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## PM, COAS vow to address food insecurity, boost agri exports

Govt launches Land Information and Management System – Centre of Excellence – to transform unproductive land

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's civil and military leaders joined hands on Friday to tackle the pressing issues of food insecurity, malnutrition, and soaring import costs in the agriculture sector.

Inauguration Ceremony of Land Information and Management System – Centre of Excellence (LIMS – COE) was graced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as a chief guest here on Friday.

Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir was also present on the oc-

casation. The ceremony was also attended by Ministers of Finance, Defence, Planning Development & Special Initiative, National Food Security & Research, Information, Chief Secretaries of Provincial Governments, agricultural experts and Senior Army Officials.

According to the World Food Programme, 36.9% of Pakistanis are food insecure and 18.3% of these are facing severe food crisis.

Cognizant of the prevailing food insecurity, mass malnutrition and wid-

ening import bill of agri related products vis-à-vis projected population growth and future domestic food needs, the National political, economic and military leadership has decided to undertake the decisive and meaningful steps to address this critical issue.

Establishment of LIMS is the first exceptional initiative, aimed at enhancing food security and improving agri exports thus reducing import burden on national exchequer by transforming millions of acres of uncultivated and

low yield land within the country.

This state-of-the-art system will help optimize the agricultural production through innovative technologies and sustainable precision agricultural practices based on agro-ecological potential of land, while ensuring well being of rural communities and preservation of environment.

The GIS based LIMS will greatly improve the national agri yield by systemizing digitization of ag-

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QUETTA: Shaban Khatme Nabuwat holding protest against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and others in a group photo during inauguration ceremony of Land Information and Management System – Centre of Excellence (LIMS – COE)

## PM phone calls OIC SG on desecration of Quran, Islamophobia

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephone conversation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), H.E. Hissain Ibrahim Tahoon Friday and discussed desecration of Holy Quran.

Prime Minister conveyed Pakistan's strong condemnation of willful and provocative incidents of public burning of the Holy Quran which hurts Muslims sentiments worldwide.

He stressed that vilification of religion, revered religious personalities, Holy Scriptures and sym-

bols could not be condoned on the self-serving pretext of freedom of expression and protest.

The Prime Minister appreciated the OIC Secretary-General's role in articulating Muslim Ummah's concerns and demands about these Islamophobic trends and incidents.

He emphasized that as the collective voice of the Islamic world, the OIC must chalk out a coordinated and comprehensive strategy, aimed at raising global awareness about its perspective and building legal and political deterrence against rising incidents of anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobia.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributing smart cards and cheque books relating to Benazir Social Protection Account among the beneficiaries

## 34th edition of National Games celebrated: Successful holding of National Games built positive image of Pakistan & Balochistan: CS

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The successful holding of 34th edition of National Games was celebrated at a simple, but an impressive ceremony here in Quetta on Friday.

The ceremony was held with Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili in the chair at the Sikandar Jamali Auditorium located in the Civil Secretariat.

The services of all those contributed in successful holding of the mega national event in Balochistan were acknowledged and appreciated much at the ceremony.

Prominent among those attended the ceremony were the Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, DIG Police Quetta, Ghulam Azfar Mahesar, Secretary Sports,

Muhammad Ishaq Jamali, Director General Sports, Durra Baloch, administrative secretaries of different provincial government departments, sports officials, representatives of the sports associations besides other concerned.

Addressing the ceremony, the Chief Secretary paid tributes to all the stakeholders especially police and sports officials for successfully conducting the mega sports event.

He said that there was an excellent coordination between the law enforcement agencies for making the event successful. In addition to this, the manner Sports and Communication and Works departments performed was also really commendable. With their

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## People should register their vote for general election by 13 July: PEC

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan Sharifullah on Friday said that only seven days were left for correction of voting in general elections 2023.

He said that registration and validation of vote would be done by July 13, 2023. Your vote is not just your voice but your power, register your power and use it in elections, he said.

He said that the people's ID card number would be sent to the Election Commission in a message to 8300 and the people would be given immediate information. If the details of the vote were not correct or the vote was not registered, the people should immediately approach to the concerned District Election Commissioner's office and get their vote registered or get corrected details of their vote, he mentioned.

## No whereabouts of missing mountaineer yet

Independent Report  
QUETTA: All out efforts are being made to find the mountaineer gone missing three days ago in the mountains of Quetta.

However, whereabouts of the missing young mountaineer could not be known yet, stated the sources of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan.

It may be mentioned here that the young mountaineer named Mehmooodul Hasan had gone missing during mountaineering on Monday last. He was disappeared in the mountainous range of Mehrdad, Killa Ibrahim Mehmooodabad where he went for mountaineering. The DG PDMA Jahanzaib Khan personally supervised the search operation for the young mountaineer, but still the efforts were proved futile till ours going to the press.

## Governor Balochistan Political leaders encourage people to fight against oppression, exploitation

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has exhorted all the authoritative people, ruling elite and the political leaders to wage joint struggle for attaining national interests by diverting their direction towards the real public service and setting aside their personal interests.

