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President, PM, others condemn

44 martyred, over 100 injured in suicide blast at JUI-F convention in Bajaur

Maulana Hameedullah Haqqani and Maulana Zir Ur Rehman among those martyred; PM summons report on blast; emergency imposed at hospitals across Bajaur; 10kg of explosives were used in suicide blast; JUI-F chief demands inquiry in blast.

Maulana Hameedullah Haqqani, General Secretary JUI-F Tehsil Navagai and Maulana Zir Ur Rehman, Ameer Tehsil Khar were martyred along with 44 other workers and over 150 others injured in the huge suicide bomb blast during the JUI-F Worker Convention at Dubai More (Shindai), Khal, Bajaur District on Sunday, Rescue 1122 officials confirmed.

District Health Officer Bajaur Dr. Faisal also confirmed that they have received 40 dead bodies with more than 150 injured and among them, 16 persons were in critical condition that have been airlifted by Army Helicopters to CMH

The Bacha International Airport Officials are said to have received 16 critically injured persons through two Army Helicopters. Soon after arrival, the injured were shifted to

CHM Peshawar. The number of dead people is more than forty, including the local leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Ziaullah Jan, and former senator Maulana Abdul Rasheed was slightly in-

Dr. Faisal Kamal has confirmed that 40 people have died in the blast and more than 150 people have been injured in the Bajaur

He said 16 seriously



BAJAUR: Worker of JUI (F) shifting injured suicide bomb blast victim in a hospital

Peshawar CMH by helicopter, DHO Dr Faisal Kamal said. He said, many were injured in Lower Dir Timergara, and many have been sent to Peshawar.

However, according to reports, 7 ambulances of Rescue 1122 have been deployed at Peshawar Bacha Khan Airport, a spokesperson of Rescue 1122 said. He said all the injured from the Bajaur blast were shifted to Peshawar by two Army helicopters.

He said the injured are being transferred to Rescue 1122 ambulances which are equipped with medical technicians who will provide medical assistance en Continued on page 2

COAS condoles with **UAE** president over brother's death

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

The Emirates Embassy in Pakistan shared a photo In the picture released on the Twitter account by Continued on page 2



inaugurating various development projects.

State for Law and Justice

Shahadat Awan, terming the

bill in the national interest

said this legislation was

made in the backdrop of

United Nations Security

Council Resolutions under

this particular legislation

was being made to stop the

violent extremism from the

country as entire nation

Ghafoor Haideri of Jamiat

Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-

F) expressed his concerns

and threatened to boycott

the session if the bill was

bill be sent to the relevant

committee for a thorough

review of its potential pros

and cons to prevent mis-

use against any political

He proposed that the

brought to the house.

stands united against it.

He further clarified that

Senator Maulana Abdul

78 and 2354.

Senate drops Prevention of Violent Extremism Bill after strong opposition

ISLAMABAD Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Sunday took a decision to drop an item, which pertained to 'The Prevention of Violent Extremism Bill, 2023,' from the house's agenda due to reservations expressed by several members of parliament.

Clarifying his position, he said the session was not summoned on the holiday due to this particular bill being introduced on behalf of Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan for the prevention of violent extremism.

The chairman further made it clear that it was decided in the meeting of the advisory committee with the mutual understanding of all parliamentary leaders to summon the session on this

However, Minister of party in the future.

in capital on two day visit

ernment of Pakistan, the Xi Jinping, the Vice Premier of China and a Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party He Lifeng arrived here on Sunday on a 10th anniversary celebrations of China Pakistan Economic

Continued on page 2

Chinese Vice Premier arrives

ISLAMABAĎ (APP): At the invitation of the Gov-Special Envoy of President two-day visit to attend the Corrido

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

National Assembly to be dissolved before August 12, says Shahbaz Sharif

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday lambasted the criminal negligence and inefficient performance of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) government led by former prime minister Imran Khan Niazi, saying that the country paid a heavy price for their blunders and political

The prime minister expressed these views after performing the soft launching of various development

50 billion Medical City, Rs 52 billion National Health Support Programme, and Rs 30 billion Population Welfare Programme.

On the occasion, he also broke grounds for the SL-3 Lahore Ring Road project, Shadara to Kala Shah Kaku Metro Bus extension project, and inaugurated 1263 MW Punjab Thermal power plant in Jhang with a capacity of

Continued on page 2

Bizenjo terms establishment of BCSA and graduation of 1st batch of MCMC historic

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has expressed his pleasure over graduation of the first batch of Mid-career Management Course (MCMC) from the Balochistan Civil Service Academy (BCSA).

In an official statement issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister termed establishment of the BCSA and graduation of first batch of MCMC from the Academy as a historic development.

He said that the objective behind establishing the BCSA was to enhance the capacity and capabilities of the officers of the province. He noted with pleasure that

Continued on page 2



Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani meeting with President BNP Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal and Sardar Asadullah Mengal

Most welcome Excellency He Lifeng in Pakistan



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

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

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

We are highly pleased to mention that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by Presi-

dent Xi Jinping, and also the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

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

The Foreign Office spokesperson has termed the visit of the Chinese Vice Premier as a significant step to further strengthen the high-level bilateral ties and deepen the friendship between Pakistan and China.

Similarly, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning rightly stated that "Over the past decade, as an important pioneering project of the BRI, CPEC has achieved fruitful results and become a new benchmark for the friendship between China and Pakistan."

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



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

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

PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

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

CM praises security institutions for making foolproof arrangements on Ashura-e-Muharram

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has expressed satisfaction over peaceful ending of the Ashura-e-Muharram's processions all over the province including Quetta and praised the security institutions for making foolproof security arrangements for the occasion.

According to an official hand out issued here on late Sunday night, the Chief praised the Inspector Gen- cident, adding the Chief

eral of Police, Abdul Khaliq Minister mentioned. Sheikh and Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ghulam Azfar Mahesar.

He said that the police, Levies, Frontier Corps and local administration worked hard round the clock to make excellent arrangements and provided security to the processions and majalis with effective strategy. While on the other hand, the Pak army also remained alert to assist the administration and other law enforcement agencies Minister particularly and avert any untoward inHe said that the peace

ful environment was made possible on Ashura in the province thanks to the effective coordination among the law enforcement agencies and the administration.

He also thanked the general public for extending cooperation to the LEAs In addition to this, the Chief Minister was also indebted to the religious leaders of all schools of thoughts for playing wholehearted role in promotion of religious

Marriyum Aurangzeb strongly condemns violence against 14-year Rizwana

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

ful" and "condemnable." She emphasized that no society could tolerate such oppressive elements, especially when it involved child labor and the brutal

treatment to young individuals like Rizwana.

Marriyum said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi to take serious notice of the matter and ensure swift action to bring the perpetrators to justice. The government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheĥbaz Sharif, was committed to play its due role in ensuring that the accused were punished according to the

She regretted that the courts were granting bails to the culprits instead of delivering justice to the innocent victim, Rizwana.

The minister stressed that delivering justice to Rizwana was a litmus test for the judiciary's reputa

She pledged all-out efforts to ensure that the oppressed daughter, Rizwana, received the justice she rightfully deserved.

The nation, she urged should unite in prayers for



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

Inefficiency, criminal....

Continued from page 1 generating 10 billion inex-

pensive units annually. Addressing the ceremony, the PM said Imran Niazi had neglected the completion of the gas-fired Haveli Bahadur Shah power plant due to his animosity with the PML-N leadership and the country had to pay an additional whopping amount of Rs 77 billion besides, its original cost of Rs74 billion at that time due to non-functionality.

He said the project was to be inaugurated in 2019 but it was stalled due to criminal negligence of Imran Niazi and the lack of interest of the previous govern-

A huge amount of the nation went down the drain, causing huge losses for the poor country, he opined, adding it was one of the worst examples of PTI's bad governance.

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

not take suo motu for such negligence? the prime minister questioned and maintained that he had no intention of victimization and did not want injustice with anyone, but there should be transparent accountability of all those responsible for such failures whether it was done in a dictatorship or democratic regime, justice should be dispensed without any victimization, he

said.
With such accountabilities, the nations in the world moved forward, he ister, federal and provincial ministers, parliamentarians, and the relevant authorities.

The prime minister said these were the facts that the nation must know about the four years rule of Imran Niazi who played havoc with the national economy.

The prime minister said that they felt ashamed while carrying the begging bowl due to the failures of the past government.

'It was a huge mishap of our history (PTI's government) which is already strewn with such unpleasant incidents. If we do not change the attitude, we cannot aspire to achieve anything," he regretted.

Citing the example of China, he said it had now become the world's second-

largest economy. Japan and Germany bounced back economically from the destruction of World Wars owing to commitment, devotion, and de-

termination, he added. "Let us gird up loins and work hard for the country's progress as peeping into the past would be useless. If they failed, the public will not forget them. Let us wash away the blots of the past,"

the PM stressed. He also expressed his resolve to revive the country's economy by eliminating poverty and unemployment.

The prime minister also regretted that due to PTI's sits at D-Chowk in 2014, President Xi's visit to Pakistan was postponed.

He said under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the PML-N elections.

The ceremony was attended by Punjab Gover-Haveli and Baloki power nor, Caretaker Chief Min- plants with power generation of 1200 MW each, besides, the 1150 MW Bhikki

project in Punjab. The prime minister, on the occasion, said the Medical City project would be completed with all the allied facilities and would be at par with the world's re nowned health projects like the PKLI was ranked best

among Asia's top institutes. He said the federal and provincial governments would jointly execute the project.

About the 8km SL-3 Lahore Ring Road, the prime minister said that one part of the ring road was left out, adding now its completion would facilitate a huge number of commut ers by removing the vehicular congestion. The extension of the Metro bus project would serve thousands of commuters on a daily basis, he added and directed for its completion within three months. Governor Punjab Baligh ur Rehman also highlighted the performance of the coa-

terest were launched Meanwhile Prime Min ister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said National Assembly wil be dissolved before August 12 with the consultation o

In an interview with a private news channel. he said the tenure of National Assembly will end on August 12 and before that the assembly will be dissolved, while the Election Commission will announce a date for the nex



QUETTA: Ameer of Jamiat-e-Talba Islam Baluchistan Hafiz Hassan Shahal addressing a press conference in press club in Provincial Capital.

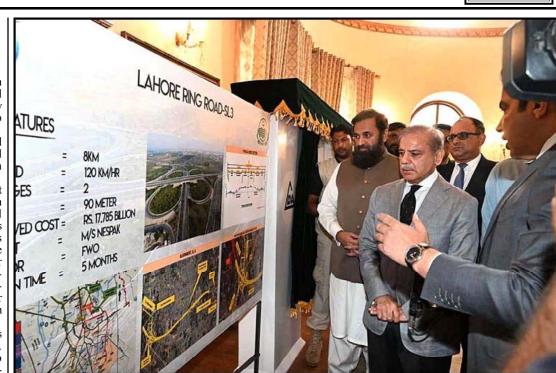
FM Bilawal embarks UAE on day long visit DUBAI (Online): Foreign Minister (FM) Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari on Sunday landed in United Arab Emirates on one day visit. UAE authorities and

Pakistani envoy Faisal Niaz Tirmzi paid reception to FM on airport. FM Bilawal will meet

UAE FM Sheikh Abdullah bin Zaid Al-Nehyan. All aspects of bilateral relations among brotherly countries will be discussed during the meeting. Foreign minister will attend the unveiling ceremony of 1st Pakistani personality Ms. Benazir Bhutto's statue in Madam Tusaud, Dubai.

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



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

of former Prime Minister

Benazir Bhutto was un-

veiled at Madame Tussauds Dubai in UAE on

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also

attended the unveiling

Benazir Bhutto is the first

Pakistani whose wax figure

is displayed at Madame

stan to UAE Faisal Niaz

Tirmizi, senior officials of

the Embassy and Consu-

late General of Pakistan and

prominent community

members were also present.

occasion, the Foreign Min-

ister highlighted that the

wax figure is a befitting trib-

ute to Mohtarma Benazir

Bhutto. He added that her

legacy- being the first fe-

male Prime Minister from

the Muslim World -contin-

ued to inspire the young

generation - women in par-

ticular. He further remarked

that the former Prime Min-

ister of Pakistan was con-

In his remarks on the

Shaheed Mohtarma

Ambassador of Paki-

Sunday.

Foreign

Tussauds Dubai.

Mohtarma

Benazir Bhutto's wax statue unveiled

at Madame Tussauds in Dubai

DUBAI (APP): Wax figure sistent and passionate in advocating peace, stability, and

Visits Central Police Office on Ashura: **Governor commends police** and other LEAs on making excellent arrangements

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar visited the Central Police Office here on Saturday, Ashura-e-Muharram.

