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**Islamabad** 

Vol. XIII No. 206 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Wednesday July 05, 2023, Zil Hajj 16, 1444 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

# PM calls for SCO's joint action to counter economic recession, terrorism & climate change

Reaffirms Pakistan's firm support for shared dreams of peace in SCO region

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jinping, Russian President vestment in this area as a Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called for a joint action by the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to address the common challenges of economic recession, terrorism, and climate change.
"The SCO represents a

promising future only if we seize the opportunity to achieve the shared goals for the region's peace and prosperity," he said in his virtual address to the 23rd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State

The invitation to Prime Minister Sharif to attend the SCO-CHS, which was held in a video conference format, was extended by the prime minister of India in his capacity as the current Chair of the SCO.

Chinese President Xi

GILGIT (Online): Chief

Minister Gilgit Baltistan of

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) Khalid Khursheed

nas been disqualified b

GB chief court in case of

led by Justice Inayatur

Rehman issued reserved

verdict in petition of seek-

ing CM disqualification

from his office under article

Notably, last April,

Khurshid had acquired

62 and 63 of constitution.

Khurshid's Bachelor of

Law (LLB) degree turned

out to be fake, a year after

he was appointed to the

his degree from a network

of diploma mills operating

under the brand name

Belford, but it doesn't ac-

tually exist.

Three member bench

obtaining fake degree.

Vladimir Putin, Indian prime minister Narendra perity Modi, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart of the Belt and Road Initia-Tokayev, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi joined the virtual moot among other leaders

of the observer states. PM Sharif said the SCO leaders were meeting at a critical juncture as the world faced socio-economic challenges.

He stressed that the regional organization could play the role of "beacon of peace, stability, and

emphasized focusing on in-

RAWALPINDI: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Secretary

Defence, Lt. Gen (Retd) Hamood Uz Zaman Khan chairing a meeting with H.E.

Sher Ali Mirzo, Defence Minister of Tajikistan along with his delegation at

**GB-CM Khalid Khursheed** 

disqualified in fake degree case

He was entrusted with

the top slot over his 'out-

standing educational

achievements', something

even the former premier

was misled into believing

as he called him the 'right

nior leadership of Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz

(PML-N) had come under

heavy criticism in G-B for

Subsequently, the se-

choice' last year.

'vehicle of peace and pros-

He mentioned that China Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project tive, could become a gamechanger of progress in view of Pakistan's location connecting the region.

He announced that Pakistan was planning to host a regional connectivity conference in the last quarter of the current year.

On terrorism and extremism, the prime minister said the "monster" must be fought with vigour and determination by all SCO

He pointed out that diplomatic point-scoring must be avoided by all coun-Terming regional contries and said that all forms nectivity a defining feature of terrorism, including State of the modern economy, he terrorism, must be con-



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif signing Joint Declaration and other documents adopted at the conclu-

#### Khawaja Asif, Tajik Defence Minister discuss bilateral defence cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): efforts of Tajikistan in pro-Tajikistan Defence Minister, Sherali Mirzo along a delegation called on Defence Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif and discussed bilateral defence cooperation the other day.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif expressed best wishes for the military and civil leadership of Tajikistan, and its people, said a press release on Tuesday.

The minister highthat being lighted neighbours of Afghanistan, both Pakistan and Tajikistan were facing similar security challenges and threats.

Pakistan believed in peaceful resolution of all

moting peace and stability

in the region, he added.

The minister highlighted that CPEC would further provide new and unique opportunities for enhancing connectivity and integration from Gwadar to Kashgar and Murghab in Tajikistan.

Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan would continue to provide assistance in intelligence capacity building and sharing of technical expertise with Tajik Armed

Tajik Defence Minister assured his government's commitment and pledged to work with Pakistan to issues and appreciates the strengthen bilateral ties.

### protests on July 7 against Holy Quran's desecration 'Speaking with one voice, the whole nation will give a message to the evil minds," says PM;

Govt. announces nationwide

Joint session of parliament called on Thursday

ISLAMABAD (APP): to convey a united mes-The government would observe Yaum-e-Taqaddus-e-Quran on July 7 to hold countrywide protests demonstrations against the des-ecration of Holy Quran in Sweden and convene a joint parliamentary session a day earlier.

The decision was made on in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here to discuss the issue of the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.

It was decided that protest rallies would be held on Friday across the country to condemn the act.

The prime minister appealed to the nation, including all the political parties, to participate in the protest

sage to the mischievous minds

Besides, the government would also convene a ioint session of the parliament on July 6 to formulate a national strategy on the issue and represent the nation's sentiments and feelings through the parlia-

mentary forum.

The joint session would also adopt a resolution to condemn the desecration of the Holy Quran.

The prime minister, also the president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, instructed the party to participate in the Yaum-e-Taqaddus-e-Quran and hold countrywide ral-

He told the meeting that the sanctity of the Holy Quran was a part of the Muslims' belief for which all of them were united. He said that the astray

minds were toeing a nefarious agenda of fanning the negative trend Islamophobia. Prime

Shehbaz said that nations and leadership believing in peace and co-existence should contain the violent forces infested by the Islamophobia and religious

He believed that the violent mindset targeting the religion, sacred personalities, beliefs and ideologies were in fact the enemies

#### Bilawal terms July 5 as Black Day in national history KARACHI (APP): Chair- his message that dictator

man of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has termed July 5, 1977, as a black day in national history.

ism. terrorism. Kalashnikov and drug culture under the guise of religion, from which even after 46 years, we still could not get rid of

them completely. On July 5, 1977, the tin-pot dictator General Zia-ul-Haq seized power by unconstitutionally overthrowing the government of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the first elected prime minister of Pakistan and the most popular leader, and deprived the citizens of their basic rights. Since then, Pakistanis around the world observe the 5th of July as Black

According to the statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, the Chairman of PPP further said in the Zia regime.

Zia is a culprit of the Constitution of Pakistan and the Pakistani nation. He said that the way

civil and human rights were violated during the dictator-He said that this day ship of General Zia and the will continue to remind us way atrocities were comhow a power-hungry dic- mitted on those who detator pushed the entire na- manded the restoration of tion into the mire of extrem- democracy, humanity will always be ashamed of such

Bilawal said that the nation is well aware of the fact that a handful of people who follow dictator Zia's thinking are still busy making conspiracies against the people's right to rule in their hunger for power, but fail-ure is their destiny. "The era of dictators and puppets has become a thing of the past. Now there is only democracy in the present and future of Pakistan," he added.

The PPP Chairman saluted the Jiyalas (party workers) who were flogged, endured the hardships of imprisonment and embraced martyrdom for the sake of democracy during



over the high level meeting regarding appointment of Vice Chancellors of Public Sector universities.

#### SC rejects plea against BHC's decision to quash FIR against PTI Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected the plea against the Balochistan High Court's decision to quash the First Information Report (FIR) and arrest warrant filed against the PTI chairman in connection with the killing of senior lawyer Abdul Razzaq Shar in Quetta.

A two-member SC bench comprising Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Ayesha A Malik heard the case filed by Imran Khan against his nomination and arrest warrant in the case of the senior Supreme Court lawyer who was cilled in Quetta.

During the course of proceedings, Chairman PTI's lawyer Latif Khosa read out the murder case of lawyer Abdul Razzaq Shar and said that the son of the slain Lawyer Abdul Razzaq Shar filed a case against

Imran Khan under terrorism provisions. Latif Khosa insisted that his client's life was in danger.

Justice Ijaz asked who determined the imposition of terrorism provisions in the case. The lawyer said that the primary responsibility lied with the SHO of the police station.

Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan asked that if the SHO's decision was wrong, would an application be made against it in the ATC or not?

When the lawyer said that a non-bailable arrest warrant had been issued for Chairman PTI, Justice Ayesha Malik asked whether the constitution of joint investigation team (JIT) was challenged.

Latif Khosa said that he did not know what was happening against his client and SHO could not impose terrorism provisions at the stage of investigation.

The lawyer said that Imran Khan was still coming to Islamabad, but he had stopped him from coming to the Supreme Court, on which Justice Liaz-ul-Ahsan said that this case was to quash the FIR and there was no need for Imran Khan to come.

Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan said that if he wanted more relief, request the Chief Justice of Pakistan.

The Supreme Court rejected the request for injunction and interim bail against the decision of the high court and sought the details of the case from the government law-

The court also issued notices to other parties including the Advocate General and Prosecutor General

Balochistan.

Subsequently, hearing of the case was adjourned till date in office.

#### Ban on Nawaz for contesting election ends, he can contest election: Dar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar has said that the ban on Nawaz Sharif for contesting the election has ended now and he can contest election now under new

Talking to private TV channel here Tuesday he said Nawaz Sharif is leaving for Saudi Arabia from UAE to perform Umrah and later he will fly to England

#### Pakistan, Japan vow to further intensify bilateral cooperation ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Fumio

Pakistan and Japan have vowed to remain engaged at all levels to further intensify bilateral cooperation.

This came at high-level meetings of Foreign Min-ister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during his visit to Japan from 1st to 4th of this month.

In Tokyo, the Foreign Minister held bilateral talks with his Japanese and infrastructure rebuildcounterpart Hayashi and also called on Japan's areas in Pakistan.

Kishida. During these meetings

the two sides discussed all aspects of bilateral relation; including, trade and investment, defence cooperation, education and export of manpower from Pakistan to Japan. They agreed to work together on targeted programmes with high impact, especially in the domain of solarization. ing in the flood affected



& HRD, Sajid Hussain Turi signing MoU with his Azerbaijan counterpart on social welfare.

#### **ML-N** supremo to return Pakistan before election campaign: Musadiq Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik Tuesday said that Pakistan League (PML-N) supreme leader and former prime minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif will return back to the country before the election campaign.

Talking to a Private news channel, he said that the party was fully prepared to go to the election and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is the only capable leader who would steer the country out of present challenges.

He said Pakistan always progressed in every

field under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, adding, Nawaz Sharif is still the most popular leader in Muslim Pakistan and he will stand the country on its feet again. Replying a question,

he said that PML-N led government was making strenuous efforts to preserve economic stability and move the economy towards growth, adding, the revival of IMF program will now give breathing space to Pakistan and the country will be able to get loans from multilateral financial institutions and trust of the international community will also be

increased

extending legal assistance to their political opponent in the fake degree case.

However, following his disqualification today, a no-confidence motion was submitted against the CM in the Assembly Secretariat almost immedi-

There are reports that the opposition members have submitted a no-confidence motion to thwart the possible plan of the chief minister to dissolve the GB Assembly.

Sources have said that nine members have submitted the motion.

On the other hand, Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid's consultation is

Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly. Nepra further jacks up

ongoing to dissolve the

electricity tariff ISLAMABAD (INP): In yet another power tariff hike, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday jacked up electricity prices by Rs1.25 per unit.

According to media reports, the power regulatory authority, NEPRA approved Rs1.25 per unît hike in electricitŷ in the wake of the monthly fuel adjustment. The consumers have to pay the additional amount in August.

Furthermore, the increase in electricity cost will apply to all the consumer categories except lifeline consumers and KE us <u>ers</u>

Dollar is in reverse gear after IMF deal KARACHI (Online): After success of deal with Inter-

national Monitory Fund

(IMF), dollar also lost its

power against Pakistani

Rupee. Dollar lost Rs.11 against rupee on Tuesday. Yesterday, market witessed brisk in the result of IMF deal and dollar also depreciated.

Today, dollar got heaper and in interbank dollar price lowered by 11.01. ollar is trading in interbank at the price of 274.98Pkr.

#### for construction of 51 new NHA road building schemes ISLAMABAD (APP): For for construction of Abdul Khel Interchange to Dhakki

Rs 44124mln allocated

implementation of the coalition government's vision of building road infrastructure in the country, Rs 44124.386 million have been earmarked in the Public Sector Development Programme for 51 new schemes of the National Highway Authority (NHA). According to official data, Rs 6000 million have been proposed in the PSDP 2023-24 for dualization and rehabilitation of Karachi-Kararo and Wadh-Khuzdar road. Similarly, Rs 6000 million have been allocated for the Kararo-Wadh and Kuchlak-Chaman section. Rs 4000 million have been set aside

to Kalurkot road. For rehabilitation and upgradation of 38 km Pezu-Tank Road, Rs 2200 million have been allocated whereas Rs 2000 million

have been apportioned for 35 km road from Yarik Interchange to Tank road. For construction of 14.9 km two-lane D.I Khan bypass, Rs 1000 million have been set aside and as much amount has been earmarked for construction of 66 road link from Ramak (N-55) to Daraban (N-50). Rs 1800 million have been set aside for rehabilitation and reconstruction 86 km section of N-5 from Moro to Ranipur.



tor Azam Nazirtarar had a meeting with the Turkish Ambassador Dr Mehmet Paçaci.

# Daily soice of Masse. Independent

Wednesday July 05, 2023

# Stop Islamophobia

It is not impossible to distinguish between freedom of speech and malicious actions Prime Minister Shehbaz calculated to insult and offend. cially to the Western world, that the deserration of the deserration of the deservation o the desecration of the Holy are in the know and those Quran comes under the second who know the economy

The appalling incident, where an Iraqi refugee burned a copy of the Holy Book outside a mosque in the Swedish capital, is not the first of its kind. Nor is it likely to be the last unless Western nations go beyond the usual condemnation and pass and enforce strict laws to deter those whose hate-filled narrative against the world's 1.8bn Muslims continues to be fanned by the lethargy of governments.

A similar incident took place in Stockholm in January, when a politician from the far-right desecrated the Quran in front of the Turkish embassy — an act for which he received a mere rap on the knuckles when the Swedish prime minister described it as "deeply disrespectful". Preceding this description was his assertion: "But what is legal is not necessarily appro-

Perhaps it is the 'legality' of such atrocious actions — and not only in Sweden — that needs to be questioned. Following the recent incident, condemnation has poured in from all sides. The EU has termed it "an act provocation", saying, "manifestations of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance have no place in Europe" — which, unfortunately, has as a state and society. we must ask how and why we hardly proved factual, as so many anti-Islam incidents in various European countries above the people and state have demonstrated.

Sweden has voiced similar criticism of the latest episode, but added that the country had a "constitutionally protected right to freedom of assembly, expression and demonstration".

The Pope was more to the point when he said, "Freedom of speech should never be used as a means to despise others and allowing that is rejected and condemned". The 57-member OIC, meanwhile, has called for the application of international (SBA) of \$3 billion was law "which clearly prohibits any advocacy of religious hatred".

Europe will never forget the certain default and was in the midst of a deep slump, dark days of Hitler and World War II when six million Jews were sent to their death. Images and stories from that era are etched not only on the memory of the individuals who lived through those times but also on the soul of the generations that followed. In 2005, the finding jobs. UN designated Jan 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Several European countries have laws that criminalise Holocaust denial. The world today is going down a similar path of hate — against ethnic and religious communities, against minorities, against the 'other'.