He strongly believed that we can overcome our issues and hardships by utilizing our resources.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation who called on him under leadership of former Federal Secretary, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar here at the Governor House on

Friday morning.

The Governor said that real public politics is a sacred duty based on the real public service. The political leaders give courage to their people to fight against the cruelty and exploitation instead of frightening them.

He said that we can make it possible to achieve the national goals by upholding the high human values, political ideologies and our behaviors.

The Governor stressed that if we focus on securing rights of the people and make them center of our policies and development projects, then marked improvement can be brought about in the society.

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QUETTA: A delegation led by central leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Sardar Yaqoob Nassar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Resolution of journalists' problems topmost priority of present government: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Friday that the government fully believed in freedom of the press and addressing the problems of journalists was the topmost priority of the government.

This she said during a meeting with a delegation of journalists led by Abbottabad Press Club President Raja Haroon and Secretary General Raja Munir.

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs

## Senior journalists meet Principal Secretary Chief Minister fully believed in freedom of media: Gichki

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has issued clear directives to resolve the issues being faced by the journalists which include the early implementation of the project of establishment of residential colony for them, making the media academy operational and provision of furniture, annual grant and other necessary facilities for

it. In addition to this, the Chief Minister has also directed to provide maximum facilities to the media person. These are included the increase in the seed money for the journalists welfare fund and annual grant of the Quetta Press Club and release of grant-in-aid for the press clubs of other districts of the province.

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QUETTA: A delegation of the senior journalists meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Gichki

## Youm-e-Taqaddus-e-Quran observed, Azmat-e-Qura'an conference held in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: Youm-e-Taqaddus-e-Quran was observed with due respect and enthusiasm in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan on Friday.

The peaceful rallies were taken out and demonstrations staged marking the Youm-e-Taqdees-e-Qura'an in the provincial metropolis and different other districts. Call for peaceful observance of the day was given by the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.

A big rally was taken out by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balochistan to mark the

Youm-e-Taqdees-e-Quran'an from near Darbar marriage Hall to the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation.

The rally was led by the provincial and Quetta district leaders of PML-N including Chaudhary Naeem Karim and others.

They were carrying the banners and placards inscribed with the slogans condemning the desecration of Holy Qura'an in Sweden.

Moreover, the conferences were also held and rallies were taken out to strongly condemn the desecration of Holy Qura'an.

A similar Azmat-e-Qura'an conference was held under the auspices of

Aalmi Majlis Tahfuz Khatme Nabuwat (AMTKN) Balochistan at the Jamia Masjid Qandhari.

The leaders of AMTKN including Maulana Ahmed Khan and others participated. The rallies were taken out by the Sunni Ulema Council, Awami League and other organizations in the Quetta city.

The participants of all the events condemned the incident of desecration of the Holy book in strongest words. They demanded expulsion of the Swedish ambassador from Pakistan.

They also urged the people to boycott the Swedish products.

## Local body elections in Balochistan, PTI wiped out

QUETTA (Online): The last phase of local body elections in Balochistan has been completed successfully.

PTI has been wiped out.

PTI could not win in a single district in entire Balochistan.

People of Balochistan have rejected PTI in the province.

No district Chairman and vice chairman of PTI was elected anywhere in 35 districts.

Baluchistan Awaami

party got 10 seats of Chairman and 9 seats of vice chairman.

PPP got 6 seats of Chairman and 4 seats of vice chairman.

JUI (F) got 4 seats of chairman and 4 seats of vice chairman. Polling continued from 8am to 5pm.

Election Commission (EC) had established a control room in the office of the regional Election Commissioner.

The security situation in the province remained satisfactory.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial administering the oath to Justice Supreme Court judge of the Ms. Justice Musarrat Hilali, Chief Justice Peshawar High Court as Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan

## Naveed Qamar, PPP finance team hold meeting with IMF country representative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar on Friday held crucial meeting with Ester Perez Luis, the country representative of International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In a significant development for Pakistan's economic landscape, Ester Perez Luis, the International Monetary Fund's resident representative, met with the finance team of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), including Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Commerce, and Saleem Mandviwala.

The meeting, held at minister's enclave, was aimed at discussing the possibility of a standby agreement with Pakistan, which would have a profound impact on the nation's financial stability,

said a press release issued by Ministry of Commerce.

