

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Islamabad

Vol. XIII No. 228 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Monday July 31, 2023, Muharrumul Haram 12, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Maulana Hameedullah Haqqani, General Secretary JUI-F Tehsil Navagai and Maulana Zir Ur Rehman, Ameer Tehsil Khar were martyred along with 44 other workers and over 150 others injured in the huge suicide bomb blast during the JUI-F Worker Convention at Dubai More (Shindai), Khar, Bajaur District on Sunday, Rescue 1122 officials confirmed. District Health Officer Bajaur Dr. Faisal also confirmed that they have received 40 dead bodies

with more than 150 injured and among them, 16 persons were in critical condition that have been airlifted by Army Helicopters to CMH Hospital Peshawar. The Bacha International Airport Officials are said to have received 16 critically injured persons through two Army Helicopters. Soon after arrival, the injured were shifted to CHM Peshawar. The number of dead people is more than forty, including the local leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam

Ziaullah Jan, and former senator Maulana Abdul Rasheed was slightly injured. Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday here telephoned the chief of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and Amir Jamiat Ulema Islam (F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mehmood and condoled with them over the death of their workers in party convention in Khar, Bajaur.



BAJAUR: Worker of JUI (F) shifting injured of suicide bomb blast in a hospital (Inset) Rescue workers shifting an injured worker of JUI (F) in a Army Helicopter.

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

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday lambasted the criminal negligence and inefficient performance of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) government led by former prime minister Imran Khan Niazi, saying that the country paid a heavy price for their blunders and political vendetta. The prime minister expressed these views after performing the soft launching of various development projects which included Rs 50 billion Medical City, Rs 52 billion National Health Support Programme, and Rs 30 billion Population Welfare Programme. On the occasion, he also broke grounds for the SL-3 Lahore Ring Road project, Shadara to Kala Shah Kaku Metro Bus extension project, and inaugurated 1263 MW Punjab Thermal power plant in Jhang with a capacity of generating 10 billion inexpensive units annually. Addressing the ceremony, the PM said Imran Niazi had neglected the completion of the gas-fired Haveli Bahadur Shah power plant due to his animosity with the PML-N leadership and the country had to pay an additional whopping amount of Rs 77 billion besides, its original cost of Rs74 billion at that time due to non-functionality.

He said the project was to be inaugurated in 2019 but it was stalled due to criminal negligence of Imran Niazi and the lack of interest of the previous government. A huge amount of the nation went down the drain, causing huge losses for the poor country, he opined, adding it was one of the worst examples of PTI's bad governance.

"Who will be held accountable for such a blunder? It is the continuation of a saga of 75 years for which they were all responsible," he quipped.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif talking with media persons after inaugurating various development projects.

## COAS Munir condoles with UAE president over brother's death



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

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

## Mariyum strongly condemns violence against 14-year Rizwana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb has strongly condemned the incident of violence against a 14-year-old domestic worker Rizwana and demanded swift justice in the case. The minister, in a news statement on Sunday, called the incident "shameful" and "condemnable."

She emphasized that no society could tolerate such oppressive elements, especially when it involved child labor and the brutal treatment to young individuals like Rizwana.

## Senate drops Prevention of Violent Extremism Bill after strong opposition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Sunday took a decision to drop an item, which pertained to 'The Prevention of Violent Extremism Bill, 2023,' from the house's agenda due to reservations expressed by several members of parliament. He further clarified that this particular legislation was being made to stop the violent extremism from the country as entire nation stands united against it.

Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) expressed his concerns and threatened to boycott the session if the bill was brought to the house. He proposed that the bill be sent to the relevant committee for a thorough review of its potential pros and cons to prevent misuse against any political party in the future.

## Chinese Vice Premier arrives in capital on two day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): At the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the Special Envoy of President Xi Jinping, the Vice Premier of China and a Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party He Lifeng arrived here on Sunday on a two-day visit to attend the 10th anniversary celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan received the visiting dignitary at the airport. "During his visit, He Lifeng will call on President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He will also be chief guest at an event celebrating the 'Decade of CPEC,'" said a Foreign Office spokesperson.

# Most welcome Excellency He Lifeng in Pakistan



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

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

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

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

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

The Foreign Office spokesperson has termed the visit of the Chinese Vice Premier as a significant step to further strengthen the high-level bilateral ties and deepen the friendship between Pakistan and China. Similarly, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning rightly stated that "Over the past decade, as an important pioneering project of the BRI, CPEC has achieved fruitful results and become a new benchmark for the friendship between China and Pakistan."

