# Indenendent

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Emergency session

# OIC calls for collective measures against desecration of Holy Quran

International law should be used to stop religious hatred; We must send constant reminders to world community: OIC chief

**Monitoring Desk** 

CAIRO: The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Sunday said that collective measures are needed to prevent acts of desecration to the Holy Quran and international law should be used to stop religious

The statement by the group of 57 member states, most of whose members have a Muslim-majority population, was issued after an extraordinary meeting in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah called to discuss Wednesday's incident in Sweden where the holy book was desecrated in a protest outside a mosque.

We must send constant reminders to the international community regarding the urgent application of international law, which clearly prohibits any advocacy of religious hatred," OIC Secretary-General Hissein

During the meeting, Mr Taha called for a unified response to such incidents, describing the most recent one as a "despicable act"

The Secretary-General emphasised that such incibassy in Stockholm.

dents are not mere Islamophobia, but actions that deeply insult and offend the religious sensibilities of Muslims. As such, they require serious international measures to prevent their recurrence.

On Wednesday, a man desecrated the holy book outside Stockholm's central mosque, the first day of the Muslim Eid al-Adha holidays. The act angered OIC member Turkey whose backing Sweden needs to gain entry to the NATO military Swedish police had granted permission for a pro-

test to take place. But, after the incident, police charged the man who carried it out with agitation against an ethnic or national group.

The incident has triggered large protests in Baghdad in front of the Swedish Embassy. It has also been condemned by the United States.

Turkey in late January suspended talks with Sweden on its NATO application after a similar incident of desecration of the Holy Quran by a Danish far-right politician near the Turkish em-



JEDDAH: Pakistan's Ambassador to the OIC Fawad Sher participating in extraordinary meeting of Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) called to discuss incident of the Holy Quran's desecration in

DUBAI: Leaders of PML (N) United Arab Emirates photographed with former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz

back to London

leaving for London.

meetings in Dubai before

minister and Pakistan Mus-

lim League-Nawaz (PML-

N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif is

unlikely to make a come-

back to Pakistan anytime

soon. According to media

reports, Nawaz, who was

convicted by an account-

ability court before the

2018 general elections in

graft cases, went to London

to receive medical treatment

in 2019, and has been stay-

reached Dubai and met Pa-

kistani politicians. His ar-

rival in the Gulf emirate gen-

erated a debate in the media

about his return to Paki-

stan. However, the source,

a cabinet member, said that

he would not be returning

just yet. The PML-N

supremo is convicted in the

Aveinfeild Apartment ref-

erences filed by the Na-

tional Accountability Bu-

reau (NAB) in the aftermath

Bhakkar, Layyah, Kot

Bahawalnagar, Sahiwal and

predicted rainfall, wind, thundershower with iso-

lated heavy falls in Sukkur,

Shaheed Benazirabad,

Larkana, Mithi, Chhor,

Padidan, Nagarparkar,

Tharparkar, Umerkot,

Sanghar, Mirpur Khas, Dadu, Thatta, Badin,

Hyderabad, and Karachi on

warned that heavy falls

may cause flash floods in

hill torrent of Dera Ghazi

Khan and adjoining areas

The heavy rains could

of northeast Balochistan.

also trigger lands lides in the

vulnerable areas of Azad

Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan,

Galliyat and hilly areas of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Met Office has

The Met Office also

Okara from July 5 to 8.

Bahawalpur,

Ghotki.

Monsoon rain spell in

country begins from today

Rajanpur,

Jacobabad

July 07 and 08.

Addu,

and

Last week, Nawaz

ing there since then.

INP adds: Ex- prime

### After winning elections, PMLN to end inflation on priority basis: Nawaz

**Monitoring Desk** DUBAI: Pakistan Muslim League-N and former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said that after winning the uncoming elections, PMLN will end inflation on a priority ba-

Former prime minister held an important meeting with the Pakistan Muslim League (PMLN) Gulf del-

egation in Dubai. PML-N leader was briefed about the high morale of the party workers based in the Gulf countries including the UAE.

During the meeting, the delegation inquired about the well-being of Nawaz Sharif, while PMLN delegation also met PMLN Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz

Meanwhile, Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz discussed the strategy of the upcoming elections with the delegation.

Nawaz Sharif assured and said that the Muslim League-N will quickly overcome the problems of Pa-

Nawaz Sharif said that he saluted his party workers who were facing diffi-PMLN Nawaz Sharif of the Panama Papers case.

ISLAMABAD (INP):

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on

Sunday forecast monsoon

rainfall in the country from

July 03 and will continue

report stated that moist

currents from the Arabian

Sea are likely to penetrate in upper parts of the coun-

try, and a westerly wave is

also likely to enter the country from July 3 (tomor-

Rawalpindi, Murree, Galliyat, Attock, Chakwal

and Jhelum, Azad Kashmir

and Gilgit-Baltistan and

other areas will receive rain

with thunderstorm from

shower with isolated

heavy falls are also ex-

pected in Barkhan, Sibbi.

Loralai, Kalat, Khuzdar,

Zhob, Lasbella and Naseerabad, Bannu, Karak,

Rain, wind, thunder-

Islamabad,

The Met Office, in a

till July 08.

row).

July 4-7.

PM Shehbaz to attend SCO summit via video link

ISLAMABAD (INP) finalized his future travel Shehbaz Sharif will parturn ticket to London on 4th ticipate in the 23rd Meeting of SCO Coun-Sources claimed that cil of Heads of State be-PMLN supremo will return videoconference for-He will hold important

mat on Tuesday. The invitation to the Prime Minister to attend the SCO-CHS was extended by the Prime Minister of India in his capacity as the current

Chair of the SCO. At the forthcoming CHS, the highest forum of the SCO, the leaders will deliberate on important global and regional issues and chart the future direction of cooperation among SCO Member States. This year, the SCO CHS will also welcome Iran as a new member of the organization.

SBP to be closed today

AHORE (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will remain closed to the public on July 3 (tomorrow) due to a bank holiday, the SBP sources told APP

Following this holiday, all banks/DFIs/MFBs will remain closed for public trading on the aforementioned date. The holiday will be observed on July 3 due to the commencement of the new fiscal year on July 1 (Saturday), however as Eid ul Adha's third day was commemorated on July 1, date of SBP holiday was moved ahead.

diverse sectors for mutual He was speaking at a function organized by the Pakistani diaspora in To-

kyo on Sunday. The Foreign Minister said both countries can benefit from investment in agriculture and livestock.

Harsh punishment for

2014 sit-in could have

prevented May 9: Tanvir

(INP):

PM Shehbaz summons

federal cabinet session

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

has summoned the federal cabinet session on Monday

session on Monday in which the participants will review

the political and economic situation of the country.

PM Shehbaz Sharif summoned the federal cabinet's

Pakistan, Japan have full potential to increase

bilateral trade: Bilawal

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said incumbent government is working on economic diplomacy to bring prosperity in the country. He said Pakistan can

TOKYO (APP): Foreign

Minister Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari says Pakistan and

Japan have the potential to

ncrease bilateral trade in

learn from Japan's advancement in Information Technology and other

The Foreign Minister said during his meeting with

ISLAMABAD

Calling PTI a bunch of

rogue and mischievous

people, Federal Minister

for Education Rana Tanvir

Hussain said on Sunday

that had the party leaders

been penalized for attack-

ing parliament and Pakistan

Television (PTV) buildings

back in 2014, incidents of

violence on May 9 could

(tomorrow), citing sources.