It was this venom spewed on the Muslim world that led the UN to designate March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. Just as Europe, and countries outside it, seek to curb anti-Semitism, they should deploy all, includ- ahead ing legal, means to stop the march of Islamophobia before rarily and it should open it's too late.

# Success, Pakistan style



Arifa Noor

Sharif has pulled a rabbit out of the hat by successfully (the two don't necessarily overlap much).

For once, the glory that is the prime minister's is not being contested by anyone; there are no hushed whispers or declamations of who worked on the matter behind the scenes despite the breaking news which came days earlier about the riyasat having decided to complete the programme.

The finance minister should also get some of the credit but it is hard to decide if he should get the credit for the success of the negotiations or the earlier eyeball-to-eyeball contest.

ally had any grasp of economic affairs, I would hold forth — intelligently and poignantly — of our sad state of affairs where success has come to be defined as completing negotiations with the IMF (not even a completion of the programme but just the netans met in the Gulf. gotiations). But this is best

the issues For the likes of ordinary backs and commentators, it is easier to simply applaud and look forward to the new targets — or definitions of — success we have and will continue to set. From reimagining Pakistan to redefining success, we have it all covered.

left to those who understand

But success it surely is because now the risk of default is over, and so is the uncertainty. Or so we are being told. And the uncertainty didn't simply refer to default but also politics. For why else would there be renewed talk about polls where even ministers in the 'caretaker' governments are now claiming they are here only to hold elections?

Indeed, the statements about the impending general elections are being delivered with an increased

much so that they are said to be the main discussion point of the meeting of the PPP and PML-N chieftains in Dubai. If news reports are to be believed, from seat adjustment to public sentiment to much else, it was all discussed when the ti-

Considering that both families had to fly to a third destination for this important discussion, it was surely more important than the economy and the IMF which Dar sahib and the prime minister have successfully handled, while staying put in Pakistan. However, those in the

know link the elections to our resounding success in having completed negotiations with the IMF. For as it is a short programme. which has to be followed by successful negotiations of the next, longer programme, elections have to be held, a government brought to power which will then take over from where Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has left the economy and talks with the IMF.

Seems logical enough. But to be honest, I never

Moving on, if I actu- quotient of certainty. So over the elections was due to the IMF and kept mistakenly linking it to the undesired results of poll-

The latter situation may not witness much change in the coming days. For while there has been more than one sigh of relief at the IMF news, chances are it will bring little good news to the ones who have to exercise their right to vote. Obviously, they would have been worse offhad the default occurred but this may not be consolation enough or a convincing enough argument to vote for the coalition in power.

As they struggle to pay bills of utilities and of food, they may not be grateful enough to realise that had default occurred. they wouldn't have had food available in the stores or fuel available for their cars or electricity And hence the confu-

sion about the election. Even with the IMF, the people may still want a broader choice than PDM on the one hand and Raja Riaz and Jahangir Tareenled stability on the other.

for concern. And for this reason, whatever has so far been ensured through the power games has to be complemented by le-

But how much can the law achieve? Keep an individual out of elections? Or more? While elsewhere we have set lower and lower targets for what counts as success, in the political sphere, ambitions are sky-high: to ban not just an individual but also a party. For even Ziaul Haq couldn't manage this back in the big, bad days. which were so much worse than the unprecedented times of today.

This is more than the IMF deal and its benefits may just continue to feed the uncertainty surrounding us. And we may just have to wait till October to get some answers. For whichever way

we go — election and a 'happily forever' for PDM — or no election and a 'happily forever' for Sheh-baz Sharif — it does not seem to lead to certainty any time soon. The IMF may not have pro-Such dangerous de- vided an answer to our

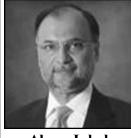
Postscript: It is worth remembering the 'stability' experienced during the Zia or Musharraf period had more to do with the generosity of the West during those years than the abilities or the power exercised by these men themselves Even authoritarianism re-

quires deep pockets.

PPS: A journalist is missing. He is a journalist and he has been missing for nearly two months now. This is all that matters; his views, his professionalism or even his biases are irrelevant. Journalists can be good or bad, professional or unprofessional, but none of this justifies a disappearance.

Can the government pay attention to this issue? And perhaps the industry called the media? Imran Riaz's disappearance and the ensuing silence is the collective failure of our employers and press representatives. But eventually, history will only remember the government under the watch of which he disappeared. And it might be remembered for longer than the IMF negorealised the uncertainty sires on the part of the political questions either tiations. -- Courtesy Dawn

# May 9 and the cult of Imran Khan



Ahsan Iqbal

On May 9, the militant cult-followers of a 'political' leaderwaged war against the state of Pakistan, violently attacking symbols of the state and dishonouring monuments put up in memory of our martyrs. The nation expects that the law will take its course and those responsible for these heinous acts will face the consequences of their actions through the due process of the law. As we all are recovering from the incidents of May 9, it is important to critically analyze the underlying causes behind the day's incidents and do some self-introspection as a state and society. We allowed one individual – Mr Imran Khan – to put his own petty vested interests of Pakistan. Îmran Khan rity/star at the time. But before 2018 hedid not get a major electoral victory at the national level. What allowed Imran Khan to become a cult-leader in Paki-

The rise of Imran Khan cannot be explained without acknowledging the policies of the few segments of the previous miljudicial establishments. A group of people in the army and judiciary did not only provide him political and financial support but also helped him with media management. They cleared the way for him by ousting Mr Nawaz Sharif from the

From 2011 onward, 'Project Imran Khan' bombarded people with two messages. One, everyone except Imran Khan is corrupt; and two Imran Khan is a messiah and an angelic honest leader. Imran received positive press while his political rivals were maligned through concerted media campaigns. Hate was injected in people's minds against old parties and the path to victory was created for Imran Khan. The results of GE 2018 were mafavour of Imran Khan to Religious-spiritual leaders

he was a cricketing celeb- bring him into power. In tend to have a cult-followshort, with the help of his benefactors in the military and judicial establishments and with the support of a large section of Pakistani media, Imran Khan became

a ruthless cult-leader. What does it mean to be a cult-leader? A cult of personality arises when a leader is represented as larger-than-life through uncritical praise and flattery. Propaganda is a common vehicle used to help create personality cults. Leaders are often depicted as superhuman, courageous, wise, and incapable of error. If a leader is viewed as superhuman, it is less likely followers will criticize or question his policies or challenge his power.

It is not surprising to see many educated followers of Imran Khan blindly follow and defend him, no matter how ridiculous, contradictory or irrational it is. No matter what Imran Khan does, his core support base tends to justify and romanticize his every action. In other words, it does not matter what policy position Imran Khan takes; his cult-followers will blindly follow him. Historically, nipulated and rigged in this is not new in Pakistan.

ing in Pakistan but what makes Imran Khan extremely threatening for pluralistic parliamentary democracy is his political agenda of neo-fascism and totalitarianism in Pakistan.