He visited the Command and Control Center where he was briefed about the security arrangements and other related measures taken on eve of Ashura for security of the processions and majalis in Quetta.

On the occasion, the Governor also monitored the arrangements made in this regard from the Command and Control center. Also present on the oc-

casion were the Additional Chief Secretary Home, Saleh Muhammad Nasar, IGP Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Additional IGP, Jawad Ahmed Dogar, Additional IGP and Commandant Balochistan Constabulary, Chaudhary Salman besides other senior police officials. The Governor appreciat the CPO.

ated the arrangements made by the police and other law enforcement agencies for maintaining overall law and order situation and particularly for the Muharramul

He said that the arrangements made by police and other LEAs are satis-

However, no negligence would be tolerated on safety of the processions and other gatherings in this regard, adding he asserted.

He on the occasion directed to improve the monitoring of security through Command and Control enter further.

He noted with contentment that administration, police and all institutions are on one page for maintaining law and order in the

Earlier, the Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh along with other police senior officers

Dar pledges to raise foreign reserves to \$15 bln in 7 weeks

ISLAMABAD (APP): \$2.4 billion for two years.
Minister for Finance and This month, Pakistan, fac-Revenue, Muhammad ing financial constraints, Ishaq Dar on Sunday received a total of \$4.2 bilpledged to increase the country's foreign exchange reserves from \$14 billion to \$15 billion in the next seven

Speaking on a Point of Order in the Senate, Dar mentioned that the past 11 months had been challenging due to predictions from rating agencies about Pakistan's potential default. The country faced pressure to pay a significant sum of 3 billion dollars.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said China has extended the loan duration of

lion, which comprised \$2 billion from Saudi Arabia, \$1 billion from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and \$1.2 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) The IMF approved \$3 billion for Pakistan as part of a Standby Arrangement

(SBA). Dar revealed that Pakistan received \$300 million from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) to strengthen the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Bizenjo terms establishment of

Continued from page 1 his government took initiatives for betterment of the

civil service like other sectors in the province. The Chief Minister

maintained that civil services has basic importance in construction and development and the potential of civil officers can be utilized for development of the province and country by lition government during the providing them the necespast fifteen months in which sary opportunities of trainmega projects of public in ing and capacity building. He congratulated the

the allied parties.

Continued from page 1

The Rescue official said that they have shifted more than 90 injured to the hospital. He disclosed that Rescue 1122 has dispatched 16 more ambulances from Mohmand, Lower Upper Dir, Charsadda, Swat, and Peshawar to hospitals

have been shifted to Taimergarh Hospital. Caretaker Information Minister Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel strongly condemned the Bajaur blast in a political gathering in Bajaur. He said it is reported that 40 civilians were killed and around

while 18 seriously injured

200 injured in the blast. The caretaker provincial minister condoled with the families of the deceased. He said they are standing with the bereaved families in this hour of sorrow.

He said the caretaker Chief Minister has taken notice of the incident and ordered an immediate investigation. The injured in the blast

have been shifted to hospitals for medical assistance, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel said, adding, an

Chief Secretary, Abdul Aziz Ugaili, Director General BCSA Dr. Hafiz Jamali on successful completion of the first course at the Academy and hoped that BCSA would keep on making achievements in future as

The Chief Minister also congratulated the first batch of officers who completed MCMC at the BCSA expressing hope that they would use their capabilities for well being of the people of province.

44 martyred, over 100 injured....

emergency has also been imposed in the hospitals of nearby districts. The provincial government is firm

on its resolve to eradicate terrorism, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel said. Caretaker Provincial Minister Taj Mohammad Afridi condemned the blast and expressed regret over

the horrific blast in Khar, Bajaur headquarters. It has been confirmed that 40 persons were killed with 16 in critical condition and are being airlifted by Army choppers to CMH Peshawar, LRH and HMC Peshawar Talking to media men,

District Health Officer Dr Faisal while confirming the injured said that more than 150 were injured with the bodies of 40 others received and 16 in critical condition. The caretaker Provin-

cial Minister expressed condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief. Instructions have been issued to the relief department officials to take the necessary steps in time. The miscreants and antipeace elements will be dealt with strictly, the caretaker provincial minister said in

Rescue 1122 teams are cue 1122 reached the spot, Taj Mohammad Afridi said.

said. Inspector General of Police Khyber

cooperation amongst nations at international fora.

Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on the occasion said

the work of Madame Tussauds allows us to celebrate the

achievements and contributions of remarkable individu-

als who have inspired generations all over the world Late Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's wax figure unveiled at the Madame Tussauds wears the same outfit she wore when sworn in as Prime Minister of Pakistan. The figure was sculpted from a sitting in 1989 using the traditional techniques. The figure will be placed in the first zone of Madame Tussauds Dubai, alongside wax figures of Roy-

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

COAS condoles **UAE** president...

Continued from page 1

the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Pakistan, Army Chief General Asim Munir is seen expressing his condolences with the Emirati President Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, t should be remembered that earlier Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif also visited the United Arab Emirates. He went to the Emirates and expressed his deep sorrow to Sheikh Muĥammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the death of his

Chinese Vice Premier arrives... Road Initiative, of which Continued from page 1

Minister for Planning his visit, He Lifeng will call on President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He will also be the chief guest at an event celebrating the 'Decade of CPEC'," said a Foreign Of-

fice spokesperson. Vice Premier He Lifeng has played a prominent role in China's international economic relations and implementation of the Belt and

As the Chairman of the Ahsan Iqbal and Minister National Development and for Interior Rana Sanaullah Reform Commission (2017received the visiting dignitary at the airport. "During the planning and execution of the planning and execution of multiple CPEC projects in Pakistan, she added. "The visit is part of regu-

lar high-level exchanges and dialogue between Pakistan and China. It reflects the importance attached by Pakistan and China to further deepen their 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership'; reaffirm support on issues of each other's core interests.



QUETTA: Activists of BNP hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

a message.

being engaged in rescue operations at the accident site. said the Caretaker Minister, Relief. Rehabilitation and Resettlement. As soon as the information was received, ambulances of Res-

The staff was alerted to the blast in Bajaur LRH, Asim Khan Spokesperson LRH told APP. Emergency is fully operational, all staff are present, Asim Khan said. After transferring the injured from Bajaur to Peshawar, all kinds of treatment will be provided, Asim Khan said. Emergency ICU and other wards are also ready, Asim Khan

Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Ghandapur confirmed that it was a suicide blast at the main gate. The death toll from the blast in Bajaur reached 40 he said He also confirmed that as a result of the explosion, more than 150 people were injured.

He said the injured are being shifted to Bajaur Hospital, Timargarah Hos-

pital, while some are being shifted to Peshawar Hospital, Police said. The Police and officials of the security forces have surrounded the area while relief work is still going on at the place of the explosion. Army choppers also

participated in the relief

operation by airlifting the critically 16 injured persons to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Pesahwar, with some of them shifted to Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) and Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) Hospital. The Army choppers are being used to airlift the injured from district headquarters Khar to Peshawar wherein so far 40 persons have been killed as a result of the heavy blast during the ongoing JUI-F Worker Convention in Dubai Mor (Shindai Mor), Bajuar and more than 150 other injured.

However, Information Minister Barrister Feroz Jamal confirmed that more than 200 people were injured, 16 are in critical condition and are being airlifted to CMH Peshawar.

Minister Prime Shehbaz Sharif Sunday here

telephoned the chief of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and Amir Jamiat Ulema Islam (F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mehmood and condoled with them over the death of their workers in party convention in Khar, Bajaur.

Talking to the JUI leaders, the PM expressed his grief over the loss of precious lives.

He said the government was determined to eradicate terrorism and the culprits will be given exemplary punishment.

He sympathized with the bereaved families, prayed for the elevation of ranks of the martyrs in Jannah, and grant patience for the bereaved families and early recovery of the injured.

The prime minister also talked to the Chief Secretary and Inspector General Police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the telephone and instructed them to provide the best possible medical treatment to those injured in the blast in Khar. He directed that the severely injured should be transported to other hospi-

tals on helicopters.

Edited with the trial version of **Foxit Advanced PDF Editor**

Posters urge IIOJK people to observe Youm-e-Istehsale-Kashmir as 'Black Day'

Posters appealing to the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for observing Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir on August 5 as the 'Black Day' have appeared across the occupied Valley.

According to the Kashmir Media Service (KMS), On August 5, 2019, the Modi-led Hindutva regime revoked Article 370 which granted special status to the internationally recognized disputed territory and imposed a brutal military and

The appeal was made by all Kashmiri freedom organizations through posters, appearing in Srinagar and other parts of the Valley. The posters urged the people to observe August Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir" as the Black Day. Posters with pictures

ties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders Massarat Alam Butt, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Aasiya Andrabi and Nayeem Ahmed Khan again appeared in Srinagar and other parts of the territory, rejecting the illegal and unilateral Indian actions of August 5, 2019. The posters, displayed by APHC, Falah Party Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Party Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Youth Forum, Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, Jammu and Kashmir Justice and Peace Initiative, Nawjawanan-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir

Justice League Forum,

Jammu and Kashmir Demo-

cratic Movement, Jammu

and Jammu and Kashmir

Peoples Resistance Party,

dents Youth Forum in Srinagar, Islamabad, Kulgam, Shopian and other areas of the occupied territory, rejected the illegal and unilateral Indian actions of

August 5, 2019. The poster called the day "Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir". The posters said that masses of Jammu and Kashmir were demanding reversing of actions of 5th August 2019, the resolution of the Kashmir dispute as per the United Nations resolutions, the release of all political detainees, and end to human rights violations by Indian troops in IIOJK. The posters urged the Indian judiciary to give an urgent hearing and disposal to the representations before the courts and restore the illegally snatched Article 370 and 35A to the people of Jammu and Kash-



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

PRCS AJK responds better during Ashura processions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The cies. The PRCS teams ef-Pakistan Red Crescent Society Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) chapter demonstrated exemplary humanitarian efforts during the Ashura commemorations in Muzaffarabad, Kotli, and Mirpur.

the safety and well-being of participants during significant religious occasions.

As hundreds and thousands of people gathered to pay homage to and observe Ashura, the PRCS - AJK Chapter took proactive measures to provide essential medical assistance and

Highly trained first aid responders and medical professionals were strategically stationed along procession routes and key gathering areas.

Medical equipped with life-saving supplies and medicines, were established to cater to any health-related emergen-

fectively addressed minor diate medical attention where required, ensuring a swift and effective response to incidents.

The staff and volunteers of the Pakistan Red The organization's Crescent Society AJK State rapid response teams and Branch provided first aid to dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure districts Muzaffarabad, popular fruit during the Kotli and Mirpur and shifted 60 severed injured to Sheikh Zaid Hosptial Muzaffarabad through PRCS Ambulances.

While speaking on the occasion, Secretary Pakistan Red Crescent Society AJK Chapter Gulzar Fatima said that PRCS AJK State Branch remains committed to its mission of alleviating human suffering and serving vulnerable communities across the re-

The Society's prompt and effective response during Ashura exemplifies its dedication to upholding the principles of impartiality, neutrality and humanity.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) draining rain water at Rawal Dam Underpass after the heavy Monsoon rains in Federal Capital.

'King of fruit Mango' demands high amid health benefits

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the mercury levels rise, markets, shops, and roadside vendors across the country have begun showcasing a 'King of Fruit Mango' to customers of various varieties.

According to a report by a private news channel, summer season in Pakistan. With over 600 varieties available, Pakistani mangoes are considered among the best in the world.'

"Aside from their sweet, delicious taste, mangoes also offer numerous health benefits," a nutrition expert stated.

