

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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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 hatred.

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 Brahim Taha said.

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 inci-

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 alliance.

Swedish police had granted permission for a protest 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 embassy in Stockholm.



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 Sweden.



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

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

DUBAI: Pakistan Muslim League-N and former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said that after winning the upcoming elections, PMLN will end inflation on a priority basis.

Former prime minister held an important meeting with the Pakistan Muslim League (PMLN) Gulf delegation 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 Sharif.

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 Pakistan.

Nawaz Sharif said that he saluted his party workers who were facing difficult situations.

PMLN Nawaz Sharif

finalized his future travel plans and confirmed his return ticket to London on 4th of July.

Sources claimed that PMLN supreme will return back to London.

He will hold important meetings in Dubai before leaving for London.

INP adds: Ex-prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif is unlikely to make a comeback to Pakistan anytime soon.

According to media reports, Nawaz, who was convicted by an accountability court before the 2018 general elections in graft cases, went to London to receive medical treatment in 2019, and has been staying there since then.

Last week, Nawaz reached Dubai and met Pakistani politicians. His arrival in the Gulf emirate generated a debate in the media about his return to Pakistan.

However, the source, a cabinet member, said that he would not be returning just yet. The PML-N supreme is convicted in the Al-Azizia and the Aveinfeild Apartment references filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the aftermath of the Panama Papers case.

### PM Shehbaz to attend SCO summit via video link

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will participate in the 23rd Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of State being held in videoconference format 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

LAHORE (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 here.

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.

PM Shehbaz summons federal cabinet session

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has summoned the federal cabinet session on Monday (tomorrow), citing sources.

PM Shehbaz Sharif summoned the federal cabinet's session on Monday in which the participants will review the political and economic situation of the country.



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

### Pakistan, Japan have full potential to increase bilateral trade: Bilawal

TOKYO (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari says Pakistan and Japan have the potential to increase bilateral trade in diverse sectors for mutual benefit.

He was speaking at a function organized by the Pakistani diaspora in Tokyo on Sunday.

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

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

He said Pakistan can learn from Japan's advancement in Information Technology and other fields.

The Foreign Minister said during his meeting with Japanese leadership and entrepreneurs, he will urge them to enhance trade and 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 training.

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 Co-operation Agency and Japan External Trade Organization in Tokyo on Sunday.

During the meetings, the matters related to bilateral cooperation in trade and investment came under discussion.

### Harsh punishment for 2014 sit-in could have prevented May 9: Tanvir

held under the auspices of PML-N in Muridke tehsil of Sheikhupura, the minister said it was Pakistan's bad luck that the PML-N government did not take action against the PTI during the sit-in of 2014.

"Those burning electricity bills and exhorting people to resort to civil disobedience can never be the country's well-wishers," Hussain said.

He was of the view that what happened on May 9 was unprecedented. "There is no country in the world where people attack their own country's army," he opined.

He called for giving tough penalties to those involved in the vandalism and arson of government and military installations on May 9.

### 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 Sararea of Sherani district on Sunday morning.

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 personnel retaliated and exchanged firing with the

assailants.

During the exchange of fire, one terrorist was also killed, the sources informed.

Afterwards, the armed assailants fled from the scene. Later, the security forces and area administration cordoned off the area and started hunt of the terrorists.

However, no arrest was made in the terrorism act neither any group or individual 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, Mir Ziaullah Langove has

expressed grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of four security personnel in the attack.

In a condemnation issued here on Sunday, the Minister Home paid homage to the martyred personnel of Baloachistan police and Frontier Corps.

Mir Ziaullah Langove asserted that terrorists can't defeat the resolve and morale of the security forces through such cowardly acts of terrorism.

He said that our security 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 families.



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

### Army kill six terrorists in DIK IBO: ISPR

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

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 innocent civilians.

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 said.

The United Arab Emirates has summoned the Swedish ambassador to protest against the desecration of Holy Quran.

