

# Independent

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Quetta

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## Imran Niazi's corruption, bad governance cause of economic malaise: PM Shahbaz

*Slams Imran for instilling despair, avows 'no mercy' for May 9 doers; Premier feels satisfied with preventing default despite harming political capital; Urges masses to defeat political masquerades of PTI in elections*

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 rela-

tions 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.

The incident of May 9 was similar to the attack of Indian air force in February, 2019 which was foiled by the brave pilots of Pakistan Air Force and ended in capture of the Indian pilot Abhinandan, he continued.

The May 9 attacks

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

## CM satisfied on restoration of routine life in Wadh

*Mir Ziaullah Lanove thanks Nawab Raisani, tribal elders for resolving Wadh issue*

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has expressed satisfaction over the restoration of routine life in Wadh area of Khuzdar and thanked the Chief of Sarawan and former Chief Minister, Nawab Aslam Raisani, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani and other members of the reconciliation Jirga for playing role in peaceful settlement of dispute.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that Nawab Aslam Raisani played leading role as a tribal elder to resolve the dispute while both the parties paved the way for restoration of peace by expressing confidence on the tribal jirga.

Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo insisted that the

dialogue is the best course for peaceful settlement of the tribal disputes.

It is also beauty of our longstanding traditions to resolve the disputes through jirgas, he added.

The Chief Minister was confident that the efforts made by the tribal Jirga would yield solution to the Wadh dispute on permanent basis.

He also expressed that both the parties would demonstrate patience and tolerance in future.

He also prayed for establishment of lasting peace in Wadh and other parts of the province.

He reiterated that it is our top priority to ensure peaceful solution of the tribal disputes with mutual understanding and establish peace in the province.

Meanwhile the Provin-

cial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has thanked chief of Sarawan and former Chief Minister, Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani and all other tribal elders who made endeavours to resolve the Wadh issue tribally.

In an official statement issued here on Sunday, the Provincial Minister for Home particularly mentioned the names of Nawab Aslam Raisani, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani, Sardar Aslam Bizenjo, Maulvi Qamaruddin, Maulvi Faiz and members of Provincial Assembly, Younas Zehri and Zabid Reki for playing effective role in resolving the Wadh issue.

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Meanwhile the Provin-



KARACHI: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar and Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.

## 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.

Use of air conditioners in government offices should be made lesser, he added.

## No consultation held on caretaker set up so far: Opposition leader

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The leader of Opposition in Balochistan Assembly, Malik Sikandar Advocate has stated that there has been no consultation on the caretaker set up so far in the province.

While speaking to a private TV channel the other day, Malik Sikandar Advocate said that we had no formal or informal talk with the Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on the caretaker government neither any name has been considered so far for the caretaker Chief Minister.

The leader of Opposition said that we would make consultation with the opposition parties about the caretaker set up, then we would hold consultation with the Chief Minister.

## PM expresses deep grief over death of Sheikh Muhammad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his deep grief over the passing away of Sheikh Muhammad bin Hamad bin Abdullah bin Jassim Al Thani, a senior member of the royal family of Qatar.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said "I extend my deepest condolences to H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar and the bereaved family. May Allah rest the departed soul in eternal peace!"

## Traders can play pivotal role in economic growth: Governor Balochistan

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that there is a pivotal role of traders and industrialists in the country's economic growth, so they should fully benefit from the profitable opportunities of trade and investment available in the province.

The Governor was addressing the ceremony of Export Award winner organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Karachi on Saturday night.

Also present on the occasion were the Governor of Sindh, Kamran Tessori, Governor of KP,

Ghulam Ali, President FPCCI, Irfan Sheikh, former President FPCCI, Mian Anjum Nisar, senior vice President, Suleman Chawla, besides a large number of personalities associated with the commerce and industry from all over the country.

The Governor Balochistan on the occasion congratulated the export award winners on their remarkable achievement and maintained that there's no denying the fact that the business community has been rendering remarkable services for the country.

He said that those associated with the commerce and industry are considered

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QUETTA: Hurmat-e-Quran rally led by Maulana Abdul Rehman Rafiq, Mufti Muhammad Rozi Khan, Malik Sikandar Khan passing through Jinnah Road

## CM grieved over financial losses caused by heavy rain

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has expressed sorrow over the financial losses caused due to the heavy rains in different areas of the province.

According to an official hand out issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister has directed the district administration of the concerned districts to remain alert and fully assist those affected due to the heavy rains in different areas.

The Chief Minister also directed the authorities of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMAP) to start relief activities in the rain affected

areas.

Meanwhile, the Director General PDMA reached Lasbela district on directives of the Chief Minister Bizenjo.

He would review the damages caused due to rains besides the rescue and relief activities there.

The DG PDMA would ensure relief activities in the rain affected areas, in light of the Chief Minister's directives.

Similarly, the relief activities have been started in rain hit Washuk district.

According to another official communique, the food and other relief goods were provided in the rain affected areas of Washuk.

## Senate, NA to meet today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Upper and Lower house of parliament to meet today (Monday) in parliament house today.

According to notification issued by Senate secretariat, senate session will take place at 3pm today with Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani in chair in parliament house.

Agenda of session has been issued.

National Assembly (NA) session which was postponed on last Friday will meet today (Monday) at 5pm with speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in chair.

The meeting reviewed the preparations in case of the emergent situation to be

emerged due to heavy rains.

The senior Member Board of Revenue, secretaries of different departments, Additional Inspector General of police, Director General PDMA, commissioners and Deputy Commissioners Kalat, Naserabad and Sibi divisions, QESCO chief, General Manager NHA, Pak Army and FC high ups participated in the meeting.

They also briefed the meeting about the relief activities in the rain hit areas besides the situation.

Addressing the meeting, Chief secretary directed the secretaries to visit the districts. He also directed the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to remain present in field.

QUETTA: Provincial Finance & Food Minister Zamrak Khan Achakzai meeting with Provincial Minister for Agriculture Mir Asadullah Baloch

Emergency declared in Lower, Upper Chitral

9 killed in rain-related incidents in KP

Monitoring Desk

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 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".



KARACHI: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) President Maulana Fazalur Rehman 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): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazalur Rehman 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.

## Announcing polls in Pak is encouraging: US

WASHINGTON (Online): US principle deputy assistant secretary of state for south and central Asia Alizabith 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.

## 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 Amir Atlas Khan in 2008. Only five Pakistanis have reached World Championship final, Sohail Qaiser (1982), Jansher Khan (1986), Yasir Butt (2004), Amir 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 subsequent two games, securing a splendid 3-1 victory.

During the second game, Zakaria displayed remarkable prowess, taking the lead in a thrilling 26-minute battle that culminated with a score of 12-10. Hamza faced a daunting 8-10 deficit but demonstrated unwavering determination, thwarting

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## Healthy diet campaign being launched to provide information about food ingredients to public: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that under his direction, a 'Sehatmand Ghiza, Tandrusti Sadaa (Healthy diet, Health Forever)' campaign was being launched all over Pakistan that would help consumers to get information about the food ingredients served to them.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said under the drive, every restaurant would inform the consumer about the total calories included in the food-stuff.

The prime minister observed that public health was closely related to the provision of a clean and healthy diet.

It was their right to learn about the food ingredients with which they were served so that they could choose food items on the basis of the provision of better and clear information.

He said this extensive campaign was being carried out across Pakistan by the Strategic Reforms Unit in collaboration with food authorities in all provinces.

In addition to it, the

prime minister in a tweet posted in the Urdu language further said, a complete nutritional information under the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) would be published on packaged food items.