AIOU begins final exams from Sept. 1

ISLAMABAD (APP) Allama Iqbal Open Univer sity (AIOU) is conducting examinations of open courses, certificate courses, Matriculation, F.A, and I.Com programs offered in the spring 2023 semester from September 1, 2023, to October 5, 2023, throughout the country. The date sheet is available on the uniwebsite

www.aiou.edu.pk, said the press release issued by the AIOU. Roll number slips are being uploaded to students CMS portal and will be dispatched to the students at their addresses as well. Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof Dr. Nasir Mahmood has instructed the examinations department to ensure trans-

ISLAMABAD: Chairman WAPDA, Lt. Gen. (R) Sajjad Ghani calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. **DG PMNH calls for investing** more in science, technology sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Di- the construction of the rerector General of the Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH), Prof. Dr Muhammad Akram Shaikh has urged the government to invest more in the science and technology sector in the country for achieving social and economic development. Those countries that

and technology sector have achieved substantial progress and development", the DG said during an interview with APP. Highlighting the per-

have invested in the science

formance of PMNH, Dr. Akram Shaikh said, "The PMNH is eager to complete with a two-fold objective of

ISLAMABAD (APP):

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani on Sunday

expressed deep grief and

sorrow over the loss of

lives resulting from the

bomb blast at Jamiat

Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-

F) workers' convention in

lences to the bereaved fami-

lies affected by the tragic

incident, they said target-

ing innocent civilians was a

Extending condo-

Bajaur

NA speaker, Dy speaker

flay bomb blast at JUI-F

workers' convention

terrorism.

volved in such cowardly

of humanity and the nation.

stands united against terror-

it from the country as the

terrorists are playing with

the lives of innocent citi-

zens to achieve their mali-

cious objectives," they

maining six blocks of the only science museum in the country which has been pending for the last many years." He said, "Rs 500 million has been approved for the construction of these blocks in this year's budgetary allocation which would help address the issue of space shortage hindering the display of more specimens." PMNH, established in 1976, is an attached department of the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) for the collection, preservation, and identification of flora fauna, rock, fossils, gems, minerals, etc.

exhibiting these to teach the general public and visitors about the bio-diversity and natural history and conducting research through field study by the scientists for identification and cataloging. The DG informed, "PMNH has recently completed the project of 'Outdoor Volcano Display? which is aimed at providing education to the general public especially students about the volcano eruption.' "The Volcano Display, developed by the Earth Science Division of PMNH, provides information to visitors about the process of volcanism in the oceans and on

Tariq elected as new EC member of WESPA

the continents."

highly reprehensible act of Pakistan's Tariq Pervez was elected as new Execu-The speaker and tive Committee member of deputy speaker denounced the terrorists and those inthe World English Scrabble Players Association (WESPA) at Las Vegas, acts, as they were enemies USA. The elections for the 'The entire nation of the WESPA were held at Las Vegas during the annual ism and vows to eradicate

> Scrabble Association told. I secured 348 votes the

ISLAMABAD (APP):

new Executive Committee general meeting, Tariq Pervez, Director, Pakistan

second highest among all members and was elected as member WESPA, he said.



ISLAMABAD: A view of People watch water is being released through the spillways as level in Rawal Dam reached dangerous height after the heavy monsoon rains in Federal Capital.

50 surveillance cameras installed from high security zone to airport

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

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

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

Acknowledging brilliance of talented youth

Brilliant youth excelling in lic sector universities studying all degree proeducation and research programs including BS (16 Years), MS/MPhil (18 vide as a backbone for any nation and its economy as they take strides in differ-Years), and PhD under the Prime Minister's Laptop ent arenas of life compet-Scheme. Laptops' share is ing regionally and internacalculated on an enrollment

tionally to develop a strong Their acknowledgment in the form of equipping them with the latest research techniques and gadgets pave the way for studies and earn a respectthem to be compatible with able living.
"In this era of latest international standards and capture more and more slots at universities abroad.

As many poor students who win laurels in studies were hit by abject poverty and lacking the latest equipment to compete in the world market, therefore the PML-N government has revived the Laptop Scheme for the outstanding students by allocating Rs 10 billion in budget 2023-24.

This amount would be spent to provide 100,000 high-quality latest laptops

basis in each degree program as the scheme announced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif aims at facilitating outstanding students to continue higher

learning techniques, laptops, and smart gadgets have an important role in building a knowledge economy and creating massive job opportunities for youth," said Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

Commenting on the scheme, she informed that the laptop scheme which was halted by the previous PTI government, has been revived with plans to dis-

among talented students.
"It was a flagship

project of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), launched during the government of the then Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif with a vision to empower youth by creating an enabling environment," she added.

She also mentioned the distribution of half a million laptops from 2013-2018 by the then PML-N government keeping in mind the importance of the latest techniques. 'This scheme will im-

prove the quality of science and technology education by increasing productivity and efficiency of students in advanced IT technolo-

Commission (HEC) has successfully executed two such schemes in the past by following strict criteria to ensure transparency.

According to an HEC official, the program would benefit the students who are among students of all deenrolled in any five-year program after June 30, Years) and PhD." 2018, and before June 30, He said, "The stu-2023, while for the fouryear program, the students

fore June 30, 2023. Similarly, students enrolled in a two-year program must be admitted after June 30, 2021, and before June 30, 2023. For 3.5, 2.5, and 1.5 years programs, the starting admission dates are December 31, 2019, December 31, 2020, and December 31, 2021, with

must had been enrolled af-

ter June 30, 2019, and be-

all three programs. "Students' eligibility and enrollment status as defined is validated prior to distribution of laptops and The Higher Education only those students who apply timely through an online portal and fulfill specified criteria are awarded laptops," the HEC

the end date remaining the

same as June 30, 2023 for

official said. "Merit is strictly observed to distribute laptops

gree programs including BS (16 Years), MS/MPhil (18

dents must have secured 70 percent marks in the semester system and 60 percent marks in the annual sys-"CGPA/ GPA to per-

centage conversion shall be governed by the HEC-defined formula. The top meritorious students against the allocated quota of each department/ program are considered for the award of laptops as per their respective quota (year-wise or semesterwise)." Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has also reiterated that the laptop scheme under the Youth Program had become a creed for the progress of Pakistani youth.

"The scheme would bring a knowledge revolution and create practical opportunities for online employment," he said in a tweet on his Twitter handle

IRSA releases 443,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 443,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 538,000 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1533.65 feet and was 135.65 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 283,700 cusecs and 256,300 cusecs respec-

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1227.00 feet, which was 177.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 76,900 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respec-

NDMA alerts flood, GLOF risk due to rain in northern parts of country ISLAMABAD (APP): and Guddu Barrages, the The National Disaster high flood level may be

Barrage on July 31.

Management Authority (NDMA) on Sunday issued an advisory indicating flood and glacial lake out-burst flood (GLOF) risk due to expected rain in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Islamabad and Azad Jammu and Kash-

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

The flooding conditions were expected in the tributaries of the Kabul River and Hill Torrent of Dera Ghazi Khan Division from July 27 to 30.

Due to the confluence of flows at Taunsa, Panjand

occurrence of GLOF in mountain valleys was also expected. The NDMA issued instructions to the relevant departments indicating that in order to remedy the possible dangers, the public should be notified in advance and safety measures should be pub-

reached on July 30 and the

high flood level at Sukkur

flow of rivers and streams

of Gilgit-Baltistan and the

An increase in the

monitored. However, the relevant departments should keep machinery ready to deal with emergency situations.

licized and the traffic to-

wards sensitive areas

should be systematically

The departments concerned should also take measures for relocation of the people living in low-ly-



ISLAMABAD: People stands near a damage car after accident due to over speed at Srinagar Highway, in Federal Capital.

British HC-designate arrives in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): British High Commissioner-designate to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, has arrived in Islamabad on Sunday to take up her new posting at British High Commission Islamabad.

Jane arrives at an important time for UK-Pakistan relations, with a sig-nificant uplift in UK aid spending in Pakistan that focused on strengthening climate resilience and reducing humanitarian risks. Last month, the UK also Pakistan to boost exports by reducing tariffs and simplifying trade terms.

On arrival Islamabad, she said, "I am delighted to be here in Pakistan, a country that deeply matters to, and has a long-standing relationship with, the UK. With over 1.6 million people of Pakistani heritage in the UK Yemen.

making up every part of British society, we have a special and ever-growing special bonds. "Our friendship stems

from our shared history and values, deep people-to-people ties, growing trade links and a renewed development partnership. I will be working hard to continue to expand these.
"With the climate

emergency a growing threat to health and livelihoods across the world. I have a particular interest in ensuring the bilateral relationship launched the new Develop- between our countries is a ing Countries Trading green, sustainable one, she Scheme, which will help added." It is pertinent to men-

tion here that Jane joined the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in 2001. She was previously posted as British High Commissioner to Kenya from September 2019 to June 2023 and has served as British Ambassador to

ternational Decade of the

World's Indigenous People

(2005-2014). The assem-

bly also decided to con-

tinue observing the Interna-

tional Day of Indigenous

Intl Day of the World's **Indigenous People to** be marked on Aug 9

ISLAMABAD (APP): In- proclaimed the Second International Day of the World's Indigenous People will be marked on August 9 (Wednesday)across the

The purpose is to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.

The day also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.

The International Day

of the World's Indigenous People is celebrated on August 9 each year to recognize the first UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations meeting in Geneva in 1982. On December 23, 1994, the UN General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous People should be observed on August 9 annually during the International Decade of the

World's Indigenous People.

In 2004, the assembly

People annually during the second decade. The decade's goal was to further strengthen international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous peoples in different sectors including culture, education, health, human rights, the environment, and social and economic develop-In April 2000, the Commission on Human

Rights adopted a resolution to establish the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council. The forum's mandate is to discuss indigenous issues related to culture, economic and social development, education, the environment, health, and human rights.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters jumping and bathing in the water channel of Rawal Dam to get some relief from hot weather in Federal Capital.

Daily Soice of Masse, Independent

Monday July 31, 2023

Fluid & resilient

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

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

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

The Afghan Taliban's assumption of power is giving increased operational space to the TTP in Afghanistan, and the spike in cross-border attacks of suicide. For that reason, reporting suicide is not a by the banned outfit against simple task, and comes with Pakistan is compelling evidence enormous ethical and moral implications. of this. Although pressure by the government here did compel Kabul to relocate certain TTP elements away from the border itself does not instigate harm, and instead, spreads and news dressed as extremely important, as the area, the Taliban's refusal to take coercive measures against the group could add another layer of complexity to the situation. According to the report, evidence suggests that "other sanctioned terrorist groups are using support to TTP as a means to evade control by the Afghan Taliban". It adds, this could even lead to a range of foreign outfits coalescing under the TTP's umbrella; already, there are indications that Al Ine dattie of Katuala, information and encounter be-Qaeda is providing "guidance" to the TTP for carrying out attacks inside Pakistan, and that Imam Hussain, the apogee TTP fighters have access to or numan values, representing undaunted courage in the training camps of foreign ter- face of immense odds; a ror groups in Kunar province. | manifestation of compassion and divine grace for the

Al Qaeda and IS have also weak and the downloaded, given considerable autonomy to but as firm as steel while confronting the wicked and groups affiliated with them; oppressors decentralising terror networks noble life, and particularly enhances their operational ef- in the desert of Karbala, fectiveness and ability to tackle | Imam Hussain was a nue representation of what it CT measures. Perhaps that is means to be ashraf alwhy in Pakistan, one has of late makhluqat—the crown of creation. been witnessing attacks by little-known outfits claiming to have links with one or the other of these major terrorist entities.

There is also the Jamaatul Ahrar, with its on-again, offagain relationship with the TTP, whose members are suspected cruelty and lack of any emof involvement in several recent pathy. In short, Imam acts of terrorism.

The Punjab CTD yesterday apt example of what the Holy Quran refers to in claimed to have arrested in sevintelligence-based organisations 17 suspected mam Hussain should lead militants belonging to various one to reject the corrupt valbanned groups. We cannot afues of his enemies and killers, and to adopt the subford to let up. On no account lime Hussaini values. If this must violent extremist groups is done—that is following the Hussaini example—the get the opportunity to hold Pakistan hostage again.

Debating caretaker set-ups



Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

The framers of the original 1973 Constitution had apparently visualised Pakistan as a normal democratic state, and therefore, did not include any provision for a caretaker government during elections. Even the part-real and part-perceived rigging in the 1977 general election did not justify the institution of a system of caretaker govern-

But the martial law government led by Gen Ziaul Haq, in its typical non-political and over-simplistic way of 'solving' political problems, injected the system of caretaker governments into Pakistan's Constitution in 1985 through the Revival of Constitutional Order (RCO).

The first caretaker government under this pro-

vision was selected by the military ruler Zia in 1988 in his discretion after he prematurely dissolved the National Assembly and dismissed the elected govern-

Apparently incensed by the act of defiance by his handpicked prime minister, Muhammad Khan Junejo, Zia appointed only ministers directly reporting to him, without a caretaker PM. Since Zia himself was a party against Junejo and the PPP, whom he had deposed in 1977, the caretaker government led by Zia, and after his death, by Ghulam Ishaq Khan, was heavily partisan. Since then, Pakistan has seen seven caretaker prime ministers, out of which only three — Moeen Oureshi in 1993, Mir Hazar Khan Khoso in 2013 and

free and fair. The Charter of Democracy signed by PPP leader Benazir Bhutto and PML-N head Nawaz Sharif in 2006 endorsed the system of caretaker governments but Section 31 of the

Justice Nasirul Mulk in

2018 — may be considered

neutral while others had ex-

did not contribute at all to-

wards making the elections

a 'neutral' caretaker government, a phrase conspicuous by its absence in the constitutional provisions even after the 18th and 20th Amendments extensively overhauled the constitutional scheme of caretaker

governments. The caretaker government system in Pakistan is being viewed with increased scepticism since the 90-day mandate of the caretaker governments in the Punjab and KP was exceeded in April this year. The two governments not only continue to function but also, contrary to the provisions of Section 230 of the Elections Act, 2017, take longterm policy decisions. The public trust in the caretaker governments was further undermined when the political parties opposed to Imran Khan publicly confessed that their nominated plicit political leanings and representatives were included in the caretaker government of KP under an agreed quota system.

