers including Chairman Seraikistan Council Zahoor Dharaija, Malik Allah Nawaz Wanis, Saleem Darbari, Aamir Shehzad, and many others in a seminar on Mangos, here. Chairman Seraikistan Council Zahoor Dharaija lamented that mango orchards were being ignored continuously.

## Minister says: Modern irrigation system becomes indispensable for agricultural self-sufficiency

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Caretaker Provincial Minister for Irrigation Haji Fazal Elahi on Sunday said that modern irrigation system has become indispensable for agricultural self-sufficiency, while the construction of canals and dams can make more barren land arable and this is among the top priorities of the government.

He revealed that the federal government has given us a formula for the distribution of the water of the Indus River among the four provinces under the

IRSA Act. According to this act, he said, our province's share is 8.78 million cubic feet (14 per cent), but due to the lack of an active canal system, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cannot use its share of water property.

He added that Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) Lift Low Gravity project has been approved with the federal and provincial partnership, the cost of which being shared by our province is 35%, but due to a lack of resources.



QUETTA: A vendor arranging seasonal fruits on his van to attract customers.

## China dominated Pakistan's FDI with \$432.7 million in FY 23

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** In the Financial Year 2023 (from July 2022 to June 2023), Pakistan received the highest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth US\$ 432.7 million from China, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday quoting the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s latest figures. In FY 2023, Pakistan received \$14.377 billion in FDI with China leading with 30.09% of the total FDI coming to the country.

As per SBP, the FDI inflows/outflows include cash received for investment in equity, intercompany loan, capital equipment brought in/out, equity in accounts abroad, and reinvested earnings.

In FY 2023, the total inflow from China remained at \$475.3 million, the outflow was \$43.1 million, net FDI was \$ 432.2 million, net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) was \$0.5 million and the total FDI remained at \$432.7 million.

FPI consists of securities and other financial assets held by investors in another country. Along with FDI, FPI is one of the common ways to invest in overseas economies. In June 2023, Pakistan also received \$5.8 million from Hong Kong bringing the total FDI from Hong Kong to \$96.6 million in FY 23.



CHINIOT: A farmer busy in seedling rice crop in his field along Lahore Road.

## Kashif for strengthening local manufacturing sector

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday stressed the need for developing and strengthening of local manufacturing sector as a sound manufacturing sector of a country can produce quality goods.

Besides, it helps in reducing reliance on foreign products to reduce imports and promote self-sufficiency, he said while talking to a delegation of industrialists led by

Faran Shahid. He said a well-developed manufacturing sector can help a country diversify its economic base, adding that over-reliance on a few sectors can make an economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas a diverse economy is more resilient.

The thriving manufacturing industry can act as a catalyst for economic growth, job creation, and technological progress, he remarked.

## Cabinet reviews flood situation, precautionary arrangements

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over an emergency meeting of Punjab Cabinet at CM Office on Sunday in which latest flood situation and preparations as well as precautionary arrangements with regard to spilling water in rivers by India was reviewed.

Secretary Irrigation apprised during the briefing that water level was increasing in the dams being built by India at River Ravi and Sutlej while the dam being built at Ravi was filled with 90 percent water and the dam built at Sutlej was filled with 70 percent of water.

The cabinet was informed that more rains were expected in the catchment areas of Ravi and Sutlej while India may spill more water in these rivers as there was a threat of flooding in both the rivers.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi ordered Irrigation department, PDMA, Rescue 1122 and the administration to remain alert with regard to the latest flood situation and spilling of water by India. He directed to prepare a plan to timely evacuate the population residing inside the bed of River Ravi and Sutlej.

Mohsin Naqvi while ordering all commissioners to take precautionary measures on an emergency

basis stated that all preemptive measures should be given a final shape for the safety of village people present inside the bed of both rivers.

The CM asserted that no negligence or lapse would be tolerated under any circumstance with regard to timely evacuation of the people.

He directed that Commissioner Lahore and other divisional commissioners should ensure implementation of the formulated plan in case of an emergency. He directed that the administration should constitute mobile teams to provide edibles and medical facilities to affectees.