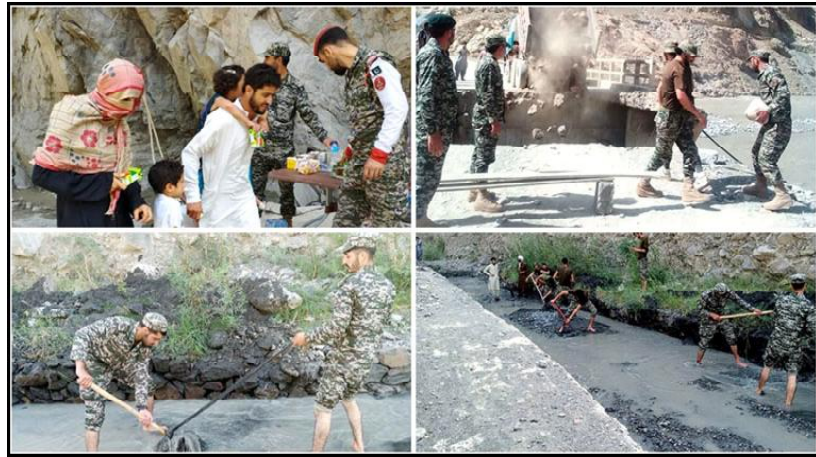
Besides, trans-fat acids were being reduced to 2 percent to prevent heart and other related diseases, he added. The PM further stressed that their sports fields should thrive, leaving the hospitals deserted and this campaign would be a harbinger for a healthy future.

## 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.

## Imran Niazi's corruption, bad governance....

*Continued from page 1*

were organized and were preplanned for more than a year and was an evil attempt and conspiracy to instigate a coup in the army and against its chief, he stressed.

He said Allah Almighty failed the conspiracy as people and army were united, people stayed away from the violent acts and only few groups of thugs violated the sanctity of monuments of army, adding the whole nation was tearful on these anti-state activities against the armed forces.

He said the civilian government and army were on the same page and it was decided that law would take its course and nobody involved in these incidents would be spared. There was intense anger and sorrow in the ranks of army and among heirs of the martyrs because of the incidents of May 9, he added.

Drawing comparisons to the incidents of May 9, he said the attack of 9/11 in the United States led to setting up of Guantanamo Bay. Furthermore, people were prosecuted and given sentences in the United States after the attack on the Capitol Hill in Washington and after riots in Britain.

The prime minister said Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was judicially murdered and Nawaz Sharif was sent into exile and then removed from power through a conspiracy in 2017, masterminded by former judge Saqib Nisar, but the leading parties did not undertake a campaign against national institutions.

Name of Nawaz Sharif was not among the 400 persons in the Panama papers but still he was targeted by the conspirators, he pointed out.

He reminded that Nawaz Sharif carried out huge development projects including China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, eliminated

loadshedding and built a vast network of roads, adding after removal of Nawaz Sharif through a conspiracy the nation faced unprecedented problems and the country was put off the course of development.

Answering a question, he said those who attacked military installations would be tried in the military courts and those who vandalized civilian properties would face trial under the anti terrorism law. Nobody would be spared regardless of whosoever he was.

He said it was painful that even after 75 years Pakistan was dependent on IMF, adding now Pakistan was out of danger of default, foreign exchange reserves were gaining stability and the country was on the path to stability.

He said the government had initiated a plan of economic recovery by undertaking projects in agriculture and information technology and by equipping youth with modern tools of information technology. A Special Investment Facilitation Council was set up to attract investment in diverse sectors, he mentioned.

He said if people would give opportunity to his party led by Nawaz Sharif in the next elections then they were committed to put Pakistan on the journey of progress and prosperity after forming the next government.

Responding to another question, he said in 2018, Pakistan Muslim League(N) and Pakistan Peoples Party were dismantled and politicians of all hues were gathered in Pakistan Tehreek i Insaaf (PTI). Later on results of elections were stopped and delayed in the cities and worst form of rigging was perpetrated.

Now those who changed political loyalties in 2018 and joined PTI were again leaving for other parties, he observed, adding Nawaz Sharif did not believe in politics of revenge

and never resorted to victimization of political opponents during his previous term.

Shehbaz Sharif told that tenure of his government would end in August and a caretaker government would be formed, while Election Commission would announce the date for elections.

Replying to a question, he said Nawaz Sharif would be their candidate for the post of prime minister while chief minister Punjab would be decided after consultation. He informed that a committee had been formed for selecting name of a caretaker prime minister.

National Accountability Court and other courts would decide about the cases of Imran Niazi and law would take its own course and he had nothing to do with legal issues of the PTI leader, he added.

He criticized Imran Niazi for making demand for early dissolution of National Assembly saying it was prerogative of prime minister to decide fate of the lower house.

He further said Imran Niazi only conspired against the progress and stability of Pakistan and was not interested in dialogue with the government on the timing of elections. Dialogue with PTI on holding of election was done with the consent of Nawaz Sharif.

He said despite severe economic hardship and conditions of IMF, the federal government increased salaries of employees by 35 percent and pensions by 17.5 percent. Similarly, the Punjab government also raised salaries by the same percentage. It was right of the poor people to be protected from inflation, he remarked.

He apprised that the federal government provided Rs 100 billion to the provinces for relief and rehabilitation of people affected by floods.

## 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.



KARACHI: Inspirational Leadership award being given to Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on eve of 46th FPCCI Export Award ceremony. Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar and Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkha Haji Ghulam Ali are also present

## AJK President shows concern over increased HRs abuses in IIOJK

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan called on AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry on Sunday and discussed the prevailing political and human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a meeting held in the federal metropolis, both leaders expressed serious concern over stepped-up Indian state terrorism in the IIOJK. They condemned India's apartheid regime for

unleashing a reign of terror in Kashmir.

The leaders raised alarms about the persecution of religious minorities in Manipur and other Indian states.

They highlighted the demolition of Christian houses and places of worship by Hindu warriors and government-backed civil militias. They said that the gang rape of Christian women and desecration of holy places have left India's so-called democracy completely exposed both at the regional and international level.

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

**Monitoring Desk**

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 Rehman will also be consulted for the future political set-up.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl has expressed displea-

sure 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 choked 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.

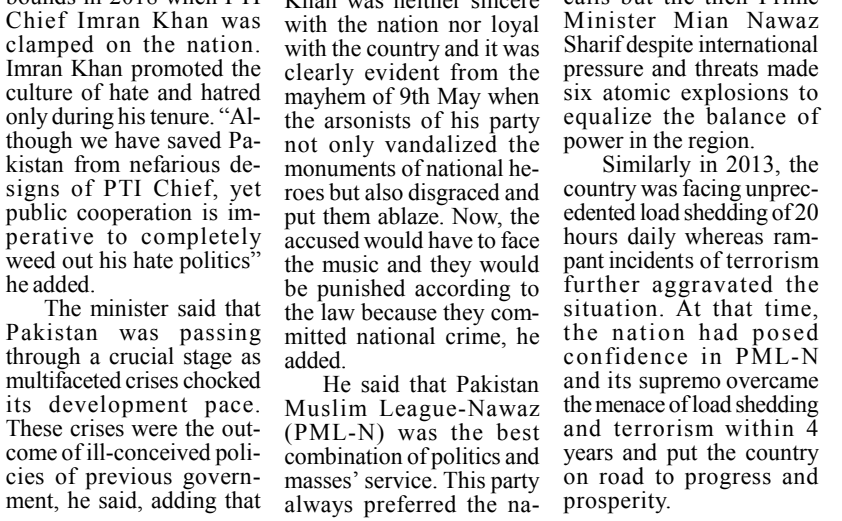
He said that Imran Khan was neither sincere with the nation nor loyal with the country and it was clearly evident from the mayhem of 9th May when the arsonists of his party not only vandalized the monuments of national heroes but also disgraced and put them ablaze. Now, the accused would have to face 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 na-

tional 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 the then Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif despite international pressure and threats made six atomic explosions to equalize the balance of power in the region.

Similarly in 2013, the country was facing unprecedented load shedding of 20 hours daily whereas rampant incidents of terrorism further aggravated the situation. At that time, the nation had posed confidence in PML-N and its supreme overcame the menace of load shedding and terrorism within 4 years and put the country on road to progress and prosperity.



QUETTA: Daily wage workers sitting along the roadside with their working tools waiting for jobs to earn livelihoods at Bacha Khan Chowk.

## ECP order to remove interim KP minister Shahid Khattak

PESHAWAR (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) ordered immediate removal of interim minister Shahid Khattak of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Shahid Khattak made political speech in open court yesterday and criticised former Chief Minister Pervaiz Khattak. ECP took notice of his speech and ordered his removal. It is worth mentioning that few days ago ECP revoked interim minister Adnan Jalil from cabinet who was from ANP (Awami National Party).

## Hamza Khan ends...

*Continued from page 1*

Zakaria's game point attempts twice before staging a stunning comeback, eventually leveling the match with a triumphant 14-12 win.

