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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet

Joint efforts by all institutions inevitable for country's progress: PM Shahbaz

Federal Cabinet briefed about \$ 3 billion IMF deal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday, calling the IMF agreement a "breather" and a "moment of concern", urged all the national institutions to make concerted efforts to rid the country of loans and put it on the course to progress. The prime minister, in his remarks at the Federal Cabinet meeting chaired by him, said while remaining in their respective jurisdictions, the institutions should make a united effort for at least next 15 years to address the country's economic woes.

He said Pakistan's deliverance from loans required a vision, unity, hard work and sacrifice by the affluent people.

"If we opt this course, no one can stop the country from achieving progress," he remarked.

The prime minister

thanked his all cabinet members, particularly Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and his team and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and the Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) for their respective roles to help Pakistan achieve the nine-month stand-by agreement of \$3 billion.

"I pray that this is the last IMF deal. But this is easier said than done," he commented and mentioned that the state-owned enterprises like the Pakistan Steel Mills, Pakistan International Airlines and others were eating up around Rs 600 billion annually.

He said under the IMF deal, Pakistan would receive the first installment of \$1.1 billion in July.

He also thanked UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for his role in the IMF agreement and offer-

ing his further role in the process, if needed.

The prime minister spoke high of the Chinese support during last three months by rolling over \$5 billion of sovereign and commercial banks loans, which was unprecedented.

He said the situation would have been different, if China had not made the rollover. "The people of Pakistan should never forget this," he remarked.

Similarly, the prime minister also thanked Saudi Arabia for committing \$2 billion, and the United Arab Emirates and Islamic Development Bank for \$1 billion each for Pakistan.

Calling it a teamwork, he particularly appreciated the role of Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir for his efforts to bring in the support of total \$3 billion from Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Pakistan asks Sweden to take 'serious action' against desecration of Holy Quran

PM demands proper investigation into the incident "without any interference"

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday asked Sweden to take "serious action" against the desecration of the Holy Quran and demanded a proper investigation into the incident "without any interference".

Addressing the federal cabinet, PM Shehbaz said the Pakistani people and government condemned the "disgusting incident" that took place in Sweden.

"Unfortunately, this is not the first incident to take place... such heart-wrenching incidents have taken place previously as well. They highlight that Muslims in Sweden, who are a minority, are facing Islamophobia and hatred."

"The Pakistani government condemns this narrative made of hatred and discrimination," he asserted and urged the Swedish government to take action.

Referring to the OIC statement released on Sunday, PM Shehbaz said the council also demanded that the culprit should be "heavily investigated" and such incidents should be prevented in the future.

Minister Home condemns act of terrorism: Sacrifices rendered by security personnel would not go waste: CM

Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo grieved over martyrdom of FC's Major Saqib and Naik Baqar in Kech attack

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of a Major and Naik from Frontier Corps (FC) South while fighting with the terrorists in district Kech.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Monday, the Chief Minister said that both Major Saqib Hussain and Naik Baqar Ali embraced martyrdom for the sake of defence of country.

He said that Major Saqib Hussain and Naik Baqar Ali overpowered the

terrorists by fighting against them courageously.

The Chief Minister said that the great sacrifices rendered by the security personnel in the war against terrorism would not go wasted at all.

He said that the people of Balochistan are shoulder to shoulder with their security forces to route out the menace of terrorism from the province.

The Chief Minister expressed sympathy and condolence with the bereaved families of martyrs. He also prayed for the departed souls of the martyrs.

Meanwhile, the Provin-

cial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove also condemned the terrorism attack in Turbat area of Kech.

He also expressed grief and sorrow over martyrdom of an officer and a jawan of FC in the attack.

Mir Ziaullah Langove said that those attacking the security forces are unforgivable and they are enemies of the country.

He asserted that the terrorists and their perpetrators would be taken to task. The Minister said that the whole nation pays salute to the brave souls of the security forces.

President holds good meetings with Bangladesh's President in KSA

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Arif Alvi has said that he held good meetings with the President of Bangladesh Shahabuddin in Makkah, Mina and Madina.

In a tweet on Monday, the President also shared the picture of his childhood friend Salman Rehman who is now member Parliament, Minister and Advisor in Bangladesh.

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Pakistan, Japan agree to expand bilateral relations in multiple areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Japan on Monday agreed to further deepen and enhance their mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in multiple areas including trade, investment, human resource development and exchange, IT, tourism and agriculture sectors.

"We have also jointly agreed to explore the possibility of working together on targeted programs with higher impact in the domains of solarization, desalination and water purification and housing and infrastructure rebuilding in the floods affected areas in Pakistan, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said in a joint press statement along with his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi in Tokyo.

Earlier the two ministers held a meeting in a cordial environment. Both Ministers appreciated the free bilateral relations while expressing readiness to engage further.

In addition, the two sides have agreed to conduct language skill assessment tests for the Japanese language in Pakistan to facilitate the movement of the skilled workforce.

FM Bilawal said the two sides also identified the import of young Pakistani skilled human resources to Japan and their language training to be a prime area of cooperation. "We also deliberated on investments and joint ventures by Japanese enterprises in Pakistan."

During his visit, he said he would also interact with the private sector, local media as well as think-tanks to further broaden our engagement. I believe that both sides need to stay engaged at all levels to further positive dialogue and continue exploring more avenues of cooperation.

The foreign minister also invited his Japanese counterpart to visit Pakistan at your convenience to further our discussions.

He said Pakistan and Japan were longstanding friends and share a special bond based on deep-rooted linkages that go far in history and time.

The people of Pakistan carry a deep sentiment of warmth and affection for Japan and the Japanese people.

We have always stood with each other in times of need, he said.



Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo

Bilawal calls on Japanese PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday called on the Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo and discussed with him matters of mutual interests.

The foreign minister conveyed greetings from the Government and people of Pakistan, according to the ministry of foreign office's spokesperson.

During the meeting, both leaders expressed the desire to further enhance bilateral engagement and cooperation in different fields.

Toshakhana case: Chairman PTI expresses mistrust on CJ IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI Chairman has expressed mistrust on Chief Justice (CJ) Islamabad High Court (IHC). PTI Chairman has filed petition seeking shifting of petitions filed against Toshakhana case trial to other bench.

Making district election commission respondent in his petition PTI chairman took the plea chairman PTI is sure that transparent and impartial justice will not be administered by this bench.

The appeal pleas of chairman PTI against session court's decision are pending hearing in the court of CJ IHC.

PSX witnesses historic single-day gain of around 6%, expands by 2,446 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): Bullish trend dominated at the 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), as it witnessed historic single-day gain of 2,446 points on Monday, a positive change of 5.90 per cent, closing at 43,899.01 points against 41,452.69 points the previous trading day.

Following the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a total of 381,904,794 shares were traded during the day as compared to 234,748,468 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.8.647 billion against Rs. 7.476 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 357 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 315 of them recorded gains and 36 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 6 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 54,999,792 shares at Rs.1.23 per share; K-Electric Ltd with 30,596,397 shares at Rs.1.96 per share and Nergycio PK with 22,447,095 shares at Rs.3.18 per share.