Addressing a function

have been prevented.

investment in Pakistan. He said Pakistan has over sixty five percent populations of youth and

we can exploit this human resource through skills based education and train-The Foreign Minister

urged Pakistani overseas particularly businessmen to play their role for increase in trade between two countries and also strengthening of bilateral relations. Foreign Minister

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari interacted with a number of Japanese business executives and representatives of Japan International Cooperation Agency and Japan External Trade Organization in Tokyo on Sun-

During the meetings, the matters related to bilat-Japanese leadership and eral cooperation in trade entrepreneurs, he will urge and investment came under

held under the auspices of PML-N in Muridke tehsil of Sheikhupura, the minis-

ter said it was Pakistan's bad luck that the PML-N

Those burning electricity

country's well-wishers,"

what happened on May 9 was unprecedented. "There

is no country in the world

where people attack their

own country's army," he

He called for giving tough penalties to those in-

volved in the vandalism and

arson of government and

military installations on

He was of the view that

Hussain said.

# Three police and one FC cop martyred in attack on check post in Sherani district

Langove grieved over martyrdom of security personnel

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: Three police and one Frontier Corps (FC) personnel were martyred in a rocket attack and firing at a check post in Dhana Sar area of Sherani district on Sunday morn-

According to the reports reaching here, unknown armed assailants resorted to fire few rockets targeting a check post located in Dhana Sar area in wee hours of Sunday.

The rocket attack was followed by extensive firing at the check post. As a result four security personnel embraced martyrdom on the spot. In the meantime, the security personnels retaliated and exchanged firing with the Mir Ziaullah Langove has

fire, one terrorist was also killed, the sources in-Afterwards, the armed assailants fled from the

scene. Later, the security

forces and area administration cordoned off the area and started hunt of the terwas made in the terrorism act neither any group or in-

dividual claimed responsibility of the incident. Meanwhile while condemning the terrorists' attack at a check post of security forces in Dhana Sar area in strongest words, the Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs,

expressed griefand sorrow During the exchange of over the martyrdom of four security personnel in the attack. In a condemnation is-

sued here on Sunday, the

Minister Home paid homage to the martyred personnel Balochistan police and Frontier Corps.
Mir Ziaullah Langove

However, no arrest asserted that terrorists can't defeat the resolve and morale of the security forces through such cowardly acts of terrorism. He said that our secu-

rity forces know well how to defend every inch of the motherland. He prayed for the departed souls of martyrs and expressed sympathy with the bereaved fami-



Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari speaking at a function organized by the Pakistanidiaspora in Tokyo

### government did not take action against the PTI during the sit-in of 2014. bills and exhorting people to resort to civil disobedience can never be the

Army has killed six terrorists in an intelligence based operation (IBO) in Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) district of Khyber Pakhtunkhawa.

According to ISPR, on 02 July 23, security forces conducted an Intelligence Based Operation in general area Kulachi, DI Khan District. During the conduct of operation, after intense fire exchange, three terrorists were sent to hell. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in various terrorist activities against security forces, Police and

CTD arrested TTP commander

MULTAN (APP): Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed to have arrested a commander of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) during an operation here on Sunday. According to the

CTD spokesperson, the TTP commander was apprehended from the city during an intelligence-based operation and the arrested terrorist was identified as Kamal

The explosive material, fuses, phones, and cash were recovered from his ossession

CTD was following

### Muslim world condemns desecration of Quran in Sweden

ISLAMABAD (INP): Muslims across the world have strongly condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden's capital during a protest authorised by the police. Pakistan, Turkiye, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and other Muslim countries have strongly condemned the act.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has slammed Sweden over the incident, saying Ankara will never bow down to a policy of provocation or threat. "We will teach the arrogant Western people that it is not freedom of expression to insult the sacred values of Muslims," he

The United Arab Emirates has summoned the Swedish ambassador to protest against the desecra-

thorities' permission to burn copies of the Quran Thursday calling it a "heinous" act to have especially occurred on Eid.

demned the Swedish au-

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs warns that allowing repeated infringement of the Holy Qu'ran under the pretext of freedom of expression fuels hatred and violence, threatens peaceful coexistence, and reveals abhorrent double standards," its foreign ministry said.

Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the burning was a "dangerous, provocative step that inflames the feelings of Muslims around the world".

It called on the international community and governments "to take responsibility for swift action to renounce feelings of hatred, extremism and religious in-

### Return of Hajis begins with first flight landing at Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has started its flight operation to bring pilgrims from Saudi Arabia back to Pakistan as the first flight PK-762 reached Islam abad from Jeddah early Sunday

As many as 693 pilgrims are due to return to Pakistan onboard first three PIA flights, which after Islam abad will land at Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar airports later today. PK-760 will reach Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport at 3:20 pm; PK-832 will rêach Karachi Airport ât 3:35 pm, while PK-740 will reach Peshawar from Jeddah at 6:35 in the evening.

tinue until July 20, while pilgrims will start

The airline's flight operation from Jeddah will con-

### Army kill six terrorists in **DIK IBO: ISPR** RAWALPINDI (Online):

innocent civilians.

the goal of 'Safer Punjab' the spokesperson con-

KARACHI: Activists of Mailis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan holds protest outside Press Club against the burning of Quran Pak in Sweden.

# Daily soice of Masse. Independent

Monday July 03, 2023

# Relief, for now

The IMF's announcement that it has agreed to extend a lifeline of \$3bn to rescue our crisis-hit economy has come as a relief to Pakistan has been successall stakeholders: government, business and the public.

Yet the fact that it baulked at approving of Islamabad's request to complete the ninth review of the just-expired EFF facility and release the \$1.2bn tranche stuck for months shows that the lender still has trust issues with Paki-

The new agreement comes under the IMF's short-term Stand-By Arrangement and is structured for a nine-month period to help save the teetering

Even multiple interventions by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who must be credited for clinching the deal, despite Finance Minister Ishaq Dar's outbursts against the Fund, couldn't bridge this gap.

The IMF, which blames policy 'missteps' and shocks like floods and the Ukraine war for our declining economy, did not think it a good idea to free politicians and their collaborators in the finance bureaucracy from its oversight in the lead-up to the elections.

It wants Islamabad to strictly execute Budget 2023-24 and not cede to pressure for unbudgeted spending and tax exemptions.

After all, an economy plagued with high inflation, drying dollar inflows and macroeconomic instability takes a long time and sustained fiscal discipline to turn

The SBA is a better deal as it ends the uncertainty around fiscal discipline before and after the elections, with fears of an immediate sovereign default receding as reflected by the rapidly surging prices of Pakistan's short duration eurobond debt becoming due in 2024 and 2025.

If Pakistan follows the programme, it can unblock financing from multilateral and bilateral lenders and easily secure bilateral and commercial debt rollovers to shore up its foreign currency stocks.

Moreover, the fear of losing IMF support again will keep fiscal authorities on their toes.

But macroeconomic stability will not come free; the Fund demands that energy and foreign exchange market reforms be implemented, and the State Bank must pursue a proactive monetary policy.

That means interest rates will remain high and base electricity prices rise by a third to over Rs33

The home currency may stabilise, even strengthen, in the short run, but further depreciation of the exchange rate cannot be ruled out once the administrative curbs on imports and dollar outflows are lifted.

Politicians and policymakers need to recognise that the deal gives them another chance to implement fundamental, structural reforms for long-term debt sustainability and macroeconomic stability.

If we implement the SBA diligently, it will help us secure a new long-term and less-encumbered bailout after the elections once the arrangement ends.

That is crucial to raise multilateral and bilateral funds to boost reserves, and buy some room to execute basic reforms for overall economic stability.