Qatar has also condemned the Swedish authorities' permission to burn copies of the Quran Thursday calling it a "heinous" act to have especially occurred on Eid.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs warns that allowing repeated infringement of the Holy Quran 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 intolerance".

### 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, Turkey, 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 said.

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### 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 Islamabad from Jeddah early Sunday morning.

As many as 693 pilgrims are due to return to Pakistan onboard first three PIA flights, which after Islamabad 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 reach Karachi Airport at 3:35 pm, while PK-740 will reach Peshawar from Jeddah at 6:35 in the evening. The airline's flight operation from Jeddah will continue until July 20, while pilgrims will start



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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for 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 mining sectors.

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 a private television channel. The heavy investment in three major sectors of Pakistan would open many job opportunities for young people, he added. Our young people having knowledge of advanced technology are fully capable to show the world about their skills, he said. We are hopeful to bring business opportunities

here in this country, he said. He said the government has recently constituted committees for One-window operations to facilitate the investors. Commenting on Nawaz Sharif's arrival in Pakistan, he said, after the announcement of the date by the election commission of Pakistan, the former prime minister will come Pakistan to lead the election campaign. He said the incumbent government's tenure will be finished by August mid and the caretaker set-up will invite ECP to announce the schedule for general elections.

He said it is the responsibility of ECP to hold the next elections in a transparent manner. He said the PML-N under the guidance of Nawaz Sharif would sweep the general elections. To a question about the next leadership role in this country, he said the PML-N will decide

about the leadership role. To a question about relief to poor people, he said despite economic challenges, the government has provided maximum relief to employees, and pensioners besides the people working in the private sector. About load-shedding of gas and electricity, he said, we have issued directives to the department concerned to ensure energy supply during cooking breakfast, lunch and dinner timing. He said that a discussion has been made with Azerbaijan regarding the provision of LNG cargo to Pakistan before next winter. To a question about IMF, he said a nine-month relief through an agreement has been made to run the economic affairs in a proper manner. He hoped that heavy investment from the Gulf region would boost business activities besides open job opportunities in Pakistan.



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

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

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

Speaking at a seminar on "The role of 5G in Economy" held here today under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis Sunday said that the impact of 5G on the economy is expected to be significant, with numerous potential benefits across various industries. He said 5G technology will open up new possibilities for innovation 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,

create jobs, and drive technological advancements, he added.

He said this improved connectivity will enable faster and more reliable communication between devices, leading to increased productivity and efficiency across industries. He said the low latency and high reliability of 5G networks will enable real-time monitoring and control of machinery, improved supply chain management, predictive maintenance, and overall operational efficiency. He said this will fuel the growth of mobile-based services, such as mobile gaming, streaming 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 Economic Forum,

### 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 government has given approval to give Rs336 billion to the federal government on the recommendations of the latter.

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

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, inter-city transporters have started hiking their fares.

To stop this profiteering, the City Traffic Police (CTP) has launched a grand operation against these transporters for overcharging passengers.

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.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 Ashfaq 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

international standards 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.



**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 track".

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

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

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 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 the prime minister on

Finance, secretaries of finance, revenue and power and their teams in securing the deal.

"We must recognise that this IMF deal gives us yet another chance for making fundamental reforms. 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 in September last year.

## Actions needed to make northern regions a center of tourism: Ahsan Bakhtawari

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari met Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Mohiuddin Ahmed Wani.

During the meeting held at Gilgit-Baltistan House, Islamabad, he briefed about the first ICCI International Tourism Summit to be held in Skardu from July 7 to 9 next month. On this occasion, arrangements and measures regarding the tourism conference were also discussed in detail.

President Islamabad Chamber while speaking said that the tourism sector is the easiest source of foreign investment for Pakistan. There are probably no other tourist destinations in the world like our northern regions. However, our

problem is that unfortunately tourism has never been given priority in our country and due to lack of concrete measures in this regard, tourists are turning to other countries.

Along with the completion of the CPEC project and the construction of Skardu International Airport, more steps need to be taken to promote tourism. International flights should be launched in Skardu. Flights from all over the world should come to Skardu.