The dynamics shifted dramatically in the following two games, with Hamza exhibiting dominant form. In a swift 6-minute showdown, he cruised to an 11-3 triumph in the third game, leaving little room for resistance. Maintaining his unwavering momentum, Hamza eventually clinched the fourth game with a commendable 11-6 score, sealing his momentous victory.

APP adds: President Dr Arif 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.

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.

The prime minister also extended his congratulations to Hamza's parents, coach, teammates and the nation on the historic achievement and said the entire nation felicitated Hamza Khan for raising the national flag high in the game of squash.

He expressed the hope that in future, Hamza Khan would once again make Pakistan an invincible side in the game of squash.

During the last fifteen months, the national players had brought laurels to home in mountaineering, boxing, squash and other games, he added.

On Sunday, Hamza Khan won the World Junior Squash Championship 2023 after beating Egypt's Mohamed Zakaria and became Pakistan's first champion since 1986.

Hamza beat Zakaria 3-1 during the final match of the tournament played in Melbourne, Australia.

## Traders can play...

*Continued from page 1*

to be ambassadors of the country, and they can play important role in its economic development.

He said that there are abundant profitable opportunities of trade and investment in Balochistan, what's needed is they may fully benefit from these opportunities.

In addition to this, Balochistan can also give access to the traders and industrialists of the country to the Central Asian States (CAS) and in these endeavours, FPCCI can also extend cooperation.

He said that luckily, we have an institution in form of FPCCI and you may strengthen the present economic system.

## Political reconciliation imperative for economic stability, transparent election

PESHAWAR (APP): Experts here on Sunday said that political parties give strength to democracy and reconciliation among it was imperative for continuity of a democratic system on basis of free, fair and transparent elections.

As the country is moving towards general election, therefore it was necessary that all religious and political parties set aside their differences by sitting together for a transparent and free election to give legitimacy to the future political government and take democracy to safe shores.

"Pakistan is passing through a very difficult time since its existence and it is right time for all political parties including PDM and PTI to shun differences and unite for general elections," Professor Dr A.H Hilali, former Chairman, Political Science Department, University of Peshawar (UoP) while talking to APP on Sunday.

Providing solutions to all political problems, he said democracy is a best form of government that not only guarantees supremacy of constitution and rule of law but also brings political and economic stability to a country.

He said that unfortunately, democracy couldn't strengthen its roots in the country due to wrangling among political parties for power and leveling of corruption and rigging allegations against elected gov-

ernments after elections, consequently, this popular system derailed four times in the past and no elected prime minister completed the five-year constitutional term.

Dr Hilali said instead of learning lesson from the country's grim political history, the political parties again have started wrangling ahead of the general elections that not only increased people's problems but made negative effects on economy and politics in the country.

He said Pakistan can't afford political instability and economic chaos besides hate based politics, adding that May 9 vandalism showed political intolerance and illogical approach to democratic values and norms.

Dr Hilali said In spite of the completion of 75 years of independence of Pakistan, the country was still looking toward IMF and other financial institutions to run the economy mainly due to inconsistent economic policies and political instability.

He said the present government deserved appreciation for brokering a successful agreement with IMF to save the country from bankruptcy.

Wajid Ali Khan, former KP Minister for Environment said that ANP founder Bacha Khan and Abdul Wali Khan advocated for political reconciliation and unity of people.



SYDNEY: Players of France and Jamaica women football teams struggling to get hold on the ball during the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023 at Sydney Football Stadium.

## Gandhara tourism to get 6b dollars targeted in 3 years: Rumesh Kumar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman for Prime Minister Task Force on Gandhara Tourism, Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani has said that concrete measures were underway to propel Gandhara tourism to six billion dollars within in next three years.

"Efforts to promote Gandhara tourism will soon bear the fruits, as a result of which Pakistan will benefit one and half billion dollars in the first year, three billion in the second year and six billion dollars in the third year," he said while exclusively talking to APP.

He said that unfortunately, Pakistan was not included in the United Nations Buddhist tourist circuit, on the contrary, 70 percent of Buddhist sites were situated in Pakistan.

Countries mentioned in the Buddhist tourism sites circuit encompassed merely 30 percent of the Buddhist civilization, therefore, efforts were being afoot to highlight Buddhist sites in Pakistan at international fora, he said.

He said that during the short span of time, since he joined the force as the Chairman Task Force, dif-

ferent visits to Buddhist sites were arranged at Shah Allah Ditta, Sawat, and Takht Bhai in order to highlight the Buddhist sites in the country. "I have arranged a round table conference and symposium, which attracted numbers of monks from other countries who returned to their countries as ambassadors of Pakistan," he added.

Furthermore, he said that the huge influx of foreign tourists would not only help to generate economic activity in the country but also help eliminate terrorism from the country.

He said that the promotion of Gandhara tourism was expected to foster stronger government-to-government, people-to-people and business-to-business connections.

At the end, the Chairman said that the task force had a great surprise regarding Gandhara Civilization and tourism which would be unveiled soon. "I have arranged a round table conference and symposium, which attracted numbers of monks from other countries who returned to their countries as ambassadors of Pakistan," he added.



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



ISLAMABAD: Visitors walk past in front of a Punjab village theme sculptures during visit at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

## PIMS to remain high alert in rainy season

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) on Sunday directed its staff to remain high alert to handle any untoward situation due to prevailing heavy rains.

Executive Director PIMS, Dr Imran Sikandar issued special direction to doctors and para medical staff of the hospital to remain vigilant keeping in view the situation and in case of any incident from rains.

According to spokesperson ED PIMS Dr Mubashar Mushtaq Daha, the hospital is fully prepared to manage any situation during the season.

He said that the hospital administration has cancelled the leaves of doctors and para medical staff deployed at emergency ward on Sunday.

He added all possible facilities have been provided at emergency ward of the hospital. He said that cases of accidents are in high numbers due to recent rains.

He advised the citizens to take extra care in taking food particularly left-over food to avoid from diarrhea in present monsoon season.

## IIOJK continues to reel under brutal, violent Indian occupation report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) continues to reel under violent, political injustice and brutal Indian occupation. According to a report released by Kashmir Media Service, Sunday, Indian troops have turned IIOJK into a living hell for its residents as Kashmiris of every age and gender are being mercilessly killed, tortured and humiliated for demanding their right to self-determination.

It said the Modi regime has broken all records of committing brutalities on the Kashmiri people. It said Indian troops have been violating all rights, in-

cluding the right to live, in IIOJK for over seven decades. Eight youth have been martyred by brutal Indian troops since Monday and over 96, 213 Kashmiris have been killed and 168,009 arrested since 1989 in the occupied territory, the report deplored.

The report maintained that the presence of nearly one million Indian troops had made IIOJK as the most militarized zone in the world. It said India's serious crimes against humanity in IIOJK have been recorded by a number of global rights bodies and how long will the world continue to remain silent over unprecedented Indian repression in IIOJK?

According to documents Auditor General raised this issue and later it was discussed in subcommittee of Public Accounts Committee and now Petroleum ministry initiated investigation.

Keep clear that OGRA is charging 10pkr for each km to his employees and it has given special discount for OGRA members and only charging them Rs.3 for each kilometer. OGRA members taking unfair advantage of that and using vehicle freely.

According to documents Auditor General raised this issue and later it was discussed in subcommittee of Public Accounts Committee and now Petroleum ministry initiated investigation.

## IUI extends last date of admission till August 07

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Islamic University Islamabad (IUI) has extended the last date for submission of online applications for admission (Fall 2023 semester) till August 07, 2023. The decision has been taken to facilitate more candidates who intend to apply for admission. IUI has offered admission to BS/MS/PhD programs in 11 faculties including Social Sciences, Faculty of Sciences, Management Sciences, International Institute for Islamic Economics, Arabic, Usuluddin, Languages and Literature, Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Technology, Faculty of Education and Shariah and Law. Applicants may apply online by visiting the IUI website or this link <http://admission.iui.edu.pk>. Male applicants may contact on WhatsApp at 0319-5213192.

generation which may have industrial implications; Nanotechnology (based on the socioeconomic needs of Pak-China) and Computing sciences (Limited to Augmented/Virtual reality, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing)."