**Martyrs package**  
**Cases of 3 police martyrs sent to Pb govt**

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar is actively working for the welfare of the heirs of police martyrs and in the same continuity, the cases of three personnel who were martyred during duty have been sent to the Punjab government for getting martyr package.

As per police spokesperson, three cases of Punjab police martyrs including Head Constable Muhammad Imran of Special Branch Lahore, Constable Muntaz Ahmed of Lahore, Constable Nisar Ahmed of Toba Tek Singh were sent to Home Department Punjab for obtaining martyr package. Dr. Usman Anwar sent the three cases to the Punjab government on recommendations of Compensation Award Committee of the Welfare Branch which was held at Central Police Office (CPO) under the supervision of Additional Inspector General Finance and Welfare Riaz Nazir Gara.



LAHORE: Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM Office.

## Jamal visits city to review Monsoon arrangements

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta, Director General, Rawalpindi Development Authority, Saif Anwar Jappa, Deputy Commissioner Hasan Waqar Cheema, Managing Director Water and Sanitation Agency Muhammad Tanveer and other officers concerned were present on the occasion.

The Advisor and Provincial Minister said that there was a possibility of heavy rains so, all the departments concerned should remain alert round the clock.

They visited Gawalmandi and Ariya Mohalla areas and inspected flow of water in Nullah Lai.

They also inspected arrangements finalized to clear stagnant rainwater, encroachments and other arrangements made to deal with urban flooding.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates rehabilitation of Faisalabad Circular Road.

## SCN approaches Sherry for halting indiscriminate cutting of forest trees in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Conservation Nature (SCN), a non-governmental organization striving for conservation of environment, culture and heritage, has approached Federal Minister for Climate Change, Sherry Rehman to take notice of planned and indiscriminate cutting of forest trees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) over the pretext of diseased and windfallen trees.

In a letter sent to Federal Minister for Climate Change on Sunday, the SCN office bearers urged Sherry Rehman to divert her attention to a matter of grave concern that requires her immediate attention and intervention.

"It has come to our organization's attention that certain senior officials within the Provincial Forest Department of KP are engaged in the indiscriminate cutting down of forest trees in specific parts of the province," reads the letter.

The SCN is committed to preserving and safeguarding our natural resources, including the invaluable forests that contribute significantly to the reduction of Greenhouse Gases as well as the well-being of the environment, climate change and society, it added. Showing its concerns, the SCN observed the tree felling activities appear to have been initiated without any transparent and accountable assessment, consultation, or public disclosure.

## Govt committed for promotion of backward areas: Advisor Zafar

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture and Archeology Zafar Mehmood on Sunday said that the caretaker government was using all available resources for the welfare of the people so that the people of backward and remote areas could get basic facilities and all their legitimate rights in time.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is becoming a hub for domestic and foreign tourists

## CM inquires after 8 year girl patient

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Bahria Orchard Hospital to inquire after eight year old girl Noor Fatima who underwent a successful cardiac operation.

CM Mohsin Naqvi met with the little girl and saw her off for her home and gave gifts to her. He expressed his affection with the little girl on regaining complete health after undergoing a successful cardiac operation. Mother of the little girl thanked CM Mohsin Naqvi and the hospital administration for providing excellent treatment and care.

## SDMA warns people to refrain from visiting flooded streams, rivers

MIRPUR (APP): After the torrential rains hits various parts of the AJK, the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) Saturday warned people living close to the seasonal nullahs and streams to refrain from visiting the flooded ponds, rivers and streams as the main spell of the torrential rains have begun in various parts of the State.

According to the information, various parts of the AJK state lashed with torrential rains that

## CM KP for urgent relief measures in rains hit areas

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Aslam Khan on Sunday issued strict directives to the relief department and district administrations to remain on high alert and provide relief to people of the area hit by torrential rains and flash floods.