I would like to outline six salient features of Imran Khan's cult-politics which stand in contradiction to constitutional democratic rule. One, Imran Khan has projected himself as a cult of a redemptive, 'infallible' leader who never admits his mistakes. We as human beings are prone to making mistakes. What makes us strong and courageous is our ability to accept our mistakes and take responsibility for our actions. For example, Mr Nawaz Sharif and the late Ms Benazir Bhutto publicly acknowledged their mistakes of the past when they signed the Charter of Democracy (COD), which has allowed Pakistan to move forward as a parliamentary democ-

If Imran Khan was serious about rule of law and democracy then after his ouster from the PM Office, he should have publicly apologized to those who were politically victimized and imprisoned during his

term. On the contrary, whenever he is confronted on this issue, he does not even acknowledge that anyone was politically victimized during his term. In other words, he never admits his mistakes because he is a cult-leader who is solely

motivated by narcissism. Two, loyalty to Imran Khan is paramount and more important than competence. Imran Khan cannot stop talking about 'merito cracy' when it comes to critiquing his political rivals. But he totally disregarded merit in his own appointments. For example, he nominated one of the least qualified MPAs in the Punjab Assembly as chief minister; the same was true in the case of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Imran Khan wants absolute control, and he appoints the least competent individuals so he can dictate them. His kitchen cabinet was full of such sycophants.

his political opponents, Imran Khan endorses myths, conspiracy theories and promotes lies. Imran concocted the conspiracy theory of 'imported govhe blamed the US for his tesy TheNews

ouster and then he started blaming others. Therefore, May 9 cannot be seen as a spontaneous reaction but as an inevitable outcome of the neo-fascist cult politics of Pakistan. Therefore, the primary contradiction of Pakistan's politics is the fight against the neo-fascist cult-politics of Imran Khan versus the multi-party parliamentary democracy in Pakistan. History is taking note of those who are still protecting the neo-fascist cult-politics of Imran Khan versus those who are putting up a resistance against neo-fascist politics of Imran Khan to protect the pluralist character of Pakistani politics.

İmran didn't only attack this multi-party pluralistic democratic system but also attacked the foundation of Pakistan by attacking the country's military installations and those who sacrificed lives for this country. But as a nation we Three, to undermine came together after May 9 because Imran Khan grossly overestimated the power of his cult-following. This larger-than-life syndrome has destroyed many in the history and we are ernment' after his ouster witnessing another episode from the PM Office. First, before our eyes. -- Cour-

#### **Post-Fund deal**



Rashid Amjad

The euphoria that greeted the IMF Staff-Level Agreement on a new nine-month understandable. economy was facing nearcertain default and was in with little or no growth last

financial year. This was accompanied by unprecedented inflation of 35 per cent, causing the IMF to insist on hiking interest rates further to an alltime high of 22pc — the highest in living memory. Poverty levels have soared and left five million workers actively seeking and not

That it was a self-inflicted wound in large part was brought home when the prime minister rightly took credit for the lastminute agreement as the head of the economic team that had failed to achieve this over six months mainly due to his misplaced him. Indeed, the economy overall has been very poorly managed over the

The first thing to note about the IMF SBA is that only the first tranche of \$1.1bn will come in later this month after the agreement is approved by the IMF Board. The second and third tranches will only be forthcoming at threemonth intervals after a joint review and the IMF's go-

So, even if the threat of default has eased tempoflows from multilaterals and friendly countries of an-

Pakistan's troubles are far

The country faces an overall foreign exchange financing gap of near \$24bn this year. This makes it imperative that this SBA must not end halfway as the last and many before have done. Critically, first and

foremost, the IMF will examine in three months' time whether we have fully removed existing administered import controls and stopped our habitual fiddling with the exchange rate.

Even in a slightly improved foreign exchange reserve position, this is a very challenging task and involves some difficult choices. If we go through this policy change as agreed, we will end up with an unaffordably high exchange rate, despite its current drop, to balance out the rising import demand that will follow in the new import regime in the face of falling export earnings and remit-

To stem the rising tide of imports, the IMF agreement requires us to impose very tight demand suppression measures. These include continuing with a high interest rate regime and implementing steep increases in tax rates announced in the budget on high-income earners and higher sales tax on many goods, together with deep cuts in development expen-

These steps, if fully implemented, will bring the fiscal deficit to a more prudent 4pc. However, these strong stabilisation measures will also mean continuing with very little or no economic growth, rising unemployment and further pressure on rising prices.

But will this tightening of aggregate demand suppress import demand sufficiently to allow the demand-driven exchange rate to fluctuate within an affordable band, one that does not result in such high import prices that inflation

goes through the roof? My own assessment is that these measures will not be enough

ensure that the IMF deal holds, what is required is for the large banks and major importers (in all sectors) to acknowledge the harsh macroeconomic realities in which they must operate and adjust their requirements accordingly - rather than always maximising narrow self-interest as they are wont to do.

What the country needs is a 'Charter of the Economy' endorsed by the private sector (or its representative bodies) that clearly spells out the policy framework required to increase its competitiveness and exp-orts without the usual wish list of more protection and unaffordable

The troubling question on everyone's minds is whether the IMF deal will break the back of this unrecedented, entrenched inflation. Given that the current price spiral is in large part driven by costplus pricing by sellers to protect their incomes, it will take time for inflation to come down. This will require that direct income support for the poorest households be suitably increased.

The real task, however, of carrying through far-reaching structural reforms to ensure sustainable growth will fall on the new government that will take over in November this year. They should start preparing for how to successfully conclude the current IMF deal and agree on the contours of the next IMF programme, which we will all probability still need.

For this, we require an economic team in both the interim and new government with professional competence, vigilance and leadership to maintain confidence of financial markets. Hopefully the selectors will find them! -- Courtesy

# Low growth

Javid Husain

The most important task facing Pakistan's economic policymakers is to realise the goal of a high rate of economic growth on a sustainable basis. Unfortunately, it is a task in which successive governments have failed in the relatively recent past. For instance, in 2007-08, which was the last year of Pervez Musharraf's military rule, even a low GDP growth rate of 4.4 per cent resulted in an unsustainably high level of current account deficit of \$14bn or 6.9 pc of GDP. The difficult economic situation forced the succeeding PPP government to apply brakes on the GDP growth rate to lower the current account deficit and balance Pakistan's external ac-

By 2010-11, the current account deficit turned into a marginal surplus of 0.1pc of GDP but the GDP growth rate had to be slashed to 3.2pc which was barely sufficient to take care of the growth in population. The PPP government in the last year of its rule (2012-13) kept the current account deficit at the manageable level of 1pc of GDP but by keeping the GDP growth rate at the low level of 3.9pc. The goal of a high GDP growth rate (7pc or above) combined with the current account surplus or at least a man-

ageable level of current

account deficit remained from 2013 to 2018, the

marginally better than its predecessor. It was finally able to raise the GDP growth rate to 6.1pc by 2017-18 but by paying a heavy price in the form of an unsustainably high level of current account deficit amounting to \$19.2bn. The PTI government during its tenure from 2018-22 couldn't do better. After recording low GDP growth rates in the initial years of its tenure, it succeeded in raising the GDP growth rate to 6.1pc in 2021-22 but at the cost of an rate. This effort should be unsustainably high cur-combined with economic rent account deficit of

The present PDM go vernment, therefore, had to go through the familiar exercise of slashing the GDP growth rate, estimated to be about 0.3pc in 2022-23, to drastically lower the current account deficit which declined to \$3.3bn in the first ten months of 2022-23 as against \$13.7bn in the corresponding period a year earlier. Thus, the country, despite changes in government, unfortunately remains stuck on the path of a low GDP growth rate so as to maintain a sustainable balance in its external account.

The fundamental cause of Pakistan's low economic growth rate and persistent current account deficits is its low national saving rate which translates into low national investment and GDP growth rates. Consequently, any attempt by the government to raise the national investment rate for accelerating economic growth results in a current account deficit which, as any student of economics knows, is equivalent to national investments minus national savings. The country then During its tenure needs capital inflows in try in the right direction. the form of loans or for-

performance of the PML- eign assistance from bilat-N government from this eral and multilateral point of view was only sources to finance the current account deficit or the gap between national investments and national

> The only way to balance our external account while maintaining a high growth rate of the economy is to raise our currently low national saving rate of about 12pc to at least 25pc of GDP or even higher so that our national savings are sufficient to finance a high rate of national investment needed for accelerating our GDP growth policies designed to promote exports and import substitution. This should not be an impossible task. After all, in our region the national saving rates of Bang-ladesh and India are well above 30pc of GDP. Chi-na's national saving rate exceeds 45pc of GDP.