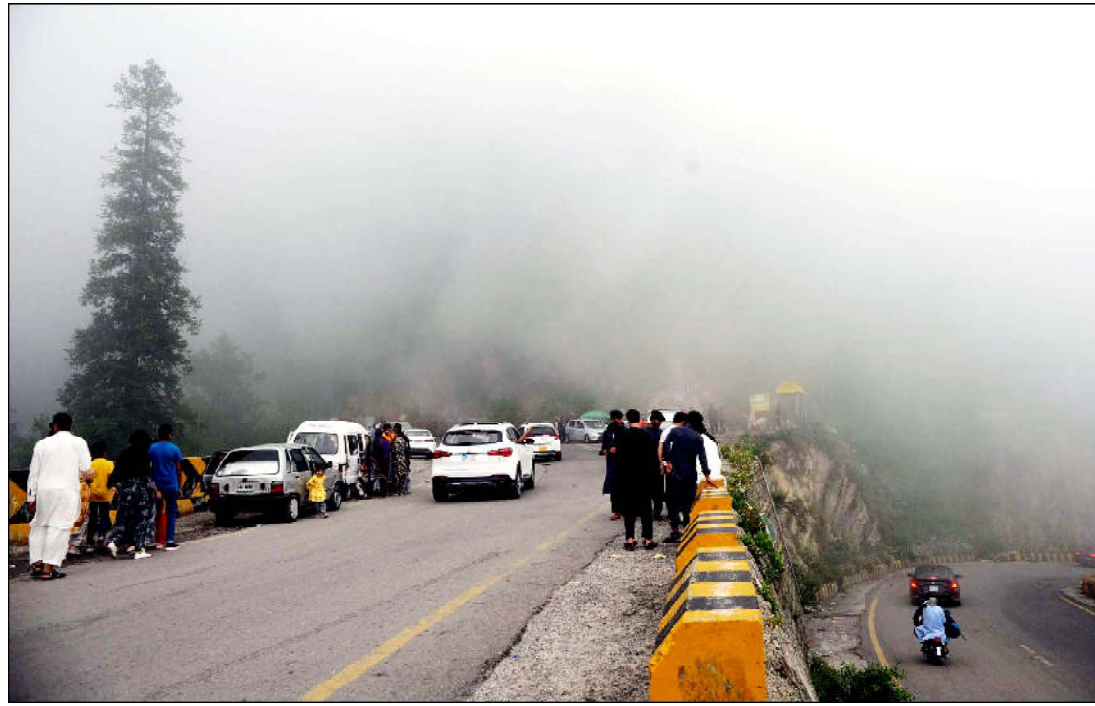
The PPP team expressed its willingness to support the IMF programme, citing larger national interests as the driving force behind their decision.

Syed Naveed Qamar, representing the PPP finance team, acknowledged the significance of the standby agreement in addressing Pakistan's economic concerns.

He reiterated the PPP's commitment to working in harmony with the IMF to ensure the successful implementation of the programme.

The discussion between the IMF representative and the PPP finance team is seen as a positive step towards economic reform and stability in the country.





**ABBOTTABAD:** Beautiful eye-catching view of dark clouds during cloudy weather, captured over the horizon of Abbottabad

### At least 50 dead in monsoon floods across Pakistan since June 25

ISLAMABAD (INP): At least 50 people, including eight children, have been killed by floods and landslides triggered by monsoon rains that have lashed Pakistan since last month, officials said on Friday.

The summer monsoon brings South Asia 70-80 per cent of its annual rainfall between June and September every year.

It is vital for the livelihoods of millions of farmers and food security in a region of around two billion people — but it also brings landslides and floods.

"Fifty deaths have been reported in different rain-related incidents all over Pakistan since the start of the monsoon on June 25," a national disaster management official told reporters, adding that 87 people were injured during this period.

The majority of the deaths were in Punjab, and were mainly due to electrocution and building collapses, the NDMA said in a report.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the bodies of eight children were recovered from a landside in the Shangla district on Thursday, according to the emergency service Rescue 1122's spokesman Bilal Ahmed Faizi.

He said rescuers were still searching for other children trapped in the debris.

Officials in Lahore said it had received record-breaking rainfall on Wednesday, turning roads into rivers and leaving almost 35pc without electricity and water this week.

The Meteorological Department has predicted more heavy rainfall nationwide in the days ahead and warned of potential flooding in the catchment areas of Punjab's major rivers.

The province's disaster management authority said on Friday that it is working to relocate people living along the waterways.

Scientists have said climate change is making seasonal rains heavier and more unpredictable.

Last summer, unprecedented monsoon rains put a third of Pakistan under water, damaging two million homes and killing more than 1,700 people.

Storms killed at least 27 people, including eight children, in the country's northwest early last month.

Pakistan, which has the world's fifth largest population, is responsible for less than 1pc of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to officials.

However, it is one of the most vulnerable nations to the extreme weather caused by global warming.

### WB approves \$46m for KPK's child healthcare services

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Bank (WB) has approved \$46 million to help increase access to child healthcare services and enhance citizen-centered service delivery in selected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The WB's Board of Executive Directors approved the financing under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Citizen Centered Service Delivery Project.

According to WB press statement, the project would support both supply and demand side interventions to improve health service delivery in the province, as well as the operations of citizen-centric administrative facilitation centers in the Newly Merged Districts.

"The Project will support the government in expanding the provision of Child Wellness Grants targeted at mothers, provided they attend health awareness sessions", said Najy Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan.

"It will also help improve access to quality child health-related services," Benhassine added.

Nearly 300,000 children under the age of two will benefit from Child Welfare Grants (CWGs), the statement said.

### Shortage of Climate resources holding Pakistan back, says Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Friday said Climate Finance was uncharted territory for many developing countries due to a significant knowledge and capacity gap on this critical issue.