Kakar slams terrorism in Kech district: Governor applauds invaluable services of security forces for making province hub of peace

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of Major Saqib Hussain and Naik Baqar Ali of Frontier Corps in an encounter with the terrorists in Kech district.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Monday, the Governor said that it is top responsibility of the government to protect life and property of the masses.

He said that the sustainable peace plays basic role for development and prosperity of the human society and the security forces have played invaluable role to make the province hub of peace.

He prayed for the departed souls of martyred security personnel and expressed sympathy and condolence with the bereaved families.

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Balochistan would be provided it's due share of water: Khursheed Shah

Independent Report
SUKKUR: The Federal Minister for Water Resources, Syed Khursheed Shah has assured that Balochistan would be provided it's due share of water.

The assurance was made by the Federal Minister during course of meetings held under his presidency the other day.

The meeting discussed matters pertaining to shortage of water in Kirthar canal and for tal's zamindars and growers.

It was actually in backdrop of the complaints and protests lodged by the growers. The Provincial President of PPP Mir Changez Jamali and Mir Faisal Jamali moved to Sukkur along with zamindars to meet the Federal Minister for water resources.



The speaker Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali and other notables also had meeting with him. The high ups of Irrigation departments of Sindh and Balochistan briefed the participants about the related matters. Speaking on the occasion, Syed Khursheed Shah and others stressed the need to meet the demands of the growers regarding water shortage.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

BNP observes wheel jam strike on national highways & roads across Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The wheel jam strike was observed on all the national highways and roads all over Balochistan province on Monday.

The call for wheel jam strike was given by the Balochistan National Party (BNP) against the law and order situation in Wadh and other parts of the province besides other certain issues.

Following the strike, the highways and roads were blocked at different places and points throughout the day from morning till 04:00 PM. While the Quetta-Karachi highway was blocked at Lak Pass, Mastung, Khad Kocho and Kalat, the Quetta-Taftan highway was blocked at Noshki and Dalbandin.

Similarly, the Quetta-Sibi-Sukkur highway was interrupted at Darakhshan area in Quetta suburb and few other parts. The Quetta-Punjab and DI Khan and Chaman highways and

roads were blocked at Baleli, Killa Saifullah, Rakhi and different other points.

The movement of traffic remained suspended causing immense problems to the commuters and transporters on the highways.

According to a leader of BNP, Ghulam Nabi Marri, the protest was lodged against the increasing incidents of extortion, kidnapping for ransom, armed groups besides the situation of law and order in Wadh and other parts of the province.

He charged that attempts are being made to push the real democratic political party towards the wall. Similarly, the armed groups and kidnappers for ransom have been given free hand, he added.

In addition to this, the protest was also registered against the issue of missing persons in the province.



HUB: Members of Balochistan National Party (BNP-Mengal) block road as they are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Bhawani Western Bypass road in Hub

OGDCL revives Jhal Magsi gas project

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move towards meeting the country's growing energy demands, Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), the leading exploration and production company in Pakistan, has revived Jhal Magsi gas project.

The state-of-the-art gas processing plant, with a daily capacity to produce 13.7 MMSCF process gas and 45 BBL/day condensate, will mitigate escalating energy needs of Pakistan, said a news release issued here on Monday.

The installation of this plant is a testament to OGDCL's commitment to furthering the exploration and production of oil and gas resources in the region.

Besides the commercial operations, the company has underscored its dedi-

cation to transforming the lives of the local community in Jhal Magsi through a series of social welfare initiatives in the areas of education, health, water, and infrastructure.

As part of its efforts to enhance healthcare facilities, the OGDCL has provided ambulances to the District Headquarter Hospital (DHQ) in Jhal Magsi.

Additionally, the OGDCL has installed a Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant, recognizing the importance of clean drinking water.

The OGDCL is actively contributing to the socioeconomic development of Jhal Magsi district by combining their commitment to meeting the country's energy requirements with community-focused initiatives.

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Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Tuesday July 04, 2023

Restoring faith

With Pakistani democracy in the throes of yet another existential crisis, June 30, the International Day of Parliamentarianism, ought to have held special significance for us.

On that day, parliamentary democracies are supposed to take stock of where they stand, how far they've come, and how far they still have to go as they evolve into forums that are truly representative of their people.

It is unfortunate that our lawmakers felt no need for such self-reflection. Our parliament today seems more like a glorified fighting pit for the vile and uncouth, rather than an agora for the wise to engage in reasoned debate.

It is a place where the already privileged pass slurs and mock each other, instead of proposing solutions and counter-solutions to the problems of their constituents.

Of course, it is the very essence of democracy for there to be disagreement — sometimes with vehemence, sometimes with calm grace.

However, such disagreements are supposed to be resolved with ethos, logos and pathos, not brawling, spurious allegations and abuse of power. Unfortunately, our lawmakers have historically tended towards the latter, only to rue it when the tables turn.

The security establishment's repeated interference in the political process has also been key in never letting the parliamentary system stabilise enough so that it could perpetuate a resilient socio-economic order.

Repeated military takeovers hollowed out the institution from within, preventing an organic, representative polity from taking root. Even when civilian-led governments have ostensibly been in the saddle, the state continued to pull the reins from behind the scenes, never really letting any popular leader have the final say in some of the most important aspects of statecraft, especially foreign policy.

Pakistan today stands at a crossroads. One path leads to an uncertain future; the other may set us back by a few decades. With a host of social, economic and political crises threatening to rip the country apart, a stable, representative parliament could have helped the nation muster the courage needed to make difficult choices.

Unfortunately, at a time when all shades of opinion needed to be brought together to find a consensus for the path forward, our parliamentarians once again seem to be working with non-parliamentary forces to repeat already failed experiments.

This is not to absolve those who have simply never given parliament or their fellow parliamentarians the respect and deference they deserved.

However, the answer lies not in once again engineering the electoral process to instal a more 'desirable' government, but in faithfully restoring parliament so that it truly represents the people of Pakistan.

How to do so, is a problem that our lawmakers — present and aspiring — must solve themselves. Their failure will only diminish the legislature's standing and cede more power to external forces.



Maleeha Lodhi

The recent trip by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to China marked an effort to stabilise relations between the two global powers that have plunged to an all-time low. The visit seemed to go well and included a meeting between Blinken and President Xi Jinping.

But, as has become a pattern in this complex relationship, any step forward is almost always followed by two steps backwards. And so it was this time. President Joe Biden's description of Xi as a "dictator" at a fundraiser prompted a strong response from Beijing, which called the remarks irresponsible and a provocation. This again revived the friction between them.

Then the red carpet rolled out by the Biden ad-

ministration for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Washington and the thrust of their joint statement reflected the apparent US effort to cement India more firmly in an anti-China coalition and use it as a counterweight to Beijing.

Questions are again being raised about the future trajectory of the world's most consequential relationship. There is now a rich body of literature that deals with the US-China confrontation and examines how this is likely to play out. Recent books include *The Avoidable War* by Kevin Rudd, *The Long Game* by Rush Doshi, *Avoiding the 'Thucydides Trap'* edited by Dong Wang and Travis Tanner, *How China Loses* by Luke Patey, *Kishore Mahbubani's Has China Won?* and *Oliver Letwin's China vs America: A Warning*.