The main reason for Pak-is-tan's chronically low national saving rate and the consequent slow economic growth and huge current account deficits is the addiction to conspicuous consumption of our decadent elife consisting of the top echelons of its civil and military bureaucracy, political leadership, feudal landlords, professionals, and business community. Until they mend their ways and adopt austerity as their motto or a strong and stable government forces this through appropriate economic, financial, and administrative measures, Pakistan will remain stuck on the path of slow economic growth while lurching from one economic crisis to another. The latest budget presented by the government could have done more to embody the strong and far-reaching measures needed to push the coun--- Courtesy Dawn

# Governor unveils Rs.75 commemorative banknote to mark 75 SBP years

KARACHI (INP): Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad, on Tuesday, unveiled a commemorative banknote to mark the 75 years of the establishment of SBP in a ceremony held here at the

The Rs 75 governor, speaking at the commemorative banknote occasion, highlighted the is predominantly blue achievements of SBP which has been chosen to impart a sense of stability associated with a central bank, said a statement issued here adding that a distinctive feature of the banknote was the inclusion of a stylised sketch of the of the SBP in recent years, State Bank building by the renowned calligrapher and artist, Syed Sadequain Ahmed Naqvi, which shares space with the traditional portrait of the Quaid on the front of the

The reverse of the 'Banking on Equality', represented on the banknote by the portrait of Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah

The reverse also highlights Plan of SBP 'Vision 2028' and its key areas including commitment to address bringing inflation to the climate change through the target level in the medium depiction of alternative and sustainable energy sources, including wind turbines and solar panels.

The central bank specifically focusing on its engagement commercial banks regarding supervision developments therein over

the years. He also highlighted the initiatives with special mention of micro-payment gateway Raast, Roshan Digital Accounts for overseas providing digital banking launch of the banknote. solutions, and development youth and agriculturists.

spoke about the Strategic financial sphere.

national and its key areas including term, promoting fairness in the banking system, propagating inclus ive policies, encouraging green financing, providing a conducive environment for

Shariah-compliant banking in line with the directives with of the Federal Shariah Court, and transforming the SBP into a high-tech, people-centric institution. He expressed hope that the whole banking

industry would work with the SBP in realising the goals. He also appreciated the hard work put into the SBP commemorative

Addressing the Deputy banknote is dedicated to of inclusive policies for ceremony Deputy the SBP's drive of different segments of the Governor SBP Sima Kamil, society including women, discussed the positive consequences of women's The Governor also participation in the



FAISALABAD: Formers are packing the Corns in sacks at Field along the Satyana Road in City.

#### Trade deficit narrows by 43% as exports mount to \$27.7 bln in FY23

ISLAMABAD (APP): The trade deficit witnessed a decline of 43.03 percent during the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the previous year (2021-22), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The trade deficit July-June (2021-22), a

decline of 43.03 percent. The exports during the period were recorded at 744 billion against \$31.782 billion last year, showing a decline of 12.71 percent.On the other hand, the imports witnessed a sharp decline of 31 percent falling from \$80.136 billion last year to \$55.291 billion during the fis cal year 2022-

basis, the exports from the country witnessed a decline of 18.72 percent and were recorded at \$2.366 billion in June 2023 against the exports of \$2.911 billion in June 2022.

The imports also during July-June (2022- decreased to \$4.180 billion 23) was recorded at in June 2023 from \$7.857 \$27.547 billion against the billion in June 2022, deficit of \$48.354 billion in showing negative growth of 46.80 percent.

month basis, the exports during June 2023 however increased by 7.55 percent when compared to the exports of \$2.200 billion in May 2023.

The imports into the country declined by 3.42 percent in June 2023 when compared to the imports of \$4.328 billion in May 2023, according to the data.

### China, Pakistan jointly explore new path of silage harvesting, processing

and Pakistan will step up efforts to jointly explore a new path of silage harvesting and processing in Pakistan, as the two sides agreed on a meeting held last Wednesday to promote the joint research outcome

commercialization of small and medium-sized silage harvesting equipment in mountainous and hilly areas of China and

At the meeting that took place in Lanzhou, China, it was announced that China will help Pakistan in the livestock sector by establishing a test and demonstration base, donating agricultural worth 1.5 million yuan, and training a professional

BEIJING (APP): China team for the R&D and design of silage harvesting and processing machinery and a group of technicians for the operation, use and maintenance of the machinery for Pakistan. According to China Economic Net (CEN), the project, undertaken by Gansu Academy of Mechanical Sciences Co., Ltd., aims to enhance the mechanized operation, efficiency and economic benefits of Pakistan's agricultural production, and the export competitiveness of its silage. Since the project was launched in 2018, the team has been studying the technologies suitable for Pakistan in terms of silage harvesting and processing,

sealing reliability of wrap

film, mechanical properties.

#### Gold prices decrease by Rs.2,200

ISLAMABÁD (APP) The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 2,200 and was sold at Rs 205,000 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs. 207,200 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 1,887 to Rs 175,754 from Rs 177,641 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs 161,108 from Rs162,837, All Sindh Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,500 and Rs.2,143.34 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$17 to \$1929 from \$1912, the association

#### Sindh govt takes notice of non compliance of official cotton rates

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government has taken notice of the noncompliance of the official cotton rates.

Advisor Agriculture Manzoor Hussain Wasan has said that the official price of cotton is 8,500 rupees per 40 kg.

The adviser directed the Deputy Commissioners officers of the Agriculture Department to take action against the dealers who do not buy cotton from the farmers at the governmentfixed rate. Cotton factories buying cotton from farmers at low prices should be sealed, he said.

Wasan said that farmers from Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Nawabshah, Khairpur and other cities registered such complaints which would be redressed.

FAISALABAD: Farmers seedling the rice crop on their field.

#### FBR, Inland revenue recovers sales tax evasion worth billions of rupees

ISLAMABAD (APP): and thus deprived the The Directorate of national exchequer from Intelligence and Investigation (Inland Revenue) Lahore has detected sales tax evasion worth billions of rupees by a reputed company.

The company had issued illegal credit notes of huge amounts in Annexure-C of the sales tax returns without corresponding debit notes from the buyers, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

In this way, the company suppressed output tax to reduce its sales tax liability for the tax periods in which illegal

due tax revenue. The team of Directorate gathered

information meticulously without disturbing the business activity of the company and initiated proceedings under section 38 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990 and retrieved the record and documents from the business premises.

Thereafter, company management agreed to deposit the amount of sales tax involved in the credit note issued/claimed in the return of March 2023 along with



LAHORE: President of Anjuman Tajran Khidmat Group, Hall Road, Babar Mehmood, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman

### Govt is committed to bring economic stability to the country: Baligh

Independent Report Mehmood, called on Governor Punjab Baligȟur Muhammad Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. Various issues including the economic country's situation were discussed in

the meeting.
Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the government is committed to bring economic stability to the country. He said that the

government is making efforts to revive and strengthen the country's

business AHORE: President of actively participates in Anjuman Tajran Khidmat welfare works in addition Group, Hall Road, Babar to contributing to the country's economic development. Governor Punjab said that it is commendable that the business community has generously helped the flood victims and rebuilt the houses for the victims. On this occasion, Governor Punjab presented a shield appreciation to President Hall Road Babar Mehmood for constructing 300 houses in the flood affected areas of South Punjab. Governor Punjab appreciated the efforts made by him and the business community for the rehabilitation of the



KARACHI: Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmad inauguration revealing the new banknote of Seventy Five Rupees during celebrating 75 years of SBP Establishment during ceremony at State Bank.