The chief minister also directed relevant officials to ensure immediate assistance to those affected by the heavy downpours. He said that rescue and relief operations must be promptly

launched to ensure the safety and well-being of the affected population as the situation demands urgent attention. People in the distress should be provided immediate relief and support. We must take all necessary measures to ensure their safety and well being, he said. The chief minister further assured that the caretaker provincial government would leave no stone unturned in providing every possible assistance to those facing difficulties during this challenging hour.

## Promotions of officers, personnel in Punjab Police continues

LAHORE (APP): On the instructions of Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, the process of promotion of officers and personnel in all ranges and districts of the province is continuing without interruption.

In this regard, 89 more officers and personnel have been promoted as per the rules and regulations. Punjab police spokesman said here on Sunday that according to merit and

seniority, 89 personnel were promoted to the rank of sub-inspector and ASI, 51 ASIs and 38 head constables are included among those who were promoted. In the ongoing next phase of promotion, 7,000 personnel who meet the rules and regulations are being promoted and after Lahore, Multan, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala and Faisalabad, promotions have also been completed in Sargodha.

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According to the information, various parts of the AJK state lashed with torrential rains that

played havoc in various areas including Mirpur district especially in the New City and various adjoining slums in various parts of this district, official sources confirmed.

Mirpur went in the grip of heavy rainfall since about the last midnight of the day breaking the hot spell to a greater extent besides turning various low-lying areas into ponds and seasonal nullahs flooded with the rainy water.

## International News

## Iran's Khamenei says Sweden in 'battle-array' over Koran desecrations

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that people who desecrate the Koran should face the "most severe punishment" and Sweden has "gone into battle-array for war on the Muslim world" by supporting those responsible.

Protests have raged across Iran and Iraq after Sweden allowed the burning of the Koran under rules protecting free speech. Protesters in Iraq set alight the Swedish embassy in Baghdad on Thursday.

An Iraqi immigrant to Sweden burned a Koran outside a Stockholm mosque last month. Protesters in Sweden kicked and partially destroyed a book they said was the Koran outside the Iraqi embassy in Stockholm on Thursday, but did not burn it as they had threatened to do, Reuters witnesses said.

Swedish officials have deplored the acts but said they cannot prevent them.

Iran's state media reported that Khamenei had demanded Sweden hand

over those responsible for prosecution in Islamic countries.

"All Islamic scholars agree that those who desecrate the Koran deserved the most severe punishment... The duty of that (Swedish) government is to hand over the perpetrator to the judicial systems of Islamic countries," Khamenei said in a statement carried by state media.

Iran, which has delayed the posting of a new ambassador to Sweden, also said it was not accepting a new Swedish envoy.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko meet people outside the Naval Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Kronstadt near Saint Petersburg, Russia.

## Cambodia's ruling party claims landslide win in one-sided election

**Monitoring Desk**  
PHNOM PENH: The party of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen declared a landslide victory in a general election on Sunday, a vote that critics widely dismissed as a sham aimed at cementing the party's rule before an expected transfer of power to his eldest son.

The contest was effectively a one-horse race, with Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP), a political behemoth with a vast war chest, facing no viable opponent after a ruthless, years-long crackdown on its rivals.

Polls closed with a turnout of 84% according to the election committee, with 8.1 million people voting in a much-criticised contest between CPP and 17 mostly obscure parties, none of which won seats in the last election in 2018.

The only opponent with any real clout was disqualified from running.

"We've won in a landslide... but we can't calculate the number of seats yet," said CPP spokesperson Sok Eysan.

Self-styled strongman Hun Sen, who has ruled Cambodia for 38 years, had

brushed off all Western concern about the election's credibility, determined to prevent any obstacle in his carefully calibrated transition to his anointed successor and eldest son, Hun Manet.

No timeframe had been given for the handover until Thursday, when Hun Sen signalled his son "could be" prime minister next month, depending on "whether Hun Manet will be able to do it or not". He needed to win a National Assembly seat to become prime minister, which was likely.

## Biden will establish a national monument honoring Emmett Till, the Black teen lynched in Mississippi

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden will establish a national monument honoring Emmett Till, the Black teenager from Chicago who was abducted, tortured and killed in 1955 after he was accused of whistling at a white woman in Mississippi, and his mother, a White House official said Saturday.