Views, of course, diverge especially over who will prevail in the contest. As do assessments of whether their intense competition presages a new cold war and if their fraught relations can drift into conflict, even if neither side may want it. That miscalculation, especially over

the heavily militarised area around Taiwan, can lead to such an outcome is a worry for many countries in Asia and beyond. But even if conflict is avoided, their turbulent relationship will keep the global economy and the world in an unstable state.

An intelligent new book now joins the debate about the world's most critical bilateral relationship although its canvas also extends to Russia. *Cold Peace: Avoiding a New Cold War* by Michael Doyle, a Columbia University professor, offers a comprehensive review of the many issues that lie behind East-West tensions. The author sets out to examine whether a new cold war is likely and how different it might be from the Cold War of the past.

He points to the dangers of a looming cold war but argues that this is not inevitable. Instead, a 'cold peace' can be established if certain key compromises are made by competing powers, which can yield cooperation in critical areas.

The distinction Doyle draws between the contours and character of the old and new cold war is insightful.

He writes that like the original Cold War, the emerging cold war is a deeply structured conflict, both internationally and transnationally. There are similarities. Both are "non-armed conflicts" involving rivalries that go beyond contests for influence, power and prosperity. But he suggests that while Cold War I was fought primarily through proxy wars, arms races and espionage, the current confrontation entails a combination of cyber espionage, technological and industrial competition, political interference and arms contests.

He shows convincingly that the emerging Cold War II is not as extensive, extreme and polarising as its predecessor. Its reach is not yet global and "the sides are less clear-cut", with alliances not so firmly formed or ideologically defined. But the weaponisation of cyber technologies is making the confrontation a deadly one.

Doyle offers three reasons why the burgeoning cold war, dangerous as it is, will not be a replay of the original one. One, the likely costs of an escalating cold war between the

US and China. Two, the large global common interest in interdependent prosperity and saving the planet from environmental degradation. And three, he sees China and Russia as authoritarian but not totalitarian.

The book's main concern is how to prevent a second cold war. Doyle identifies what he sees as four bridges towards this end. The first concerns US-China cooperation on the shared challenge of climate change mitigation. The second is finding a negotiated end to the Ukraine conflict with Russia.

He sets forth a package of proposals on this, some workable, some unrealistic. The third bridge is détente between the US and China. Here too ideas for a compromise on Taiwan are presented. The fourth bridge to a 'cold peace' is to forge new rules on cyber. While acknowledging clashing interests and ambitions, he argues that compromises are possible to limit the harmful fallout of cyber hacking and warfare.

For Doyle, diplomatic accommodation to achieve a cold peace would also in-

volve a "non-subversion pact", resting on mutual commitments not to attack the political independence and territorial integrity of each other. That also means barring covert operations. The book has interesting 'solutions' to many of the vexed issues pushing the world towards more turbulence and instability. But as others have also observed, it overemphasises the role of domestic factors and ideology as drivers of a new cold war.

Doyle clearly comes down on the side of greater engagement between the US and China, agreeing with other authors and experts about the danger of collision between them. Rudd made the case for "managed strategic cooperation", Mahbubani for the two powers to seek areas of convergence based on their core interests, while Letwin called for "peaceful competition".

One of the most influential books on this subject, published in 2017, was *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides' Trap?* by Harvard scholar Graham Allison. -- Courtesy Dawn

Cold peace

A broken workforce



Dr Naazir Mahmood

On the UN's Human Development Index, Pakistan occupies a pitiful rank. It perches on one of the lowest rungs on education and health indicators. If our performance in the recent past is any guide, the country is unlikely to progress much even by the end of this decade. On the health front there is an extreme shortage of doctors, nurses and trained paramedical staff across the country. Even in a majority of private clinics and hospitals, one would hardly find properly qualified and trained health professionals and workers.

In this dire state of affairs, the role of lady health workers (LHWs) becomes fairly significant. The credit for the establishment of this workforce goes to the second government of Benazir Bhutto from 1993 to 1994. Being a woman and having

close contact with the people, she knew what it meant for a woman to be in need of health assistance.

Prior to that, no civilian or military government had ever thought of creating a job category that would give employment to women as lady health workers and also cater to the needs of millions of women who had no access to health facilities. Now after nearly three decades of its establishment, this lady health workforce is playing its due role but faces tremendous problems.

LHWs serve women in both rural and urban areas especially in maternal and child health issues. In urban areas they provide health assistance mostly to slum communities by coordinating efforts with traditional birth attendants and midwives.

LHWs try their best to ensure that all mothers and children receive adequate care. Now Public Services International (PSI) has launched Pakistan's first online interactive documentary experience that provides critical insights into the lives of LHWs.

PSI is a global union federation of workers in public services and serves

as an international voice for public services and for workers and unions which deliver these services. There is a need in Pakistan to organize all workers in both private and public sectors.

Forming an integral part of public services, LHWs stand on the frontlines of Pakistan against all infectious diseases and save thousands of lives every day. The documentary about LHWs that PSI has developed highlights that they provide basic healthcare services to underprivileged communities in rural and low-income urban areas.

Their role has been so crucial in polio vaccine dispensation that they have regularly risked their own lives while being a target of militants who do not even hesitate to kill these workers and their security providers. Post-natal awareness and healthcare for rural mothers, with health education and promotion become a primary area of responsibility for these LHWs.

The documentary tells the tale of a woman called Hasena who narrates her story of how she became an LHW against all

odds. The documentary comprises a series of episodes; 'Behind the Mask: Pakistan' is a key episode focusing on the struggle that healthcare workers face especially in Pakistan. The documentary chronicles the challenges and the impact of Covid-19 on the lives of LHWs highlighting the work of Hasena and her colleagues who formed the All Sindh LHW and Employees Union (ASLHWEU) to advocate for better working conditions and wages.

With 'Behind the Mask: Pakistan', PSI is also campaigning for flood relief and the restoration of the health-risk allowance for LHWs. It calls for the provision of a service structure for them which is lacking at the moment. It is so disappointing to note that despite the critical frontline role of LHWs in the fight against diseases such as polio, cholera, and Covid-19, they continue to face harassment and have to function in terrible working conditions and low pay, especially in the face of inflation and wage stagnation. These are the issues that mainstream media rarely pays attention to.

Over the years, many LHWs have retired or left

their jobs for various causes but there has been a lack of new hiring despite increased needs. The silver lining is that despite threats as polio workers, there are girls and women ready to join the LHW workforce, but the governments both at the federal and provincial levels have failed to initiate any new hiring.

Those who are already working have been facing vaccine shortages and gender inequality in terms of wages and working conditions. LHWs also lack adequate recognition from society, and were acknowledged for the fact that they continued working during the Covid-19 pandemic and even during the lockdown periods.

In this context, the 'Behind the Mask: Pakistan' episode focuses on key issues such as access to basic health services including vaccines, and the ILO Convention 190, which seeks to protect people from harassment and violence at work. The problems in hiring and the service structure also get coverage in the interactive documentary.

Since harassment is a major issue that LHWs

have to deal with in their everyday work, watching the movie gives an insight into these problems. These women receive low salaries, and the health-risk allowance that the government offered during the pandemic is no more available to them despite being constantly at risk.