About the guidelines for proposal submission, the official informed that Chinese and Pakistani scientists should come to an agreement with each other using their own means of communication and jointly develop and complete their project proposal before submitting it to NSFC and PSF. NSFC and PSF did not match the collaborating partners.



ISLAMABAD: Children are enjoying swings in a local park during pleasant weather after the rain in the Federal Capital.

## 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 underway 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.

## 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.



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

## Over 600,000 pilgrims arrive in Madinah

ISLAMABAD (APP): The number of pilgrims who arrived in Madinah after performing rituals of Hajj has reached 609,267 foreign pilgrims.

The statistics of the Hajj and Visit Committee showed that the total number of arrivals to Madinah amounted to 28,717 pilgrims, SPA reported.

The statistics indicated that the total number of pilgrims heading to their homelands amounted to 446,581 pilgrims, while the number of those who departed on Saturday reached

27,847 pilgrims, of whom 25,441 pilgrims departed from Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah on board of 107 flights, while 2343 pilgrims left from the immigration reception station via 21 flights.

The statistics added that the number of pilgrims still staying in Madinah until Saturday reached 162,619 pilgrims, the housing occupancy rate in Madinah reached 54%, while 1629 pilgrims benefited from medical services.

## 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.

## NDMA calls for elaborate preemptive measures amid heavy rainfall prediction

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Sunday urged the relevant departments to ensure elaborate preemptive measures to manage land sliding, urban and flash flooding incidents that might occur due to heavy floods.

The NDMA in its Monsoon update shared that according to the forecast of the Meteorological Department, there was a possibility that heavy to very heavy rain would continue in the country during the next 48 to 72 hours.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the risk of landslides, flash flooding and seasonal flooding would continue.

However, thunderstorm was expected in the South Punjab region Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur, Balochistan Makran and Dera Bugti areas.

Similarly, there was also the risk of flash flooding in the districts of Balochistan, Loralai, Kalat, Naseerabad, Sibi and Makran whereas, there was a risk of rapid flow in rivers and urban flooding in low-lying areas.

The NDMA advisory underlined that in order to remedy the possible dangers, the public should be notified in advance and the safety measures should be publicized.

Moreover, a systematic monitoring of traffic towards sensitive areas should be ensured and the machinery should be made ready to deal with any kind of emergency.

The people living in low-lying areas that arrangements should be made for relocation.

## Senate standing committees for energy, interior meets today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Standing Committee of Senate for energy and interior will meet today (Monday).

According to notices issued by senate secretary, Standing Committee of Energy will meet in Parliament with senator Saif Ullah Abro in chair.

Secretary energy will brief committee on recent price hike of electricity and other matters.

subcommittee of Interior will also meet on Monday in parliament house with senator Mola Bakhsh Chandio in chair.

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.

## 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.

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ISLAMABAD: A gypsy person is scavenging and gathering onions from a pile of discarded onions left behind by vendors at Vegetables Market.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers are sitting alongside a road along with their tools and waiting for customer during Sunday Holiday in the Federal Capital.

## PBM arranges awareness seminar on Thalassaemia

ISLAMABAD (APP): free tests must be dispatched with the marriage contract (Nikkah).

Dr Muhammad Sikander, consultant physician and Dr Muhammad Athar Kaleem, from the Health Department, gave a complete briefing to the participants about Thalassaemia. They said that Thalassaemia was not less than a challenge to human life and appreciated the PBM efforts to launch an awareness drive regarding it. Thalassaemia is a hereditary disease and medical tests should be done to prevent it because no permanent cure has been discovered for this disease yet and tests before marriage especially cousin marriage must be done, they added.

Advocate High Court and Chairman civil society network Khair Muhammad Budh, Syed Nouman Gillani and others attended the seminar.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal (PBM) arranged an awareness seminar on Thalassaemia 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 Thalassaemia tests before marriage so that not to marry a Thalassaemia patient in case of a Thalassaemia carrier. He said that the Parliament had already passed the law and there was a dire need to implement it and Thalassaemia-

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
Monday July 24, 2023

**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. Neo-colonial 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?



**Tariq Khosa**

It is time for serious introspection and admission of mistakes that have driven the state to the edge of the precipice. Such a state of intolerance, violence, apathy, anger, lawlessness and despondency is tearing us apart as a nation. All institutions of the state and those at the helm stand exposed due to the machinations of power and devious means being adopted to subdue and annihilate those who question or raise their voice against tyranny.

During my career as a law-enforcement officer from 1973 to 2011, I served under many political chief executives and army chiefs who imposed authoritarian rules that were nasty, brutish and inhuman. Z.A. Bhutto took over as president and chief martial law administrator after Gen

Yahya Khan was forced out of GHQ through the vocal protest of senior army officers. As prime minister, Bhutto, despite his democratic credentials, could be dictatorial in dealing with dissent. A number of his own party loyalists remained detained in a 'concentration camp', away from the jurisdiction of regular courts.

The military dictator who deposed the democratically elected PPP government proved to be a tyrant and a hypocrite. We saw political activists and workers of the party of the deposed political leader subjected to the worst state tyranny, torture, detentions, floggings, trials and tribulations. The 1980s was a decade of decadence. In 1984, as head of Quetta police, I witnessed a sham referendum wherein Gen Zia was 'elected' as president for five years through the stuffing of ballot boxes by hordes of soldiers that obeyed the command of their seniors in a rigged voting saga.

The 1990s saw a political ping-pong match in which the military establishment actually called the shots while the politicians

**Dare to hope**

to build an anti-establishment narrative. This was a bombshell, considering the circumstances in which this confession was made public. There was some mystification about its potential uses in the context of putting Imran Khan in the dock to respond to a number of extremely serious charges. However, this entire episode itself is unfolding as a cipher — something secret written in a coded language.

It so happened that Azam Khan, who was seen as the power behind the then prime minister Imran Khan, had gone missing on June 15 and a case was registered by the Islamabad police. He has now returned home and there are explanations that he was staying with a friend — of his own will. Anyhow, a lot more attention is to be paid to what this confession can entail. Already, high functionaries of the government, the life of which is to be counted in days, are projecting very scary scenarios. But it is not easy to read the messages that are in circulation. In a sense, they may have hid-

den meanings of the kind that a cipher would contain. One is reminded of that image of Imran Khan with a folded paper in his hand and saying something he had not actually intended to say. What I mean is that in the audio leak, he was heard telling his close associates that America's name was not at all to be mentioned. But it was his own slip of the tongue when he named the country in his impassioned speech. Take this as another little sign of how flippant he is in his conduct.

On the face of it, this cipher issue is becoming the final trap for Imran Khan and the charges he is likely to face are the most serious. This is not to say that the PTI leader was not already in deep trouble, with a number of cases now moving more resolutely in various courts. The impression that the higher judiciary was handling Imran Khan with kid gloves is slowly beginning to wear off.

As I suggested at the outset, there is a rush of developments at this time across the entire

political system. However, in his enthusiasm to become the chief executive, he became a beneficiary of political engineering. What followed has been a bitter lesson for those who seek power without principles. The future of democracy in Pakistan is bleak. Sometimes strange things happen at midnight in this land, where vendetta and vengeance are rife. The Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court opened at midnight on the eve of the vote of no confidence in April 2022; the former taking suo motu notice, while the latter was perceived as preventing uncalculated administrative brinkmanship.

Another bit of midnight madness occurred recently, when the acting president and chairman Senate, on advice from the federal government, issued an ordinance to prevent the actual president from stonewalling repressive measures added and reintroduced to the accountability law. The National Accountability Bureau is now allowed to detain suspects over 'non-cooperation' and to extend the physical remand period from 14 to 30 days. Earlier, this same gov-

ernment had reduced the 90-day physical remand limit to 14 days. Another amendment empowers NAB to arrest a suspect during the inquiry stage. These are obvious witch-hunting measures which are part of the process of political engineering.