# Meeting challenges



Muhammad **Amir Rana** 

ful in pulling off a staff-level deal with the International Monetary Fund and securing a \$3 billion stand-by arrangement. Pending approval by the IMF board in July, this pact is expected to provide immediate respite to Pakistan's acute balanceof-payments crisis and serve as a platform for opportunities for further financial support from multilateral and bilateral partners.

Reaching an agreement with the IMF was no piece of cake, as it required extensive political capital from both the civil and military leadership. Undeterred, they embarked upon a relentless diplomatic campaign in major capitals of friendly nations. However, this victory is not the end; it merely marks the beginning of another arduous undertaking — securing additional financial assistance from these friendly countries. Their demands are known, and include issues related to security and terrorism. As Pakistan emerges from the shadow of adversity, one recalls that last vear, it had successfully met another formidable challenge: getting off the menacing 'grey list' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). This achievement was the product of years of dogged determination and persistent efforts to convince the international community of its strong commitment to tightening its monetary regulations in order to prevent exploitation by terrorists and criminals.

be seen against the backdrop of the Indian prime minister's recent visit to the US, where discussions between US President Joe Biden and Narendra Modi led to a joint statement condemning cross-border terrorism and urging the FATF to enhance its anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing standards. It was aimed at

These milestones can

sued an official demarche to it must harness its resilience the US envoy in Islamabad.

The strategic community in Islamabad believes that the US and its allies are employing the IMF and FATF as geopolitical tools. This perception is further bolstered by the view that Pakistan's close strategic proximity to China and its role in Afghanistan make it an unfortunate target of coercive politics, with India emerging as the principal beneficiary. While acknowledging

the existence of such geo-

political factors, it is essential to avoid falling into the trap of victimhood that saps the nation's energy and compromises its ability to the course. Externalising the issue will not yield a solution. Economists and security experts have long warned of the looming economic crisis and the ramifications of leniency towards any militant group in the country. When the consequences of policies are well known, clinging to the status quo, without making the necessary course correction, would leave little room for iustifiable complaints. Pakistan now stands

Pakistan which swiftly is- at a critical juncture where from parliament and legisla- ria and elevate its standards.

and determination to not only navigate the challenges imp-osed by global politics but also take transformative measures to ensure long-term solutions.

The allegation of militants infiltrating India-held Kashmir from Pakistan lacks substance Pakistan has successfully subdued militant groups in compliance with FATF. Major groups, like the Jamaatud Dawa and Lashkar-e-Taiba. are having an internal debate but are unwilling go to public with it due to their mistrust of and fear of exploitation by India. Friendly nations also have concerns about militant groups and extremism in Pakistan.

The way out for Pakistan is obvious. The institutions should focus on countering terrorism financing and fulfilling international obligations. Efforts to neutralise the militant infrastructure should prioritise core national interests and any temptation to use them for internal politics must be avoided. Pakistan has established mechanisms to check the illicit financial flows under FATF compliance. Effective oversight

tive cover will increase legitimacy and gain international trust.

In the grand tapestry of global affairs, the presence of strong institutions to combat illicit financing is not merely a matter of intemational trust, but a crucial factor in maintaining geopolitical equilibrium. Recognising the significance of this paradigm, Pakistan must strategically position itself as a member of esteemed international bodies, such as the FATF, to bolster its influence on the geopolitical stage

Becoming a FATF member calls for heightened responsibility. Afew nations currently find themselves on the FATF's grey list, and are subject to scrutiny by this international watchdog. However, for Pakistan. membership promises to arm it with the necessary tools to deftly navigate the intricate web of diplomatic and political challenges thrust upon it by formidable forces such as India, the US and others.

To secure this coveted position within the FATF, Pakistan has earnestly attempted to meet the watchdog body's stringent criteThe FATF places particular emphasis on fostering transparency, understanding beneficial ownership, and ensuring that criminals are unable to conceal their nefarious activities behind a veil of opaque corporate struc-

In the journey towards membership, Pakis-tan's inclusion lies in the hands of member countries engaged in the intricate process of mutual evaluation. It is within this evaluative framework that the final verdict will be rendered, determining Pakistan's destiny in the ranks of the world's foremost financial warriors.

However, lurking in Pakistan's geopolitical landscape is a formidable challenge, one that tarnishes its global image and threatens its strategic interests. This challenge emanates from the terrorist groups operating across the Afghan border.

Even as Pakistan navigates the complex web of relations with the Afghan Taliban regime, the nation steadfastly supports its regime. On the other side, the Taliban, in their unwavering stance, continue to lend support to the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan. -- Cour-

# Ah, but there's the rub



Ghazi Salahuddin

An 'Alhamdulillah' moment it was for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif when Pakistan reached a ninemonth \$3 billion staff-level agreement with the IMF on Friday, the second day of Eid. And it certainly lifted the spirits of the ruling coalition's supporters. There had been great suspense about it, with the threat of a default looming on the horizon. It was more real for some than others. Like in a thriller, the happy ending was delivered at virtually the last minute. The lead role in this chase sequence' was played by the prime minister. Obviously, his vindication bodes well for his party's prospects in the expected elections later this

But what does it mean for Pakistan and what happens in the country in the

immediate context? In the first place, of course, the bailout that has to be formally approved by the IMF Board by the middle of this month has grave economic implications. That, obviously, is

not my territory. However, comments made by independent experts and commentators suggest that this deal is a good sign for our economy. Miftah Ismail, the former finance minister of the present political arrangement, has called it good news for Pakistan during Eidul Azha. He graciously congratulated the prime minister for his personal commitment and for speaking to the IMF MD multiple times. For business and economy journalist Khurram Husain, this is a "ray of hope after a year of economic chaos'

Altogether, there is a sense of relief that Pakistan has earned an economic breathing room. At the same time, there is increased awareness about the challenges that lie ahead in the economic domain. As it is, the acquisition of a loan or financial assistance is not something to be jubilant

management remaining the after Eid? That is how a same cannot be reassuring. But we have generally remained prisoners of the business-as-usual mindset. It is repeatedly asserted that economic stability demands political stability and it is politics that has forever been the source of

our disorders. This observation should allow me to turn to politics that has entered into its most treacherous and violent phase. There is the spectre of May 9 to contend with. Nothing has ever been so disruptive and so testing in our political history. While it is hard to grasp the extent and depth of what has already happened after that day of infamy, some very pertinent issues are still in the process of being resolved. Naturally, a number of questions relating to the ongoing developments in the political arena were posed to the prime minister when he addressed the press conference on Fri-

Eid has been some kind of an interlude in these proceedings. For instance, speculation about when Imran Khan would be taken

festival like Eid becomes a marker also in our personal

Anyhow, the before Eid option is now dead. We are entering into the after-Eid segment of time. There have been these five holidays and the action, in a sense, begins tomorrow – on Monday. The pace of events is likely to be hectic, under the dark shadow cast by that momentous press conference of the director general of the ISPR on Monday June 26. Its easily deciphered message was that the game for Imran Khan and his party was over.