Biden will sign a proclamation on Tuesday to create the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument across three sites in Illinois and Mississippi, according to the official. The individual spoke on condition of anonymity because the White House had not formally

announced the president's plans.

Tuesday is the anniversary of Emmett Till's birth in 1941.

The monument will protect places that are central to the story of Till's life and death at age 14, the acquittal of his white killers and his mother's activism. Till's mother's insistence on an open casket to show the world how her son had been brutalized and Jet's magazine's decision to publish photos of his mutilated body helped galvanize the Civil Rights Movement.

Biden's decision also comes at a fraught time in the United States over matters concerning race.



People are seen at the site of a bridge that collapsed in Patras, Greece.

## Support for Japanese cabinet slips to 28% - media poll

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Public support of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's cabinet has fallen nearly 20 percentage points to 28% over the past two months, the Mainichi Shimbun reported on Sunday, citing a poll it conducted.

Kishida, who took office in October 2021, saw his approval plummeting in some polls late last year, battered by revelations of ties between the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the Unification Church, but numbers began to edge up with a thaw in ties with

South Korea and a trip to Ukraine in March.

He got a boost in May when he hosted a G7 leaders' summit in the city of Hiroshima but the cabinet's support has plummeted 17 percentage points since then, to just 28%, dropping below 30% for first time since February, the newspaper said.

Technical problems with a national identity card system is one main issue undermining support, the newspaper said.

The number of people who disapproved of the cabinet rose to 65% from 58% last month.

## Former Brazilian President Bolsonaro fades from the spotlight

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIO DE JANEIRO: Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro is fading from the spotlight, showing the courts' power over the electoral system and the political shortcomings of the increasingly powerless former leader. Brazil's top electoral court ruled last month that Bolsonaro is ineligible to run for any political office until 2030 for abusing his power and founding un

doubts on the country's electronic voting system.

Bolsonaro was once called the "Trump of the Tropics" after emerging as a crusading outsider promising to shake up the system and pursuing an aggressive brand of identity politics including conservative values. Trump, who also cast doubt on the U.S. electoral system and faces legal trouble, remains the front-runner for the Republican Party's nomination.

## Kyiv drone strikes munitions depot in Crimea

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: A Ukrainian drone attack on Crimea on Saturday blew up an ammunition depot, sparking evacuations on the Moscow-annexed peninsula and halting rail traffic, just five days after drones damaged Russia's symbolic bridge across the Kerch Strait. In a counteroffensive launched to retake lands lost to Moscow, Kyiv has increasingly made clear despite some Western unease that it aims to also take back the Black Sea peninsula.

## War reporter's death prompts Russian outrage over cluster bombs

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: A Russian war reporter was killed and three were wounded in Ukraine on Saturday in what the defence ministry said was a Ukrainian attack using cluster munitions, prompting outrage from Moscow.

In a separate incident, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle said one of its journalists, Yevgeny Shilkov, had been wounded elsewhere in Ukraine in a Russian attack with cluster

munitions that killed a Ukrainian soldier. It said his life was not in danger.

Cluster bombs are in the spotlight after Ukraine received supplies of them from the United States this month.

Many countries ban them because they rain shrapnel over a wide area and can pose a risk to civilians. Some bomblets typically fail to explode immediately, but can blow up years later.

## Yemeni police say they've arrested 2 suspects in the killing of a senior World Food Program official

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Yemeni police on Saturday arrested two suspects in the killing of a senior World Food Program official the previous day, authorities said. Ten others were also detained for their alleged involvement in the killing of Moayad Hameidi, who had recently arrived in the country to take the post of the head of the World Food Program.



People gather outside Town Hall to protest the alleged sexual assault of two tribal women in the eastern state of Manipur, in Bengaluru, India.

# Pakistan thrashes India to lift Emerging Asia Cup trophy

Sufiyan Muqem spins Pak to victory with 3 important wickets

**Sports Desk**  
COLOMBO: All round Pakistan Shaheens defeated India A by 128 runs in the final played in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Sunday to lift the Emerging Asia Cup.