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

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

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



PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

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

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Fluid & resilient**

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

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

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

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

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

**Hussaini values**



**Qasim A. Moini**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the lands of Islam there is much talk of piety, but very little practice. Justice eludes the common man, while the rich and powerful live much as the kings and sultans of antiquity did. Meanwhile, many non-Muslim societies, despite having ample resources and better infrastructure than poorer states, have high rates of depression and suicide.

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

**India's future path**



**Javid Husain**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pakistan's military expenditure, according

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Commerce News**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday said with corporate farming, Pakistan would not only stimulate economic activities but also revolutionize its agriculture sector unlocking potential opportunities in food-related various industries.

Speaking at a seminar on "Corporate Farming Promise Food Security" held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, he

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

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

"Corporate farming requires simultaneously

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

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

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

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

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

harvest of the second crop," he added.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

respective sub-committees.

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

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



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

**LCCI resident lauds development projects inaugurated by PM**

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

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

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

**Cash prizes for peasants on bumper production of cotton announced**

MULTAN (APP): Punjab government announced cash prizes for contestants on maximum per acre production of cotton for the year 2023-24 in order to revive and promote white gold in the province.

According to official sources, "The farmer who will secure the first position at the provincial level will be awarded Rs 1.5 million."

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

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

"The intending participants can get forms from the website [www.agri.punjab.gov.pk](http://www.agri.punjab.gov.pk). A committee at the divisional level will examine the participants' criteria.

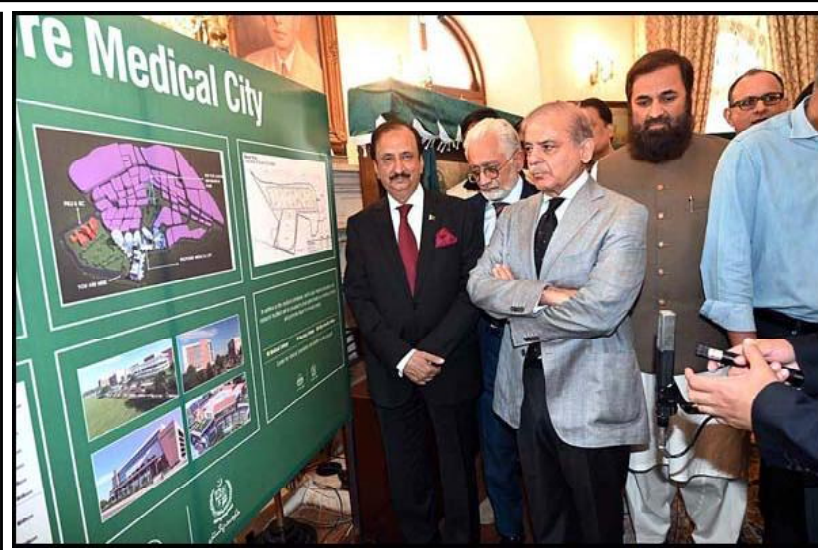
## CM inspects construction work on Gujranwala link project

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

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

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

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



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

## First comprehensive labour policy being finalised: Tasneem

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

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

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

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

## Ombudsman orders Rs 14.137m financial relief for applicants

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

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

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

## Nawabzada Iftikhar to inaugurate three uplift schemes

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

## Governor Punjab condemns blast in JUI-F workers' convention

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LARKANA: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah along with Sindh Minister of Mines and Mineral Development Mir Shabbir Ali Bijarani offering Fateha after condoling with MPA Aslam Abro on the sad demise of his brother and nephew at his residence Jacobabad.

## Experts stress society free from abuse of children, child labourers

LAHORE (APP): Experts on Sunday called upon all concerned, including the media, government and private organisations to play their role in making institutional and non-institutional sectors free from child abuse and child labour. It is a social stigma and a gigantic problem in both developing and industrialised countries and low-income communities, they said. Ms. Munawar Sultana, National Project Coordinator, Asia Regional Child Labour (ARC) project, said that around 160 million children aged 5 to 17 years were engaged in child labour in 2020, with 79 million children involved in hazardous work. About 3.3 million of Pakistani children are trapped in child labour, who are deprived of their childhood, their health and education, she said.

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

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

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

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

## International News

### US announces \$345 million military aid package for Taiwan

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

U.S. lawmakers have been pressuring the Pentagon and White House to speed weapons to Taiwan. The goals are to help it counter China and to deter China from considering at-

tacking, by providing Taipei enough weaponry that it would make the price of invasion too high.