Imran Khan finds himself in the eye of the storm due to his 'defiant' stance and his challenging of the perceived political role of the military establishment, including the above-the-law intelligence apparatus of the state. His arrest from within the Islamabad High Court by an army-led civil armed force was so blatantly illegal and brutish that violent reactions by his party activists and workers were expected to happen. The May 9 violence and attacks on military installations cannot be condoned under any canon of the law. However, seeing the crowd of protesters in Lahore move unhindered to the corps commander's house was baffling. Why did the military authorities allow this security breach within the residence of the army commander in Lahore? Such an embarrassment should not have been al-

lowed by the security agencies, including the police. Our nation has become bitterly polarised politically in recent years. Rather than seeing other politicians and their supporters as mere adversaries, a growing number of people decry them as enemies, traitors or even terrorists. The mutual respect needed in a democratic polity is fraying at a dangerous speed. I agree with the recent reflections of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to shun differences and unite on a "national agenda and stick to it no matter who comes to power". He said: "It's never too late. So, wake up that long and promise to refrain from infighting and point-scoring", and added that "adversity can bring the best out of an individual as well as a nation if we overcome our fears and apprehensions". He must walk the talk. Can one dare to hope that all key stakeholders of the state will abandon their undignified defiance and tread the path of true democracy through free and fair elections, to be conducted by actually neutral caretakers? -- Courtesy Dawn

**Ciphers you can't decipher**



**Ghazi Salahuddin**

Even if you are totally bowled over by the endless reverberations of what had happened on May 9, you still need to have patience to bear with this rising tempo of political tension and dark apprehensions about the eventual outcome of the moves that are now being initiated. One task for those who feel concerned about the national state of affairs is to assess the significance of the cipher issue that burst out on Wednesday in a rather dramatic fashion. Yes, we would frequently talk about Imran Khan's initial stratagem to blame the United States for his ouster from power through a vote of no confidence. He had waved that cipher — a piece of paper that he pulled out of his

pocket — in a public meeting in March last year as some kind of an evidence of a conspiracy that was hatched against him. This was certainly a very serious matter, accusing the superpower of plotting a regime change in the sovereign state of Pakistan. But serious matters are not what Imran Khan is able to comprehend. And true to his nature, he took a U-turn and even sought America's favours so that he could return to the throne. However, the cipher story just remained a part of the Imran Khan saga. There were audio clips to show that Imran Khan had decided to 'play' with it to build a narrative.

On Wednesday, that cipher that the PTI leader had decided to play with was brought back to life with the revelation that the ex-principal secretary of the former prime minister had supposedly recorded a statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in which he accused his former boss of using a cipher from Pakistan's mission in the United States to gain political mileage and, more meaningfully,

to build an anti-establishment narrative. This was a bombshell, considering the circumstances in which this confession was made public. There was some mystification about its potential uses in the context of putting Imran Khan in the dock to respond to a number of extremely serious charges. However, this entire episode itself is unfolding as a cipher — something secret written in a coded language.

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As I suggested at the outset, there is a rush of developments at this time across the entire

national spectrum, leaving us emotionally exhausted. In less than a month, the National Assembly will complete its term and elections will have to be held within 60 or 90 days, depending on whether it is dissolved just a few days before its expiry date. Caretakers have to be nominated at the federal and provincial levels. Apart from an uncertainty about how the forces in the political arena would be arranged, strong doubts linger that the elections may be put off for a long period.

Then, there is the economy, watching us, as a poet might say, like a cat would watch a mouse. Economists who have read the IMF report on Pakistan are not smiling. Consider also the alarming increase in terror attacks by the TTP and its affiliates, bearing witness to the folly of pampering and patronizing the Taliban and the Jihadi elements in the past.

Socially, Pakistan is unquestionably down in the dumps. Some reports on child sexual abuse are horrendous. Deviant behaviour, in all its lethal

forms, is rising. Decades of degradation in the education and health sectors are coming home to roost. One measure of how apathetic we have become is that a boy killing his three sisters, allegedly under the influence of a PUBG game, has not prompted any visible outrage in any segment of society.

With all this, the consequences of May 9 — or, in other words, the fate of Imran Khan and his party — remain at the centre of stage. There are reasons why this issue is of supreme importance for the political future of this country. But how should this crisis be resolved is becoming problematic.

However, the cipher case has suddenly accelerated the pace of events. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has issued a notice to Imran Khan, asking him to appear before the bureau on July 25. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has said that the former prime minister can be arrested in the process of the FIA inquiry. Is this, then, the last over of the match? -- Courtesy TheNews

**Wisen up**



**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 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 Sebhai 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 aging ... 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 haq mehr, 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 result 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.

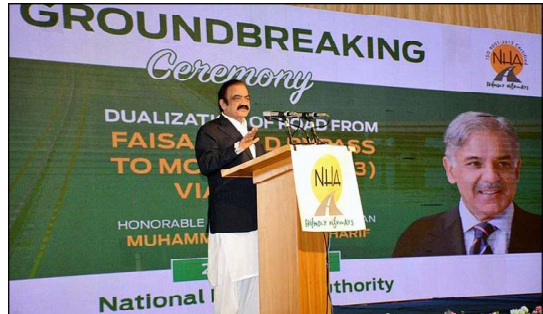
By striving for a better understanding of the nikahnama, Pakistani women can protect themselves. Furthermore, by actively involving men in awareness campaigns and discussions that focus on women's rights, we can pave the way for a more just and equal society. Empowering men with knowledge and sensitivity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

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam 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. We will stand by the affected people throughout this difficult time and every possible help will be extended to them, he added. He said that relief and rescue teams had been deployed to affected areas to provide immediate aid and assess the extent of the damage.



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.

## Registrar says: Mehran Uni society's ex-management found guilty of irregularities

KARACHI (APP): Registrar Cooperative Department Sindh Muhammad Hussain Baloch has said that after due process and thorough inquiries, ex-management of Mehran University Employees Cooperative Housing Society (Ltd) Jamshoro was found guilty of irregularities, misuse of power and embezzlement of society funds.

He said that the former management was not only trying to hide facts through press conferences and protests but also managing to escape from accountability process, according to a communiqué here on Sunday.

## 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 due to the initiatives of the caretaker



KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party MPA, Ms Sharmila Farooqui visited National Institute of Child Health (NICHD) and inquired about health to cancer patients and presented gifts to them.

## Unruly urban growth hampering provision of civic amenities

LAHORE (APP): Unbridled population growth and urban development are continuously stressing our resources with the provision of basic amenities in mega cities becoming an uphill task for the city managers.

Whether it is Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad or even Islamabad, the provision of basic facilities like water, sewerage, solid waste management, clean air, smooth mobility, and quality living always remains a challenge for them.

Taking the example of Lahore – a city hosting 13 million people with a 900-kilometer-long road network has presented the sorry state of affairs in

draining rainwater, cleanliness and transportation during the current monsoon season.

One major reason for unmanaged urbanization is the lack of government policies to manage the growing population and control the sprawl of illegal housing societies on the boundaries of major cities.

These residential societies, no doubt, meet the housing needs of people, but in the long run, they turn to be messy.

Over the past couple of decades, Pakistan has experienced the highest urbanization rate in South Asia and according to United Nations Population Division, nearly 50 per



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 bears 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. This lack of transparency raises serious doubts about the validity of the reasoning provided by the senior officials of the Forest Department.

Furthermore, no comprehensive scientific study or environmental impact assessment has been conducted to ascertain the actual extent of disease and windfall impact on the forests in question, it continued.

## 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 Mumtaz 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.

## Two bike riders falls into Chitral River, one perished

UPPER CHITRAL (APP): In a harrowing incident happened on Sunday at the Mastuj Bridge, Upper Chitral, where two motorbikes plunged into the Chitral River. As a result, one motorcyclist lost his life while being searched by the rescue team, while the other was successfully rescued from the river.

The timely response of the Rescue 1122 team led to the rescue of one injured rider, who received prompt medical attention at the hospital and has since been discharged. However, the search for the other biker continues, with no clues found yet.

Initial reports from Upper Chitral indicated that the incident.

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



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

## 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.

IGP Dr. Usman Anwar congratulated the promoted officers and officials and expressed good wishes for the future. Instructing the promoted officers and officials, he said that all promotees would work with full dedication to boost up the department's working. The honor received by the department is a reflection of the increase in professional responsibilities, so no effort should be spared in protecting the life and property of the people, fighting crimes and serving the people, he added.

## 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.

He directed that the water situation in the rivers should be monitored round the clock, adding that the departments concerned should be kept informed about the water situation.