How this ending is to be scripted is the cause of tension that is now gripping the nation. There are various dots that are yet to be connected. Surely, the IMF deal is woven in this story, giving the coalition government much confidence in playing its cards. Shehbaz Sharif has explained the government's position on who will be tried in the military courts while the issue is still before a divided Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Against this backthought of our economic this premise: before Eid or a very welcome opportu-

nity to make a new beginning. If the preliminary IMF deal can facilitate the necessary economic reforms and the anticipated closure of the May 9 disaster can restore some harmony in the political arena, what can now impede Pakistan's gradual ad-

vancement? Ah, but there's the rub. Apart from the fact that old ideas do not a new beginning make, our rulers have congenitally ignored or paid little attention to an entire area of national activity that is crucial for any movement in any direction. I am referring to the social sector and the building of social capital. This is something that cannot be imported or borrowed. Nor can any judgment made in whichever court can change or modify our human development indica-

There is this simple point that should be present to the rulers when they sit on the table of authority to make policies for this nation. No crisis. whether it is economic or political, can be resolved when there is a human capimanifest in the quality of TheNews

Focus on food

our performance and behaviour at all levels of

Though we did not need those reminders, international agencies and research organizations have constantly been trying to rouse us from our deep slumber, though in a careful and diplomatic nudge. We are not waking up What opium has been administered to the rulers and the populace of Pakistan?

Almost exactly two months ago, the World Bank had released the Pakistan Human Capital Review in Karachi and Islamabad. One focus of the report was our population growth and the state of health and education Pakistan's Human Capital Index is below the South Asian average. We can only compare it with some countries in Sub-Saharan

In his IMF deal press conference on Friday, PM Shehbaz Sharif confessed that "this is not a moment of pride but of contemplation". He would do well to hold a meeting of all high functionaries, and do some contemplation on what tal crisis in the country. The this World Bank Review is For that matter, the into custody had rested on drop, Pakistan has clearly truth of this statement is telling us. -- Courtesy

# Eat, pray, cancel



Muna Khan

What is literature's purpose and should it be different in times of war? I was left wondering about this after reading Elizabeth Gilbert's decision to postpone the publication of her novel The Snow Forest "out of respect" for her Ukrainian readers who expressed their disappointment that her book was set in Russia. Although the book was set to be released in February 2024, reviewers left onestar reviews on Goodreads, having read only the description about it being set in 1930s Russia.

The Snow Forest is a historical novel based loosely on the Lykov family, Russian Christian fundamentalists who moved to a remote part of Siberia to avoid religious persecution. They lived in isolation from the 1930s to 1970s when they were discovered by a group of geologists. Gilbert said she was inspired by their story during the pandemic, her period of

'It is not the time for this book to be published," Gilbert said in a video statement she published on Instagram a few days after announcing the publication of The Snow Forest. "And I do not want to add any harm to a group of people who have already experienced, and are all continuing to experience, grievous and extreme harm.

I wonder if she'd have done this if her story was set in Palestine, or Kashmir, or Xinjiang or any other conflict-riddled territory.

Gilbert is arguably Putin is no exception. But

Love — a memoir cum self-help book cum travelogue, which stayed on bestseller list for 187 weeks. She has laid open her life bare for readers, so I can understand why she'd feel like she owes them something. But she has received a lot of censure from them.

She has also been criticised for being bullied into postponing her novel and how such actions pose a threat to freedom of speech. When will it be OK to publish The Snow Forest: when the war is 'over' or will Ukrainian readers — how do you quantify this — decide

I wonder if her act of self-cancellation is an act of boycott and non-violent resistance that has often led to success — albeit at painful costs: non-violent protests in the subcontinent to British rule, sanctions against apartheid in South Africa and the BDS movement against Israeli occupation of Palestine.

That was then and it was collective. Today, it is easier to organise on the internet, as we saw with the case of the Ukrainian reviewers on Goodreads. Protest takes different forms — be it street art, music, scathing journalism, or diaspora in India standing up for WSJ reporter Sabrina Sidd iqi who faced a torrent of abuse from Modi supporters after she asked the Indian prime minister about human rights abuses at a

press conference in D.C. I return to the question: what is literature for in times of conflict? Kate

Malby in I News offered a possible answer: "If literature is not about the cultivation of human empathy, it is nothing." History teaches us how aggressors attempt to wipe out their victims' cul-

ture and identity in wars.

most known for Eat Pray as many have pointed out, same in their attempt to erase Russia. Malby writes how Ukrainian writers are refusing to share space with Russian dissident writers like Mikhail Shishkin who is in exile because of his open criticism of Putin. I'm not questioning calls to boycott Russian music productions, art, literature but to ask who joins in those calls, and when they do, are they endorsing one nationalistic group's

Socialists have noted how support for the Ukrainian war effort comes from a group "whose rabid hatred of Russia is historically rooted in Cold War anticommunism" and that Russia won't be forgiven for its socialist, Bolshevist ties. Without such questions that allow for reflections, I fear we're headed to an era of book burning. (We're already living in an era of book bans.)

Nationalism is problematic especially when myths are peddled as fact sustainable food security. to legitimise policies and power. Writers — fiction and non-fiction — have an important role to play in challenging myths, lies and various groups' assertions. I believe that is art's purpose. The anger at the atrocities of war should be redirected at corporations and industries that support those efforts, not artists who set their novels

in, this case, Russia. Journalists challenge nationalist, military, hyper religious narratives every day in Pakistan, often at great cost. But many also practise self-censorship out of fear. Soon they may be joined by artists who will feel they have to create for popularity rather than purpose. Literature and art should not be weaponised. You may not want to read Gilbert's new book but that should be your choice, not one made for you by a mob. -- Cour-

Aisha Khan

COP27 saw a step change in the focus on food systems as a vital sector for climate action, but investment and policies continue to fall far short. In the leadup to COP28, the June discussions in Bonn made significant progress in the first week but encountered a breakdown regarding the establishment of a coordination group for collaborative efforts on agriculture and food security. The negotiations concluded with a procedural outcome that is expected to be followed with a draft text in Dubai for delivery of food system transformation that ensures

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report highlights the huge impact of climate change on food systems and warns that, without urgent action, millions more people will be at risk of hunger. At the same time, industrial food production systems and ultra-processed foods are fuelling an obesity pandemic. Food systems (across the whole food supply chain) are responsible for 34 per cent of global GHG emissions, and food energy systems are fundamentally intertwined. The challenges to reforming food systems include climate change constraints on pollinators, soil

quality, water availability,

and crop variety feasibility.

However, the threats of

unsustainable agriculture as

the greatest driver of

biodiversity loss (respon-

sible for 80pc of deforesta-

tion and 70pc freshwater

use) are undermining resil-

ience, increasing fragility in ment needs, large populafood systems and hampering adaptation efforts. As the world grapples with food shortages, with more than 250 million people facing acute food insecurity, exacerbated by the climate crisis, it is time to change the rules of international finance that are stacked against the world's poor, and accelerate momentum for fit-for-purpose food

COP28 must set clear goals, laying out pathways and identifying priority policies and investments to deliver food system transformation. The benchmarks for defining pathways and ambition at sub-national national, regional and multilateral food systems transformation must be guided by a just transition. This will require taking into consideration food sovereignty, global equitable food distribution and protection for farmers, farm workers, processors as well as marginalised communities, placing small-holder and family farms at the heart of food system transition

Moving beyond benchmarks that are already embedded in international agreement and commitments, the new contours require clear goals from governments and the private sector to address food systems reform in an integrated way, including meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), commitments under UNFCCC and the CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. For the Global South.

meeting SDG 2.1 to end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all vear round, is becoming a distant dream. This is less a problem of global food supply and more due to food systems that prioritise profits over public health and the environment. Without a massive investment in food systems and wider develop-

tions in the Global South will face a daily struggle to secure sufficient food for themselves and their fami-

The agriculture methane emissions industrialised countries also need clear, time-bound targets for reducing and implementing policies that focus on the harmful impacts of industrial livestock farming and damage to ecosystems. water quality and health labour rights and animal welfare. Globally, the use of inorganic fertilisers has increased tenfold since the 1960s. This has been a key driver of industrialisation of agriculture, increasing vie-lds in many pla-ces but with knock-out impacts on soil, health and ecosystems.