> The partisanship of the KP caretaker government can also be gauged by the fact that one of the caretaker ministers addressed a political party's public meeting recently and the

Charter explicitly called for Election Commission had to order his dismissal. Two other extraordinary developments in the

context of caretaker governments system in Pakistan took place recently, which further made future caretaker governments controversial even before being constituted. The recent amendment in Section 230 of the Elections Act. 2017. which enhanced the powers of the appointed and unelected caretaker government runs counter to the preamble of the Constitution which states that " the state shall exercise its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people". The second development related to proposing the name of Senator Ishaq Dar, the current finance minister, a senior leader of the PML-N and a close relative of Nawaz Sharif, as caretaker prime minister.

Âlthough it was an unofficial proposal as formal proceedings will not commence until the National Assembly is dissolved, it was a sufficiently serious manoeuvre to invite emphatic public opposition from Raja Riaz, Leader of the Opposition in the Na-

tional Assembly, and Minister Khawaja Asif and another senior PML-N leader. Senator Dar may be amply qualified to become prime minister because of his competence and long experience but his partisanship and close association with one political party make him absolutely unsuitable as a caretaker PM.

There have been widespread speculations after these two developments that probably the next caretaker government may continue for a period longer than 90 days, which also means that elections may be deferred. These speculations remind one of Bangladesh's experiences of caretaker governments from 1996 to 2011 which, although begun as a constitutional arrangement. morphed into an extra-constitutional military-backed technocratic government which lasted for about two vears and could exit only after considerable international pressure forced them to hold elections in December 2008 and hand over

The Bangladesh parliament, chastened by the experience of a prolonged caretaker set-up, and en-

power to the elected govern-

couraged by the ruling of the country's supreme court declaring the caretaker system to be unconstitutional, finally wound up the caretaker system in 2011 through the 15th constitutional amendment passed by the 345-member legislature with an overwhelming majority of 291 to one, in a vote boycotted by BNP, the main opposition party. Prime Minister Hasina Wajid told parliament after the vote: "This is a historic moment for democracy. We can't allow unelected people to oversee national elections." Pakistan is faced with two choices when the next National Assembly is elected. The first option is that it can reform the system to make sure that the caretaker system is strictly neutral. This choice, however, seems to be more utopian than realistic.

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The second option, probably a more practical one, is to wind up the prevailing flawed caretaker system because a majority of caretaker set-ups established in the past 35 years were neither neutral nor could their presence guarantee free and fair election in most of the cases.

Reporting suicide



Asma Humayun

Recently, the tragic death of a public figure was followed by the widespread circulation of a suicide note they had purportedly left behind. The note's circulation, both online as well as offline, and indeed the media's reportage around it, deserves com-

Suicide is, rightfully, a major public health concern. In Pakistan, it is estimated that nearly 20,000 people die by suicide every year. But for every death that transpires, there are likely scores more who are at risk of suicide. For that reason,

suicides. Unlike reportage around other issues, suicide merits a higher degree of sensitivity, with due consideration given to its impact on surviving family members as well as vulnerable groups in the population at large.

Unsurprisingly, the media has tremendous power to influence an audience about the choices they make at critical junctures in their lives. There is evidence to show that thoughtless news reports can increase the risk of suicide. This is because vulner-

able groups, who might selfidentify as being in similar situations, may be encouraged to carry out the fatal act. Following widespread reports of Hollywood actor Robin Williams' suicide in 2014, the US saw a 10 per cent increase in suicide deaths in a subsequent pe-

In order to minimise inadvertent harm caused ism. Making public the cirfrom news reportage around cumstances around a suicide suicide, it is crucial that the following points must be considered by journalists and media houses.

First, sensational covbehaviour. erage, headlines that prominently feature the word 'suicide', dramatic storytelling,

awareness to help prevent clickbait is significantly likely to increase the risk of suicide among vulnerable groups. It is safer to not print stories pertaining to suicide prominently on the front page of newspapers, or to break news of suicide in a lead bulletin, especially if the deceased was a public figure and lived life in the pub-

> Second, details pertaining to personal identity, life history, circumstances of suicide or details around suicide notes should not be shared. Because suicide is associated with significant religio-cultural stigma, these details are likely to infringe on the privacy of the deceased and hinder the recovery of severely distressed surviving relatives.

Interviews with evewitnesses should not be made public, as these are likely to be accompanied by graphic details and only encourage further sensationalincreases the probability that vulnerable people exposed to this information may romanticise suicidal

Third, the terms and phrases used when describing suicidal behaviour are

connotations associated with them can harden stigma and discourage vulnerable groups from seeking help.

For instance, the phrase 'commit suicide' implies criminality and should never be used; nor should suicide ever be reported in the same space as other crime stories. Some neutral alternatives are 'taken their own life' or 'died by sui-

Similarly, phrases such as 'cry for help', categorising attempts as 'successful' or 'unsuccessful', describing the deceased as a 'suicide victim' or terming a string of suicides an 'epidemic' are counterproductive. Also, editorialising

tragedy by using phrases such as 'they're in a better place' or 'they finally found an escape' presents suicide as a solution to problems. or as an understandable response to a crisis or adversity. This can contribute to normalising suicide as an appropriate response to

Fourth, describing the exact method of suicide carries with it serious risks. Descriptions can increase awareness of specific methods, or increase perceptions of a particular method's efficacy. When the materials riencing similar problems at work. -- Courtesy Dawn of a particular method's ef-

or ingredients involved are readily available and their details are publicised, this can paint suicide as an easily achievable act. Details of novel or unusual suicide

methods should also never

be reported.

Fifth, publicising details of location — for example, a public square, a high-rise building, a bridge or railway line — is likely to result in more deaths at that location. Labelling a location as a 'suicide hotspot' or 'notorious site' paradoxically increases people's awareness of both method and location, and can make this or similar locations a

Sixth, suicide is almost always the result of a combination of psychological, situational, societal and individual factors. It is unlikely that a single event or factor can lead someone to take their own life.

magnet for vulnerable

Playing up a single event or factor such as job loss, socioeconomic problems, bullying or marital discord, or attributing any one of these factors as the cause of suicide will always be misleading and a gross oversimplification. This too can

greater risk

Finally, whilst reporting, making spurious connections between different suicides, or linking suicide to a certain geography or demographic can lead to additional suicides. Suggesting unsubstantiated links between different suicides can also overstate or amplify the prevalence of suicide.

Suicide is an entirely preventable act, and responsible reporting can help save lives. Reports should ultimately highlight the complex reality of suicide; make public the risk factors associated with suicide like mental health problems; empathically report the devastating impact on families; encourage vulnerable groups to seek support when in crisis; and provide information or tickers on sources of help. To achieve this, it is vital that media houses publish suicide reporting guidelines, hold training workshops for staff, and editors become vigilant about terms and context reported in such stories. Reporting on suicide takes a toll on the mental health of journalists themselves. Measures need to be taken to help them cope with the

Hussaini values by walking in the footsteps

of the Holy Prophet's

(PBUH) beloved grandson.

'invitation' to all mankind,

to all those who wish to

learn from Imam Hussain, to

choose the right path and

resist the nafs-i-ammara

(base self). The values of

Karbala are universal and

beyond sect, religion,

ethnicity and tribe. Anyone

who wants to reach the in-

nate goodness in their soul

will recognise Imam Hussain

as a guide and, as he has been

referred to in ahadith as

Safina-tun-Nijaat (the Ark of

Salvation) and Misbah al-

Huda (Lamp of Guidance).

On the other hand, if one is

immersed in material plea-

sures and ignorant towards

rising and martyrdom".

example is unparalleled, the

Islamic world today, and in-

deed all of humanity, can

benefit immensely by fol-

lowing in his footsteps. Af-

ter all, man's condition to-

day is still not too different

from what it was in 61AH,

when the event of Karbala

advanced by many strides

there is much talk of piety,

but very little practice. Jus-

tice eludes the common

man, while the rich and

powerful live much as the

kings and sultans of antiq-

non-Muslim societies, de-

spite having ample re-

sources and better infra-

structure than poorer

Meanwhile, many

In the lands of Islam

still remains hollow.

Ashura is an annual



Oasim A. Moini

The battle of Karbala, more tween two political forces, was a battle of values. On one end of the spectrum is of human values, representmanifestation of compas-

Indeed, throughout his Imam Hussain was a true

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

The 'values' exhibited by the Syrian and Kufi forces include subjugation of the weak, blood-curdling took place. True, man has Hussain's opponents are an materially, but spiritually he Surah Teen as asfala safileen (the lowest of the low).

Therefore, the mourning for and remembrance of spiritual journey becomes much easier, as one rejects base and self-centred desires

pression and suicide. This points to the fact that despite living in plenty, there a spiritual void.

But Imam Hussain offers a way out. His example proves that if one stands firm even in the face of the greatest adversity, even after physical death, his memory will live on and inspire countless others, while the names of those who oppressed him will forever be remembered with opprobrium.

The late Ayatollah Muhammad Taqi Misbah Yazdi put it succinctly when he said that Ashura "is still fresh ... and anyone who becomes aware of this incident, feels as if he has lost one of his own".

all suffering and misery on Imam Hussain sacriearth—like Imam Hussain's ficed all he had: his children, opponents were — then the nephews, brothers, supheart-wrenching episode of porters, while the women Ashura will have little effect of his noble household – including granddaughters of As noted by Iranian the Holy Prophet — along scholar Dr Ibrahim Ayati in with his sole surviving son his seminal A Probe into the Imam Ali Zain al-Abidin History of Ashura, the Imam were taken captive and mer-"felt that the Islamic socicilessly marched to Kufa ety had reached a stage of and Damascus. His stand spiritual and moral degradawas only for the sake of tion which could not be rejustice and to resist an opformed except by means of pressive structure that humiliated the weak and While Imam Hussain's

trampled on their rights. While listening to the harrowing struggle of the Imam and his family softens hearts, repetition of the tragedy of Karbala also gives the wretched of the earth the strength to stand up for truth and resist tyranny in all its forms. Indeed, this is why, as said in the hadith, the Holy Prophet is believed to have said that the martyrdom of Hussain "has ignited a flame in the hearts of the believers that

will never be extinguished" It is this 'fire' of divine love that inspires men and women centuries after that tragic day in Karbala, and across continents, as people continue to mourn for Hussain, and pledge to resist the tyrants of the day following his example. -- Courtesy states, have high rates of de- Dawn

growth and military buildpre-eminent position both at the regional and global level, making it a strong contender for 'great power' status in the years to come.

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

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

terms amounting to \$3,385 billion as against \$25,462bn and \$17,963bn for the US and China respectively.

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

an independent research institute looking into various aspects of armed conflict, India's military expenditure was estimated at \$81.4bn in 2022, rank-

India's future path Pakistan's military

expenditure, according to

official estimates for

2023-24, is projected to be

tary expenditure has en-

abled it to build up its mili-

tary strength in various

fields at a fast pace. Its

fast-developing strategic

partnership with the US

and its allies has added to

its military weight, upset-

ting the strategic balance

in South Asia to Pakistan's

ing threat to Pakistan's se-

curity and economic well-

being if one considers the

dangerous trends in its in-

ternal, regional and global

ing sway of Hindutva and

Hindu extremism as

propagated and practised

by the Narendra Modi-led

BJP and, arguably, a large

majority of Indians has

dangerous implications

not only for India's reli-

gious minorities but also

for Pakistan which, de-

spite its shortcomings, is

seen as an embodiment of

Islamic ideology, which

teaches social equality. In

contrast, the caste system

is part and parcel of the

India is systematically

pursuing its goal of estab-

lishing its hegemony in

South Asia and the Indian

Henry Kissinger in his book, 'World Order'

(2014), takes note of

Ìndia's hegemonic designs

and points out that India

has established "in prac-

tice a special position in

the Indian Ocean region"

and like the American

Monroe Doctrine con-

ducts "its policy on the

India views Pakistan

At the regional level,

Hindu faith.