LHWs keep dealing with patients who suffer from infectious diseases, and that is good enough justification to pay them the health-risk allowance. Lack of funding is no good excuse for stopping that allowance that has put these LHWs in an extreme financial condition, and they can barely eke out a living with their meagre salaries.

Our state priorities have been focusing elsewhere, while neglecting people and social service workers alike has placed Pakistan as one of the lowest countries on human development. Recent devastating floods have compounded the problems even more with additional health crises in the affected areas posing new risks for LHWs. -- Courtesy TheNews

Why military trials?



Syed Sheheryar Raza Zaidi

Pakistan's long-running political soap opera continues, adding layers of intrigue with each passing day. Every day, Pakistanis long disenchanted by the shenanigans of the ruling elite, watch from the edge of their seats as the fate of their country hangs in the balance between the Supreme Court and the military.

Add to that the distrust that the big three political parties harbour against one another, and you have a riveting political drama, fit for viewing on the OTT platform of your choice. Only this time, nothing is fictional, and it is the common man who stands to lose the most.

The Supreme Court, after repeated attempts by various legal intellectuals, finally decided to take up the challenge against the trial of civilians by military courts. Whatever the fate of the petitions before it may be, one thing is clear, the crisis in Pakistan is far from over and every player in the game knows that.

The only thing left to determine now, is what, if anything, could have compelled the government of the day to fall back on an archaic legal paradigm reserved generally for 'hardcore terrorists' and 'enemies of the state'. For starters, the military courts are seen as a mode of 'speedy justice'. There is little to no argument against that. If history is anything to go by, trials conducted by military courts are con-

ducted in record time.

To draw parallels, the time it takes for a military court to determine the fate of an accused is similar to the time it takes for an ordinary court to serve notices and merely formalise the pre-trial stages of the case at hand.

This in no way reflects on the competence of the judges in these ordinary courts but rather illustrates the neglect with which access to justice has been handled by successive governments, and dare I add, by the top echelons of our judicial elite.

Surprising as it may be to some, Pakistan's judicial system is much more than just the NAB courts, the high courts and the Supreme Court.

The unfancied parts of our judicial system — ie, the courts at the magistrate and district levels, are the primary gateways to justice for 99 per cent of Pakistan's population. They continue to remain overutilised and understaffed.

Perhaps the government was of the view that if it left the fate of all those who allegedly torched state property, albeit in a gesture of adulation towards their beloved leader, to the regular courts, then its short-term ambitions of having the perpetrators brought to task would never be fulfilled. This is where the problem lies.

Instead of setting about to reform the state of the civilian judiciary in Pakistan such that it would allow the trial of these perpetrators in a speedy and effective way all the while guaranteeing the fundamental human right of fair trial, the government has decided to seek aid from the military, this time in the form of military courts.

The problem with the military courts is that irrespective of the facts,

whatever they may be, the general perception is that a military court represents a trial by the military, a trial which is at least in theory deemed a trial conducted in a slipshod manner with guaranteed conviction.

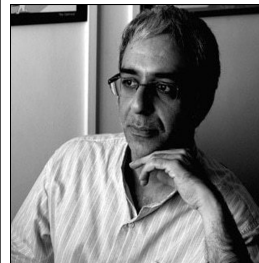
If so, why did the government feel the need to make use of military courts to try civilians? The answer is not so simple and is twofold: either the government feels that the perpetrators are guilty of committing the crime that has been alleged against them and should be firmly punished, or it is using the military courts to further its own petty political agenda.

If the government is, indeed, of the view that the perpetrators of the violence that took place on May 9 deserve to be brought to swift justice, then what better way to do so than have them tried and convicted in the ordinary course of events through regular courts which are perceived to be fair and impartial? This would only further the government's narrative against the former prime minister.

On the contrary, if the government merely wishes to weaponise the military courts to take their political opponents to task, then it would do well to remember the events surrounding former prime minister Imran Khan's ouster as a living testament of how power is never certain.

One believes that it is time for the government to reflect on the implications of its actions on this front. It should be quite clear to those at the helm of affairs that if they bring a class of civilians within the ambit of the military courts on one pretext, it may not be long before some other pretext is used to bring another class within the same ambit. -- Courtesy Dawn

Harnessing the sun



Zarrar Khuhro

Humanity's achievements are limited only by the scope of our imagination and our technological capability to build what we can imagine. Indeed, you could argue that the prime trait that separates us from the rest of creation is that we can imagine what does not yet exist, and then make that imagination a reality.

Sometimes going from imagination to execution takes a while; the first piece of literature that we could safely dub 'science fiction' was written in the second century AD by a satirist named Lucian of Samosata. Titled *A True Story*, this work saw the protagonists travel to the moon and find themselves in the midst of a war between the king of the moon and the king of the sun over who gets to colonise Venus.

Seventeen hundred years later, mankind did set foot on the moon, though we have yet to encounter extraterrestrial life. Even the moon landing may not have been possible without Robert Goddard's development of liquid-fuelled rockets, a result of his lifelong fascination with space exploration; a fascination that was born when he read H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*, about a Martian invasion of Earth. Had there been no science fiction, science itself would have suffered.

There are many lesser-known visionaries to whom we owe a debt, visionaries like 19th-century Russian theorist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky who is called 'the father of spaceflight' because of his

theoretical work on space travel and rocket propulsion. He is also credited with the concept of the space elevator, a device that often finds mention in science fiction. That's fitting because he himself was inspired by the works of Jules Verne!

Tsiolkovsky also dreamed of beaming the sun's energy directly down to Earth by deploying a series of mirrors that would beam concentrated sunlight down to Earth. Perhaps this provided inspiration to Isaac Asimov, whose 1941 story *Reason* featured a massive space station that would harness energy from the sun and beam it to other planets in the solar system. Just a few decades later, Nasa engineer Peter Glasser developed the first engineering design for what such a station would look like and was granted a patent for his microwave-based method for transferring the power down to Earth.

It makes sense to try; the sun is a gigantic fusion reactor and every second it blasts out a stupendous 384.6 septillion watts of energy into the void of space; every second it produces 120 times the amount of energy that the entire US consumes in a year. Of course, only a fraction — about a billionth — of the total energy produced by the sun ever reaches earth, and out of this only about 48 per cent reaches the ground, with the rest being reflected back to space by clouds or bright surfaces such as ice and snow and some being absorbed in the atmosphere.

The still stupendous amount of energy that does reach the ground is what supports life here, allowing plants to spin sunbeams into sugar through the miracle of photosynthesis and thus sustaining a complex ecosystem and keeping the rest of us alive. More and more of this energy is being harnessed by

solar panels, and energy produced in this way now accounts for 4.4pc of global energy production and is set to rise. In the coming years — as theorised over a century ago — the solar panels may not be on Earth but orbiting around it.

In June this year, the first tantalising proof that this may be possible came when the US-based Space Solar Power project used its Microwave Array for Power-transfer Low-orbit Experiment (MAPLE) to successfully beam solar power to Earth for the first time in history. This portends well for the future of solar energy because space-based solar energy harvesting could potentially yield eight times as much power as surface solar panels.