In Pakistan, 81pc of farm holdings are less than five hectares in size. While smallholders and family farmers are ideally suited for embracing agro-ecological and regenerative practices, they often face investment structures that limit their access to finance and exclude them from supply chains dominated by larger businesses. Pakistan ranks 92 out of 107 countries with 43pc of the population food-insecure and 18pc facing severe food short-With rapid urbanisation and greater quantities of food consumed and wasted in cities. Pakistan needs to revisit policies, repurpose agricultural subsidies and align objectives with initiatives like the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

The FAO roadmap for food systems an-nounced at COP27 with the first output due at COP28, can help Pakistan sustainability whilst also enhancing resilience and improving food security. It is critical to plan and set milestones now for different sub-sectors for the agri-food system to 2050. -- Courtesy Dawn

# OMMERCE EWS **Page**

# KSA, UAE keen to invest in Pakistan: Musadiq Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): here in this country, he said. about the leadership role Minister of State for He said the government has To a question about relie Petroleum Dr Musadiq Malik on Sunday said that Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates are taking keen interest in Pakistani information technology, agriculture and

KSA has planned to fix funds of 24 billion dollars for investment purposes, while U.A.E allocated 22 billion dollars funds for exploring opportunities in three sectors of Pakistan, he stated in an interview with private television channel.The heavy investment in three major sectors of Pakistan would

many opportunities for young people, he added. Our young people having knowledge of advanced capable to show the world about their skills, he said. We are hopeful to bring business opportunities

recently constituted to poor people, he said committees for One- despite window operations to challenges, the government facilitate the investors. has provided maximum Commenting on Nawaz relief to employees, and Sharif's arrival in Pakistan, pensioners besides the he said, after the announcement of the date by the election commission

election campaign. He said inc um bent government's tenure will be lunch and dinner timing. He finished by August mid and the Caretaker set-up will invite ECP to announce the schedule for general

role in this country, he said besides open job the PML-N will decide opportunities in Pakistan.

To a question about relief people working in the private sector. About loadshedding of gas and of Pakistan, the former electricity, he said, we have prime minister will come issued directives to the Pakistan to lead the department concerned to ensure energy supply during cooking breakfast, said that a discussion has been made with Azerbaijan regarding the provision of

LNG cargo to Pakistan before next winter. To a He said it is the question about IMF, he responsibility of ECP to said a nine-month relief hold the next elections in a through an agreement has transparent manner. He been made to run the said the PML-N under the economic affairs in a guidance of Nawaz Sharif proper manner. He hoped would sweep the general that heavy investment from elections. To a question the Gulf region would about the next leadership boost business activities



KARACHI: Workers are pealing the "Siri Paye" outside their shop at nanak warha area, the paye and Siri is the one of the favorite and famous dish in

### Speakers say: 5G has the potential to revolutionize industries

LAHORE (Online): It is create jobs, and drive evident that 5G has the potential to revolutionize advancements, he adddd. industries and drive economic transformation on a global scale.

The role of 5G in Economy" held here today under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum,a strategic think tank, Ombuds man Meher Kashif Younis Sunday said the economy is expected to be significant, with numerous potential operational efficiency. He benefits across various industries. He said 5G technology will open up new possibilities for inno vation and entrepreneurship. Startups and businesses will be able to leverage the high-speed

and low-latency capabilities of 5G to develop and deploy new applications, services, and business models. This will spur economic growth, Economic Forum.

He said this improved connectivity will enable faster and more reliable Speaking at a seminar communication between devices, leading to increased productivity and efficiency across industries. He said the low latency and high reliability Coordinator to Federal Tax of 5G networks will enable real-time monitoring and control of machinery, that the impact of 5G on improved supply chain said this will fuel the growth of mobile-based services, such as mobile platforms, e-commerce,

and mobile advertising. Meher Kashif Younis said the widespread adoption of 5G is expected to contribute significantly to economic growth and productivity gains. According to estimates by the World

# PFC to take part in 2<sup>nd</sup> Intl **Expo, Trade Fair Kabul** starting on July 16

Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in the 3-days Imam Abu Hanifa 2<sup>nd</sup> International and National Expo and Trade Fair Kabul starting from July 16 to discover business opportunities and explore new market access for Pakistani products.

Chief Executive
Officer PFC Mian Kashif As hfaq talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Ch Zeeshan Elahi Arain CEO Marvel Cables here on Sunday said that PFC along with Chenone will be participating in this mega event, said a news release."Chenone will also exhibit its high-quality

products to capture their share in the global market besides it's an excellent opportunity to showcase Pak products and develop business deals with international buyers", he added Mian Kashif Ashfaq said that around over hundreds of Pak companies will be exhibiting their products which included furniture, textile, garments, leather garments, sportswear, sports goods engineering, etc.He said this expo will also offer professional buyers a sourcing platform with a wide variety of products ranging from basics to the most creative and qualitative.

international standards

### As per IMF condition, Punjab to lose Rs336b to federal govt

ISLAMABAD (INP): Punjab will also face the brunt of International Monetary Fund's conditions as the province will have to give Rs336 billion from its income to the federal government in

the coming financial year.
The caretaker Punjab go vernment has given approval to give Rs336 billion to the federal go vernment on the recommendations of the

Earlier, the Punjab Finance Department had prepared a strategy to give Rs125 billion from the revenue collection of the

However, the federal government requested the caretaker government in Punjab to increase the share to Rs336 billion as per the global lender's conditions.

### CTP to take action against transporters involved in overcharging RAWALPINDI (APP): As

residents of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad head to their hometowns and villages to celebrate Eidul Azha, intercity transporters have started hiking their fares.

stop profiteering, the City Traffic Police (CTP) has launched a grand operation against these transporters overcharging

oassengers. According to City Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan transporters have already been warned to stop overcharging or else face strict action in accordance with the law.

CTO said that they had constituted special squads who monitor these buses and wagons.



FAISALABAD: Workers preserving sacrificial animal hides at their warehouse.



FAISALABAD: A worker is busy in his work at Tissue making factory, to earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.

# Pakistan is now firmly back on right track, says Miftah Ismail on IMF agreement

**Monitoring Desk** KARACHI: Reacting to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement, former finance minister Miftah Ismail on Friday said, "Pakistan is now firmly back on the right

Pakistan and the IMF reached a long-awaited staff-level agreement (SLA) on a \$3 billion "stand-by arrangement" (SBA), the global lender announced to day.

The \$3 billion funding, spread over nine months, is higher than expected for Pakistan. The country was awaiting the release of the remaining \$2.5 billion from a \$6.5 billion bailout package agreed in 2019, which expires on Friday (today). Taking to Twitter,

Miftah said that the signing of the \$3 billion agreement was "great the prime minister on

Actions needed to make

northern regions a center of

tourism: Ahsan Bakhtawari

Commerce and Industry President Ahsan Zafar in our country and due to

Bakhtawari met Chief lack of concrete measures

International Tourism International Airport, more Summit to be held in steps need to be taken to

measures regarding the Flights from all over the

ISLAMABAD (INP): problem

Islamabad Chamber of

President Ahsan Zafar

Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan

During the meeting

Mohiuddin Ahmed Wani.

held at Gilgit-Baltistan

House, Islamabad, he

briefed about the first ICCI

Skardu from July 7 to 9

next month. On this

occasion, arrangements and

ourism conference were

Chamber while speaking

said that the tourism sector

is the easiest source of

foreign investment for

probably no other tourist

destinations in the world

northern

regions. However, our to attract tourists.