#### **BoAJK** to practice latest banking services on IBP-set parameters

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Karachi late Monday. State-run Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (BoAJK), in collaboration Bankers Pakistan, has agreed in principle on measures for practising modern banking services, further improvement in banking strategy including staff training and professional capacity building.

A decision was taken a meeting between Khawar Saeed, BAJK President/ CEO and Mansur-ur-Chief Executive Officer in was also discussed.

Khawlah Director of IBP Marketing Sales and other with the Institute of executives were also present on the occasion. In the meeting, the President BAJK informed about the steps taken for the progress of the institution.

Strategies were also considered for training and professional development of the staff including the staff of head office and field to promote cooperation in offices while the examination procedure for various levels of staff, the appointment and training Rahman, Institute of of Management Trainee Bankers Pakistan (IBP) Officers (MTOs) in future

# China to restrict exports of chipmaking materials

will control exports of some metals widely used industry, its commerce ministry announced on Monday, the latest salvo in microchips between Beijing and the United States.

The controls, which China said were aimed at protecting national security and interests, will require exporters to seek permission to ship some gallium and germanium

The move to manage exports of the rare elements that Beijing classifies as comes

BEIJING (Online): China Washington mulls new restrictions on the shipment of high-tech in the semiconductor microchips to China, according to media reports.

The United States and the Netherlands are also set an escalating war over to deliver a one-two punch access to high-tech to China's chipmakers this to China's chipmakers this summer by further restricting sales of chipmaking equipment, part of efforts to prevent their technology from being used to strengthen

China's military. China's controls, to take effect from August 1, will apply to eight galliumrelated products: gallium antimonide, arsenide, gallium metal, gallium nitride.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar calls

# 5G technology set to revolutionize connectivity, business concepts5G

downloads, and real-time

interactions, transforming

benefit immensely from the

brings to industrial needs.

The Internet of Things

(IoT), which connects an

ever-expanding network of

devices, will flourish under

5G's enhanced capacity,

reliability, and low latency.

entertain themselves.

(SLAMABAD (APP): 5G technology (the 5th Mobile seamless streaming, instant Network) would herald a new era of seamless connectivity, empowering individuals and propelling communicate, work, and industries towards a future of untapped potential.

ansformative capabilities, the 5G is set to revolutionize the way people connect, while simultaneously ushering in a wave of extraordinary business opportunities, particularly in the realms of the Internet of Things (IoT), sensing and advanced manufacturing. the fifth-

generation cellular network takes centre stage, its ability to connect people better than ever before opens up a world of possibilities.

This will enable industries to harness datadriven insights, optimize operations, and create intelligent, interconnected systems that drive efficiency and innovation.

Sensing technologies, creating tremendous utilized in fields such as economic, industrial, and environmental monitoring, social value.

With lightning-fast healthcare, and smart speeds and reduced latency, cities, will also witness a individuals will experience significant boost from 5G.

connectivity and ability to handle vast amounts of data, 5G facilitates realtime data collection, analysis, and decision-Industries are set to making, enabling timely and informed actions to targeted support that 5G address critical challenges and improve the quality of life.Sabrina Rotating Huawei's Chairwoman and Chief Financial Officer at Mobile World Congress (MWC) Shanghai in her keynote address titled "Embracing G transformation" said 5G has been in use across all industries and countless households around the world and is changing the way people work and live,

#### Stocks struggle in subdued deals amid **US** holiday

LONDON (AFP/APP): Asian and European equities faltered Tuesday in muted trade, with Wall Street shut for the US Independence holiday.Oil rebounded from losses the previous day, when key producers Saudi Arabia and Russia unexpectedly unveiled more output cuts in a bid to stabilise the market. The dollar rose against the euro but fell against the yen, as investors awaited Wednesday's publication of minutes from the Federal Reserve's most recent

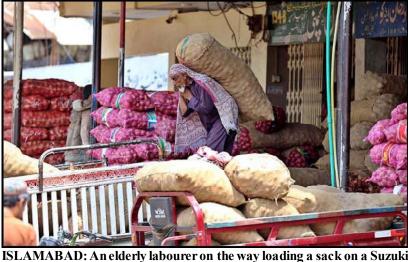
Friday's key US nonfarm payrolls (NFP) report will provide clues on the health of the world's biggest economy.

'European stocks are struggling for direction amid a light economic calendar and on thin volumes with the US markets closed for Independence Day.

#### PBF hopes no further depreciation in **IMFSBA** Agreement

Business Forum (PBF) hopes that no further depreciation of the rupee will be seen in the IMF SBA agreement as PKR is already undervalued compare to our regional neighbours. As signing of a \$3 billion stand-by agreement with the International Monetary Fund a positive development in the current scenario but at the same plan to revive the ailing economy. While talking to media on Tuesday, the PBF spokesperson Zainab Jatoi said that in the last IMF program (July 2019 - June 2023) witnessed PKR devaluation of 45% and average devaluation of 11.25% (last four years). This is the highest PKR devaluation we have seen

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan IMF programs. We expect Business Forum (PBF) PKR will slightly appreciate in the short term after the successful SBA agreement with IMF and rupee is strengthening against dollar a ten rupee correction was witnessed in interbank which is a healthier sign for the economy. She said Pakistan will become the fourth largest International Monetary Fund borrower in the world after receiving time it raised questions additional loans of \$3 over the coalition billion in the next nine government's economic months under the standby arrangement from the global lender. Pakistan also holds the "title" of being the largest IMF borrower in the Asian region. Zainab Jatoi further Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked



comparing all the previous

van on Fruit and Vegetable market.

#### Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, MSC Tokyo, MSC Krittika, Huang Shan-16, Al-Marrouna and Chemroad Hope carrying Containers, Palm oil, LNG and Chemicals, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Engro Elengy Terminal

respectively.

Meanwhile two more ships, Atrotos Heracles and N-Orhanwith Canola and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day.
A total of 07 ships

were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them an edible oil tanker 'GC Berly' sailed out to sea Tuesday morning on Tuesday and three more ships, MSC Krittika, MSC Tokyo and Aruna Berk are expected to sail on today.

#### **Altaf Baloch says: Maximum cotton** production priority

Assistant

MULTAN (APP): Secretary of Higher **MULTAN** Education South Punjab, Muhammad Altaf Baloch, said on Tuesday that maximum production was a top priority of the Punjab government He expressed these

views during a visit to Tehsil Chobara to monitor the campaign to grow more cotton and inspected the demonstration plot of cotton crops. He also inspected the Farmer Facilitation Rafiqabad and inquired about the problems of the farmers.

Secretary further said that a good cotton crop will be a source of getting more foreign exchange.

Assistant Commissioner Chobara Jam Muhammad Aslam,

Agriculture Muhammad Sadiq, and Assistant Director Pest Warning Ejaz Qaisrani were also present. Secretary of Higher Education South Punjab directed the agriculture department to reach out to every cotton farmer for consultation. Farmers should be fully informed about the proper use of fertilizers.

He said that farmers meetings (Baithak) should be organized for timely information about crop irrigation and harmful sects killing pesticides.

Altaf Baloch, while checking the quality and prices of agricultural inputs at the Kisan Sahulat Center, directed officials to ensure the availability of fertilizers and pesticides at the center

# Direct air flight between Kazakhstan-Pakistan to start from July 8: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin on Tuesday said that direct air flight operation between Kazakhstan and Pakistan would start from July 8 this month, which would increase economic, social and cultural integration of both coun-

Addressing a round table on 'Kazakhstan and Pakistan bilateral ties and way forward, he said a direct air flight between Almaty and Lahore would start on July 8.