Apart from this, special attention should be paid to the construction of infrastructure for the promotion of tourism in Skardu. For the promotion of tourism, new restaurants, hotels and guesthouses should be built to attract tourists.

## 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 institutions.

Brazil's target inflation is 3.25 percent for 2023 and 3 percent for 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

NAROWAL (INP): Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has stressed the need for increasing exports of the country by utilising all available resources.

Addressing a news conference in Narowal on Sunday, the federal minister said five main fields of economy including agriculture, IT, manpower, minerals and industries could play a vital role in increase of exports and to deal with the economic crisis.

The Planning Minister said Pakistan has the lowest GDP growth rate in the region and by

paying special attention to SMEs we can achieve the set target. He said that we must increase the tax to GDP ratio for self-sufficiency. He also urged 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 helpful in economic turnaround of Pakistan.

He regretted that the PTI has tried to sabotage the IMF's agreement with Pakistan but could not succeed.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and 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 former 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 more IMF aid will be

needed in 2024, he added. 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 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 (MEPCO) caught 16985 power pilferers across the 13 districts of South Punjab and imposed a Rs 534.2 million fine on them during the fiscal 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) MEPCO Engineer Mahar

Allah Yar Bharwana. Rs 432.6 million fine was imposed on 16220 domestic power pilferers while 4045 cases registered during the fiscal year 2022-23.

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 were registered during fiscal year 2022-23.

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

MONITORING DESK O A K L A 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 company's market

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 at the bypass.

## Farmers stressed need for switching over to "Inter cropping"

LAHORE (Online): Chairman Rice Research and Development Board Punjab Shahzad Ali Malik Sunday stressed the need for switching over to "Inter cropping" for growing two or multiple crops simultaneously in the same field for bumper agricultural production to achieve food atarky besides boosting profitability of farmers across the country.

Talking to a delegation 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 maximize the use of

available resources, such as sunlight, water, and nutrients, he added. He said the complementary nature of different crops helps in better utilization of the growing space, resulting in higher yields per acre. The added income from inter cropping can improve farm profitability and financial stability.

He said Inter cropping provides a form 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 helps farmers maintain a 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 recession worries.

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

Meanwhile new 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 today and the key takeaway was that the economy is not breaking just yet," said Oanda's Edward Moya.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 (UNHRC) in Geneva late Saturday, said that thousands of detainees lodged in different jails in and outside the Valley was getting worse with every passing day. "The seminar titled 'Plight of Kashmir Prisoners' was attended and ad-

ressed by political activists, 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 continued that thousands of Kashmiris who were arrested before and after 5th August 2019 have been languishing in India's notori-

ous jails like Tihar, which has become a death trap for Kashmiris.

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

The speakers said that the Indian government has given a free license to its forces and agencies like NIA and Enforcement Directorate to arrest Kashmiris. They said that dozens of top rank political leaders including Muhammad

Yasin Malik, Musarrat Aalam Bhat, Shabir Ahmad 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 terms.



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.



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

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 (ICPO) 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 has launched crackdown against illegal rick-

shaw pullers entering into federal capital Premises especially in rural areas. In this regard several teams have been formed for a special crackdown on rickshaw drivers especially in rural and other areas of the City. During the ongoing crackdown challan tickets have been issued to more than 260 rickshaws, 90 rickshaws have been impounded at various police stations.

On this occasion, CTO Islamabad issued special instructions to zonal DSPs to take action against illegal rickshaw pullers on a daily basis. The Special Squad is operating

and taking action against illegal rickshaw pullers by setting up special roadblocks on Expressway, IJP Road, Murree Road, Seventh Avenue, Ninth Avenue and all other major highways of Islamabad.

The night shift incharge is also taking legal action against them under his supervision and the education Wing is providing awareness to the public about road safety on a daily basis. Special broadcasts were also arranged on ICTP Radio FM 92.4 through which they are informing about the crackdown against illegal rickshaws.

## Payments under BISP to begin today: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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

PTI government including 7000 cards of the deserving women of D.I. Khan are being unlocked. He further said that the teams of BISP are formally contacting those people whose cards have been unlocked. So far over 2,50,000 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 during the current month.