Ocean region.

Internally, the grow-

aims and policies.

India poses an endur-

disadvantage.

India's higher mili-

\$8bn only.



Javid Husain

India's rapid economic up over the past three decades has catapulted it to a

As the famous dictum

According to the World Bank, India occupied fifth position in world economies in 2022 with GDP in nominal dollar

By 2030, India is ex-India's rapidly grow-

ing economic strength has enabled it to increase its military expenditure at a fast pace.

basis of its own definition According to Sipri, of a South Asian order". as a major obstacle in the fulfilment of its hegemonic designs in South Asia. A large section within India entertains hopes of the re-

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

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

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

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

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

The foregoing analy-

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

Edited with the trial version of **Foxit Advanced PDF Editor**

CM inspects construction | Te Medical Ch work on Gujranwala link project

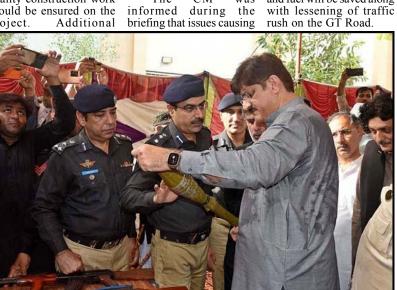
Naqvi commends ministers, admin, police over peaceful Ashura

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

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

Mohsin Naqvi also visited the underconstruction roads of Gujranwala Motorwaylink road project. He issued necessary directions to the officials concerned to complete the project in the stipulated time period.
The CM w

resources should be obstructing in early utilised to complete the construction of the project worth Rs 11 billion had been resolved amicable. The dual carpeted road stretching 15.2-km long will provide excellent access to the motorway All resources are being utilised to complete the project within 90 days, he was informed. With the latest travel facilities, time and fuel will be saved along



LARKANA: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inspects Mortar Shell recovered from the possession of dacoits after operation in the

Dr Jamal appreciates best Ashura's arrangements

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Care and Social Welfare Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Sunday lauded the of district administration, Ulema, Police, Rescue-1122, RWMC, Health Health department and others for

Ashura arrangements. He said that the police, administration and law enforcement agencies, together maintained the atmosphere of peace and harmony by maintaining the best security people's lives and

arrangements in the city. The minister said that he himself personally arrangements of Ashura

Muharram and remained in touch with the concerned officials till late at night to necessary instructions maintaining peace in the

Dr Jamal remained present at the Central Control Room established at Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi office along with Commissioner Laigat Ali Chatta and other officials to monitor the security arrangements for the processions.

property by working day night during Muharram, especially on supervised the security the 10th of Muharram, he



LAHORE: People on their way in flooded street at Bibi Pak Daman area aftre the heavy monsoon rain in Provincial Capital.

Minister directs Pindi admin to access damages of fire affected shopping centres

Primary and Secondary securing their remaining Healthcare and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir here on Sunday inspected the fire-affected plazas on Benazir Bhutto Road and reviewed the rescue operation. The provincial minister directed the district administration to assess the damage in Rabi Center, Gulf Center and China Center Plazas affected by the fire and asked to conduct a detailed inspection of the three plazas so that there was no possibility of fire again.

of Rescue 1122 staff for timely controlling the fire.

On this occasion, Rescue 1122 official informed the minister that the fire was brought under control and apparently the cause of the fire was a short circuit, adding an investigation was also underway to determine the particular root. He said that was no life of loss while major financial losses had

RAWALPINDI (APP): He asked the police to Provincial Minister for assist the traders in goods and praised the role

> due to timely action, there been saved

Nawabzada Iftikhar to inaugurate three uplift

schemes

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

people, establishing the MEPCO office was a long standing demand of the people of Khangarh which will help resolve problems of the people locally. The inaugural ceremony will be held at 10 am.

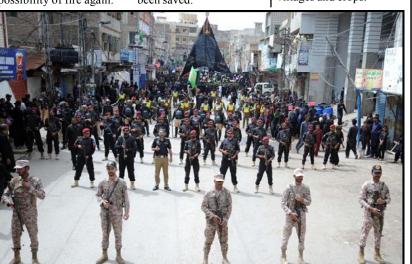
Governor Punjab condemns blast in JUI-F workers' convention

LAHORE Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman has strongly condemned the explosion in the workers convention of JUI (F) in Khar area of Bajaur. He expressed his condolences to the families of those who died in the blast.Governor Punjab prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the blast. He said said that the nation is united against the monster of terrorism.

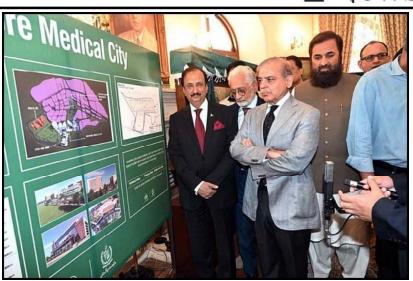
Two kids died after drowning in flood water

BUREWALA (APP): Two minor kids allegedly died of drowning in flood water as the ferocious floods damaged many villages and crops on thousands of acres near the Sahuka area in district Vehari.

According to local people, the water level is on the rise continuously in river Satluj and affecting villages and crops.



HYDERABAD: Rangers and Police personals stands alert during a procession on the tenth day of Ashura in the city, during the Islamic month of Muharram, commemorating the seventh century killing of Prophet Mohammed's grandson Imam Hussein.



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

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

problems

Khwazakhela Expressway

was cleared by Central Development Working

Party and approved by ECNEC which would be

completed with an estimated cost of Rs80

construction, he said the distance between Shangla, Swat, Dir, Mardan and

Peshawar districts would

Malakand Division a hub

NADRA HQ Islamabad

and other senior officers

Government Department

and expressed the hope

that the MoU would

facilitate the common

certificates Both NADRA

and Local Government

would work together to

address the remaining

issues and hindrances in the

smooth service delivery in

and

registration, especially to

the people of remote

districts and newly merged

areas he said. He said that

service Fee deposit process

for birth and death

certificates also needs to be

computerized

accountability

transparency.

Upon

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

Addressing a big public gathering here in the Dandai area after the inauguration of various projects including the Kabalgram bridge, Engr Amir Muqam said Hazara Motorway constructed by Nawaz Sharif Govt has brought positive changes in the lives of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially of Hazara

He said the distance between Shangla and Islamabad has been significantly reduced after the construction of Hazara which promoted trade, business of trade and investment.

Local Government and

Rural Development Department (LG&RDD)

of the province in getting

for a period of 2 years to

the citizens through Village

uninterrupted. A ceremony

was held in the Directorate

Hayatabad Peshawar, said

a hand out issued here on

Local Government, Khyber

Nazeer presided over the

ceremony. Secretary Local

Government Amer Afaq,

Director General Local

Government Iftikhar Alam

The Minister for

and

Councils

General

Sunday.

Pakhtunkhwa

The MoU was signed

Neighbourhood

continue

Sawal

LG&RDD.

ensure that the joint citizens of the province to

services, being provided to get easy access to birth

death

their birth certificates.

(NADRA) have signed a Local

particular and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in general. Engr Amir Muqam, who is also the President of PML-N KP, said that his

party vision was uniform development of Pakistan, people's socioeconomic welfare and resolution of doorsteps.
The Prime Minister's aide said that Besham-

deceived the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the name of change.

Amir Muqam said

that all the ill designs of the previous ruler that deceived the people of KP about the name change for 9 years and tried to make the country bankrupt have been foiled by the coalition government

be reduced significantly besides making the entire

LG Department, 9 dacoits NADRA ink MoU for citizen facilitation in KP weapons

FAISALABAD (APP) PESHAWAR (APP): The Director General CRMS Col. Retd. Sohail Mehmood and National Database and were present on the Registration Authority occasion. The Minister for Government Memorandum of appreciated the Understanding (MoU) for the facilitation of people NADRA and Local

He said the coalition government has saved the country from economic default and brought the economy back on track.

He said the previous government have destroyed the country's economy and tried to politically destabilize the country.

Engr Amir Muqam said that May 9 vandalism has exposed the negative designs of a leader, who

He said that saving the country from bankruptcy and economic default after the agreement

arrested, 6 motorcycles, recovered

The police have busted three dacoit gangs and arrested their nine active members during the past 12 hours and recovered six motorcycles, cash, illegal weapons and other items from their possession.

said here on Sunday that Sadar police on conducted a raid in Chak No 228-RB and arrested four active members of a gang including Mehran Ali, Mohsan, etc. along with two stolen motorcycles, cash, mobilephones and illegal weapons whereas their three accomplices were still at large.

Similarly, the Raza Abad police arrested three outlaws of a gang including Muhammad Ali, Khizar Hayat and Sharjeel from Baghwali Pulli and recovered one motorcycle, pistols, cash of Rs 50,000. mobile-phones and other items from possession.



First comprehensive

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

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

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

area people.

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



LAHORE: Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council and Special Representative of Prime Minister of Pakistan for Inter-Religious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi held a press conference with scholars and sheikhs at Jamia Manzoor-ul-Salami.

Ombudsman orders Rs 14.137m financial relief for applicants

LAHORE (APP): The Vocational Punjab ombudsman has ordered provision of cumulative financial relief of Rs 14.137 million to applicants hailing from various districts.

In a statement issued on Sunday, a spokesman said the ombudsman's office had received applications for provision of financial relief, death grant, talent scholarships, outstanding dues, and resolution of employmentrelated issues, including non-payment of pension, leave encashment, GP fund matters, and creation of an

clerk in BPS-11 to the from Technical Education &

Authority (TEVTA) in Okara. Similarly, the School Department was directed to appoint Abrara Saadia from Toba Tek Singh and Shahnaz Bibi's son from Bahawalnagar as naib qasid under Rule 17-A of the Punjab Civil Servants (Appointment Conditions of Service) Rules, 1974.

Moreover, the Punjab Government Servants Benevolent Fund Board was directed to release an educational stipend of Rs 22.000 to Atta-ul-Haq OSD [officer on special Bhatti's daughter from duty] post, among others.

The ombudsman Gulshan Parveen's son provided justice to Rana from Talagang, and Muhammad Ali by monthly grant arrears ordering his son's amounting to Rs 187,000 appointment as a junior to Rao Muhammad Anwar Additionally.



KARACHI: Members of Christian Community hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club in the Provincial Capital.

Mayor Peshawar appreciates peacefully ends of Muharram

Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali on Sunday appreciated all the institutions who worked day and night and with dedication for a peaceful Muharram.

I thank Allah Almighty that Muharramul-Haram has passed peacefully and I pay tribute to all institutions for celebrating Muharram with peace and unity.

Haji Zubair Ali said that he is thankful to Allah Almighty that Muharram- Civil, Traders.

PESHAWAR (APP): ul-Haram has passed well and to the officers of Capital Metropolitan, including the Director of Capital Metropolitan Syed Waqqas, for passing Muharram in Peshawar with peace and unity.

Ali Shah, Director East Rehman Khattak,

Director West Riaz Awan, Focal Person Engineer Muhammad Riaz Khan, Other Officers, Police, District Administration Officers, WWSSP, Rescue 1122, WAPDA, Pesco

Experts stress society free from abuse of children, child labourers LAHORE (APP): Experts

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

who are deprived of their childhood, their health and education, she said.

KARACHI: Participants hold banners during a walk, on the eve of World

Friendship Day at Sea View in the in the Provincial Capital.

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

To prevent child labour, global organisations like the International Labor Organisation (ILO) and SPARC must work jointly trapped in child labour, to save children from the

curse of child abuse and child labour, he stressed. Child abuse is a serious problem in Pakistan that often goes unpunished; however, there are laws in place that offer severe penalties for those who are convicted of abusing children, he added.

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

He acknowledged the workers is higher as Government of Pakistan for ratifying all eight fundamental conventions of the ILO including C182 in 2001 and C138 in 2006 and enacting national and subnational legislation, prohibiting

employment of children in general and hazardous work in particular. Buwembo underscored the need for harmonising the age of children in all relevant laws by federal and provincial governments, urging all stakeholders to work together for a long-lasting solution and accelerating progress towards achieving the SDG targets by 2025. According to a recent

study report of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), the growth of girl the Act punishable.

compared to boys. The industrial structure shows that at the national level and in the rural area, agriculture engaged the maximum number of children, followed by services, whereas, in the urban area, the services sector dominated. As for employment status, most of the children are unpaid family helpers. The occupational pattern indicates that the majority of them work on farms and in production activities. The Government of

Pakistan has enacted the Employment of Children Act of 1991 which has banned the employment of children below the age of 14 years and their employment is now a cognizable offense under

Malik highlights China's

expertise in agricultural

OMMERCE EWS

Page 06

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

BEIJING (APP): Over organized by TDAP. With attracted a lot of interest 130 Chinese entrepreneurs will participate in the first international food and agriculture exhibition being held in Karachi from August 10 to 12, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir said on

businessmen have been registered with the Pakistan embassy and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) for participation in the exhibition, he told APP

FoodAg 2023 is the first international food and agriculture exhibition being donkey skin which have of the world.

its theme of a Sustainable Future, The exhibition will bring international and local communities together to generate hope for building a common future.