Pakistan faces dual challenges of limited accessibility to climate finance and a lack of technical capacity, impeding its progress in achieving crucial climate adaptation and mitigation goals.

The minister was delivering her key note address at the launch event of the Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) organized by the UK Government, where she emphasized the significant role that programs like CFA could play in knowledge-creating, building capacity and new pathways within both the public and private sectors, a news release said.

She underlined the challenge of prioritizing climate change in both sectors and highlighted the potential of such initiatives to elevate the government's narrative on climate finance.

By creating awareness and aligning public interests with government objec-

tives, these programs can effectively enhance the discourse on climate finance.

The minister highlighted Pakistan's commitment to exploring Carbon Markets as part of its efforts under the Paris Agreement.

She mentioned that the country was in the process of developing an interim framework for a voluntary carbon market and we had officially signed on a collaboration with Verra, a global standard-setting body, to share knowledge and educate stakeholders on carbon markets and the certification process for generating carbon credits.

She spoke about the Delta Blue Carbon Project by the Sindh Government as a flagship in voluntary carbon markets, which was the world's largest blue carbon project, with a 60-year lifespan and aim of restoring 350,000 hectares of land in the Districts of Thatta and Sujawal in Sindh.

She said that the restoration of the mangrove forests has the potential to increase Pakistan's mitigation capacity by reduction in emissions worth 27 million tons of CO2e over the life cycle of the project.

### Desecration of Holy Quran not acceptable at any cost: Asif Tareen

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Desecration of Holy Quran was not acceptable at any cost.

These views were expressed by speakers while addressing the participants of protest sit-in staged on Manan Chowk area of the provincial under the aegis of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Balochistan.

Speakers said that workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Balochistan had been protesting from Quetta to Gwadar and Chaman to Loralai on the call of Imran Khan, Chairman, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf over the

desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden. Protest demonstration was addressed by Dr. Muneer Baloch, President, PTI, Balochistan, Salar Khan Kakar, General Secretary, Muhammad

Rahim Kakar, President, PTI, district Quetta, Haji Abdul Sadie Nurzai, leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-P and others.

Earlier, a protest rally was taken out from the lawn of Quetta Metropolitan Corporation, marched through different roads and reached Manan Chowk where participants of rally assembled to stage protest sit-in.

### Political leaders encourage....

*Continued from page 1*

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar particularly mentioned that our province and country has been blessed with great natural resources, and they have bright chances of bright future geographically too. Therefore, this is high time for our ruling elite, authoritative people and political leaders to wage joint struggle for the bright future of the country, adding he stressed.

### Chief Minister fully believed....

*Continued from page 1*

While on the other hand, the provincial government has also continued the process of financial assistance of the hawkers through the Hawkers Welfare Fund.

This and similar details were shared by the Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Gichki while speaking to a delegation of the senior journalists who called on him here on Friday.

The delegation was comprised the President of Balochistan Union of Journalists, Irfan Saeed, President Quetta Press Club, Abdul Khaliq Rind, senior journalists Saleem Shahid, Shahzada Zulfiqar and Noor Elahi Bugti.

Also present on the occasion was Director General Public Relations, Kamran Asad.

During the course of meeting, the issues related

to the media persons including progress of residential colony for media persons, effectiveness of the Media academy, increase in the annual grant of Press Club and seed money of the Journalists welfare fund besides others were discussed.

Speaking to the members of delegation, the Principal Secretary said that the Chief Minister fully believed in freedom of media, and he is also aware of the issues being faced by the media persons.

He said that it is vision of the Chief Minister to provide conducive environment to the media persons to perform their professional duties.

Mr. Gichki mentioned that the Chief Minister has also directed to cooperate with the media persons for resolving their issues besides protecting their livelihood.

### Youm-e-Taqaddus-e-Quran observed



**QUETTA:** Laborers are busy in digging works while commuters are facing difficulties in transportation due to development works, as slow pace of construction work is creating problems for residents and they demand to concerned department to complete work as soon as possible, in Quetta

### PM, COAS vow to address...

*Continued from page 1*

Under Land Information Management System, it will be possible to increase agricultural production by using modern technology on uninhabited and low-yielding agricultural lands. This revolutionary institute will work on land, crops, weather, water resources and pest control under one roof.

Proper use of various resources and reserves, modern technology and irrigation system will bring such development in agriculture which will meet the shortage of food in every region of the country. Based on information and analytics, it will be easier to identify difficulties, obstacles and challenges, find appropriate solutions and take informed decisions.

Due to this program, job resources will also be created for the people in the country whereas the LIMS objectives also focus on to rehabilitate waste and uncultivated land.

Many projects are being partnered with Saudi Arabia, China, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain, which will definitely increase Pakistan's exports. Moreover, new canals will be built to store floodwater, and modern irrigation techniques like modular drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation and pivot irrigation will be implemented in this regard.

Land Information Management System will also be helpful in enhancing food security of the country. The establishment of LIMS will provide farmers with simultaneous access to information on climate change, satellite crop monitoring, water, fertilizer and spray focus areas and direct access to markets.