Chasing a target of 353 runs, India were dismissed for 224 runs in 40 overs.

Spinner Sufiyan Muqem caused all kinds of troubles for the Men in Blue by taking three important wickets including opener Abhishek Sharma, who scored 61, captain Yash Dull, who was set at 39 off 41, and Harshit Rana,

13, while conceding 66 runs in 10 overs.

Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Wasim and Arshad Iqbal claimed two wickets each. For India, opener Abhishek Sharma was the top run-scorer with 61 runs in 51 balls. Earlier, Pakistan A had set India A target of 353 runs on a good batting surface.

Middle-order batter Tayyab Tahir scored a brilliant century to help Pakistan post a massive total on the board after being asked to bat first.

Pakistan were in a precarious position after

losing five wickets for just 187 runs but Tahir took the attack to the Indian bowlers and scored 108 runs in only 71 balls with the help of 12 fours and four sixes. He had an impressive strike-rate of 152.11. Pakistan had got off to a strong start with openers Sahibzada Farhan (65 off 62) and Saim Ayub (59 off 51) scoring fifties and adding 121 runs for the first wicket. However, India bounced back with quick wickets in the middle overs.

Tahir added 126 runs in 98 balls for the sixth wicket with Mubasir Khan, who scored 35 runs.

Rajvardhan Hangargekar and Riyan Parag took two wickets each for the Men in Blue.

India A won the toss and choose to bowl first against Pakistan A in the highly-anticipated final.

India were unchanged from the semis while Pakistan made one change, with Mehran Mumtaz replacing Amad Butt.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has congratulated Pakistan team on defeating India in the final of ACC Men's Emerging Cup in Colombo this evening.



COLOMBO: A group photo of Pakistan Shaheens after winning ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup after beating India in the final



ISLAMABAD: CPO Safe City, Traffic in a group photo with the police officials promoted from Head Constables to Assistant Sub-Inspector.

## Rank Pinning ceremony of newly promoted ASIs held at Safe City I'abad

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, a distinguished ceremony was held at Safe City Islamabad to honor the promotion of five officers from Head Constables to Assistant Sub-Inspector. The event was organized by the CPO Safe City/Traffic in recognition of their exemplary dedication and commitment to their duties. The newly promoted officers were acknowledged and congratulated by CPO Safe City/Traffic and DSP Safe City.

Under the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the process of departmental promotions is currently under-

way within the Islamabad Capital Police. The CPO Safe City/Traffic, in line with this initiative, organized the prestigious ceremony to celebrate the promotion of five officers from Head Constables to Assistant Sub-Inspector. Among the promoted officers, two belong from wireless staff, one from Traffic division, and one from dolphin, while one serves in the Safe City. Addressing the officers during the ceremony, the CPO Safe City/Traffic emphasized the increased responsibilities that accompany their new ranks. He highlighted the clear directives issued by the ICCPO to ensure that promotions continue to be granted.

## Mariyum greets nation on Pak victory in squash

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb has felicitated the entire nation on Pakistan's victory in the world squash after a hiatus of four decades.

In a tweet on Sunday, she said: "Congratulations to Hamza Khan for becoming the World Junior Squash Champion."

Mariyum Aurangzeb said that Jan Sher Khan honoured the country in the same way back in 1986.

"May the Almighty make every youth of Pakistan a source of pride for the country," she said while praying for promotion of sports and games in Pakistan.

## PM vows to eradicate economic woes, poverty, price hike

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday reiterated the resolve by promising the people to eradicate economic woes, poverty and inflation from the country.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister thanked Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, who on his request, extended relief to the provincial government employees and pensioners regarding the increase in salaries and pensions and bringing them at par with the federal government employees and pensioners.

He also congratulated the Punjab government employees for an increase of 35 percent in salaries and 17.5 percent increase in pensions.

By doing it, the prime minister said, the caretaker chief minister earned the prayers of millions of government employees and pensioners in the province.