The US congress has taken note, with one congressman saying "the technology that once made this source of energy the work of science fiction is now much cheaper, and easier to deploy than ever, putting it within reach".

The UK has announced millions of pounds of funding for such projects and Europe is also considering making serious investments. Japan, a leading global technological hub, which had in 2015 successfully managed to wirelessly beam 1.8 kilowatts of power over a short distance, is planning to conduct its own orbital test by 2025 and China, never afraid to go big, is envisioning an orbital power plant that could produce a gigawatt of power. Private companies like space start-ups Orbital composites and Virtus Solis, are also getting into the act by collaborating on building a megawatt-scale orbiting power station that will beam solar energy directly down to Earth. Truly, the seeds of the future are planted in the past and, if we're lucky and know where to look, we can see them sprouting in our present. -- Courtesy Dawn

CPI inflation slides down to 29.4pc in June: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said on Monday that the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation came down to 29.4 percent during the month of June 2023 as compared to 38 percent recorded during May 2023.

“As per the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the CPI inflation for Jun 2023 clocked in at 29.4 percent compared to 38 percent YoY for May’23,” the federal minister said in a tweet. Ishaq Dar said the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has also performed well “as 2,334 points were

added to the index by 1:00 p.m on Monday whereas at the exchange rate of Pak Rupee vs Dollar in open Market was recorded at Rs.270/272.”

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported that the CPI-based inflation reached 29.4 percent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis in June 2023 as compared to 38 percent in the previous month and 21.3 percent in June 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, it decreased to 0.3 percent in January 2023 as compared to an increase of 1.6 percent in the previous month (May 2023) and an increase of 6.3 percent in June 2022.

On a year-on-year basis, the top few food commodities that witnessed an increase in prices as compared to the corresponding month of last year included cigarettes (129.20 percent), Tea (113.09 percent), Wheat Flour (89.89 percent), Rice (72.83 percent), Potatoes (64.69 percent), Wheat (62.27 percent), Chicken (57.72 percent), Wheat Products (56.81 percent), Pulse Moong (50.50 percent), Pulse Mash (49.92 percent), Beans (47.60 percent), Ready-made Food (43.04 percent), Sugar (41.64 percent), Fresh Fruits (40.31 percent), Beverages

(38.17 percent), Eggs (36.96 percent), Bakery and Confectionery (36.83 percent), Gur (36.60 percent), Milk Fresh (31.8 percent), Condiments and Spices (30.04 percent), Gram Whole (28.42 percent), Pulse Gram (24.14 percent), Cooking Oil (19.62 percent), Meat (18.50 percent), Fresh Vegetables (13.71 percent), Vegetable Ghee (8.90 percent) and Mustard Oil (5.97 percent), while tomatoes came down by 29.57 percent and onion 16.53 percent.

The non-food commodities that witnessed an increase during the period on a YoY basis included



KARACHI: Pakistani brokers and traders monitor the shares at the Stock Exchange (KSE) as Pakistan Stocks Surge Most after the approval of IMF Loan to Pakistan.



LAHORE: Central Joint Secretary of Anjuman-e-Tajran (Lahore) Umer Butt addressing press conference along with others at Press Club, to condemn the burning of Quran Pak in Sweden.

Pakistan earns US \$881m from travel services' export in 10 months: PBS

ISLAMABAD (APP): The country earned US \$881.250 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the first ten months of the fiscal year 2022-23.

This shows a growth of 90.29 per cent as compared to the US \$463.100 million worth same services provided during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year 2021-22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the period under review, personal travel services increased by 89.80 per cent, from US \$460.820 million last year to US \$874.640 million during July-April 2023.

Among the personal services, the exports of health-related expenditure surged by 16.23 per cent to US \$3,580 million from US \$3,080 million while the education-related expenditure also rose by

0.32 per cent from US \$ 9.430 million to US \$9.460 million.

Meanwhile, the PBS data revealed that the exports of business services grew by 189.91 per cent, from US\$ 2.280 million to US\$ 6.610 million. It is pertinent to mention here that the exports of services from the country, witnessed an increase of 1.46 per cent during the first ten months of the current financial year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, it added.

The exports of services during July-April (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 6,009.87 million against the exports of US\$ 5,923.19 million during the same period of last year.

The imports of the country witnessed a decline of 39.70 per cent, falling from US\$ 10,635.72 million last year to US\$ 6,413.32 million during the period under review.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Lotus-A, FMT Efes, GC-Beryl and Isabella Kosan carrying Containers, Palm oil and Chemicals, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile, two more ships, Katsuyama and Chemroad Hope with Palm Oil and Chemicals also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

A total of 08 ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, EM Astoria, Maersk Chesapeake and FMT Efes sailed out to sea Monday morning and two more ships, Lotus-A and Isabella Kosan are expected to sail on today.

The cargo throughput of 131,621 tonnes, comprising 83,783 tonnes imports Cargo and 47,838 tonnes of export cargo.

SCCI rejects imposition of new taxes Rs415billion in 2023-24 budget

PESHAWAR (Online): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry categorically rejected imposition of new taxes worth Rs415billion in 2023-24 budget on behalf of the IMF, terming it as venomous for the national economy, businesses and industries.

In a statement on Monday, the SCCI acting president Ijaz Khan Afridi said the additional burden of taxes will bring a new storm of inflation in the country that could not only affect the trading community but people from different walks of life miserably.

He urged the government to revisit its decision and withdraw it in the best interest of the national economy, businesses, industries and trade.

Ijaz Afridi warned

that SCCI along with traders' community will strongly agitate if the government didn't withdraw additional taxes that were imposed through the new budget 2023-24.

He was of the view that imposition of new taxes was tantamount to pushing the further crippling economy into severe danger situations.

He stated traders' community has already suffered a lot owing to anti-business policies of the present government.

The SCCI acting chief said it was completely unjust to impose Rs415billion on inflation stricken people by following the directions of IMF, which was unacceptable so we reject it completely.

He expressed serious apprehensions about a hike in electricity.

HCCI President terms IMF agreement encouraging for country

HYDERABAD (APP): President Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) Adeel Siddiqui has said that agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) was encouraging for the country as it could address some economic issues confronting the country's economy. He, however, emphasized that future caretakers and the new government should have to continue with this programme.

He urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to take the IMF programme as the last one and focus revival of the economy around the clock failing which Pakistan would be borne \$ 8 billion in losses every year and remain dependent on foreign loans.



ISLAMABAD: An elderly person busy in making duplicate key at Aabpara Market.

Pak, Syria to enhance industrial cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Damascus Chamber of Industry, Ghazwan al-Masry during a meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Syria, Shahid Akhtar, discussed means of enhancing and developing industrial cooperation between the two countries.

According to the SANA news agency, during the meeting held at the Chamber's building in Damascus, Al-Masry stressed that the chamber was ready for full cooperation with the Pakistani side.

He said the chamber would also facilitate communication between businessmen and industrialists in both countries and provide everything necessary for raising economic relations

in a way that reflects positively in the interest of the two sides.

The chamber's Chief appreciated Pakistan's stances in support of Syria and its just issues, it added.