### Successful holding of National...

*Continued from page 1*

cooperation and hard, the long mega event was held successfully, he commented.

He said that we are ready to hold the next National Games even. He said that the weather of Balochistan is most appropriate for every kind of sports.

Referring the National Games, he said that positive image of the country and Balochistan went to the world with successful holding of the Games.

He said that the excellent success also proved that Balochistan is a peaceful province, and people are sports loving.

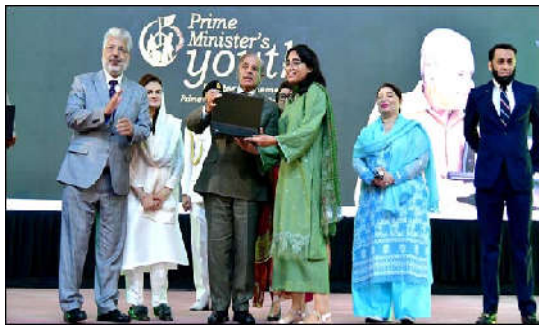
He said that it was made utmost effort to provide best hospitality to the visiting sports persons while staying in Quetta.

The Chief Secretary on the occasion urged the youth to take wholehearted part in the extra-curricula activities along the academic activities so as to form a healthy and positive society. He said that the provincial government is taking steps for promotion of sports in the province.

Earlier, the Secretary Sports Ishaq Jamali and others also addressed the ceremony. A cut was also cut to mark celebrations of the National Games.



**PM attends laptops distribution ceremony and BISP function**



**Youth empowerment key to development, prosperity of Pak: PM**

*Desirous of giving laptops instead of Kalashnikov to every youth*

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the government was committed to empower youth of the country as empowering them was key to ensure development and prosperity of Pakistan.

He said the youth of the country were capable enough to transform the country's fate as with their hard work and dedication, they could help Pakistan develop at faster pace leaving its neighboring country far behind in term of economic development and prosperity.

Addressing the launching ceremony of laptop programme here, the prime minister said this ceremony reminded him of the days when as Chief Minister Punjab he distributed hundreds of thousands of laptops among the students on merit. He said those laptops helped the students a lot during Covid pandemic days when they took their classes online while sitting home and also earned their bread and butter by work-

ing as freelancer. He informed that he as CM Punjab also provided scholarships to the talented youth under Punjab Education Endowment Fund (PEEF), and the beneficiary of these programmes was now serving the country in various areas including health, IT and Engineering.

The prime minister maintained that this had been his mission to provide every youth with a laptop machine to enable them to successfully move forward in their respective areas.

He informed that apart from the 100,000 laptops approved for the previous financial year, he also got another 100,000 laptops approved for the current fiscal year.

He said the laptop distribution process would totally be on merit and no influence will be accepted in this regard. For the youth from rural areas, he said the government had allocated Rs 5 billion to provide agriculture loans.

**Inciting govt employees case: Indictment proceedings against Fawad adjourned**

ISLAMABAD (Online): The proceedings of indictment against Fawad Chaudhry in the case of inciting government employees has once again been adjourned.

Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra took up the case of inciting government employees for hearing Friday.

Fawad Chaudhry appeared in the court.

Judge Tahir Abbas said to Fawad Chaudhry the weather has become good.

Fawad Chaudhry replied that the weather has become good, so are we.

Petition was filed by Fawad Chaudhry in connection with provision of documents of the case to him.

Faisal Chaudhry, counsel for Fawad

Chaudhry reached sessions court.

Faisal Chaudhry said we are filing a 265C application in the court today. We have not been provided complete documents regarding case so far. Provision of complete documents of the case is right of accused. The prosecutor told the court we are not having case file at present. I can give a statement after seeing case file.

Faisal Chaudhry counsel for Fawad Chaudhry requested the court to give long date for next hearing. Give a date after 10 Muharram.

Later the additional sessions judge Tahir Abbas Sipra issued notice to respondents on the application.

**IHC instructs for recovery of Ali Nawaz's brother**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Friday ordered the authorities to ensure recovery of missing a citizen Umar Nawaz Awan, the brother of PTI's leader Ali Nawaz Awan, within three days.

The court instructed the Chief Commissioner ICT and Inspector General of Police (IGP) to appear before court in person if the missing person was not recovered within the said time.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the case regarding the matter where in the police officials also appeared before the bench.

The wife of the missing citizen shared the evi-

dences regarding the lifting Umar Nawaz with the police officials in USB.

At the outset of hearing, Justice Jahangiri expressed annoyance with the police and said that the Safe City Cameras' system should be closed down if it was not helpful in such matters.

The court noted that the family members of the citizen did not even know whether the victim alive or not.

Petitioner's lawyer Dr. Baber Awan said that the two vehicles had chased the victim and lifted him before his wife and four daughter, but the police expressing anonymous about the incident.

**APSUP urges PM to address autonomy issues in higher education**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan (APSUP) has penned a letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan that expressed deep concerns over the recently proposed amendments to the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Ordinance 2002.