Provincial ministers, Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, Additional IG Special Branch, Chairman Planning & Development and officials concerned attended the meeting. Provincial Minister Doctor Jamal Nasir, Adviser Kanwar Dilshad, Additional Chief Secretary (South Punjab), all Divisional Commissioners and other officials participated in the meeting via video link.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over the meeting to review law and order situation in the province.

## Karachi mayor calls on Governor, discuss civic issues

KARACHI (APP): Mayor of Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Sunday.

They discussed steps of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation in-detail, ongoing federally-funded development projects, and other issues of mutual interests.

The Governor said that the development of the city was the development of the country, adding that the restoration of Karachi's infrastructure was need of the hour.

Kamran Tessori directed the Mayor to ensure cleanliness in the city during the month of Muharram ul Haram.

Mayor Murtaza Wahab said that the federally-funded projects played significant role in the development of the city, adding carpeting work was underway for the restoration of city's infrastructure.

## More new buses arrive in city: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon on Sunday said that a new batch of buses had arrived in Karachi.

He said new routes were scheduled to commence in a few days. Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the arrival of the new buses will significantly improve transportation convenience for the people of Karachi. He further said that additional batches of buses were expected to reach Karachi in August and October.

## 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.

## CM reviews law, order situation, directs for security measures in Muharram

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday chaired an important meeting to review law and order situation in the province.

The meeting was attended by Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Advisor to CM on Law and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary

Sindh Dr. Mohammed Sohail Rajput, IGP Sind Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IGs and through video link DIGs, and SSPs. The CM issued necessary directives to maintain law and order situation in all districts of the province. He also directed for necessary security measures during the month of Muharram ul Haram.

## 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 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. The rain continued intermittently till Wednesday afternoon.

The rains partially affected the electricity, roads and telecommunication system in certain areas of the Mirpur division comprising Kotli.



HYDERABAD: Vehicles passing through accumulated water after heavy rain in the city.

## Over 6000 cops to guard 447 Muharram procession, 1925 Majalis

RAWALPINDI (APP): Over 6000 cops have been deployed to guard 447 processions and 1925 Majalis of Rawalpindi district, said City Police Officer (CPO), Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani. He informed that Rawalpindi District Police had finalized all the arrangements to ensure foolproof security arrangements for Muharram ul Haram. The CPO said that over 6000 Police personnel were performing security duties while more than 1000 officers and personnel of traffic Police were also

deployed to ensure traffic arrangements. He informed that special security arrangements had also been made for 40 sensitive processions of the district.

The officers of district police, ladies police, Elite Force, Traffic Police and Dolphin Force would perform their duties while over 5000 volunteers would also be on security duty during Muharram.

The CPO informed that SSPs and Divisional SPs while reviewing routes of the processions were ensuring foolproof security arrangements.

## 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. The auto sector is operating at less than half capacity. The job losses at the original equipment manufacturers not significant but at auto vendors, where bulk of auto-related jobs exist are operating with minimum possible staff.

Mian Anjum said that with a view to save the economy the government should announce special incentives for a cash-strapped SMEs, which represents more than 90 percent of around 3.2 million business enterprises in Pakistan, contributing 40 percent to the GDP, employing more than 80 percent of non-agricultural workforce, and generating 25 percent of export earnings.



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

## 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.

## SECP registers 27,746 new companies in FY 2022-23 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.

## PRA focusing real estates, ignored sectors to achieve Rs 240b current target

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) is considering more sectors including the real estate for tax revenues to achieve its enhanced collection target of Rs 240 billion for the current financial year. PRA spokesman told APP here Sunday that this institution had since its inception ten years ago been achieving significant achievements, adding that for the current fiscal year (2023-24), the Authority was given a target of tax collection of Rs 240 billion and to achieve this target, the PRA was focusing the housing societies, property development, developers, high-rise buildings and other related and ignored sectors having great potential to help achieve the tax collection target.

He mentioned that PRA had surpassed its Rs 197 billion tax revenue target by collecting more than Rs 200 billion in a year while maintaining its



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 Chamber 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."

Iftikhar Ali Malik said, "Peace paves the way for regional cooperation and integration. South Asian countries can work together to address common challenges such as poverty, climate change, terrorism, and cross-border crimes," he added.

"By fostering cooperation, the region can harness the collective potential of its nations and

benefit from shared resources, knowledge, and expertise," he said adding that promoting peace necessitates addressing issues such as territorial disputes, cross-border terrorism, ethnic and religious tensions, and socio-economic inequalities."

He said, "Engaging in confidence-building measures, promoting people-to-people exchanges and strengthening regional organizations like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) can contribute to confidence-building lasting."

"Peace is fundamental for ensuring stability and security in the region, he said adding that reducing conflicts, tensions, and the threat of violence allows governments to focus on governance, law enforcement, and protecting the rights of their citizens."

## 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, this crucial project has been delayed.

If this project is completed on time, he maintained, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be able to use enough of its share of water, which will bring 2,86,000 acres of additional land under cultivation.

He was speaking at Pakhtunkhwa Radio's program "Pakhtunkhwa Online". Prof Dr. Abasin Yousafzai was the host while Ghulam Hussain Ghazi, Station Director of Pakhtunkhwa Radio was also present on the occasion.

The Irrigation Minister agreed with the viewpoint of the host that the role of the English era in developing the canal system of the subcontinent was great, but after independence, he said, major irrigation projects were completed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

These included Warsak Canal System (150,000 acres), Gomal Zam Dam Canal System (194,000 acres), CRBC Canal System (360,000 acres) and Marwat Canal System (170,000 acres). Apart from this, he said, work on major projects like capacity enhancement of Baran Dam.



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 Invest (FDI) worth US\$ 432.7 million from China, Gwadar Port reported on Sunday quoting the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s latest figures.

In FY 2023, Pakistan received \$1,437.7 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.

In FY 2023, Pakistan received \$182 million from Japan, \$172.3 million from UAE, \$135 million from Switzerland, \$118.4 million from the U.S., \$71.5 million from Netherlands, \$63.9 million from France, \$62 million from the United Kingdom, \$39.8 million.

## 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.

He said the government must implement policies and offer incentives to support this sector, recognizing its pivotal role in the economic development of a nation. He said the concentration of manufacturing industries in specific regions leads to the development of those areas.

## Pakistan needs a giant leap, big R&D money to secure cotton future

MULTAN (APP): Cotton Committee (PCCC) back in 1948. "Several cotton research institutions started working under the umbrella of PCCC and delivered 59 cotton varieties including 36 credited to Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) Multan alone," says Sajid Mahmood, the technology transfer head of CCRI Multan, adding developing a traditional cotton variety takes almost 8-10 years.

Moreover, 72 varieties were developed by Cotton Research Institute (CRI) Multan which was working under the provincial government and operational well before the partition, said retired Director Cotton Punjab Dr.

Sagheer Ahmad, nowadays heading Tara Crop Sciences' Research and Development wing as chief scientist.

There are other prestigious research institutions like the Nuclear Institute of Agriculture Tandojam, National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (Nigbe), Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB), Faisalabad, Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology (CEMB) Punjab University Lahore.

A cotton saga in Pakistan remained greatly marred by pest attacks, poor management by small farmers owing to lack of knowledge or resources.

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A cotton saga in Pakistan remained greatly marred by pest attacks, poor management by small farmers owing to lack of knowledge or resources.



KARACHI: People are busy buying used electric items in a Sunday Weekly Bazaar at New Karachi area, in Provincial Capital.

## Kisan Package—A way forward to revive ailing economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): With country's major cash crops and raw materials coming from the agricultural sector, its efficient performance always bore pivotal importance to feed the populace and boosting industrial growth.

However, like many other sectors of economy, the agricultural sector also suffered a lot in the post-COVID economic recession globally and internal economic turmoil resulting in price hike of inputs and energy.

Therefore, the government had to introduce a multi-billion rupee Kisan Package to revive this sector and

enhance the per-acre output of major and minor crops, aiming to achieve sustainable growth and economic development.

It was a much-needed package designed to breathe new life into the ailing agriculture sector, offering a range of remedies and support mechanisms for the agricultural industry and farmers.

Especially to address problems of small farmers, the Kisan Package provides tangible solutions, encompassing various components meant for enhancing agricultural productivity, alleviate financial burdens and promote sustainable practices.