On the occasion, Ambassador Akhtar said that the meeting aimed to discuss issues related to the development of industrial and commercial cooperation and the establishment of partnerships and joint investments between the two countries.

He pointed out the possibility of benefiting from the progress achieved by his country in the manufacture of medicines, medical materials and surgical tools, including dental ones, in addition to agricultural tools, equipment, heavy machinery and sports equipment.

PCJCCI urges govt to invest in solar PV projects

LAHORE (APP): A Chinese delegation discussed the importance and need of advancement in solar projects with office-bearers of Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) here at the joint chamber's Secretariat on Monday.

PCJCCI President Moazzam Ghurki said that currently, out of US\$144 million foreign investment in solar PV plants in Pakistan, US\$125 million was from China, accounting for nearly 87 per cent of the total investment. Among the 530MW cumulative generation capacity in Pakistan, 400MW (75 per cent) was generated from Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park, the first-ever power plant capable of generating solar

energy in Pakistan, owned by the Punjab government, and built by a renowned Chinese company.

Chinese companies were also major suppliers to many PV projects in Pakistan such as Mini Solar grids in KP and ADB Access to Clean Energy Programme. He added that Pakistan solar energy market was expected to record a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of 2.5 per cent from 2022 to 2027.

One of the representatives of delegation said that until now, the average utilisation rate of the operational solar PV plants was merely 19 per cent, far from the over 95 per cent utilisation rate in China, representing huge opportunities to be tapped.

LCCI strongly condemns Holy Quran's desecration

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) on Monday strongly condemned desecration of the Holy Quran and urged the government to raise the matter at international fora.

“It is a vile act of racism, the business community strongly condemns this tragic incident and urges the international community to take a strong stand against it as this is not the freedom of expression but the terrorism,” LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry and Vice President Adnan

Khalid Butt said in a statement issued here.

They said that it was a good omen that the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) immediately convened a meeting but a unanimous strategy by the world was direly needed to stop such vile acts.

The LCCI office-bearers said that desecration of the Holy Quran or any other holy book was a crime. They said that racism and xenophobia should not have any place in any part of the world. The Muslims respect everyone and everyone should respect Muslims, they added.

Romi demands charter of economic plan for progress, prosperity

MULTAN (APP): Renowned industrial Khawaja Jalaluddin Romi demanded all political parties and other stakeholders to sit together and made a ten-year charter of the economic plan in order to put the country on the path to progress and prosperity.

They should also devise a comprehensive strategy for the success of the charter of the economy plan. He expressed these views while talking to media men here on Monday.

Jalaluddin Romi hailed the incumbent government over the staff-

Saudi extends oil production cut as Russia reduces exports

RIYADH (AFP/APP): Saudi Arabia said on Monday it was extending a voluntary oil production cut of one million barrels per day, and Russia said it was slashing exports by 500,000 bpd.

The moves were the latest attempts by major producers to stabilise markets rocked by factors including continued fallout from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's faltering economic recovery. The cut by Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter, was first announced after a June meeting of oil producers and took effect at the weekend. Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman noted at the time that it was “extendable”.

AJK offers massive investment opportunities for investors: Barrister Sultan

MIRPUR [AJK] (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, while referring to massive investment opportunities in Azad Jammu Kashmir, has said that the government was ready to provide all kinds of facilities to the investors.

He expressed these views while talking to a Hong Kong delegation that called on him under the leadership of the Presidential Adviser Lal Dino Baloch at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Monday.

The delegation was comprised Madam Soo, Chaudhry Allah Ditta,

friendly environment provides investors with unique opportunities for good returns.

He said that investors should not worry about of anything as the AJK Government was ready to cooperate with them besides providing other facilities. He said that the government's aim to turn the region into a business hub would ultimately help to control growing unemployment among the people besides improving their quality of life.

On this occasion, the head of the delegation Lal Dino Baloch informed the President about the progress in the field of information technology regarding investment in his previous meeting.

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SCCI condemns desecration of Holy Quran

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik strongly condemned the desecration of Holy Quran outside the main mosque of Stockholm (Sweden) and said that there was a need to take collective measures at the international level to prevent recurrence of such like incidents in future.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the SCCI President said that Muslims could not tolerate desecration of their religion and the Holy Quran.

Malik said that Muslim world should not accept Swedish government's condemnation of the incident until it takes practical steps to punish those involved in the heinous conspiracy.

SBA with IMF crucial for economic stability; RCCI

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has termed the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with International Monetary Fund (IMF) crucial for economic stability and welcome news for Pakistan's ailing economy.

The yield will not only send a positive message to investors but the risk of default had also been averted, said RCCI President Saqib Rafiq in a statement.

He also applauds the PM office and Finance Ministry's engagements with IMF and after their tireless efforts, Pakistan managed to secure an IMF deal.

Saqib Rafiq further remarked that the SBA of \$3 billion will not only

provide a breathing space in the recovery of P a k i s t a n ' s creditworthiness but also enable the resumption of dollar inflow from various bilateral and multilateral lenders.

He said that the business community hopes that the industry reforms introduced by the government in the budget would be implemented.

The framework for the development of five Es, Energy, E-Pakistan, environment, equity and empowerment would be shared with the business community and stakeholders will be taken on board, he added.

However, Chamber President urged the government to improve financial management and discipline.



LARKANA: Labourers busy in unloading mangoes from a delivery truck at Fruit Market.

Saudi extends oil production cut as Russia reduces exports

RIYADH (AFP/APP): Saudi Arabia said on Monday it was extending a voluntary oil production cut of one million barrels per day, and Russia said it was slashing exports by 500,000 bpd.

The moves were the latest attempts by major producers to stabilise markets rocked by factors including continued fallout from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's faltering economic recovery. The cut by Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter, was first announced after a June meeting of oil producers and took effect at the weekend. Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman noted at the time that it was “extendable”.

IUB, SBP sign MoU for mutual cooperation in academia, industry

BAHAWALPUR (APP): A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The agreement was signed by the Vice Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob and Chief Manager State Bank of Pakistan Abdullah Khan.

On this occasion, the Dean Faculty of Management Sciences Prof. Dr. Jawad Iqbal, and Dr. Areba Khan were present as the focal persons. Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob expressed his vision regarding mutual cooperation between academia and industry and

appreciated the efforts of Dr. Jawad Iqbal and Dr. Areba Khan in implementing this cooperation. Mujibur Rehman Assistant Chief Manager State Bank of Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Amjad Dean Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Dr. Shazia Anjum Dean Faculty of Chemical and Biological Sciences, Dr. Owais Shafiq, Dr. Waseem Hameed, Mohsin Mateen, Dr. Muhammad Shafiq, Dr. Hasan Mujtaba, Nawaz Saleem and other faculty members from Faculty of Management Sciences and Commerce participated.

Dr. Areba Khan informed about the mutual cooperation and collaboration between the Islamia University.

New sun of hope is rising after stark despair: PM

Felicitates business community, nation on unprecedented surge of PSX

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday felicitated the business community and the nation on the unprecedented surge of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX). He said as a result of the staff-level agreement and a \$3 billion standby arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the trust of investors and the business community was rapidly reviving.