APSUP, representing private-sector universities, highlights potential threats to the autonomy of higher education institutions and urges the Prime Minister to address these issues promptly.

In a letter addressed to

Prime Minister Sharif, APSUP Chairman, Prof. Dr. Chaudhry Abdul Rehman, emphasized the need to safeguard the autonomy and independence of universities for the advancement of academic excellence, research, and innovation in Pakistan. The amendments, as currently formulated, raise several critical concerns that could have far-reaching consequences for the quality and growth of higher education.

One of the key concerns raised by APSUP is the potential undermining of the HEC's autonomy.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran holds protest rally at Aabpara Chowk to commemorate Youm-e-Taqadus against the desecration of Quran Pak in Sweden.

**PM pays tribute to Shaheed Havaldar Lalak**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to Nishan-e-Haider Havaldar Lalak Jan on his 24th martyrdom anniversary, saying that he had bravely fought the enemy in Kargil War to safeguard the country.

The prime minister, in a statement, said the example of courage and bravery set by dutiful Havaldar Lalak Jan for the defence of the motherland would be remembered forever.

He said that the Ghazis of Pakistan protected the country's security, national ideology and independence through their professional capabilities and bravery while the martyrs sacrificed their lives for the cause, be it the war against terrorism or any foreign aggression. He said the brave soldier of the Northern Light Infantry embraced martyrdom while defending the country.

**SC Lawyers protest against desecration of Holy Quran**

ISLAMABAD (Online): The lawyers of the Supreme Court have protested against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.

Supreme Court Bar has demonstrated protest against the incident of desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.

The lawyers of Supreme Court have protested on the central door of Supreme Court. Lawyers were holding banners and Holy Qurans in their hands. While addressing protest rally SC Bar president Abid Zubairi has said that we strongly condemn desecration of Holy Quran.

We will not tolerate the desecration of Holy Quran.

Today lawyers are gathered to give this message that desecration of Holy Quran will not be tolerated at all.

**Toshakhana case: Court accepts exemption plea of Imran**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Sessions Court Islamabad has accepted exemption plea of PTI chairman Imran Khan in Toshakhana case.

The hearing of the case will take place today (Saturday) too.

Amjad Pervez, counsel for Election Commission (EC) told the court dilatory tactics are being used by lawyers of chairman PTI. The lawyers of chairman PTI have no intention to give arguments. Khawaja Haris has no engagements in court.

The sessions judge again directed Khawaja Haris to appear in the court today (Saturday).

The court while accepting exemption plea of chairman PTI adjourned the hearing of the case till Saturday (today).

**Shazia Marri terms Benazir Social Protection Account as revolutionary milestone**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Marri Friday said that "Benazir Social Protection Accounts" is a revolutionary milestone in the 15-year journey of BISP which will further ensure transparency during cash disbursements.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was the chief guest at the ceremony who also launched the "Benazir Social Protection Account" along with the SAPM, Faisal Karim Kundi and others at Prime Minister House.

The launching ceremony was attended by a number of distinguished guests including Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, members of the diplomatic community and BISP beneficiaries.

The federal minister, Shazia Marri said that BISP has achieved a significant milestone today with the formal launch of Benazir Social Protection Accounts under the esteemed patronage of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

She further said that this new payment system will give autonomy to women in selecting the bank of their choice.

The payments will be directly made into their accounts which beneficiaries can withdraw at their convenience, she added.

**Attaullah Tarar says: 5 years of disqualification of Nawaz Sharif completed**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif Attaullah Tarar has said that 5 years of disqualification of Nawaz Sharif have been completed.

While talking to media he said that there is no substance in the cases against Nawaz Sharif.

There cannot be disqualification more than 5 years.

He has said that gov-

ernment will complete its term.

The time of election is fixed in the constitution.

He has said that Nawaz Sharif will return very soon.

We wish Nawaz Sharif to lead the election campaign.

If there is no evidence, the cases die on their own.

The term of the government will be completed in August.

**Mariyum grieved over demise of PTV Director Programs**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting

Mariyum Aurangzeb on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of PTV Director Programs Akbar Malik. In a condolence message, the minister expressed sympathy with the family and children of Akbar Malik over his sudden death.



ISLAMABAD: Police personnel stand guard to counter any unexpected situation during the rallies of Youm-e-Taqadus in Federal Capital against the desecration of Quran Pak in Sweden.

**Three-day training for DROs, ROs concluded**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The three-day training by the leading trainers for District Returning Officers (DROs) and Returning Officers (ROs) ahead of the upcoming general elections was successfully concluded at Pakistan's Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices, Research, and Management (PADRM) here Friday.

A total of 33 officers from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) were imparted comprehensive training during this intensive session. They will play a pivotal role in disseminating their knowledge

to a larger group, including 142 DROs and 859 ROs hailing from all four provinces of the country.

The training session encompassed a wide range of topics crucial to ensuring the smooth conduct of the upcoming general elections.

The participants received comprehensive instruction on electoral procedures, legal frameworks, and best practices in managing the electoral process. Equipped with this valuable knowledge, the trained officers are now well-prepared to fulfill their vital roles during the upcoming elections.