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

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

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

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

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



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

### 3 Ukrainian drones downed over Moscow: Russia defence ministry

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

### Bangladesh police clash with protesters blockading capital

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

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

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

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

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

### Putin says Russia does not reject talks with Ukraine

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

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

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

Reuters reported in June that African mediation in the conflict could begin with confidence-building measures followed by a cessation of hostilities agreement ac-

### EU sanctions Rwandan army officer over involvement in Congo rebellion

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Turkiye urges Denmark to take urgent action to prevent Quran burnings

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

## Mariyum Aurangzeb reiterates govt commitment to upgrade PTV, Radio Pakistan

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

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

DRM Medium Wave Transmitter Project at Radio Pakistan, Rawat.

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

Highlighting the pivotal role of these national broadcasters, she stressed that the government was determined to leverage PTV and Radio Pakistan to enhance Pakistan's global presence and counter negative narratives about the country.

At the outset of the media talk, the minister said

Radio Pakistan accomplished a milestone today as the first time in history a Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) technology had been launched.

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

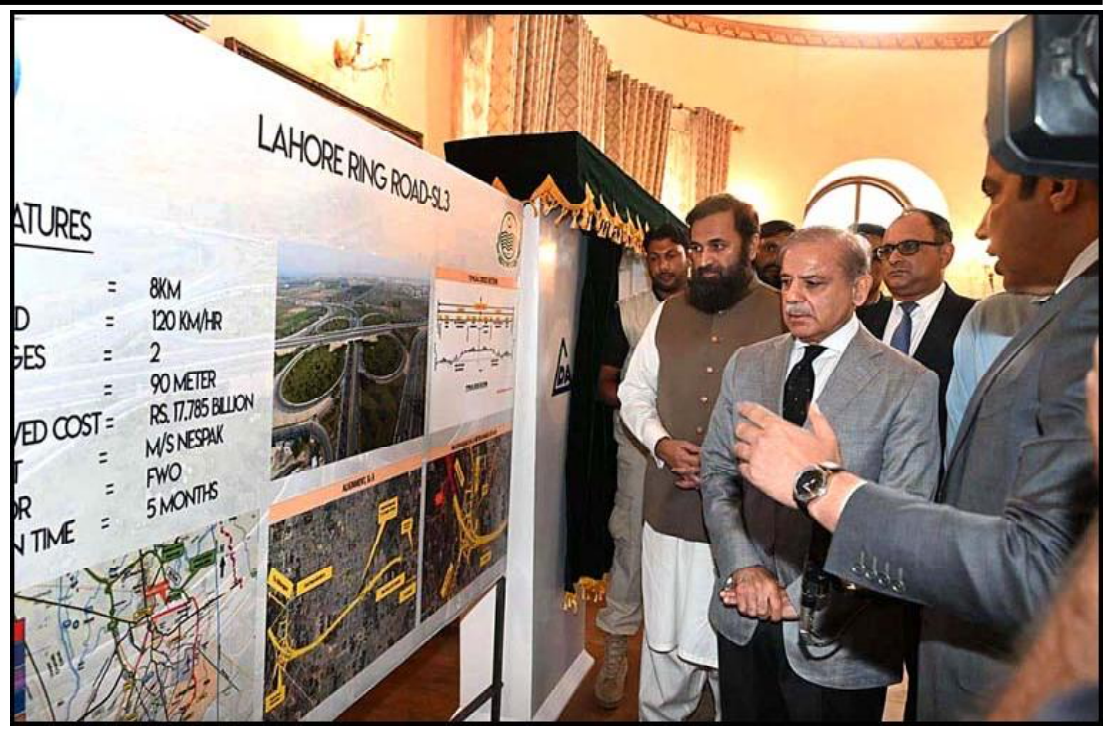
Mariyum said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to release funds for transforming Radio Pa-

kistan on modern lines.

The minister extended gratitude to PM, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, and Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal for the initiative.

With the implementation of the 1000 kilowatt digital DRM medium wave transmitter, she said Radio Pakistan's reach would transcend borders, resonating in more than 52 countries.

She said the initiative would help promote Pakistan's narrative, news, heritage, and culture across the world. Out of 20 existing transmitters of Radio Pakistan, 14 had already become obsolete.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed about the extension project of Lahore Ring Road SL-3.



Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb addressing a Press conference in Islamabad.

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

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

During the session in the upper house, Senator Mushtaq Ahmed of Jamaat-e-Islami brought the matter to the attention of Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, stressing the importance of the upcoming Organization

of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) virtual meeting for the Council of Foreign Ministers of Member States on July 31. The meeting aimed to discuss measures against the repeated desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark, he added.

Senator Mushtaq emphasized the need to strengthen the OIC's strategy in dealing with the persistent menace of Quran burning on an international level. He proposed the government halt diplomatic relations, particularly with

Sweden and Denmark, to express its disappointment and protest against these recurrent incidents.