Pakistan. There

President Islamabad

also discussed in detail.

news" for Pakistan. He also congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who ensured that the deal went through because of his "personal commitment and intervention".

"As I have been saying, a deal with the reforms. Fund is the best insurance we have against default. Now InshaAllah the clouds of default will recede, demand for hoarding dollars will slowly decrease, and there will be renewed hopefulness and vibrancy in the business climate, said Miftah.

The former Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader noted that Pakistan lost nine months in reaching the agreement. He also acknowledged the efforts of his successor Ishaq Dar, State Minister for Finance Aisha Ghaus Pasha, special assistant to

unfortunately tourism has

in this regard, tourists are

turning to other countries.

Along with the completion of the CPEC

construction of Skardu

International flights should

be launched in Skardu.

paid to the construction of

infrastructure for the

promotion of tourism in

Skardu. For the promotion

restaurants, hotels and

guesthouses should be built

tourism,

Apart from this,

tourism.

project and

promote

finance, revenue and power and their teams in securing

"We must recognise that this IMF deal gives us yet another chance for making fund ament al Unless we undertake these reforms, Pakistan will remain at the mercy of multilateral lenders and the people of Pakistan will continue to pay for the structural and governance failures of their governments," said Miftah.

The former finance minister was part of the ruling PML-N. However, he recently decided to step down as the party's Sindh general secretary and all other positions after months of bitterness over his removal and the subsequent appointment of Ishaq Dar as the finance minister September last year.

### Brazilian analysts upgrade GDP's growth forecasts BRASILIA (Xinhua/APP)

Brazilian financial analysts raised their projected GDP expansion in 2023 from 2.14 to 2.18 percent, the seventh consecutive weekly upgrade, and upped the 2024 forecast from 1.20 to 1.22 percent, the Central Bank of Brazil.

Analysts lowered the forecast inflation for the year from 5.12 to 5.06 percent, and for next year, from 4.00 to 3.98 percent, according to the bank's weekly Focus survey of the country's top financial

Brazil's inflation is 3.25 percent for 2023 and 3 percent for special attention should be 2024, with a 1.5 percentage point margin of tolerance in both cases. Market analysts

maintained the forecast for the benchmark Selic interest rate at 12.25 percent for this year.

# Ahsan calls for increasing exports

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has stressed the need for must increase the tax to increasing exports of the GDP ratio for self-country by utilising all sufficiency. He also urged available resources.

Addressing a news conference in Narowal on Sunday, the federal minister said five main fields of economy including agriculture, IT, manpo wer, minerals and industries could play a vital role in deal with the economic turnaround of Pakistan.

Minister said Pakistan has the lowest GDP growth Pakistan but could not

paying special attention to set target. He said that we the nation to adopt the tax culture for the development of the

country.
Iqbal said Pakistan is now on a right track after its agreement with the IMF and this Stand by Arrangement will be increase of exports and to helpful in economic

He regretted that the Planning PTI has tried to sabotage the IMF's agreement with



QUETTA: An elderly man pushing his handcart full of coconuts for selling to earn livelihood for

# BMP says: IMF financing good Dev. but reforms must to end economic crisis

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has termed the agreement with IMF as a positive development for the economy but warned that the multilateral donors financing might not bring any significant impact on struggling economy, as the sustainable solution to Pakistan's economic issues lies in the structural reforms and consistent

policies. FPCCI president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said the deal would end speculation of a possible default, but the country's debt troubles won't end there, as the

He said that the rupee will strengthen which will reduce inflation, so, the IMF agreement is overall a good development. The BMP Chairman

expressed his opinion on the agreement with the International Monetary Fund and said that there is positive news at the beginning of the new fiscal year, as it was not expected but the agreement was reached.

Now the rupee will strengthen, which will reduce inflation. He said that there is a 9-month agreement which is very positive, as the caretaker government will remain in the facility, however, the IMF conditions have increased the cost of more IMF aid will be production.



RAWALPINDI: Shopkeepers are packing the Charcoal for customers at their shop in Ganjmandi area as due high demand because of Bakra Eid.

# **MEPCO** nabbed 16985 power pilferers **during 2022-23**

MULTAN (APP): Multan Electric Power Company Allah Yar Bharwana. Rs 432.6 million (MEPCO) caught 16985 power pilferers across the 13 districts of South Punjab and imposed a Rs 534.2 million fine on them during the fis cal year 2022-23.Rs 408.3 were recovered and deposited into the treasury.

4285 applications were got registered out of 14889 applications sent for registration of cases against power pilferers during the above said period.

Grand operation was underway against the power pilferers across the region under the supervision of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) were registered during MEPCO Engineer Mahar fiscal year 2022-23.

Rs 432.6 million fine was imposed on 16220 domestic power pilferers while 4045 cases registered during the fis cal year 2022-Rs 11.9 million fine

was imposed on 343 commercial consumers and 90 FIRs were registered. Rs 12 million fine was

imposed on 42 industrial consumers (industrialists) and 16 cases were registered.Rs 69.2 million fine was imposed on 337 agricultural tubewell users (farmers) and 128 FIRs were registered.

Rs 4.6 million fine was imposed on 37 other consumers and six cases

# Apple's market value ends above \$3tr for first time

Monitoring Desk O A K L Å N D / BENGALURU: Apple Inc's stock market value ended a trading session above \$3 trillion for the first time on Friday, lifted by signs of improving inflation and bets that the iPhone maker will successfully expand into new markets.

Shares of the world's most valuable company jumped 2.3% to \$193.97, giving it a market capitalisation of \$3.05 trillion, Refinitiv data showed

It was Apple's fourth straight record high close. The Cupertino, California

capitalisation briefly peaked above \$3 trillion in intra-day trading on January 3, 2022, before closing the session just below that mark. Heavyweight growth

stocks including Apple, Nvidia Corp and Tesla Inc rose sharply after a Commerce Department report showed the Personal Consumption Expenditure price index advanced less in May than in April, reflecting progress in the Federal Reserve's fight against inflation. Apple has surged

49% so far in 2023 in a rally by several of Wall Street's most valuable companies

# HYDERABAD: Female farmers are busy in seeding rice crops in their fields Farmers stressed need for switching over to "Inter cropping"

and Development Board Punjab Shahzad Ali Malik Sunday stressed the need for switching over to "Inter cropping," for growing two or multiple agricultural production to achieve food autarky besides boosting profitability of farmers

of progressive farmers led by Pir Saddam Hussain Shah of Pindi Shaikh Musa district Faisalabad here today he said Inter cropping can significantly enhance overall crop productivity.

By growing different crops together, farmers can helps farmers maintain a maximize the use of

LAHORE (Online): available resources, such as Chairman Rice Research sunlight, water, and nutrients, he adddd. He said the complementary nature of different crops helps in better utilization of the growing space, resulting in higher yields per acre. The crops simultaneously in added income from inter the same field for bumper cropping can improve farm profitability and financial stability.

s aid

cropping provides a form across the country. of insurance against crop failure. If one crop is susceptible to pests, diseases, or adverse weather conditions, the other crops in the mixture can compensate for the losses, he added. This diversification of crops reduces the risk of complete crop failure and more stable income

### Stocks push higher as investors track China

NEW YORK (APP): Global stocks advanced as China's growth reassurances and solid economic data in the United States helped reduce recess ion worries. consumer

confidence surged unexpectedly to an 18-month high in June, fueled by an uptick in the outlook for family finances. Meanwhile

home sales surged in May to reach the highest rate in over a year, while orders of big-ticket manufactured items rose again last month, fueled by a sharp jump in orders for transportation equipment.
"There was a lot of

US economic data released to day and the key takeaway was that the economy is not breaking just yet," said Oanda's Edward Moya.