"The farmers have started reaping benefits of this package as the government is disbursing an amount of Rs 6,769.5 million to subsidize the cost of cultivation for poor farmers in the form of interest-free loans in flood-affected areas," said Intiaz Ahmed Gopang, Food Security Commissioner at Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

"This amount has been disbursed among 30,362 borrowers by ensuring access to small landholders. The credit facility would help enhance their farm income and alleviate poverty from rural areas of the country," he stated.

"These small farmers with land holding up to 5-12 acres comprise around 86 percent of the total land holdings and play a critical role in agriculture development," Gopang said. "Therefore, the government is ensuring availability of all other inputs including high-yielding seeds, quality of pesticides and fertilizers on controlled rates to facilitate them."

He said an amount of Rs1.48 billion has been sanctioned for waiver of markup on outstanding loans for subsistence farmers in flood-affected areas to revive their farming that was badly affected by flash floods.

To support farmers affected by floods, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had announced a relief package worth Rs1.8 trillion in October 2022. This package was aimed to provide assistance to poor farmers, particularly those who suffered losses of their crops during devastating floods.

Economic Adviser to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Dr Haroon informed that by last month (June), the government under the Prime Minister Kisan Package had disbursed an amount of Rs1,567.9 billion to support farmers and stimulate the



ISLAMABAD: People purchasing fruits at Fruit and Vegetables Market.

## 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 sys-

tems 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.

"The Swedish government should know that by supporting the criminal who burnt the Holy Quran it has gone into battle-array for war on the Muslim world," Khamenei later tweeted.

"They have created feelings of hatred & animosity toward them in all the Muslim nations & many of their governments," he said.

A Swedish government representative was not immediately available for comment.



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.

## 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 Shilko, 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.

The dead Russian journalist was named as Rostislav Zhuravlev, a war correspondent for state news agency RIA. His three colleagues were evacuated from the battlefield after coming under fire in Ukraine's southeastern Zaporizhzhia region, the defence ministry said.

## 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 in the southwestern province of Taiz.

Taiz police did not provide further details.

## 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. Conservative leaders are pushing back against the teaching of slavery and Black history in public schools, as well as the incorporation of diversity, equity and inclusion programs from college classrooms to corporate boardrooms.

## Death toll of landslide in Maharashtra state jumps to 27, at least 50 missing

**Monitoring Desk**  
MAHARASHTRA: The death toll from a massive landslide in India's Maharashtra state jumped to 27 on Sunday, with at least 50 people still missing as rescue teams struggle in lashing rain, officials said.

The landslide was triggered by monsoon rains on Thursday, smashing into a village in Raigad district, a hilly and forested site about 100 kilometres from Mumbai.

Emergency teams have been digging for bodies under the mounds of earth and rubble.

"We've so far counted 27 bodies, and about 50 to 60 people are still missing, but there are multiple challenges for rescue work at the site," Raigad official Yogesh Mhase told AFP on Sunday.

Mhase said the remote hamlet was about five kilometres from the nearest road.

## Rhodes wildfire forces thousands of evacuations, tourists flee

**Monitoring Desk**  
ATHENS: A wildfire raging on the Greek island of Rhodes forced thousands of tourists and island residents to shelter in schools and indoor stadiums on Sunday after they were evacuated from coastal villages and resorts.

Thousands spent the night outdoors and tour operators Jet2, TU1 and Corndon cancelled flights departing for the island, which is located in southeastern Greece and is popular with holidaymakers for its beaches and historic sites.

One government official told Reuters 19,000 people had been moved away from their homes and hotels, 3,000 of them by boat. Many were assisted by police.

There have been no reports of casualties in the fire.

Greek authorities said the evacuation effort was among the biggest the country had ever conducted.

"We were walking

down the road at 2 o'clock in the morning and the fire was catching up with us", tourist Amy Leyden told Sky News, calling the experience "just terrifying".

"I didn't think we were going to make it," Leyden said, describing being moved from two hotels with her 11-year-old daughter, before being taken to the safety of a school in the northern part of the island.

Coastguard vessels and dozens of private boats carried more than 2,000 tourists from beaches on Saturday after the wildfire, which has burned for nearly a week, was fanned by strong winds and re-kindled along the southeastern part of the island.

Many fled hotels when huge flames reached the seaside villages of Kiotari, Gennadi, Pefki, Lindos, Lardos and Kalathos. Large groups gathered in the streets under a red sky waiting to be taken to safety. Smoke hung heavy over a deserted beach.



Moms for Liberty co-founders Tina Descovich and Tiffany Justice, speak at the Moms for Liberty meeting in Philadelphia.

## 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, according to the survey carried out this weekend.

Kishida said last month he was ruling out a snap election for now. There is speculation he might call an election towards the end of this year, or before a ruling party leadership race next year. Some media reported this month Kishida was considering a cabinet reshuffle in September as he tries to halt the downward trend in the polls.

## Biden gives CIA chief William Burns a cabinet seat

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden announced Friday that he has invited CIA Director William Burns to sit on the cabinet, a mostly symbolic elevation that recognised the US spymaster's broader role in the administration.

Mr Biden praised Mr Burns for providing him "clear, straightforward analysis that prioritises the safety and security of the American people."

"Under his leadership, the CIA is delivering a clear-eyed, long-term approach to our nation's top national security challenges. From tackling Russia's brutal aggression against Ukraine, to managing responsible competition with the People's Republic of China, to addressing the opportunities and risks of emerging technology," Mr Biden said.

## Nine children among 13 killed as soldier opens fire on mourners in east Congo

**Monitoring Desk**  
GOMA: At least 13 people including nine children were killed when a soldier in east Democratic Republic of Congo opened fire on people gathered to mourn his deceased child on Saturday night, the army and a local official said on Sunday.

The shooting occurred in the village of Nyakova on the banks of Lake Albert in Congo's eastern Ituri province.

"The soldier opened fire on all those around him. A dozen people died," Ituri army spokesman Jules Ngonjo said via telephone.

Search teams are looking for the soldier, a member of Congo's navy, and an investigation into the incident has been opened, he said. Village chief Oscar Baraka Muguwa said 13 people were killed, including nine children.

It was unclear what led the soldier to begin shooting.

## 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 casting unfounded 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. A clear demonstration of Bolsonaro's waning power was a tax reform vote in Congress' lower house this month.

A proposal supported by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's government to overhaul Brazil's notoriously complicated tax system was also backed by lawmakers and the general public.

## Robot may help humans understand impact of soaring heat

**Monitoring Desk**  
PHOENIX: What happens to the body when a human gets heatstroke? How can we protect ourselves in a warming planet? To answer these burning questions, Arizona researchers have deployed a robot that can breathe, shiver and sweat.

The southwestern state's capital Phoenix is currently enduring its longest heatwave in history: on Friday, the mercury exceeded 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees Celsius) for the 22nd day in a row, an ominous demon-

stration of what's to come in a world impacted by climate change.

For humans, such heat represents a potentially lethal threat, one that is still not fully understood. But for Andi—a one-of-a-kind humanoid robot at Arizona State University—it's a lovely day out. "He's the world's first outdoor thermal mannequin that we can routinely take outside and... measure how much heat he is receiving from the environment," mechanical engineering professor Konrad Rykaczewski said.

## 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.

## Tunisia migration deal a model for others, EU's von der Leyen says

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: The European Union's pact with Tunisia can serve as a model for other countries, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Sunday, as the EU struggles to stem unauthorised flows of migrants across the Mediterranean.

The EU and Tunisia last week signed a "strategic partnership" deal that includes cracking down on human traffickers and tightening borders.

Europe also pledged 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) in aid to help Tunisia with its battered economy and rescue state finances.



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.



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



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 needs 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 nizam).  
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 everything. 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 Pakhtoonkhwa 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.

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

**I S L A M A B A D** (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.

## GoB establishes 1st-ever forest school in Ziarat

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has established the first-ever forest school in Ziarat to educate the youth regarding the preservation of forests in the area.  
The government has also decided to form a special force and engage the local community to ensure the preservation of the forest, an official of the Balochistan government said.  
In coordination with the departments concerned, steps would be taken to control the illegal cutting of trees, he remarked.  
He said an effective action plan would be formulated to curb illegal deforestation.