Ghulam Qadir said that there had been a great impact of the TEXPO which was attended by a We are getting an overwhelming response.
So far, 130 Chinese businessmen. Now, more people intend to go to people intend to go to Pakistan to explore business opportunities there. Pakistan and China have finalized five protocols of cooperation after Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's visit to China. These protocols included boiled beef, chilly.

among businessmen, he added. He informed that

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

Pakistani exporters. FoodAg 2023 will provide a unique platform to all participants for exchanging novel ideas and building a long-term partnership with the aim to

Fish farming

under way

on 15,000-

acres land

SARGODHA (APP)

Fisheries Rana Abdul Rauf

said here on Sunday that

15,000 acres of land had

been under use for fish

farming in Sargodha

Fisheries Department was

working on war-footing to

produce more fish farms in

the division. He said that

15,000 metric tonnes of

operational fish farms in

the region during the las

Department would hold an

open auction of 17 public

water ponds and two

nurseries units on the first

of August 2023 to promote

Cash prizes

for peasants

on bumper

production

of cotton

announced

MULTAN (APP): Punjab

government announced cash prizes for contestants

on maximum per acre production of cotton for the year 2023-24 in order

to revive and promote

white gold in the province.

sources, "The farmer who

will secure the first

position at the provincial

level will be awarded Rs 1.5

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

the cash prizes is to revive

and promote cotton. As

criteria for participation,

the farmers who will

cultivate cotton at five

acres or more five will be

eligible for appearing in the contest," the sources

participants can get forms

the

"The

intending

website

'The basic aim behind

million.

According to official

fish farming at all levels.

He said the Fisheries

He told APP that the

division currently.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah visiting Greater Karachi Water Supply Scheme K-IV project take-off

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Sunday said that the top performing sub-committees of the Chamber would be given awards to recognize and acknowledge their effective role in resolving the issues of the responsibilities. business community of

their respective sectors. oresiding over a meeting of

conveners including women attended the meeting and briefed the President ICCI about the performance of their respective sub-committees.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that during his tenure, 150 sub-committees had Chamber, but only some of

performance. He urged all the conveners to further improve the performance of their committees and present their performance reports on a monthly basis to ICCI.

He assured that ICCI would provide all possible support to the committees in discharging their

He announced that convenors of high sish were produced at 350 He said this while performing committees will be given special awards the conveners of ICCI sub- while inactive committees committees, said a news release issued here. will be replaced next year and the whole process will A large number of be done on merit basis.

ICCI Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik said that just like the active role played by the standing committees of the Parliament in the legislative process. committees of the Chamber can also play an effective been formed in the role in solving the issues of the business community of them were showing good their respective sectors.

World Bank approves 300m USD for Bangladesh gas distribution system

DHAKA (Xinhua/APP): The World Bank has approved 300 million U.S. dollars to help Bangladesh improve the efficiency of gas distribution and enduse through prepaid and metering systems for residential and industrial consumers and reduce methane emissions along the natural gas value chain.

The Gas Sector Efficiency Improvement and Carbon Abatement Project will address natural gas leakage and losses along the gas transmission and distribution network, reduce wastage in use by residential and industrial users, and strengthen network monitoring capabilities, said the Washington-based lender in a statement received here

It will install more than 1.2 million prepaid gas meters in Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

Among these, 1.1 million prepaid meters will be deployed in Greater

gas use in the industrial sector.

The project will install a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System on the PGCL network to improve gas



informed. and from www.agri punjab.gov.pk.

A committee at the Geographic Information divisional level will flow monitoring and help examine the participants reduce methane leaks.



FAISALABAD: Female farmers are cultivating the rice crop in the field.

AB THERMAL POWER (PVT.) LIMITED (PTPL)

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): development in Pakistan, Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday said with corporate farming, Pakistan would not only stimulate economic activities but

also revolutionize it's agriculture unlocking potential opportunities in foodrelated various industries. Speaking at a seminar 'Corporate Farming

Promise Food Security held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, he said adopting corporate farming on state lands will not only facilitate the attracting foreign direct implementation of modern irrigation systems but also government must declare contribute to land agriculture as an industry

Secretary of Agriculture

South Punjab Saqib Ateel

said that there was a dire

need to relay cropping to get maximum production from available pieces of

of available resources is of

sector. Relay cropping is a

standing crop, before the

harvest of the second

observed that the

improved by following

He urged research

Calamities on behalf of ICAP.

Major enterprises in

China's cultural sector and

related businesses saw

their combined revenue

return to double-digit

growth in the second

quarter of this year as the

industry continued to

recover, official data

10.7 percent year on year

in the second quarter, the

first time for the quarterly

income to post a double-

digit increase since the third

quarter of 2021, according

to the National Bureau of

year, these enterprises

recorded 5.94 trillion yuan

(about 832 billion U.S.

dollars) of revenue in total,

a 7.3-percent uplift from a

percentage points higher

than the first quarter, the

In the first half of this

Their revenue rose

showed Sunday.

Statistics (NBS).

China's cultural industry

achieves double-digit revenue

growth amid recovery

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): NBS data showed.

crop," he added.

modern techniques.

"The best utilization

MULTAN

Coordinator to Federal Tax said a news release issued

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

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

investment,

and implement a timely investment policy tailored to induce foreign investment which will pave the way for the country's progress and prosperity."

Meher Kashif Younis said, "Agriculture development is one of the most powerful tools to end abject poverty, boost shared prosperity, and feed a projected 9.7 billion people by 2050." He said, "Growth in

the agriculture sector is two to four times more effective in raising the income among the poorest compared to other sectors. However, he said the potential in this sector is not being fully exploited in Pakistan."

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

(APP): experiments of inter and relay cropping. The separate trial at research bodies and the Muhammad Pakistan Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture should be done and data should also The crops which

vital importance to should be promoted among stabilize the economy by farming communities, he promoting the agriculture stated. To enhance soil method of multiple fertility, he suggested the cropping where one crop cultivation of leguminous

be arranged regularly.

proved best during trials

is seeded into a second crops Efforts should be made to cultivate cotton

and soybean so that In a statement, he maximum economic erved that the returns should be achieved, agriculture sector could be he added.

"The relay cropping enhances soil quality, and limits weeds and pest to conduct attacks.

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Ali Latif, President Institute of Chartered

Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) called on Finance Minister Senator

Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division and presented a chaque for Rs.5

million as donation in the PM Relief Fund for Floods, Earthquake &

The cultural industry

of improvement in the first

half as the government

support policies kicked in

and unleashed market

potential, said Zhang Peng,

an NBS senior statistician.

enterprises jumped 35.4

percent year on year in the

first half, the data showed.

Zhang attributed the

growth to a low base of

comparison and the rapid

categories of the sector, the

cultural, entertainment and

recreational enterprises,

many of which are engaged

in contact-based services,

posted the strongest

rebound. Their revenue

surged 76.2 percent year on

year in the first half, 27.7

percentage points faster

than the first quarter.

Among the nine major

recovery of business.

Profits of major

Dar, donates Rs 5m in PM relief fund

President Institute of Chartered Accountants of Muhammad Ali Latif on Sunday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and donated Rs 5 million to Prime Minister Relief Fund.

According to the official account of the finance ministry, the president presented a cheque of Rs 5 million as a donation to the Prime Minister Relief Fund for Floods, Earthquakes, and Calamities on behalf of ICAP. "Muhammad Ali Latif, President Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

President ICAP calls on

ISLAMABAD (APP):

media

healthcare complex designed to revolutionise medical services in the province. Equipped with cutting-edge facilities and advanced equipment, the Medical City holds the potential to elevate and hoped that the project cater to a larger number of congestion and improve

technology, hybrid seed creation of tailored hybrid seed varieties that cater to the specific needs of Pakistani farmers and align with the country's agricultural practices and

climate. He said, "China and Pakistan have longstanding development, and had the ties, and such meetings could potentially lead to advancements in hybrid seed technology and agricultural practices, benefiting both countries' agricultural sectors."

He said, "Fruitful meetings between agricultural organizations from different countries can be beneficial for exchanging knowledge, technology, and sector, is possible and could have significant benefits for both countries," said a news expertise in the field of seed development and agriculture." He said, "Hybrid

release issued here. seeds are created by said, crossing two genetically 'Collaboration in the different parent plants to private sector allows for produce offspring with joint research and desired traits, such as development initiatives improved yield, resistance between both countries." to pests and diseases, or He said, "Such better adaptability to local

Chairman Pakistan Hitech

Hybrid Seed Association

(PHHSA) Shahzad Ali

Malik Sunday said China had made substantial

agricultural technology, including hybrid seed

expertise to share the practices with Pakistan.

with a delegation said, "More collaboration

between Pakistan and

China in the agricultural

sector, particularly in the development of new

varieties of hybrid seeds in the private

Shahzad Ali Malik currently visiting China

advancements



MULTAN: Labourer are cutting huge wood into

LCCI resident lauds development projects inaugurated by PM

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

After attending the Governor's House, he told would propel the area's progress in the sectors of healthcare, transportation, and energy infrastructure. He mentioned that centerpiece of the event was the grand unveiling of Rs 50 billion Medical City, a state-of-the-art

society, providing essential medical services and financial support to those inaugural ceremony at the in need, fostering a healthier and more inclusive society. that Highlighting transformative projects government's commitment to population welfare. Kashif Anwar said that Rs 30 billion Population Welfare Programme was inaugurated to create awareness and provide resources to promote planning, family contributing to a balanced demographic growth and sustainable development. Addressing

Programme, he said,

asserting that this initiative

aimed to ensure access to

transportation needs of the growing city, he said, the SL-3 Lahore Ring Road healthcare standards and would help alleviate traffic Another connectivity, making important project that commuting more efficient received its soft launch was and convenient for the the Rs 52 billion National residents of Lahore.

government may need to

focus on improving energy

efficiency, promoting

renewable energy sources,

reducing transmission and

distribution losses, and

implementing targeted

subsidies to protect

vulnerable sections of

society."
"Higher power tariffs

lead to an inflation increase,

increasing the cost of

mounting inflationary

critical input for various

economic activities, and

any changes in its cost can

"Electricity is a

He said, "Industries

production

pressures

economy.

electricity

Iftikhar Ali Malik urges govt to explore sustainable energy options

ISLAMABAD (APP): negative impacts of SAARC Chamber of increased power tariffs on Commerce and Industry the economy, former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday urged the government to explore alternative energy source measures that could lead to a shift in the energy mix towards more sustainable options, which might have long-term benefits for energy security and en viron mental sustainability.

Talking to a delegation of traders led by Muslim Khan Buneri he said, "If industries face higher costs they may resort to costcutting measures, including workforce reduction, to maintain profitability," said a news release issued "It will result in job affect industries, businesses, people, and the

losses and increase overall economic growth," unemployment rates," he he added. Iftikhar Malik said, that heavily rely on

To address the potential



MULTAN: A gypsy family preparing traditional baskets with dry tree branches while sitting at the

Vegetables, fruits prices go higher

PESHAWAR (APP): The citizens of the provincial metropolis are worried about the everyday increase in the prices of vegetables and fruits in the local markets and the officials of the price control have so far failed to compel the shopkeepers to sell their food items on controlled rates issued by the administration.

However, some occasional visits by the officials of the price control were witnessed but overall it failed to control the rates.

The price of ginger touched an all-time high of Rs 1100 per kg, garlic Rs. 380, and lemon 160 per kg remained unchanged.

The price of the onion 60, tomato 130, green pepper 80, okra 80 and curry 40 rupees per kg and Potato 120, Kachalu 110, Cauliflower 160, Eggplant 90, Zucchini 130, Tenda Rs. 100 are being

US announces \$345 million military aid package for Taiwan

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

U.S. lawmakers have been pressuring the Pentagon and White House to speed weapons to Taiwan. The goals are to help it counter China and to deter China from considering attacking, by providing While Chinese diplomats Taipei enough weaponry protested the move, that it would make the price of invasion too high. Washington.