After Pakistan's agreement with the IMF, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) opened with

a surge of 5.38%, or 2,231 points on Monday. The PSX benchmark rose to 43,684 points in the opening session. In a statement issued by the PM Office, Shehbaz Sharif said the government's continued struggle and prudent policies had started bearing fruits as signs of the country's economic revival were rising.

We are resuming the journey of economic development and a decline in the inflation rate from the point where Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had left.

Thank God, the country has been put on the path of development again, he said adding that after severe disappointments, a new sun of hope is rising again.

Praying to Allah Almighty for further successes on the economic front, the prime minister said the seeds of Pakistan's development had started taking root as a result of the government's sincere efforts, honesty and truth.

He said the government once again had embarked upon Quaid Muhammad Nawaz

Sharif's vision of construction, development and people's welfare.

He said just as between 2013 and 2018 the PML-N government succeeded to free Pakistan from the energy crisis, terrorism and other problems, bringing economic development, it would bring Pakistan on the path of development and prosperity with the same spirit.

Shehbaz Sharif vowed to continue the journey of economic stability and national development with the same direction, spirit and struggle.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Jamat-e-Islami holds protest outside Sweden Embassy against burning of Holy Quran in Sweden.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Danesh Kumar called on the Acting-President, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Elements involved in terrorist attacks do not deserve any concession, Dr. Ruqqiyah

QUETTA (Online): Central leader of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and former Provincial Minister Dr. Ruqqiyah Saeed Hashmi has expressed regret over the martyrdom of security forces personnel in the attacks of terrorists in Shirani and Kech and said that the elements involved in the attack on the check posts of the security forces are also not eligible for discount, strict action should be taken against them.

In a statement issued here, Dr. Ruqqiyah Saeed Hashmi said that the martyrdom of FC and police personnel in the terrorist attack on the FC check post in Shirani is brutal act of terrorism and it should

be condemned at all forums. She said that the terrorists are targeting the innocent security forces personnel to achieve their nefarious goals which cannot be good for the country and the nation in any way.

Paying homage to FC Major Saqib Hussain and Naik Baqir Ali, who lost their lives in the encounter with terrorists in Kech district, she said that the FC personnel sacrificed their lives for the defense of the country and the protection of the lives and property of the people. She said that the terrorist elements want to create chaos and instability in the country by targeting the personnel of the security forces, but the

people of Pakistan are standing by the side of their security forces and will thwart any conspiracy against the country. Dr. Ruqqiyah Hashmi further said that the security forces personnel who sacrificed their lives for the defense of the country's borders and the protection of the lives and property of the people are our national heroes whose sacrifices will not go in vain, God willing, and the activities of terrorists will be completely eradicated from the country soon. Dr. Ruqqiyah Saeed Hashmi offered condolences to the families of the officers who were martyred in the terrorist attack and prayed for the elevation of their ranks.

Pakistan, China discuss avenues to further strengthen cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China here on Monday discussed various avenues available for both countries to deepen bilateral relations in economic, trade, and financial sectors to expand the existing cooperation to unprecedented levels. According to a press statement issued by the finance ministry, the discussion was made during a call on the meeting of Charge d'Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Ms. Pang Chunxue with Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Dar warmly greeted the Charge d'Affairs and appreciated the deep-rooted historical bilateral relations between Pakistan and China. He informed the Charge d'Affairs about the

progress on the 9th review with International Monetary Fund (IMF) stating that Pakistan has successfully reached the staff-level agreement. He also apprised the Charge d'Affairs about stability in the economy and how the government is making efforts to preserve this economic stability and move the economy towards growth. Additionally, he appreciated the Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts and specifically thanked for the cooperation of Chinese Financial Institutions with Pakistan during the last few months.

Dar expressed gratitude to Ms Pang Chunxue for all the support and cooperation Pakistan has always been receiving from the leadership in Beijing.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Ms. Pang Chunxue, Charge d'Affairs of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Gwadar's 1.2 MGD water plant completed: GPA

GWADAR (INP): In order to provide clean water to residents of Gwadar, 1.2 MGD seawater desalination plant has finally been completed as per schedule. Formal inauguration is all set to be executed by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif during his likely visit to Gwadar after Eid Holidays.

Talking to Gwadar Pro, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) project director Dawood Baloch said water desalination plant has been done and dusted with a grant of Rs. 2 billion from China in collaboration with Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), National Engineering Services Pakistan and China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC).

Along with completion of Civil, mechanical and electrical work, Central room of 1.2 MGD desalination water plant is now

up and running, he informed.

Almost 90 percent manpower and human resource, he said, have been hired from local market of Gwadar and Balochistan.

On a query, he said that all related equipment and apparatus have been installed in befitting manner to keep desalination water plant functional with full capacity.

Alongside construction of 1.2 MGD desalination plant, an around 1 kilo meter long water supply line from plant site to Gwadar city's main water supply network has also been laid down, he added.

Completion of 1.2 MGD Water Desalination Plant, spreading over approximately one acre land area, reflects China's support for poor people of Gwadar desperately longing for clean water over the last many years.

Nation's determination against terrorism is unwavering: Samina

Independent Report

QUETTA: Central Vice President Balochistan Awami Party Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of police and FC personnel who were martyred in the attacks on check posts at Shirani Dhana Sar area of Balochistan, Turbat and Hoshab yesterday. In her condemnation statement, she condemned the incidents in strong words and termed the incidents as extremely cowardly act and said that the cowardly attacks of terrorists on the

security personnel who are on duty like protecting the homeland is open terrorism. Terrorists want to sabotage the peace of Pakistan, especially Balochistan, with their cowardly acts. The people of the province stand by their army and other security forces in this war against terrorism. She said that the nation is major in the war against terrorists. Nation is proud of the martyrdom of Major Saqib and other martyrs. Martyrs are the assets of the nation and they protected the nation by sacrificing their lives.



Additional Commissioner Naseerabad Division, Ali Muhammad Hanbhi and Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad, Ayesha Zehri chairing a meeting to review arrangements for upcoming monsoon season rains in Naseerabad division.

Asad Mehmood says: Accommodation, food centers on Yarik-Hakla motorway soon

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Federal Minister of Communications Mufti Asad Mehmood on Monday said that service areas housing accommodation and food centers would be opened on Yarik-Hakla Motorways, soon, to facilitate motorists. He said accommodation and food centers would be established in the limits of Dera Ismail Khan, Mianwali and Rawalpindi. He said that such a center had already been inaugurated in the limits of Dera Ismail Khan.

He expressed these views while talking to the media and a delegation of party leaders before departing for Islamabad.

He said that the issue pertaining to the land for the facility in Mianwali had been resolved by its deputy commissioner and the revenue department.

He hoped the issues relating to the establishment of food and accommodation centers within the limits of Rawalpindi would also be resolved soon and the public traveling on the route would have all required facilities.

Replying to a question, he said that work has been started on the plan to install an e-tolling system on the motorways and highways across the country.

In the first phase, it has been experimentally started on the Sialkot-Lahore Motorway section. In this regard, the fiber optic lines were being laid on Motorways and cards and number plates would be issued for vehicles.

He said that the entire system would be monitored and for this purpose, the National Highway

Headquarters would have a modern system to keep monitoring all roads.