The Ambassador of Kazakhstan said that direct air flights between the two countries were crucial for regional economic and trade integration in Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

He said that duration of the direct flight between the two countries would be 2 hours, which would pro-

mote mutual economic and Kazakhstan was currently trade relations and the pos- a great destination for forsibilities of cooperation in the field of tourism would be brighter. The envoy said that after success of direct two cities, such air service would be started between Islamabad and Karachi.

He said that just last week; there was a phone conversation between the President of Kazakhstan, Kassim Takayov, and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif during which issues of mutual interest between the two countries were dis-

The Ambassador said that the top leadership of both the countries was determined to strengthening and promoting of bilateral economic, trade and diplomatic relations.

eign investment which attracted \$28 billion FDI this

He said that there was flight operations in these a lot of potential in the ports of Gwadar and Karachi of Pakistan, other big cities including through which Kazakhstan, including Central Asia, can be accessed to the markets of Europe and Africa.

> Kistafin said that Kazakhstan had vast reserves of energy, gas and oil which Pakistan could take advantage of.

the third largest exporter of

Kazakhstan is an important member of the Eurasian Organization, which Pakistan can also benefit



ISLAMABAD: NaibAmeer Jamat-e-Islami Mian Aslam, Tanveer Nowshahi leading a protest rally against Sweden at PIMS Hospital.

# PAC order inquiry of \$3 billion interest free loan amid Covid

ISLAMABAD (Online): Public Accounts Committee (PAC) ordered Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Military Intelligence (MI) to take joint investigation three billion interest free loan scheme amid Covid

Committee also summoned Finance secretary and Governor State Bank Of Pakistan on Wednes-

Chairman Noor Alam Khan said during corona time \$3 billion interested free loan was given to some favorite industrialist and other few people.

State Bank wrote exassist industrialies amid Covid time and it was not was given under TERF these loans.

name of those who took loan and present situation of loan return.

620 people and companies were awarded with interest member Senator Mohsin Aziz of PTI said TERF scheme gave loan to industrial sector, loan was also ties. given to increase imports and due to which \$4billion imports raised

Mohsin Aziz expressed anger over again and again interruption and it caused exchange of bitter words between committee member Barjis Tahir and Mohsin Aziz, committee chairman interfered and make both quiet and said don't make committee

meeting a market.

Mohsin Aziz PTI planatory letter in which he senator said I will not work said the loan was given to as rubber stamp 3200,000 people got jobs due to this \$3 billion loan, I will tell tee member Ramesh Kumar interest free. 5% interest truth, also see what benefits said main reason behind

Committee chairman Chairman further said said I only want the revela- and they are at zero load state Bank has not told the tion of name who took shedding.

Barjis Tahir of Pmln said of issue and also summoned list of those who took loans. Audit report 2019free loan. During that other 2020 of energy ministry was reviewed in the meeting. Report identified more than 4000 billion irregulari-

> 50 objections of Rs.128.23 billion were presented for review. Committee expressed anger for not holding departmental accounts committee meet-

Chairman Committee expressed deep concern over unannounced electricity load shedding across the

country.

He said I spent Eid holidays on Grid stations, officers' salaries gets increase but people don't get electricity.

During that Committheft. I know three areas where is no electricity theft

Secretary energy told PAC summoned State committee that circular

PMD forecasts

monsoon rains

in various parts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Rain-wind/thundershower

(with isolated heavy falls)

is expected in Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad,

Potohar region and upper

Punjab. Hot and humid

weather is expected else-

where in the country dur-

ing the next twelve hours.

major cities recorded this morning: Islamabad and

Muzaffarabad twenty-four

degree centigrade, Lahore

and Peshawar twenty-

eight, Quetta twenty-six.

Temperature of some



ISLAMABAD: Security personnel secures a vehicle carrying Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan arrives to appearin a court.

#### 6th FIR lodged against Ahmadi community over sacrificing animal on Eid

ISLAMABAD (Online): street facing their haveli Another case registered against Ahmadi community in Punjab on Tuesday for sacrificing animals on the occasion of Eid ul Azha.

First Information Report registered in them. Sailkot's Qila Kalar Wala police station under section 295-A of the Pakistan penal code.

This comes despite a 2022 judgement of the Supreme Court, ruling that obstructing non-Muslims from practicing their religion within the confines of their place of worship was against the Constitution.

In the FIR, the complainant said that he was a resident of Daska and had travelled to Kot Agha on June 29 — the first day of Eidul Azha — in connection with communal sacrifice of animals

He said that around 8:30am he saw that two members of the Ahmadi community were doing qurbani (sacrifice) on the He said that the

Ahmadi community were forbidden from performing Islamic rituals and called for taking action against

Earlier, at least five similar FIRs were registered across Punjab against the Ahmadi community members for sacrificing animals on Eidul Azha. All five cases were registered under Section 298-C of the PPC, which elaborates on the penalty for persons of the Ahmadi group calling themselves Muslim or preaching or propagating their

registered at the Saddar Gojra police station in Toba Tek Singh, while one each was registered at the Saddar Shahkot police station in Nankana Sahib. Roshanwala police station

Two of the cases were

in Faisalabad and Bad¬ami Bagh police station in

Ambassador Yerzhan

said Kazakhstan was currently wheat in the world, which had wide possibilities for cooperation with Pakistan.

that from, he said.

as Dubai plan it is this Nawaz Sharif who was exmonth has passed but no pelled repeatedly is workcase has been registered against the man who played ing for improvement in national economy while sitcentral role in May 9 inciting in Dubai. dent. I wonder why the ju-He remarked Nawaz diciary has not taken notice of May 9 incident. Why the Sharif is benefactor of Pakistan. There is clear differcourts are saving the perence between him and those sons found responsible. involved in May 9 inci-Will military courts operdents. Nawaz Sharif elimiate for the first time in the country. Judges gate of Sunated terrorism from the preme court are opened at country. He eliminated darkness and gave CPEC. present too for the master mind of May 9 incident. If It has become clear on the action is not taken against people only Nawaz Sharif can extricate the country the central facilitator of

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meet-

Nawaz to lead election campaign,

PML-N not to forge electoral

alliance: Mian Javed Latif

Which is being named

spiracy against flourishing

Pakistan. One and a half

May 9 incidents then it will

be against the norms of jus-

tice and a question mark on

the role of institutions re-

Marriyam

heaps praise

on Fahad

Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday praised Pakistani

youth leader, Fahad

Shahbaz for receiving a

prestigious Diana Award from the United Kingdom

(UK) for his "exceptional" humanitarian efforts.

gratulations to talented Fahad Shahbaz, who

founded the youth general

assembly at the age of 18, on winning the Diana

He warned if full truth

lated to justice.

from crisis. He underlined now this narrative is being made that preparations are underway to give two thirds maiority to Nawaz Sharif

through rigging. is not spoken now and the state did not play its role It is our demand that action be initiated against then it will yield dire conthose who hatched consequences.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif addressing a press conference at PID Media center.

#### Over Rs 47 bln disbursed among 5.2m beneficiaries under Benazir Kafaalat

ISLAMABAD (APP): their retail distribution net-Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far disbursed over Rs 47 billion among over 5.2 million beneficiary women under Benazir Kafaalat.