## 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 members.

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 everyone a chance to store meat for the coming days to eat and serve guests adding that the mutton biryani, pulao,



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

RAWALPINDI (INP): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid 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 increasing power tariff].

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].

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, the caretaker government and the new

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

## Hamza strongly condemns desecration of Holy Quran

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan 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.

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 added.

## 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 grief and sorrow over the demise of the well-known 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 community.

## Samina, Naila create history by scaling world's second highest peak K2

ISLAMABAD: High-altitude mountaineers Naila Kiani and Samina Baig made history on Sunday as they became the first Pakistani women to successfully ascend the perilous peak of Nanga Parbat, the world's ninth highest mountain. The

Monitoring Desk to have successfully summited seven global peaks that rise above 8,000 meters.

Overcoming a series of formidable challenges that included severe weather conditions and treacherous terrain, the two women, along with their team, made their successful ascent. Join-



announcement was made by the Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) and the Karakoram Club, marking this achievement as a significant milestone in the history of Pakistani mountaineering.

Kiani's ascent of Nanga Parbat solidifies her reputation as a pioneering woman in Pakistani mountaineering, as she is now the first woman from the country

## Authorities directed to resolve revenue matters on priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatha has directed the authorities concerned to complete all the 'Jamabandis' as soon as possible.

more than six months, he said. High performing officers would be encouraged and action would be taken against those who are not performing well, the Commissioner said.

According to a Commissioner Office spokesperson, the Commissioner had also instructed that all revenue matters including the issues of 'Khasra, Gardavari, Jamabandi, and blocked khawat' should be resolved on a priority basis.

Negligence on part of the officials concerned would not be tolerated as the citizens face difficulties due to slow work in revenue matters, he added.

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

He directed the administration to ensure cleanliness of the roads and plant more saplings in green areas.

No revenue case should remain pending for

All-out efforts should be made to complete the ongoing development projects within stipulated time frame and there would be 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, Pakistan Consulate General, Chengdu, China, Agha Hunain visited Pakistan national pavilion 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 over 30 investment promotion activities.

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

According to the plan, closing the markets four hours earlier will save Rs62 billion, while allowing 20% of the staff to work from home will save Rs56 billion, the documents say.

The expo has a total 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 hydrogen industry.

World Youth Skills Day to be marked on July 15

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 and fulfillment.

The organizers plan to hold 50 activities, including over 30 investment promotion activities. Thailand is the guest country of honour at the fair this year, and 17 countries, including Thailand, Belarus, Chile, Australia, and Pakistan, have set up their national pavilions.

## River Kabul continues to flow in low flood: FFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that River Kabul continues to flow in low flood at Nowshera while rivers Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej are flowing normal.

moved away eastwards, whereas seasonal low continues to prevail over Northwestern Balochistan.

According to the daily FFC report issued on Sunday, the existing Combined Live Storage of the country's major reservoirs of Tarbela, Chashma and Mangla is 7.135 MAF of 13.443 MAF.

Mild Moist Currents from Arabian Sea are penetrating into upper parts of the country up to 3000 feet. For the next 24 hours, mainly dry weather has been predicted by FFD, Lahore over most parts of the country. However, thunderstorm/rain of Light to Moderate Intensity at isolated places is expected over Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan (Kabul Division) and over the upper catchments of all the major rivers during the same period.

## Around 40,000 thousand people thronged 'Lake View' park during weekend

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as 40,000 thousand people thronged 'Lake View Park' to enjoy barbecue parties after Eidul Azha with their family and friends.

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 facilities available in one spot, making it the most attractive place for visitors.

With its spacious location 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, reported a private news channel.

Thousands of merrymakers, including families and groups of youngsters, belonging to the twin cities and surrounding areas thronged the limited public places in Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Traditionally, people used to go to Ayub Park and Nawaz Sharif Park but now both the places seem too crowded and there is little

Visitors also enjoyed boat rides in Lake View Park on weekend.



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