## 2-day int'l conference to mark CPEC & BRI-decade celebrations starts today

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** A two-day international conference on "Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) - From Vision To Reality" will start here on Monday.

The conference is being organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of China, a news release said.

The CPEC being a strategic principal component of the BRI focuses on infrastructure development and

## Minister Communications says PDM govt starts dissemination of fruits of pro-people policies

**FAISALABAD (APP):** Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mehmood said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government had not only saved country from default but also started dissemination of fruits of its pro-people policies.

Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of dualization of road from Faisalabad Bypass to Motorway M-3 via Satiana here on Sunday, he said that PDM had taken responsibility of running coalition government when the country was facing very crucial time as the previous rulers had badly ruined its economy.

He said that PDM government under dynamic

leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif took bold steps in the greater national interest and saved the country from default. He added that Pakistan was making tremendous progress in 2018 when Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan was installed in the country under a calculated move. The ill-conceived policies of Imran Khan's government not only stopped the pace of national development but it also made life an ordinary person very miserable.

The installed government used all national resources to promote culture of hate and tried to divide the nation but the people were cognizant and well aware of the nefarious de-

signs of Imran Khan and his party. Hence, they badly rejected him and foiled his conspiracies against the country. When Imran Khan was clamped on the nation, Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman had raised voice against him because he (Imran) was an incompetent person and injurious to Pakistan, he added. The minister said that the PDM took government only save the country from collapse and in this connection, the leaders of coalition government under supervision of Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman strived hard and succeeded in achieving the targets.

He also lauded the efforts of Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan for movement against Imran Khan.

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He also lauded the efforts of Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan for movement against Imran Khan.



QUETTA: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj ul Haq addressing the Provincial Electrol Convention of Jamaat-e-Islami Balochistan.

## Country needs massive change and revolution: Siraj ul Haq

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Ameer Jama'at-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has categorically stated that our country need a change and revolution, and if the people voted JI to power in next general elections, then it would rid the country of World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said that we want that the dream of change and revolution in the country may be materialized with cooperation of the people.

He also declared that if Allah gave us chance to rule the country, we would enforce the system of zakat and Ushr getting rid of the prevailing interest system (soodi nizama).

He said that we want that every human being may

lead respectable life, have opportunity to get good quality education, get standard health facilities and elderly persons have allowance, and so. The JI Ameer charged all the political parties, whether it is in form of PDM, or other parties including PML-N, PPP and PTI have miserably failed to deliver and resolve the issues of people of the country.

These political parties have destroyed all the institutions including those were meant for accountability as well as the educational institutions, agriculture, industries and every thing. These parties are just enjoying the rule, and nothing else as they have nothing to do with the problems of common men.

He regretted that the

interest rate was increased from 17 percent to over 22 percent in the country right in presence of the PDM chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman. He said that we had opposed the interest system in banks, and introduced interest-free system once we had come in power in Khyber Pakhtoonkhaw in the past. He asserted that Pakistan and soodi system can't run together. He said that we would have to seek guidance from the Holy Qura'an to steer the country out of prevailing issues and chaos. These and similar other views were expressed by the Ameer JI while addressing the election convention organized by the JI Balochistan here at a local marriage Hall on Sunday.

## KSrelief distributes food baskets among flood affectees in Pak

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) has been steadfast in its commitment to providing assistance to those affected by the floods in different regions of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Recently, KSrelief took an important step by distributing 2,398 food baskets in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces. This initiative

aimed to benefit over 16,789 individuals who belong to the most vulnerable and needy segments of society in these regions devastated by flash floods, SPA reported.

This humanitarian aid is part of the ongoing relief and assistance initiatives undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through KSrelief, to support countries and populations worldwide affected by various crises.

## Bilal Kiyani strongly reacts to tweet by Fawad Chaudhry

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Strongly reacting to a tweet by former information minister, Fawad Chaudhry, Coordinator to Prime Minister on Economy and Energy, Bilal Azhar Kiyani said here on Saturday that media houses, media workers and people know the reality of the claims he made.