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Federal minister Mian Javed Latif has said PML-

N will not forge electoral

alliance with any party in

coming general election.
"No power can pre-

vent Nawaz Sharif from

coming to Pakistan. Nawaz

Sharif will lead election campaign. PML-N will not

forge electoral alliance with

any political party in next

general election. Seat to seat

adjustment can be made.

However any final decision

will be made by Nawaz

Sharif, he said this while

addressing a press confer-

tic that PML-N would get

two thirds majority in com-

evolving any plan while sit-

ting in Dubai but he is striv-

ing to steer country out of

He sounded optimis-

Nawaz Sharif is not

ence here Tuesday.

ing general election.

again started after Eid-ul-Azha holidays through banks' retailers.

Benazir Under Kafaalat, 90 lakh registered beneficiary families are entitled to a quarterly installment of Rs 9,000 per house-

BISP has already released over rupees 81 billion to its partner banks, that is, Bank Alfalah and Habib Bank Limited (HBL) for disbursement among the beneficiaries through

Along with Benazir Kafaalat, Benazir educational scholarships are also being given out to the chilazir Kafaalat. dren of registered families, The disbursement of however, 70 percent attenthe fourth quarterly tranche dance in the school is manof Benazir Kafaalat for the datory to receive educaspokesman programme.

In case of any complaint, beneficiaries can approach the nearest BISP Tehsil Offices or call on tollfree helpline number 080026477 of Benazir Income Support Program. The BISP spokesman

reiterated that any messages from Benazir Income Support Program are sent only from 8171 and message from any other number should not be trusted.

#### APHC call for strike on martyrdom anniversary of Burhan Wani in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has called for complete shutdown in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on July 08 (Saturday) on the 7th martyrdom anniversary of the prominent youth resistance leader, Burhan Muzaffar Wani who along with his colleagues sacrificed his life for the just cause of right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Burhan Wani along with two associates was martyred by Indian troops in a fake encounter in Kokernag area of Islamabad district on July

During the period of mass uprising, 156 civilian protesters were martyred

and thousands injured by the troops, paramilitary and police personnel. The APHC call has

been supported by all profreedom leaders and organizations. The posters displayed by All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Nawjawanan-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir, Political Resistance Movement, Jammu and Kashmir Justice League Forum, Jammu and Kashmir Sadai Mazloom, Wareseen-e-Shuhada, Democratic Youth Forum, Jammu Kashmir Democratic Movement, Jammu Kashmir Peoples Resistance Party, Kashmir Resistance Movement, Kashmir Hurriyat Forum, Youth Democratic Political Movement, Jammu and Kashmir Tehreek-e-Azadi.

**AIOU** establishes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is commencing the first phase of Autumn 2023 semester from July 2023, and for convenience of the students, the university had established prospectus sale points at Union Council level through out the country.

According to the AIOU, main campus and 54 regional campuses are already facilitating the students and before admission date list of the prospectus sales points will be shared on official website



PM for priority to completion of public welfare projects

IS LAMABAD (APP): Media Wing said in a press Prime Minister Shehbaz release. Sharif on Tuesday stressed on according high priority to the public welfare projects, besides maintaining quality and transparency of the ongoing development projects.

He said preference should be given to commencement of those projects which were aimed at development and prosperity of youth and women's empowerment.

The prime minister issued these directives while chairing a high-level meeting on uplift projects under the current fiscal

The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, PM's Adviser Ahad Khan Cheema, PM's Special Assistants Malik Ahmad Khan and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and other relevant authorities, the PM Office soon.

The meeting was apprised of the progress on the development work during the fiscal year 2023-24 and a detailed briefing was also given about the steps for the progress and prosperity of youth and women, and development of agriculture, industries, infrastructure and other sec-

The prime minister directed for completion of all the projects within the stipulated period of time and the submission of a comprehensive report over the related mechanism.

He said the PM's Merit Scholarship initiative was being launched across the country, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir.

The meeting was further briefed that under the PM's Youth Programme, distribution process of laptops among the talented vouth would commence



Rehman presenting souvenir to Vice Chancellor of Lahore College for Women University Professor Dr. Bushra Mirza during a farewell call at Governor House Lahore.

#### **AJK President flays** desecration of Holy **Quran in Sweden**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while condemning the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, has said that the incident has hurt the sentiments of Muslims around the globe. In a statement issued

vent such vile acts that pro-

said that it was quite un-

fortunate that the sacrilege

of the Holy Quran was be-

ing normalized in the name

said that the Organization

of Islamic Cooperation

(OIC) must take practical

measures to stop the occur-

The AJK president

of freedom of expression.

The federal minister on Tuesday, the AJK Presiwas of the view that it was dent demanded of the Sweda bright example of bringish government to take ing change in the society stern action against the perwith the positive thinking and struggle of the youth. petrator involved in this heinous crime. He said that as per international law, all states were bound to pre-

#### River Kabul still flows in low flood: FFC

financial year 2022-23 has tional scholarships, said the ISLAMABAD (APP): of the The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that all major rivers of Indus River System are running normal except River Kabul which continues to flow in low flood at Nowshera. According to a daily

FFC report on Tuesday, at present, Combined Live Storage of country's major reservoirs (Tarbela, Chashma & Mangla) is 7.252 MAF of total country's storage 13.443 MAF.

As per Flood Fore-casting Division (FFD) Lahore, yesterday's deep trough of Westerly Wave over Northern parts of Afghanistan today lies over Northeastern Afghanistan and adjoining areas.

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(www.aiou.edu.pk).

rence of such incidents. He said that similar incidents have also happened in Paris and Denmark, which have hurt the sentiments of Muslims all over the world.

Sultan Mahmood said that no international law allows the spread of religious hatred. Peace and interfaith harmony, he said, could be achieved only by promoting tolerance, understanding and mutual cooperation.

He said, although the European Union and the OIC have strongly condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, the international commumote religious hatred. Term- nity should bear in mind the ing the incident as highly fact that such Islamophobic condemnable, the president incidents, which target Muslims and insult our sa cred values, cannot be allowed to happen in the guise of freedom of expression. "We strongly condemn this incident and demand the Swedish government to take stem action and punish the person who has brazenly committed the unpardonable crime



ISLAMABAD: Aview of stagnant rain water at Fruit and Vegetable market.

#### I'abad Police initiate measures to ensure peace during Muharram **Independent Report** dealing with criminals. Safe-

ISLAMABAD: In preparation for the holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram, the Islamabad capital police have taken proactive measures to maintain peace and security in the federal capi-

Instructions in this regard have been issued to all Zone DPOs to hold meetings with the organizers of Imambargahs said a news release. On the other hand, an important meeting was held under the supervision of SSP Operations/ Investigation Malik Jameel Zafar, to assess the law and order situation, focusing on crime control and addressing the concerns related to professional criminals.

The meeting was attended by zonal DPOs, SDPOs and all concerned officers from police stations. The meeting aimed to evaluate the performance of all police stations and take necessary actions against professional criminals.

SSP Operations/Inmeetings, the performance of officers is assessed and

guarding the lives and property of citizens in the capital city is the foremost responsibility of Islamabad capital police. The cases of motorcycle and motor vehicle theft were discussed, and efforts were made to apprehend the culprits. The investigation of the cases should be expedited, and the challan should be submitted to the courts without delay, he added.

He further said that the cases should be thoroughly investigated and improvements should be made in the inspection of

The officers were given instructions to make patrolling more effective and purposeful. If any area is left unattended in terms of patrolling, and an incident of criminal activities occurs there, the concerned officer of the police station will be held accountable. and immediate action will be taken against them.

The protection of life vestigation directed officers and property of the citito ensure that in future zens is the primary responsibility of the police, and no negligence will be toler-