**IRSA releases 302,800 cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 302,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 390,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1515.24 feet and was 117.24 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 215,500 cusecs and 170,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1189.50 feet, which was 139.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

**PTCL Group's SummerSpark Internship Program 2023 set to ignite careers of young graduates**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's leading telecommunications and integrated digital services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) has launched its highly anticipated "SummerSpark" internship program at a vibrant opening ceremony held here at PTCL Group Tower.

The 6-week internship program, "SummerSpark" received an overwhelming response upon opening the registration process, with over 15,475 young graduates from top universities eagerly vying for a spot.

After a rigorous selection process, the top 30 candidates with exceptional competencies and potential

were selected to participate in the program.

The internship program aligned with sustainable practices by investing in the long-term growth and success of individuals in the telecom sector, he added.

He said "We provide a diverse and enabling environment for the youth to develop and showcase their talent and focus on promoting experiential learning and equip interns with practical skills and knowledge that will pave the way for their future success".

The "SummerSpark" goes beyond traditional mentorship as it helps the participants to fully immerse in the corporate culture.



ISLAMABAD: Vehicles on the way being driven through flooded streets at Ghouri Town.



Saturday July 08, 2023

**Jenin incursion**

Another day, another massacre. This is the violent reality that perpetually confronts the Palestinian people. While the Israeli war machine usually reserves its barbaric wrath for the impoverished coastal enclave of Gaza, this time it was the West Bank city of Jenin that was subjected to state-sponsored violence. Trouble had been brewing since last month, when Tel Aviv had dispatched helicopter gunships to the West Bank in a brazen escalation of tensions. But on Monday, the Israelis launched a brutal two-day assault targeting the Jenin refugee camp, ostensibly to hunt down Palestinian fighters. What ensued is typical of the one-sided violence that has marked this decades-old conflict, with Arab civilians facing the unrestrained cruelty of Israel's military. Perhaps it should be a relief that 'only' 12 Palestinians were killed — including several children — as over 1,000 Israeli troops descended upon Jenin. Hundreds of homes have been damaged or destroyed, while Jenin's infrastructure, including water, electricity and sewerage networks, lies in ruins. According to the UN, intentional attacks directed at civilians not taking part in hostilities come under the ambit of war crimes. Unfortunately, the UN's human rights chief issued a tepid statement, meekly urging Israel to "minimise" the use of lethal force. Washington's reaction to the blitz was expected, with a spokesperson defending Tel Aviv's "right to defend its people". Clearly, for those who trumpet the sanctity of the international 'rules-based order', there are different rules for different situations. When geopolitical enemies indulge in atrocities, there are howls of protest and sanctimonious calls to sanction and punish the perpetrators. But when friends, such as Israel, butcher civilians and flatten residential areas, the 'right' of these comrades to defend themselves is underscored.

Israel is mistaken if it thinks such brutal actions will dim the Palestinian spirit of resistance. In fact, each time Tel Aviv strikes, Arab fighters vow to strike back, and often deliver on their promises, thus perpetuating the circle of violence. The two-state solution, or whatever remains of it, has little chance of success when the Israeli establishment considers Palestinians as subhuman, worthy of extermination and collective punishment. Shockingly, Israel's extremist national security minister was quoted as saying recently that 'terrorists' (his ugly euphemism for Palestinians) must be 'eliminated' "if necessary even [in the] thousands". This ominous threat sounds like a plan for a mass anti-Arab pogrom. The international community apparently lost interest in a viable Palestinian state a long time ago. Yet, can those with a conscience globally at least speak up for the Palestinians' right to life and dignity? To be recognised as human beings and not be subjected to wanton Israeli violence? Or will Palestinian civilians continue to be endlessly killed and maimed in Israel's elusive quest for 'security', as they remain silent?

**Faisal Bari**

It is not too difficult to see, upon entering a school, whether or not it works well. If the premises look as if someone worries about them, if the infrastructure works, if the teachers and students are inside the classrooms with the students absorbed in their lessons and their teachers ensuring they are taught well, and if the staff and administration are pulling in the same direction, it is very likely the school is working well.

The research that my colleagues and I did some years back showed that for every school that was working well, there was a leader who, for lack of a better term, took 'residual responsibility' for the school and worried about it beyond the call of duty.

Usually, it was the head teacher or principal of

the school; but, in some instances, it was the owner or a person on the governing board. In a couple of cases, it was even a member of the teaching staff.

For a school to work, a 'leader' has to be there. She motivates and provides the vision for the school, she inspires by example, she ensures the school's smooth functioning, and she is there to manage any crisis that crops up.

But over the years I have seen the opposite too — in schools as well as universities. A 'bad' leader can destroy even a good school or university. A leader driven by a personal agenda and more concerned about her pursuits and ego, with little or no respect for herself or others, can bring down a school or university in a matter of years. Again, recent literature on leadership points this out clearly: bad leaders can have a big impact on organisations.