Reacting to Fawad's tweet, Kiyani said that journalists were being subjected to extreme torture during the previous regime and there was censorship imposed on media. He said he knew when Pakistan's ranking in the World Freedom Index declined by 18 positions during four years of that dark tenure.

He said, changing

statements like shifting from one party to another was the true introduction of Fawad Chaudhry. He said people know everything, from fake news to punching, breaking ribs and noses of journalists to false claims of 'expansion'.

"Thanks, I am school-boy but not a tout like you (Fawad) as mentioned by Hamid Khan," he said adding when Fawad was selling justice of his uncle's court, he (Bilal) was not in Pakistan at that time.

He said, he knows when Fawad Chaudhry was running and panting in Islamabad High Court adding these historic scenes were preserved in videos that have embarrassed the entire Jhelum region.

## PBM arranges awareness seminar on Thalassemia

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal (PBM) arranged an awareness seminar on Thalassemia in line with an awareness campaign launched across South Punjab by the department from July 18-23.

Under the directions of MD, Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal Amir Fida Pracha and Director South Punjab Maher Mazhar Abbas, Assistant Director PBM Muzaffargarh Syed Kashif Saleem organized the seminar at PBM Women Empowerment Center on Sunday.

State Minister Maher Irshad Ahmed Sial, urged

the participants to must undergo Thalassemia tests before marriage so that not to marry a Thalassemia patient in case of a Thalassemia carrier. He said that the Parliament had already passed the law and there was a dire need to implement it and Thalassemia-free tests must be dispatched with the marriage contract (Nikkah).

Dr. Sheikh Muhammad Sikander, consultant physician and Dr. Muhammad Athar Kaleem, from the Health Department, gave a complete briefing to the participants about Thalassemia.

## PDM-led govt saves country from default: Karim Kundi

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi Sunday said that the PDM-led government had saved the country from default after a successful agreement with IMF besides taking other bold decisions.

The lower strata of the society was looking towards PPP leadership as they have all the abilities to take the country out of existing challenges, he said while talking to a Private news channel.

The PPP is the only voice for the poor and always worked for students, youth, women, labourers and small growers, he added.

## Rulers deprived people of their livelihood in 15 months: Rasheed

**RAWALPINDI (INP):** Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that the government not only violated the constitution and law in 15 months but also deprived the poor of their livelihood.

Taking to twitter, he said that the government, with just 23 days left, increased the price of electricity to Rs50 per basic unit and jolted 230 million people with 440 volt of power.

"How the people, who are drawing salary of

Rs35,000-50,000, will pay the electricity bill of Rs15,000-20,000?" he said.

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## 2 sisters dead as landslide hits house in Swat Valley

**SWAT (INP):** Two sisters lost their lives after a landslide struck their home in Madyan area of Swat.

The natural disaster occurred in Tehsil Bahrain, shaking the entire community and causing profound grief for the affected family. According to the rescue spokesperson, the incident unfolded in the early hours of the morning when a massive landslide descended upon the dwelling of Noor Rahman, a resident of Madyan.

## CDA cancels staff's leaves to respond monsoon rains

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** To deal with any emergency situation in the Federal Capital during the monsoon rains, Capital Development Authority's (CDA) Chairman Noor ul Amin Mengal has canceled leaves of the officers and employees.

"Employees and officers of the authority should ensure their presence in the field with modern machinery round-the-clock to monitor water situation in all drains and nullahs. Apart from this emergency response centers were also fully functional," said a news release.

The federal apex agency warned the officers and staff of strict action against negligence in duties.

There was no obstruction of any kind in the flow of water in the drains and nullahs while special teams of the CDA, Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad and district administration were deployed in sectors and rural areas. Similarly, the duties of the concerned staff in the low-lying areas have been made stricter in view of any emergencies. Citizens were asked to contact the helpline number of the CDA for any emergencies.

It may be mentioned that before the monsoon, the Sanitation Wing had completed the process of cleaning all the drains of the city, while strict monitoring of the low-lying areas was being ensured.



ISLAMABAD: During the expansion work of Club Road, heavy machinery is being utilized to carry out the construction and development tasks.