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

He stressed the importance of cutting off all ties with Sweden and Denmark in response.

## Khursheed Shah says Five names finalized for caretaker PM

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



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

While talking to media persons after visiting the site of the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme K-IV project at Keenjhar Lake on Sunday, he said that they were making all-out efforts to complete the project by 2024 or at the start of 2025. Replying to a question over the delay of the K-IV project which was expected to complete in 2018, he said, 'Where there is a will, there is a way.' He said that their 'Will' was that they had to complete this project whether two months before or two months later. He said that an investigation should be carried out to know about the responsible for the project's design.

## 50 surveillance cameras installed from high security zone to airport

ISLAMABAD (APP): An additional 50 surveillance cameras have been strategically installed in Islamabad, covering the high-security zone to the airport, aiming to fortify the security in the city. In response to the growing security concerns, Federal Minister of Interior, Rana Sanaulah Khan, has taken decisive action to enhance the safety of Islamabad, police spokesperson said on Sunday.

He said an additional 50 surveillance cameras have been strategically installed, covering the high-security zone to the airport, aiming to fortify the city's surveillance.

These new security arrangements will be meticulously monitored through the Safe City cameras, with the public urged to cooperate with the police in bolstering civilian security.



ISLAMABAD: Billboard and Pak-China flags are being displayed at Zero Point in connection with 10 years celebration of CPEC.

## FM Bilawal embarks UAE on day long visit

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

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

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

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

FM visit reflects strong, bilateral relations. Both countries are eager to strengthen bilateral relations and more deepen beneficial partnership.

Keep clear that Pakistani foreign minister is visiting UAE on same day when Chinese deputy prime minister arrival is scheduled.

## NA Speaker says PPP always focused on well-being of people

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

The speaker emphasized that the PPP had always focused on the well-being of the people.

He further stated that the party had relentlessly worked towards the nation's development and will continue to sacrifice anything for the prosperity of the people in the future.

On this occasion, a significant number of people

from Union Council Kori Dolal announced their formal joining of the PPP, saying goodbye to their previous parties.

Among those who joined were Raja Muhammad Irfan, Raja Muhammad Yasin, Raja Shahid Mahmood, Raja Muhammad Nauman, Raja Muhammad Sufian, Raja Wasim, Raja Abdul Wahab, Raja Umair Farooq, Raja Faisal, Raja Manzoor, Raja Majid, Khalid Mahmood Raja, Raja Israr, Raja Sajjad, Raja Adeel, Raja Sajid, Raja Atif, Raja Abid Chohan, Raja Riaz Chohan, Raja Javed, Raja Khizer Hayat, Raja Azhar Mahmood, Raja Majid, Raja Sarfraz, Raja Naseer, and other individuals. Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf warmly welcomed all those who joined the party and expressed gratitude to them for showing confidence in the party leadership.

## Delaying election for holding new census not possible: Kaira

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

Talking to a private news channel, Kaira informed that the process of

electoral reforms was already started and the Election Commission was busy in the preparation of conducting elections at its specific time and period. Replying to a question, he said that delaying elections would not be favorable for the country's stability and PML-N was also not in favor to delay the process at any cost.



SIALKOT: Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif is listening to people's problems at his residence in Cantt.

## Interior Minister, ICCPO lauds elaborate security measures during Muharram-ul-Haram

ISLAMABAD: The Interior Minister, Rana Sanaulah Khan, and Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, lauded the performance of the officers and officials of the Islamabad Capital Police for their commendable efforts in ensuring foolproof security arrangements during Ashura Muharram-ul-Haram in the federal capital, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, the ICCPO, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan lauded the exemplary performance of CPO Operations, SSP Operations, all DPOs, traffic staff, officers, and officials for their vigilant efforts in maintaining law and order during

the Muharram-ul-Haram processions.

ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that, thanks to the meticulous planning and coordination, no untoward incident occurred in the city during the processions. The heavy contingent of police cordoned off all the processions, and the security plan was diligently followed.

The officers, including DPOs, SDPOs, Incharge Police Stations, and other police personnel, personally visited the procession routes, ensuring effective coordination and guidance to ensure a safe environment.

He expressed his satisfaction with the implementation of security measures,

## Ahsan Iqbal highlights CPEC achievements, Sino-Pak deepening ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday highlighted milestone achievements made under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during the last 10 years and the deepening relations between the two countries also known as "Iron Brothers" with each passing day.

Addressing a news conference here ahead of the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of China in connection with CPEC's 10-year celebrations, he signified the CPEC agreements signed in 2015, which transformed Pakistan's profile from a security state to an investment destination.