Samina, Naila create history

by scaling world's second

highest peak K2

highest mountain. The successful ascent. Join-

**Monitoring Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: High-alti-

tude mountaineers Naila

Kiani and Samina Baig

made history on Sunday

as they became the first

Pakistani women to suc-

cessfully ascend the per-

ilous peak of Nanga

Parbat, the world's ninth

# Geneva Kashmir moot highlights plight of Kashmiri prisoners languishing in Indian, IIOJK jails

ISLAMABAD (APP): dressed by political activ-While voicing their grave ists, parliamentarians, pub-ists, parliamentarians, pub-ists, parliamentarians, pub-ists, parliamentarians, pub-ists, parliamentarians, pub-While voicing their grave concern over the continual illegal detention of Kashmiri prisoners in Indian as well as Occupied Kashmir's jails, speakers at a seminar held on the sidelines of the 53rd session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNCHR) in Geneva late Saturday, said that thousands of detainees lodged in different jails in and outside the Valley was getting worse with every passing

"The seminar titled "Plight of Kashmir Prisoners" was attended and ad-

ists, parliamentarians, public representatives, law experts and human rights defenders hailing from different parts of the world including Altaf Hussain Wani chairman Kashmir institute of International relations, Faheem Kayani, Hassan ul Bana, Mirza Asif Jarral and others", says a message reaching and released to the media here on Sunday.

The speakers contin-Kashmiris who were arrested before and after 5th has become a death trap for Kashmiris.

They said that a sizable number of Kashmiris who were taken into preventive custody on 5th August 2019 continue to rot in Amphala, Udhampor, Hiranagar, Khatua and Kotbalwal jails.

The speakers said that the Indian government has given a free license to its forces and agencies like NIA ued that thousands of and Enforcement Directorate to arrest Kashmiris. They said that dozens of August 2019 have been lantop rank political leaders guishing in India's notori- including Muhammad

Shah, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Asiya Andrabi and others were picked up from their homes and whisked off to prisons outside the

valley.

"They have been actually abducted by NIA and ED and shifted to Tihar Jail under frivolous and concocted charges," the speakers said, adding that scores of detainees including Dr. Qasim Faktoo, Dr. Shafi Shariati, Ghulam Qadir and many more were rotting in jails serving life



ISLAMABAD: People are arriving back from their villages on the last vacation of the Eid-ul-Adha, to start their daily routine from Monday, in Federal Capital.

# **Payments under BISP** to begin today: Kundi

Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the process of the payment of installments under Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will begin from July 03 (Monday). In a message for deserving women under BISP here on Sunday, he urged them to collect their installments from the specified retailers and inform them in case of any complaint. He said that 0.9 million cards of the BISP suspended by the previous during the current month.

(APP): PTI government including 7000 cards of the deserving women of D.I. Khan are being unblocked. He further said that the teams of BISP are formally contacting those people whose cards have been unblocked. So far over 2,50000 cards have been restored. Mr Kundi said that the holders of blocked cards either contact the local office of BISP or sent message on 8171. For the redressal of the complaints of beneficiaries, he said a new system for direct recovery from banks is being introduced

# Public enjoying barbecue parties amid pleasant weather after Eidul Azha

ISLAMABAD (APP): Families and youngsters in twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi thronged public parks, open spaces, and hilly areas to celebrate barbecue parties after Eid-ul-Azha that filled the air with the smoked aroma of grilled food. According to a private news channel, the youngsters are busy to arrange special barbecue parties on rooftops, green lawns, and open places as well other picnic spots for their friends and family mem-

Such parties not only

give an opportunity to enjoy Eid with loved ones but also gives a chance to taste different types of dishes

made of sacrificial meat.
Week-long holidays
along with the pleasant weather have added charm to Eid festivities as everyone enjoys delicious meat dishes with family and friends. Eid-ul Azha comes once a year and the tradition of sharing meat with neighbors and the needy gives evervone a chance to store meat for the coming days to eat and serve guests adding that the mutton biryani, pulao.

### Mirwaiz pays rich tributes to trade union leader Sampat Prakash

ISLAMABAD (APP): Illegally detained All Parties Hurriyat Conference senior leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, expressing profound griefand sorrow over the demise of the wellknown trade union leader Sampat Prakash, paid rich tributes to him for his selfless services to the whole Kashmiri society, especially the working class.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in a statement issued in Srinagar on Sunday, said Sampat Prakash was a strong link between the Kashmiri Muslims and the Pandit community. A man of character and principles, he believed in justice and had the courage to call a spade a spade standing up to the powers of his time, he added. He said that late Sampat was a strong votary of peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute through dialogue and the deceased continued to raise his voice against all forms of human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir till his last breath. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said Sampat Prakash was a great son of the soil and a distinguished and farsighted voice of the Kashmiri Pandit commu-

Govt to save

Rs. 438b annually

with energy plan

applicable

from July 1

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

government expects to save

Rs438 billion annually

through the implementation

of the energy conservation plan from July 1.

of the previously an-

nounced plan will save

3,000 megawatts of elec-

documents obtained, the

duty imposed on substan-

dard fans will get the gov-

ernment tax worth Rs15

the manufacturing and im-

port of substandard bulbs

will fetch Rs23 billion in

revenue, Rs86 billion will

be generated from e-bikes,

and Rs23 billion will be

saved by using LED lights

According to the blan, closing the markets

four hours earlier will

save Rs62 billion, while

allowing 20% of the staff

instead of bulbs.

The implementation

According to the

Moreover, banning

kistan (ACP) and the Karakoram Club, marking this achievement as a significant milestone in the history of Pakistani mountaineering. Kiani's ascent of confirmed ACP secretary Nanga Parbat solidifies her reputation as a pio-neering woman in Paki-

Nagri, and Shah Daulat, general Karar Haidri who further mentioned that all of the mountainstani mountaineering, as eers on the team had she is now the first successfully scaled the woman from the country peak.

### announcement was made ing them in this daring by the Alpine Club of Pafeat were other Pakistani mountaineers including Rizwan Dad,

summited seven global

peaks that rise above

of formidable challenges

that included severe

weather conditions and

treacherous terrain, the

two women, along with

their team, made their

Overcoming a series

8,000 meters.

Muhammad, Ahmed Baig, Waqar Ali, Saeed Karim, Liaqat, Wajid

# **Authorities directed** to resolve revenue matters on priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): more than six months, he Commissioner Rawalpindi said. High performing offic-Division Liaquat Ali Chatha has directed the authorities concerned to complete all the 'Jamabandis' as performing well, the Comp soon as possible.

According to a Commissioner Office spokes- the officials concerned had also instructed that all revenue matters including the issues of 'Khasra, Gardavari, Jamabandi, and blocked khawat' should be resolved on a priority ba-

The allotment of land should be done in presence of all the parties concerned and unilateral decision would not be accepted, he

should remain pending for

missioner said. Negligence on part of

rson the Commissioner would not be tolerated a the citizens face difficulties due to slow work in revenue matters he added He directed the admin

istration to ensure cleanliness of the roads and plant more saplings in green ar-

All-out efforts should be made to complete the ongoing development projects within stipulated time frame and there would be No revenue case no compromise on the quality, he added.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of motorcycles parked in the premises of Shah Faisal Masjid as people visit on weekend.