Taiwan's trade office in

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

Monitoring Desk

TAIPEI: China accused the United States of turning Taiwan into an "ammunition depot" after the White House announced a \$345 million military aid package for Taipei, and the self-ruled island said Sunday is tracked six Chinese navy ships in waters off its shores China's Taiwan Affairs Office issued a statemen

late Saturday opposing the military aid to Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory.

"No matter how much of the ordinary people

taxpayer money the ... Taiwanese separatist forces spend no matter how many U.S. weapons, it will not shake our resolve to solve the Taiwan problem. Or shake our firm will to realize the reunification of our motherland, said Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Af

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



Ukrainian drones attempting to attack Moscow.

Putin says Russia does not reject talks with Ukraine

Monitoring Desk Russian

President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that an African initiative could be a basis for peace in Ukraine but that Ukrainian attacks made it hard

a press conference after meeting African leaders in operation... We cannot St Petersburg on Friday and hearing their calls for Moscow to move ahead with their plan.

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

implement. Reuters reported in June that African mediation in the conflict could begin with confidencebuilding measures fol-

companied by negotiations between Russia and the West

Putin said that one of the points in the initiative was a ceasefire.
"But the Ukrainian

army is on the offensive, they are attacking, they He was speaking at are implementing a largecease fire when we are under attack."

On the question of starting peace talks, he said, "We did not reject them... In order for this process to begin, there needs to be agreement on both sides.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has rejected the idea of a ceasefire now that would leave Russia in control of nearly a fifth of his country and give its forces lowed by a cessation of time to regroup after 17 hostilities agreement ac- grinding months of war.

China issues red alert for torrential rain in Beijing, surrounding provinces

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China's weather service on Saturday issued a red alert for torrential rain in the capital Beijing and surrounding provinces, as Typhoon Doksuri swept inland bringing hazardous weather conditions to many parts of the country.

Doksuri smashed into southern Fujian province on Friday morning with gusts of up to 175 kilometres per hour, and China's meteorological service said on Saturday its "influence" was now being felt in the country's north.

China has been experiencing extreme weather conditions and posting record temperatures this summer, events that scientists say are being exacerbated by climate

Saturday's downpour could ing than in July 2012, when only if necessary.

79 people died and tens of thousands were evacuated. according to local media. It is the first time since 2011 that such a heavy rain-

fall warning has been issued, local media said. The red alert will be in force from 8pm local time and covers an area of several hundred million inhabitants, including the metropolis of Tianjin, and the provinces of Hebei and

Shandong. Several of Beijing's parks, lakes and riverside roads have been closed out of precaution, the municipal authorities announced

on Saturday. Heavy showers were reported in the capital on Saturday afternoon and are expected to last through Tuesday

In Fujian's provincial Experts have warned capital on Saturday, authorities ordered residents prompt even worse flood- to only leave their homes

EU sanctions Rwandan army officer over involvement in Congo rebellion **Monitoring Desk**

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

The M23 is a Tutsi-led rebel group, which the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Western powers including the United States and Belgium, as well as reports from a United Nations expert group, say is supported by neighbouring Rwanda. Rwanda has denied the accusations.

The group is one of a myriad of armed rebels in eastern Congo who are fighting in a complex web of local politics and regional conflicts over ethnicity.

Death toll in **Thailand** firecrackers explosion at warehouse rises to 12

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: Twelve

people were killed and more than 100 injured when firecrackers kept in a warehouse exploded in southern Thailand, an official said on The firecrackers set

off a fire on Saturday at the unauthorised warehouse at the Muno market in Su-ngai Kolok district in the southern province of Narathiwat bor-Malaysia, Narathiwat's Governor Sanan Phongaksorn said.

"There are 10 deaths plus the remains of two unidentified persons, which were sent for DNA checks,' Sanan said.

He said 121 people were injured, two severely, while 111 had been discharged from hospital, he said. "But there should be no more deaths.3



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



Bruno Le Maire attend the China-France Economic and Financial Dialogue at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China.

Ukrainian drones downed over Moscow: Russia defence ministry

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Three Ukrainian drones were downed over Moscow early on Sunday, Russia's defence ministry said, in an attack that briefly shut an international While one of the

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

rons, lying about 500 attempted terrorist attack kilometres from the Ukrai- with unmanned aerial ve-

Monitoring Desk

ROME: Italy made an "im-

provised and atrocious" de-

cision when it joined

China's Belt and Road Ini-

tiative (BRI) four years ago

as it did little to boost ex-

ports, Italian Defence Min-

ister Guido Crosetto said in

an interview published on

BRI under a previous gov-

ernment, becoming the only

major Western country to

have taken such a step.

Crosetto is part of an ad-

ministration that is consid-

the agreement.

ering how to break free of

Italy signed up to the

Joining China's Belt and

Road was an 'atrocious'

decision: Italy minister

nian border, had been rarely targeted during the conflict in Ukraine until several drone attacks this year.

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

The defence ministry called it an "attempted terrorist attack' On the morning of

Moscow and its envi- July 30, the Kyiv regime's

visions rebuilding the old

Silk Road to connect China

with Asia, Europe and be-

yond with large infrastruc-

ture spending. Critics see it as a tool for China to spread

its geopolitical and eco-

the (new) Silk Road was an

improvised and atrocious

act" that multiplied China's

exports to Italy but did not

have the same effect on Ital-

ian exports to China, Crosetto told the Corriere

"The issue today is: how to walk back (from the

BRI) without damaging re-

della Sera newspaper.

"The decision to join

nomic influence.

hicles on objects in the city of Moscow was thwarted. it said on Telegram.

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

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

Moscow-City is a

commercial development to the city's west.

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

Monitoring Desk ANKARA: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Saturday urged Denmark to take urgent action to prevent burnings of the Quran, a Turkish foreign ministry source said.

In a phone call with his Danish counterpart Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Fidan condemned the "continuous vile attacks against the Quran".

He told Rasmussen it was unacceptable to allow such actions under the guise of freedom of expression, the source said.



Bangladesh Nationalist party (BNP) activists blocking a highway entering Bangladesh's capital disperse after police fired tear gas shells during a protest demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and a general election under a neutral caretaker government, in Dhaka.

More Wagner fighters move closer to Polish border, Poland PM says

Monitoring Desk WARSAW: A group of a Poland began moving more hundred soldiers from the

Russian Wagner group have east of the country amid moved closer to the rising concerns that the Belarusian city of Grodno presence of Wagner fightnear the Polish border, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said on Saturday.

Warsaw Pact member which has been a full member of the U.S.-led NATO military alliance since 1999, has been concerned about the possible spillover of the war onto its territory ever since Russia invaded Ukraine in

Earlier this month, than 1,000 troops to the ers in Belarus could lead to increased tension on its

border.
"The situation is get-Poland, a former ting increasingly dangerous many Pact member ... Most likely they (the Wagner personnel) will be disguised as the Belarusian border guard and help illegal migrants get to the Polish territory (and) destabilise Poland," Morawiecki said at a press conference in Gliwice, western Poland

February 2022. **Bangladesh police** clash with protesters blockading capital

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

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

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

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

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

Fire kills four in Karbala **Monitoring Desk**

BAGHDAD: A fire killed four people in Karbala on Friday as hundreds of thousands of devotees gathered to mark Ashura.

The blaze erupted in an alleyway near the mausoleum of Imam Hussein. "According to prelimi-

nary reports, the fire was sparked by a gas bottle in the kitchen" of a tent and then spread into an adjacent market, an emergency services statement said.

Nepalese climber breaks own record with sixth K2 summit **Monitoring Desk**

GILGIT: As many as 26 foreign climbers summited K2, the world's secondhighest peak at 8,611 metres above sea level, on Friday, a day after 86 for-eigners scaled the moun-

One of the day's highlights was the Nepalese mountaineer Ming-ma David, who broke his own record to become the only person in the world to have scaled K2 six times.

Mingma G, a renowned climber and owner of the peak climbing operator Imagine Nepal, told Dawn from the K2 base camp that 180 climbers had started the summit push but only 26 successfully reached the top, as the others had to abandon the adventure because of bad weather.

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

Monitoring Desk

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

That commitment, with no details, follows Putin's promise to start shipping 25,000 to 50,000 tons of grain for free to each of six African

four months — an amount dwarfed by the 725,000 tons shipped by the U.N. World Food Program to several hungry countries, African and otherwise, under the grain deal. Russia plans to send the free grain to Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, Eritrea and Central African Republic. Fewer than 20 of Africa's 54 heads of state or government attended the Russia summit, while 43 attended the previous gathering in 2019, reflecting concerns over Russia's invasion of Ukraine even as Moscow seeks more allies on the African continent of 1.3 billion people. Putin praised Africa as a rising center of power in the world, while the Kremlin blamed "outrageous" Western pressure for discouraging some African countries

Blinken says US economic support for Niger is at risk as military takeover threatens stability security partnership with

Monitoring Desk CANBERRA: Political instability in Niger resulting from a military takeover that deposed the president this week threatens the economic support provided by Washington to the African nation, U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said Saturday.

Members of the Niger military announced on Wednesday they had deposed democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum and on Friday named Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani as the country's new leader, adding Niger to a growing list of military regimes in West Africa's Sahel region. Blinken, who is in

Australia as part of a Pacific tour, said the continued security and economic arrangements that Niger has with the U.S. hinged on the release of Bazoum and "the immediate restoration of the democratic order in Niger." "Our economic and

Niger — which is significant, hundreds of millions of dollars — depends on the continuation of the democratic governance and constitutional order that has been disrupted by the actions in the last few days,' Blinken said. "So that assistance, that support, is in clear jeopardy as a result of these actions, which is another reason why they need to be immediately reversed." Blinken stopped short of calling the military actions in Niger a coup, a designation that could result in the African country losing millions of dollars of military aid and assistance.

Speaking in Brisbane, Blinken said he had spoken with President Bazoum on Saturday but did not provide details. He cited the support of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and other regional entities in trying to bring an end to the unrest.

UN says it's forced to cut food aid to millions globally because of a funding crisis

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The

United Nations has been forced to cut food, cash payments and assistance to millions of people in many countries because of "a crippling funding crisis" that has seen its donations plummet by about half as acute hunger is hitting record levels, a top official said Friday. Carl Skau, deputy ex-

ecutive director of the World Food Program, told a news conference that at least 38 of the 86 countries where WFP operates have already seen cuts or plan to cut assistance soon — including Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen and West Africa. He said WFP's oper-

ating requirement is \$20 billion to deliver aid to everyone in need, but it was aiming for between \$10 billion and \$14 billion, which was what the agency had received in the past few years.
"We're still aiming at

that, but we have only so down in the global far this year gotten to about economy.

half of that, around \$5 bil-

lion," Skau said. He said humanitarian needs were "going through the roof" in 2021 and 2022 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine and its global implications. "Those needs continue to grow, those drivers are still there," he said, "but the funding is drying up. So we're looking at 2024 (being) even more dire."

"The largest food and nutrition crisis in history today persists," Skau said. "This year, 345 million people continue to be acutely food insecure while hundreds of millions of people are at risk of wors-

ening hunger." Skau said conflict and insecurity remain the primary drivers of acute hunger around the world. along with climate change, unrelenting disasters, persistent food price inflation and mounting debt stress — all during a slow-

Power station fire, explosions cut off power in much of Iraq in scorching summer heat, officials say **Monitoring Desk**

BAGHDAD: Power was cut off in large swaths of southern and central Iraq for much of Saturday during scorching summer heat and observances of the Shiite holy day of Ashoura after a fire broke out at a power station in the southern city of Basra.

The fire at the Al-Bkir substation in Basra resulted in the separation of transmission lines linking the southern and central regions, leading to a complete shutdown of the electrical system in the area, Iraq's Ministry of Electricity said in a statement. It said the fire was accidental.

The power outage came as the electrical system faces other challenges, including fuel shortages and surging demands for electricity during a major heat wave. On Saturday, temperatures reached 47 degrees Celsius (116.6 degrees Farenheit).

Also on Saturday, the company that handles electricity transmission in the north reported that the northern transmission line zens.

in a remote area outside the city of Haditha in western Iraq had been sabotaged. Three towers were hit by improvised explosive devices, putting the line out of service, the statement It did not say who was

responsible for the attack. Staff were not initially able to repair the damage on Friday due to security issues, the statement said. Islamic State cells and other armed groups are active in the remote desert area. On Saturday, workers were able to access the site with

and begin repair work. The Ministry of Electricity ordered the formation of committees to investigate both incidents.

the help of security forces

The power blackout had a domino effect on other services, with Baghdad Municipality attributing a disruption in tap water supply to the outage caused by the fire in Basra. The municipality said it was trying to run water pumps using generators to limit the impact on citi-

QUETTA: Security personnel standing high alert during Ashura procession on 10th Muharram ul Haram, commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (RA) grandson of Holy Prophet Muhammad

He lauded Chinese energy needs.