He lauded Chinese President Xi Jinping's role in elevating Pakistan's image globally as an attractive investment destination, fostering economic cooperation and development.

The minister highlighted that in the span of three years, CPEC saw the successful completion of numerous projects worth around \$25 billion.

These projects encompassed various sectors, including power generation, infrastructure development, education and more, he said adding the Thar coal project stood out as a monumental achievement, harnessing Pakistan's vast coal reserves for power generation, making it a significant contributor to the country's

energy needs.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that CPEC provided opportunities for Pakistani workers and engineers to acquire training in modern technology and project management. Additionally, he said, the collaboration between China and Pakistan in the education sector facilitated thousands of Pakistani students to pursue higher education in China.

The minister expressed gratitude to President Xi Jinping for China's unwavering support and investment in Pakistan during challenging times. He stressed that China's investment of billions of dollars in CPEC projects illustrated its status as Pakistan's most reliable friend and a key partner.

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

DUBAI (APP): Wax figure of former Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was unveiled at Madame Tussauds Dubai in UAE on Sunday.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also attended the unveiling event.

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is the first Pakistani whose wax figure is displayed at Madame Tussauds Dubai.

Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, senior officials of the Embassy and Consulate General of Pakistan and prominent community members were also present.

In his remarks on the occasion, the Foreign Minister highlighted that the wax figure is a befitting tribute to Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He added that her legacy - being the first female Prime Minister from the Muslim World - continued to inspire the young generation - women in particular. He further remarked that the former Prime Minister of Pakistan was consistent and passionate in

advocating peace, stability, and cooperation amongst nations at international fora.

Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on the occasion said the work of Madame Tussauds allows us to celebrate the achievements and contributions of remarkable individuals who have inspired generations all over the world.

Late Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's wax figure unveiled at the Madame Tussauds wears the same outfit she wore when sworn in as Prime Minister of Pakistan. The figure



Wax figure of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

was sculpted from a sitting in 1989 using the traditional techniques. The figure will be placed in the first zone of Madame Tussauds Dubai, alongside wax figures of Royals and leaders of the world.

Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was a Pakistani politician and stateswoman who served as the 11th and 13th Prime Minister of Pakistan from 1988 to 1990 and again from 1993 to 1996. She was the first female leader of any Islamic state in modern history and daughter of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

NDMA alerts flood, GLOF risk due to rain in northern parts of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Sunday issued an advisory indicating flood and glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) risk due to expected rain in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Islamabad and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

The NDMA advisory underscored that according to the forecast of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, rain was likely to occur in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad and Azad Jammu and Kashmir during the next 48 to 72 hours.

The flooding conditions were expected in the tributaries of the Kabul

River and Hill Torrent of Dera Ghazi Khan Division from July 27 to 30.

Due to the confluence of flows at Taunsa, Panjand and Guddu Barrages, the high flood level may be reached on July 30 and the high flood level at Sukkur Barrage on July 31.

An increase in the flow of rivers and streams of Gilgit-Baltistan and the occurrence of GLOF in mountain valleys was also expected. The NDMA issued instructions to the relevant departments indicating that in order to remedy the possible dangers, the public should be notified in advance and safety measures should be publicized and the traffic towards sensitive areas should be systematically monitored.

## Senate passes Toshakhana bill proposing penalty for hiding state gifts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Sunday unanimously approved the Toshakhana bill, which proposes penalties for officials who hide state gifts instead of declaring and depositing them in the Toshakhana - the repository for such gifts. The bill was presented by State Minister for Law and Justice, Shahadat Awan, during the Senate session. The amendment states that anyone who breaks the rules outlined in Section 3 or any related rule will be fined an amount equal to five times the market value of the gift. If the person is a government servant, they may also face departmental proceedings as per the applicable laws and rules.

The Toshakhana is an administrative facility under the Cabinet Division, responsible for safeguarding valuable gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and other officials by foreign leaders and dignitaries.

The Senate on Sunday unanimously approved the Toshakhana bill, which proposes penalties for officials who hide state gifts instead of declaring and depositing them in the Toshakhana - the repository for such gifts. The bill was presented by State Minister for Law and Justice, Shahadat Awan, during the Senate session. The amendment states that anyone who breaks the rules outlined in Section 3 or any related rule will be fined an amount equal to five times the market value of the gift. If the person is a government servant, they may also face departmental proceedings as per the applicable laws and rules.

The Toshakhana is an administrative facility under the Cabinet Division, responsible for safeguarding valuable gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and other officials by foreign leaders and dignitaries.