# **Consul General Chengdu** visit Pakistan pavilion at West China Intl Fair

BEIJING (APP):Acting Consul General, Paki-stan Consulate General, Chengdu, China, Agha Hunain visited Pakistan national pavil-ion at the 19th West China International Fair (WCIF) in Chengdu, the capital of southwest China Sichuan province. The organizers plan to hold 50 activities, including

to work from home will over 30 investment promotion activities.

A number of Pakistani products includ-

ing carpets, clothes, marble and wooden decoration pieces have been displayed for the next few days.

The China International Fair has attracted over 3,500 enterprises from 56 countries and re-

merchants from home and abroad are estimated to attend the event from Thursday to next Monday in person or online, according to Chinese media. The expo has a to-

tal exhibition area of 200,000 square meters, showcasing the Belt and Road cooperation and the development of the western regions and the digital economy and hydro-gen industry

gen industry.

The organizers plan to hold 50 activities, including over 30 investment promotion activities. Thailand is the

uest country of honour at the fair this year, and 17 countries, including Thailand, Belarus, Chile, Australia, and Pakistan, have set up their national pavilions.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori receiving the pilgrims warmly with flower garlands as first hajj flight landed at Karachi International Airport during post hajj operation

# Crackdown launched against Rickshaw drivers for entering illegally into Islamabad

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The
Islamabad Capital Police has launched a special crackdown on rickshaw drivers for illegally entering into federal capital Premises, especially in rural areas, a police public relation officer said

Following the direction of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Islamabad, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, to ensure smooth flow of traffic, to keep the citizens safe from accidents and keeping in view the road safety rules, Islamabad Capital Police have launched crack-

The Federal Flood Com-

flow in low flood at

Indus, Jhelum, Chenab,

Ravi and Sutlej are flowing

FFC report issued on Sun-

day, the existing Combined

Live Storage of the

country's major reservoirs

of Tarbela, Chashma and

Mangla is 7.135 MAF of

Forecasting Division (FFD)

Lahore, trough of Westerly

Wave over Kashmir and ad-

ISLAMABAD (APP): As

many as 40,000 thousand

people thronged 'Lake

View Park' to enjoy barbe-

cue parties after Eidul Azha

with their family and

cation at the shores of

Rawal Dam, Lake View

Park has started attracting

more visitors than other

public parks and picnic

spots in the twin cities, re-

ported a private news chan-

Traditionally, people used to go to Ayub Park and

Nawaz Sharif Park but now

both the places seem too

With its spacious lo-

According to Flood

joining areas has earlier same period.

Around 40,000 thousand

people thronged 'Lake

View'park during weekend

According to the daily

pecially in rural areas. In this drivers especially in rural and other areas of the City. During the ongoing crack-down challan tickets have been issued to more than

The night shift incharge is also taking legal action against them under shaws have been impounded at various police

stations CTO Islamabad issued special instructions to zonal DSPs to take action through which they are inagainst illegalrickshawpull- forming about the crackers on a daily basis. The down against illegal rickdown against illegal rick- Special Squad is operating shaws.

whereas seasonal low con-

etrating into upper parts of

the country up to 3000 feet.

mainly dry weather has

been predicted by FFD,

Lahore over most parts of

the country. However, thun-

derstorm/rain of Light to

Moderate Intensity at iso-

lated places is expected over

Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan

(Kalat Division) and over the

upper catchments of all the

major rivers during the

for enjoyment," there are

also other attractions in the

federal capital including

Japanese Park, the Zoo and

the whole track up to Pir

Sohawa. However, Lake

View Park has all the facili-

ties available in one spot,

making it the most attrac-

merrymakers, including

families and groups of

youngsters, belonging to the

twin cities and surrounding

areas thronged the limited

public places in Rawalpindi

boat rides in Lake View Park

Visitors also enjoyed

and Islamabad.

tive place for visitors.

Thousands

Mild Moist Currents

For the next 24 hours,

River Kabul continues to

flow in low flood: FFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): moved away eastwards,

River Kabul continues to Northwestern Balochistan.

shaw pullers entering into federal capital Premises es-legal rickshaw pullers by pecially in rural areas. In this regard several teams have blocks on Expressway, IJP been formed for a special crackdown on rickshaw enth Avenue, Ninth Avenue and all other major highways of Islamabad.

260 rickshaws, 90 rick- his supervision and the education Wing is provid-ing awareness to the public about road safety on a daily On this occasion, basis. Special broadcasts were also arranged on ICTP Radio FM 92.4

### **IRSA** releases 251,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Aumission (FFC) has said that tinues to prevail over thority (IRSA) on Sunday released 251,600 cusecs water from various rim sta tions with inflow of 409,000 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1511.27 feet and was 113.27 feet higher than its dead level of ,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 218,200 cusecs and 110,000 cusecs respec-

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1180.70 feet, which was 130.70 feet higher than its dead level of

### **AIOU** announces admissions for Autumn 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP) Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced the schedule for the admissions in the semester of Autumn 2023. According to the AIOU, the admissions for the first phase of Semester Autumn 2023 will commence from July 15, while the admissions for the second phase will start from September 1 across the country. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof Dr. Nasir Mahmood has given the approval to establish information counters, facilita-

crowded and there is little on weekend

ISLAMABAD: Women are buying jewelry from vendors at Daman-e-Koh, during celebrations in Federal Capital.

### ISLAMABAD: Traffic Police Officials issuing challan to Rickshaw owner as rickshaws are ban in Federal Capital. Fresh wave of inflation to further expose Shehbaz's govt: Rashid

Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Sunday said the cash-strapped Shehbaz-led government's downward countdown is expected to begin from July 12 [the start of new wave of inflation including in-

creasing power tariff]. Taking to Twitter, he asked what was the difference between the IMF decisions of former finance minister Miftah Ismail and his successor Ishaq Dar except they are relatives. "Dar's tone was aggressive initially and then he started bowing before the [International Monetary Fund] to get the loan approved for nine months.

He said a new wave of inflation would engulf the masses from July 12, leading to downward countdown of the incumbent government, adding the three governments the sitting

government—had to fulfill the IMF's strict conditions in nine months and pay back \$11 billion in six months. The former minister

said the time would tell if the deposit assurances given by the friendly countries would reach any practical conclusion, adding there was no room for errors in the IMF agreement as an environment of now or never had been created. He was of the view that the government had wasted 10 months, signed [staff level] agreement with [the IMF] on the last day [June 30].

'Is it fair that diesel become expensive by Rs7.50 even on the arrival of Russian oil in the country, the AML leader questioned. He said the foreign minister of PPP made more than 50 foreign tourism trips but is a silent spectator on the IMF agreement. Nawaz Sharif's coming or not depends on his health government, the caretaker government and the new decision of the case.

### Hamza strongly condemns desecration of Holy Quran on July 15 LAHORE (APP):Pakistan sion were not acceptable at

Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Leader Hamza Shehbaz on Sunday strongly condemned desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden which severely hurt the sentiments of Muslims across the globe. In a message issued here, Hamza said that such

despicable actions in the

garb of freedom of expres-

all. He said, "Islamophobia is a outcome of hatred and extremism" Hamza Shehbaz said

that legislation was needed at international level to stop rising incidents of Islamophobia. Such heinous actions by extremist elements were threat for peaceful societies, he

# save Rs56 billion, the docu-

and fulfillment

### ments say. **World Youth Skills** Day to be marked

ISLAMABAD (APP) World Youth Skills Day will be marked on July 15 (Saturday) across the globe including Pakistan, aim of the day is to encourage youth to celebrate the value of acquiring skills like building, making, and creating as a way to achieve personal success

### Over 60,000 distin-

guished guests and

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