He said that the system would be put in place with financial assistance from Korea and the amount would be paid in 40 years in the form of a loan.

The communications minister said that the Yarik-Saggu and Saggu-Zhob CPEC project was going to start soon. Unfortunately, work was stopped by the previous government on the project, but now the present government successfully restored trust of China and it would be leading up to Gwadar. He said that such mega-development projects would usher in socio-economic development as Dera Ismail Khan would become the commercial hub of the region after the completion of the project.

Intl flight operations could not restore from Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: Claims to restore the international flight operation of the national airline from the provincial capital Quetta have been phased out.

According to sources, to restore the international flight operation from Quetta, a flight was started from Quetta to Dubai via Karachi last year, but due to a lack of load, this operation was stopped within a few days. It should be noted that the national airline from Quetta, the international flight operation has been closed for a total of 6 years. A few years ago, flights from Quetta to Dubai, Sharjah, Musad Najaf, and Kandahar were also stopped. Passengers, visitors, and businessmen are facing problems.

They demanded that the domestic flights from Quetta should be increased while the international flight operations should also be restored.

Completion of 1.2 MGD Water Desalination Plant, spreading over approximately one acre land area, reflects China's support for poor people of Gwadar desperately longing for clean water over the last many years.

Flash flooding likely in hill torrents of DGK, Northern Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that flash flooding is expected in the hill torrents of D.G Khan Division (Punjab) and local Nullah's of Northern Balochistan including small Rivers in Bannu, Kohat and D.I Khan Division (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) during July 5th to July 8th.

According to daily FFC report on Monday, low to medium-level flooding is also expected in the Nullah's of Rivers Chenab and Ravi during the said period. A fresh rain bearing system of moderate to heavy intensity is likely to affect the upper catchments of all the Major Rivers along with Suleiman range from July 5th. Currently, all major rivers of Indus River System (IRS) are flowing in normal except for River Kabul.

Khetran pays homage to FC personnel martyred in Kech terrorism

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Communication and Works, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has paid homage to the Major Saqib Hussain and Naik Baqir Ali who embraced martyrdom while fighting against terrorists in Kech district.

In a statement issued here on Monday, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran expressed grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of FC's personnel and sympathized with the bereaved families.

He said that the martyrs embraced martyrdom while performing duties. He said that their sacrifice would always be remembered.

Sardar Khetran also said that our brave security forces are rendering sacrifices of their lives to foil the nefarious designs of the enemies. He said that the manner FC officer and jawan fought against the terrorists bravely is really commendable. He prayed for the departed souls and early recovery of those injured in the encounter.



PHOOL NAGAR: Federal Minister for Power, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan addressing a press conference in Phool Nagar.

IG Prisons visit different jails, reviews security arrangements

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Inspector General of Prisons Balochistan, Shujauddin Kasi visited different jails of the province on Monday.

During the surprise visit, the Inspector General Prisons inspected the Sibi, Dera Murad Jamali and Dera Allahyar jails. He also reviewed the security arrangements made in the prisons.

During the visit and inspection, Mr. Kasi directed to tougher the security arrangements in all the prisons so as to counter any untoward situation. He also got himself acquainted about the issues being faced by the jail inmates.

Arrangements reviewed for upcoming monsoon season rains in Naseerabad Div.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The arrangements were reviewed for the upcoming monsoon season rains in the Naseerabad division.

A meeting co-chaired by the Additional Commissioner Naseerabad Division, Ali Muhammad Hanbhi and Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad, Ayesha Zehri was attended by the FC's colonel Ahmed Khan, Deputy Commissioner Kachhi, Muhammad Hussain, Deputy Commissioner, Sohbatpur, Fayyaz Ali, Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad, Muhammad Ejaz Sarwar and other administrative officers of different districts besides the officers of different concerned departments.

The meeting was briefed about the arrangements made to deal with any emergent situation following the monsoon rains in the Division.

It was stressed that all the divisional and district officers should ensure their participation and presence at their respective duty places.

It was also directed to keep all the necessary machinery in order and stay the concerned staff alert so as to take preventive measures to tackle any emergent situation.

Moreover, it was noted that the emergency would remain enforced in the hospitals in view of the emergent situation.

While on the other hand, the control rooms would be set up in all the divisional offices and districts.

YDA expresses concern over threats to doctors

Independent Report

QUETTA: In a statement issued by the Young Doctors Association, it is said that on Friday, June 30, the relatives of the patients in the teaching hospital Khuzdar tortured the doctors in the hospital, threatened to kill them, and vandalized the hospital. On Friday, June 30, at 8 pm, two road traffic accident patients were brought to the hospital in critical condition and the doctors and staff on duty immediately started initial treatment and immediately referred them to Karachi and Quetta, but they suffered severe head

injuries. Due to which one patient died, the family members of the later tortured the doctors and vandalized the government property. Young Doctors Association Balochistan demanded the hospital management, Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar, and higher authorities the miscreants involved in the incident should be arrested and security should be provided to the hospital. PMA Khuzdar and Young Doctors Association Balochistan Khuzdar have jointly announced a boycott of OPD services in Teaching Hospital Khuzdar.

Sheikh questions PPP's silence on IMF deal

RAWALPINDI (INP):

Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Monday expressed surprise over silence adopted by the Pakistan People's Party, a key coalition partner of the government, on recent loan deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Taking to Twitter, the former interior minister said the PPP had not given any reaction to the deal, saying: "This means there is something wrong with it".



Funeral prayer of the martyred policemen being offered in Zhab

Protest holds against desecration of Holy Quran

QUETTA (INP) Central Secretary General Mufti Shafiuddin, Central Information Secretary Syed Haji Abdul Sattar Shah Chishti, General Secretary of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Ideological Pakistan, in the light of the directives of the Amir of Central Maulana Khalil Ahmad Mukhlis, protested against the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden on Friday throughout the country.

All sermons to be celebrated against Sweden and the Netherlands for desecrating the Qur'an, on the order of the Leader of the Central District, to observe a day of protest in all provinces and districts, and to pass a resolution of condemnation in Friday mosques and to record the

protest, said that a message should be given to the disbelieving world in the Sermon Imams of the mosques that Muslims would never tolerate insulting Allah and Islam.

The world of Islam should demand the ruler announce the end of all diplomatic relations with Sweden for insulting the Quran. The ambassadors of Sweden, the ruler of Sweden should be expelled as a protest and take a strong stand against Islamophobia in the OIC meeting and protest at the global level should be announced. Two billion Muslims were hurt by the incident in Sweden. Legislation should be enacted globally and blasphemy should be declared punishable by death.

72pc work on Kurram Tangi dam completed

PESHAWAR (APP): A senior official of Wapda here on Monday said that 72 percent of construction work on the multipurpose Kurram Tangi dam has been completed and its first stage would be inaugurated by November next year.

Engr Zahoore Hussain, Director Projects, Wapda (North) said that 72 percent of work on multipurpose Kurram Tangi (Stage-I) spread on lands of Bannu and North Waziristan was completed and is expected to be inaugurated in November next year. Former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had laid the foundation stone of Kurram Tangi dam on March 3, 2017. He said the design and feasibility studies of its stage-II was under process that would be completed with a loan assistance.