## 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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## PDMA puts on high alert after light & heavy rains reported in different parts

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and administration of different districts have been put in high alert after light to heavy rains reported from different areas of the province on Sunday.  
The Director General PDMA, Jahanzaib Khan was moved to Lasba district to personally reviewed the situation as well as the losses caused due to the heavy rain and the relief operation there.  
Meanwhile, the normal traffic was restored in the Quetta-Karachi and Quetta-Sibi highways, which was suspended due to the heavy rain and flood

water affected the highways.  
The Quetta-Karachi highway was affected at different points at Utjal and Bela. Similarly, Quetta-Sibi highway was affected at Pinjira bridge when the portion of diversion prepared after flash flood and rain last year.  
Meanwhile, the DG PDMA reviewed the situation of rains and losses caused due to rains in Lasbela and adjoining areas.  
He also reviewed the rescue and relief operation in the affected area.  
It was informed that although some villages have been affected due to the rains and flash flood in the district.

## Huge quantity of drugs recovered

**PISHIN**: Assistant Commissioner Pishin Habib Ahmed Bangulzai, while holding an important press conference at Levies headquarters, said that on the special instructions of Commissioner Quetta Division Sohail ur Rehman Baloch and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Yasir Bazai, Levies force and Law enforcement agencies conducted a joint operation and raided three drug manufacturing factories in Nasuzai and Haiderzai areas of Yarro and recovered a large quantity of narcotic drugs, ice drug, crystal meth and Omani, and were destroyed on the spot, while one accused, Muhammad Ishaq, son of Yar Muhammad, was arrested.

## BAEF provided Rs2.9b to poor patients for treatment of chronic diseases

**QUETTA** (APP): Under the initiative of Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund (BAEF), Rs 2.9 billion has been provided to poor patients for the treatment of chronic diseases.  
Talking to APP, the Coordinator of BAEF, Noorullah said as many as 3000 patients are being treated under the BAEF initiative in the best public and private sector hospitals across the country.  
As many as 500 more cases would be approved in the 20th board meeting of BAEF to provide financial assistance to poor patients, the Coordinator of BAEF, Noorullah said.  
The next board meeting of the Balochistan

## 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.  
The board meeting of the program could not commence after December last year due to the unavailability of funds to approve more cases of poor patients.  
The coordinator said the programme was receiving Rs70 million monthly as seed money but the need of the poor people had gone above Rs500 million.  
The board meeting of the program could not commence after December last year due to the unavailability of funds to approve more cases of needy patients suffering from different chronic diseases, he added.

## 4 of a family killed as landslide hits car in Skardu

**SKARDU** (INP): Four members of a family lost their lives as landslide hit their car in Skardu on Sunday.  
The tragic incident took place on Juglot-Skardu Road near Shangu. Police officials said the landslide fell on the car that killed four members of a family.

## 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 socioeconomic cooperation between China and Pakistan, the two all-weather friends.  
The conference aims to bring together policymakers, scholars, practitioners and other stakeholders to exchange ideas and insights related to economic, social, environmental and geopolitical impacts of the CPEC and BRI.  
Chinese Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue and Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal would be chief guest at the occasion. The conference would explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation, sustainable development and inclusive growth in the subsequent phase of CPEC. During the moot, various sessions would be held in which key policymakers would take a broader overview of the CPEC. However, the panel discussions would take place under key themes by the expert speakers who would present their research findings.

## VC conference prepares roadmap to promote peace at university campuses

**ISLAMABAD** (APP): The three-days Vice Chancellors' Conference on Peaceful and Tolerant University Campuses was concluded here Sunday with a resolution to undertake collaborative practical steps to promote values of peace, tolerance, harmony, respect for diversity and co-existence at the university campuses through ensuring the effective engagement of students and student-centric approach. The Conference was organized by Community Resilience Activity-North (CRA-North) in collaboration with the Inter-University Consortium (IUCPS) and other organizations.  
The Conference pledged full support for various initiatives aimed at promoting peace, inclusivity, harmony and tolerance in the society. It witnessed active participation from over 60 esteemed delegates, including 45 Vice Chancellors and senior representatives representing universities across the country including the Newly Merged Districts of KP, Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh and Islamabad.  
Under the theme of "Unity through Diversity: Embracing Differences," the Conference addressed critical issues pertaining to campus environments and student interactions.  
The event emphasized the significance of peaceful coexistence, understanding, and mutual respect among students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds.  
Distinguished speakers, including renowned educationists and experts, delivered thought-provoking keynote addresses and participated in the panel discussions. They highlighted the importance of creating safe and friendly spaces and promoting dialogue to bridge gaps among individuals with varying perspectives, capacity development of the faculty, updating curriculum on peacebuilding and tolerance, investment in science and technology to produce skilled youth, strengthening the link between the administration and students, development of peace societies, use campus radios for community awareness, and promote academic exchange between the students from newly merged district and rest of the country.  
The Vice Chancellors from various universities shared their experiences and successful strategies implemented in their respective institutes.

## Those who speak against Asif Zardari should look at their past: Zehri

**Independent Report**  
HUB: President of Pakistan People's Party Hub district Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has said that Peoples Party is a reality and Asif Ali Zardari is a big name of Pakistani politics and the soul of Pakistan People's Party. Muhammad Aslam Bhutani Sahib who is talking against him now days is just trying unsuccessfully to support his childish politics, nothing else.  
Mr. Bhutani used to read the odes of PPP Co-Chairman Mr. Asif Ali Zardari in major events and used to say that "we cannot disagree with Asif Ali Zardari at any cost and he is very kin to us".  
Proofs of all these

things are present in the programs running on social media and various news channels. When Bhutani could not get his interests and all his efforts to join the People's Party failed, now he is talking against the People's Party and Asif Ali Zardari. It is called inconsistency in words and deeds and forgetfulness of kindness. He said that the People's Party is a party of sincere people and there is no room for people who have contradictions in words and deeds and people who forget kindness.  
He said that MNA should avoid talking against Asif Ali Zardari and stop shining politics with negative tactics.

## 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.

## GFZ witnesses another success as new trading centre accomplished

**GWADAR** (INP): Gwadar Free Zone has witnessed another success as work on setting up new exhibition & trading centre has been completed, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.  
The project covers an area of about 2,000 square metres. The centre consists of an exhibition hall, business area, meeting rooms, sports area, office, dormitory, etc.  
It will exhibit Pakistani and Chinese commodities to visitors from home and abroad, noted CCCC-FHDI Engineering CO.,LTD, the project constructor.  
This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As per the project constructor, the new center - as a comprehensive exhibition and sales center as well as a window for international exchanges in Gwadar in the future - will boost the development of manufacturing, trade and logistics and other industries in Gwadar, further promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and further promote the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Gwadar.

## 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.

## VC conference prepares roadmap to promote peace at university campuses

**ISLAMABAD** (APP): The three-days Vice Chancellors' Conference on Peaceful and Tolerant University Campuses was concluded here Sunday with a resolution to undertake collaborative practical steps to promote values of peace, tolerance, harmony, respect for diversity and co-existence at the university campuses through ensuring the effective engagement of students and student-centric approach. The Conference was organized by Community Resilience Activity-North (CRA-North) in collaboration with the Inter-University Consortium (IUCPS) and other organizations.  
The Conference pledged full support for various initiatives aimed at promoting peace, inclusivity, harmony and tolerance in the society. It witnessed active participation from over 60 esteemed delegates, including 45 Vice Chancellors and senior representatives representing universities across the country including the Newly Merged Districts of KP, Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh and Islamabad.  
Under the theme of "Unity through Diversity: Embracing Differences," the Conference addressed critical issues pertaining to campus environments and student interactions.  
The event emphasized the significance of peaceful coexistence, understanding, and mutual respect among students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds.  
Distinguished speakers, including renowned educationists and experts, delivered thought-provoking keynote addresses and participated in the panel discussions. They highlighted the importance of creating safe and friendly spaces and promoting dialogue to bridge gaps among individuals with varying perspectives, capacity development of the faculty, updating curriculum on peacebuilding and tolerance, investment in science and technology to produce skilled youth, strengthening the link between the administration and students, development of peace societies, use campus radios for community awareness, and promote academic exchange between the students from newly merged district and rest of the country.  
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UTHAL: DG PDMA Jahanzeb Khan being briefed about rain situation in district Lasbela