Ahsan Iqbal empha-

sized that CPEC provided

opportunities for Pakistani

workers and engineers to

acquire training in modern

technology and project

management. Additionally,

he said, the collaboration

between China and Pakistan

in the education sector fa-

cilitated thousands of Pa-

kistani students to pursue

pressed gratitude to Presi-

dent Xi Jinping for China's

unwavering support and in-

vestment in Pakistan during

challenging times. He stressed

that China's investment of bil-

lions of dollars in CPEC

projects illustrated its status

as Pakistan's most reliable

vants is unavoidable for

bringing improvement in

the public service delivery

He termed the estab-lishment of BCSA a big

achievement of the incum-

bent provincial government.

He said that objective be-

hind establishing the Acad-

emy at provincial level is

the training of provincial

civil officers at the local

level. He said that the civil

service officers would be

provided expertise in work-

ing under pressure as well

as the media management

and other sectors besides

vincial government is pro-

viding opportunities of

NA Speaker says

PPP always

focused on

well-being

of people

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly

Speaker Raja Pervaiz

Ashraf reaffirmed on Sun-

day that Pakistan Peoples

Party (PPP)'s top priority is the progress of the nation and people's happiness. He conveyed these thoughts while addressing

the participants of a public

meeting held in Chhapar

village, a Union Council Kori Dolal. Provincial As-

sembly candidate Khurram

Pervez Raja was also

sized that the PPP had al-

ways focused on the well-

the party had relentlessly

worked towards the

being of the people.

The speaker empha

He further stated that

present on the occasion.

training to the officers.

He said that the pro-

friend and a key partner.

The minister ex-

higher education in China.

Ahsan Iqbal highlights

CPEC achievements,

Sino-Pak deepening ties

President Xi Jinping's role

in elevating Pakistan's im-

age globally as an attractive

investment destination,

fostering economic coop-

lighted that in the span of

three years, CPEC saw the

successful completion of

numerous projects worth

compassed various sectors,

including power generation,

infrastructure develop-

ment, education and more,

he said adding the Thar coal

project stood out as a monu-

mental achievement, har-

nessing Pakistan's vast coal

reserves for power genera-

tion, making it a significant

contributor to the country's

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili addressing the

graduation ceremony of the first batch of Mid-career Management Course

No dearth of competence in Balochistan officers: CS exhorts civil officers to play

due role in tackling challenges

being faced by Balochistan

Uqaili directs not to use word "bureaucrats" in provin-

cial affairs, rather word "public servants" would be used

for the government officers

Referring the BCSA, the Chief Secretary said

that the BCSA would not

only become the important

source of polishing the pro-

fessional competence and

increase their capacity, but

the successful completion

of first MCMC would also

prove to be the important

development for the prov-

He expressed the hope that the officers who

got training at the Academy

would demonstrate excel-

lent performance in their

strongly believed that the

increase in capacity and ca-

pabilities of the public ser-

isfaction over the arrange-

ments made to tackle the

situation due to the rains in

general public not to pay

any heed towards the

rumours on social media

regarding losses due to

Washuk district to person-

ally review the situation

emerged following the rains

sioner Washuk, Sajjad

Aslam Baloch and SP

Washuk, Akhtar Iqbal were

also accompanied with the

rains in the province.

in the district.

It was urged to the

Meanwhile, he visited

The Deputy Commis-

The Chief Secretary

respective sectors.

(MCMC) passed out from the Balochistan Civil Service Academy (BCSA)

The minister high-

These projects en-

eration and development.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Minister for Planning, De-

velopment and Special Ini-

tiatives Professor Ahsan

Iqbal on Sunday highlighted

milestone achievements

made under China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC)

during the last 10 years and

the deepening relations be-

tween the two countries

also known as "Iron Broth-

ers" with each passing day.

Addressing a news conference here ahead of the

visit of the Deputy Prime

Minister of China in con-

nection with CPEC's 10-

year celebrations, he signi-

fied the CPEC agreements signed in 2015, which

transformed Pakistan's

profile from a security state

to an investment destina-

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Sec-

retary Balochistan, Abdul

Aziz Uqaili has stated that

there's no dearth of capa-

bility and competence in the

civil officers of the prov-

ince, and as such they

should have to play their

important role in tackling

different challenges includ-

ing those related to

economy and backward-

ness being faced by the

was addressing the gradua-

tion ceremony of the first

batch of Mid-career Man-

agement Course (MCMC)

passed out from the

Balochistan Civil Service

Academy (BCSA) here on

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Director

General Provincial Disaster

Management Authority (PDMA), Jahanzaib Khan

paid an emergent visit to Kech district the other day.

ation following the rains in

Kech district and adjoining

During the visit, the Deputy Director PDMA

Makran, Reehan Dashti in-

formed that although losses

have been caused due to the

rains and flashflood in the

province, however, there

were no much losses in

only one death has been

He was informed that

He reviewed the situ-

The Chief Secretary

province.

Marriyum Aurangzeb reiterates govt commitment to upgrade PTV, Radio Pakistan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Sunreiterated the

government's commitment to upgrade Pakistan Television (PTV) and Radio Pakistan which were indispensable to promoting national heritage and narrative at the global level.

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

DRM Medium Wave Radio Pakistan accom-Transmitter Project at Radio Pakistan, Rawat.

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

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

At the outset of the media talk, the minister said

den and Denmark.

Senate passes

Toshakhana bill proposing

penalty for

hiding state gifts
ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Senate on Sunday

unanimously approved the

Toshakhana bill, which

proposes penalties for of-

ficials who hide state gifts

The amendment

states that anyone who

breaks the rules outlined in

Section 3 or any related rule

will be fined an amount

equal to five times the mar-

ket value of the gift. If the

person is a government ser-

vant, they may also face

departmental proceedings

as per the applicable laws

administrative facility un-

der the Cabinet Division,

responsible for safeguard-

ing valuable gifts given to

rulers, parliamentarians,

cials by foreign leaders and

Four devotees

die, 21 injured

as bus overturns

in Fazilpur

RAJANPUR (APP): Four

devotees died and another

21 sustained injuries as a

bus overturned at Indus

Highway near Fazilpur in

district Rajanpur on Sun-

day. According to district

emergency officer Dr Muhammad Aslam, a bus

of devotees was heading

towards Jacobabad from

Jhang. All of a sudden, the bus collided with a safety

barrier installed along the

road when its driver fell

asleep. As a result, the bus

overturned. The four de-

ceased persons were iden-

tified as Yasir son of

The Toshakhana is an

and rules.

dignitaries.

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

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

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

kistan on modern lines. The minister extended gratitude to PM, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, and Planning Minister Ahsan

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

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

bomb blast in Bajor; grieved over losses of precious lives Maintain provincial government

and people of Balochistan share grief and sorrow with bereaved families of martyrs

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir

Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and Provincial Minister Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove have strongly condemned the bomb blast in the workers convention of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) in Bajor district.

In their separate condemnation statements issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minisetr expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the

orists don't belong to any religion or party nor they worth to be called Muslims. He said that the political parties hold public meetings and demonstrations and it is duty of the government to provide them

the area which has gone through terrorism for long, but now the peace has been

support of the Pak army and security institutions. He expressed sympa thy with the bereaved families of the martyrs. He also

prayed for early recovery

of those injured in the blast. Similarly, the Provincial Minister Home also condemned the Bajor terrorism act in strongest

In a condemnation statement issued here, he expressed condolence and sympathy with the bereaved families of those martyred in the terrorism.

He said that no religion of the world allows attack on the innocent persons and it is an inhumane act to target the innocent people at public place.

He said that the people of Balochistan and government share the grief and sorrow with the bereaved families of martyrs.



ing Marriyum Aurangzeb addressing a Press conference in Islamabad.

instead of declaring and depositing them in the Toshakhana – the repository for such gifts. The bill was presented by State Minister for Law and Justice, Shahadat Awan, during the Senate session.

Minister for Home and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has demanded of federal government to immediately construct the national highway swept in the flood

erwise affected last year, in the province.

again. He said that National Highway Authority (NHA) is a federal government's institution, therefore, the federation should release the necessary funds for rehabilitation of the highways in Balochistan immediately.

bureaucrats, and other offi-

Authorities over Reko Dig and other mines and minerals projects said in their separate messages that Reko Diq resources are world largest copper and gold reservoirs dicovered.

Government of Pakistan is going to hold Paki-

CEO Barick said Reko Diq reservoirs are world largest discovered reservoirs of copper and gold. National and International investment will get huge promo-

in Pakistan and especially in Balochistan. I am work ing with Pakistan and Balochistan government on projects of joint investment. Pakistan is full of natural treasury and minerals.

of Islamic Cooperation ISLAMABAD (APP): The legislators from both (OIC) virtual meeting for sides of the aisle in the Senthe Council of Foreign ate on Sunday came to-Ministers of Member gether to urge the govern-States on July 31. The ment to take concrete acmeeting aimed to discuss tions against the disgracemeasures against the reful incidents of desecration peated desecration of the of the Holy Quran in Swe-Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark, he added.

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman calls on Prime

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed

Joint call in Senate to

address Quran desecration

incidents in Sweden, Denmark

Mohsin Naqvi, Chief Secretary and IG Punjab Police are also present.

During the session in Senator Mushtaq emthe upper house, Senator phasized the need to Mushtaq Ahmed of strengthen the OIC's strat-Jamaat-e-Islami brought egy in dealing with the perthe matter to the attention sistent menace of Quran of Senate Chairman burning on an international Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, level. He proposed the govstressing the importance of the upcoming Organization ernment halt diplomatic re-

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

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

He stressed the importance of cutting off all ties with Sweden and Denlations, particularly with mark in response.

Khursheed Shah says Five names finalized for caretaker PM, assemblies to dissolve on Aug 9

KARACHI (APP): Federal K-IV project at Keenjhar Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah has said that five names have been finalized for Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) and assemblies will dissolve on Au-

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

persons after visiting the site of the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme Lake on Sunday, he said that they were making allout efforts to complete the project by 2024 or at the start of 2025. Replying to a question over the delay of the K-IV project which was expected to complete in 2018, he said, 'Where there is a will, there is a way.' He said that their 'Will' was that they had to

complete this project whether two months before or two months later. He said that an investigation should be carried out to know about the responsible for the project's design.



worker of JUI (F) in a Army Helicopter after the bomb blast in Bajaur district.

CS directs administration of Pishin to remain alert in view of flood threat

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili has directed the district administration of Pishin to remain active and alert keeping in view of the threat of flashflood due to rains in the district.

On this, the Deputy Commissioner Pishin, Dr. Yasir Khan Bazai visited different areas clearing and restoring the passages of the local stream including Dab cross, Nelai and Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Deputy Commissioner said that there is rain-

ing in different parts of the district and as such a mild increase is being witnessed in flow of water in the nullahs and streams of the district. He said that the situation is quite under control for time being in Pishin

He also directed the district administration to remain alert in view of the rains. He said that monitoring of the flow of water in the local streams and teams of health and livestock departments would also remain deployed in the areas likely to be affected more due to the upcoming rains.

CM, Minister Home flay

He said that that terprotection.

He said that Bajor is

He prayed for the departed souls of the martyrs and early recovery of the injured persons.



Federal Minister for Information and Broadcast-

Zia Lango demands **Immediate construction** of national highway

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial

during last. In a statement issued here on Sunday, the Minister said that the provincial government restores the traffic by developing temporary passages in its own resources. But the na-

He also expressed his

dissatisfaction over the performance of NHA in the province. He demanded of the federal government to take notice of the national highways, which are closed tional highway, which oth- due to the rains and floods

Pak is ready for economic flight, Reko Diq, other mines projects' authorities' message ISLAMABAD (Online):

stan minerals summit. Pakistan is full of natural resources and minerals land. Mr Mark Bristov and Mr Masood Nabi

managing director of GHPL said Pakistan not only have too much minerals but they are also cause of attraction to foreign investment. To utilities minerals perfectly and fully, we are going to held historic mineral summit. This summit will be are perfect platform for national and international investors in which discus-



WADH: Chief of Sarawan Nawab Muhammad Aslam Khan Raisani and Nawabzada Haji Lashkari

caused due to the rains in He also inspected the losses caused due to the The DG PDMA on rains in Washuk

QUETTA: DGPDMA Jahanzeb Khan briefed Home

Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango about damages due

DG PDMA pays emergent

visit to Kech & Washuk;

reviews rain losses

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