So, leadership matters. On the public sector side, at the K-12 level, we are still taken in by the seniority model for posting head teachers and principals in most provinces.

Where a change has been made, it has been to

appoint the most educated teacher as the head teacher, instead of trying to look for the best 'leader'. Being senior or being more educated is no guarantee that a person is a good leader too, or even has the potential to be one.

The situation is not very different for most of the private sector. But the more dynamic education providers in the private sector moved away from the seniority model for appointing school leadership quite some time back.

Most of their schools have created systems for leader identification and/or selection. They have leadership training and support programmes and they ensure leaders are provided with proper opportunities for career development.

They also have strong weeding programmes where 'bad' leaders are identified and, if training and support cannot change outcomes, these people are moved out of the leadership positions as quickly as possible.

The autonomy of the head teacher has been shown to have an impact on school performance, and there is the impact of good leadership too. Our schools in the

public sector have not been performing well. Where other reforms are being implemented, it would be important to add leadership identification, selection and support programmes too.

The same argument applies to universities. Even today, if you look at advertisements for hiring vice chancellors for public sector universities, there is still an almost exclusive emphasis on seniority, academic output and administrative experience. In many cases, even experience in the armed forces has been considered 'good' administrative experience for appointment as VC. VCs need to be good leaders. A lot of power, good or bad, rests with them.

We need to have better systems for finding leaders who can be appointed to VC positions. This imperative is becoming more binding as the university sector is becoming more crowded and competitive. We have over 200 universities in the country. Islamabad alone has more than 24; over half of them have emerged in the last 23 years or so.

Universities will, increasingly, have to compete for funds and students as space gets more crowded.

Leaders who can create a reputation for quality education at their institution will become increasingly more important.

The imperative applies to the private sector as well. I have been associated with a private sector university in Pakistan for over three decades now, and have worked with more than six VCs. Each has brought their own unique perspective to the institution. Good leaders have been able to enhance the institution's reputation significantly and to create the virtuous cycles that lead to better educational programming and outcomes for students. They have attracted good faculty and have been able to create a mission- or vision-driven institution with buy-in from faculty and staff, leading to improvement in morale and outcomes.

There have been poor leaders as well. They have undermined rules and routines for their personal agenda, ego satisfaction and self-aggrandisement. This costs the institution not only in terms of morale but in actual outcomes too: staff and faculty get apathetic, some leave, others choose to work to please the leader

rather than doing their work for the university.

Institutions with a history, precedent and set expectations about quality and ways of doing things can survive bad leaders for some time, but even these periods are not without cost. If Trump can almost undermine institutions in an established democracy, one can imagine what a poor leader can do in institutions that might not have as long or deep a history. And recovery from a bad period is not guaranteed either.

Leadership matters. Good leadership can make a school or university and bad leadership, if it continues, can destroy even a well-performing school or university.

Barring a few of the more dynamic private sector school systems, across the private and public sector we have yet to start taking leadership issues seriously.

This needs to change. If schools and universities are to perform better, we need to identify/select and nurture/support good leaders and, if they cannot be trained, then weed out the bad ones. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Where no questions are asked****Dr Sania Nishtar**

In Pakistan, polarization and rhetoric are at their peak and many conflicts abound whilst a terrifying brain drain and flight of capital are underway. With the recent IMF SLA, we have narrowly averted the threat of a sovereign default. However, it is critical now that we focus on a long-term plan for meaningful economic reform that will help prevent such a situation in the future. But first, we must introspect. Why have we landed in this situation? And beyond what's apparent, for example the numbers, we need to get a sense of their true determinants.

We tend to predominantly debate the dismal statistics — deficits, inflation, growth numbers, interest rate, etc. These, however, are symptoms of the problem, just as fever can

herald infection and persistent cough can signal cancer. When you deal with a patient, one must diagnose and treat the underlying disease, not just the symptoms; similarly, beyond the economic numbers, it is imperative we ascertain their determinants.

To this effect, economists have been drawing attention to structural problems, our import-dependent economy, our investments in non-productive sectors, the focus on consumption versus investment; our dollar denominated sovereign debt, the tendency to artificially control the exchange rate, the persistently low tax-to-GDP ratio, the lacking ease of business ecosystem, lack of global competitiveness, the overall lack of an enabling environment, poor governance, and so on and so forth.

However, it must be appreciated that these 'structural problems' are manifestations of deeper issues. I believe the most salient of these structural problems is the lack of accountability, which pervades every level of government in Pakistan today. I realized the extent of this rot when I first served in

government as a caretaker federal Minister in 2013. After my term, I wrote a paper in 'The Lancet' titled 'Reflections From My Tenure as Minister' ([https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanct/article/PIIS0140-6736\(14\)61284-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanct/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)61284-8/fulltext)) about my understanding of the government's limitations and fault lines.

It was eye-opening to find that in Pakistan, the government is simply not set up to perform. In installing the government, we focus on processes — elections, cabinet selection, and key appointments — but not the attributes which truly matter for the government's performance: namely, accountability, incentives, and performance measurement.

Although these three are intertwined and accountability has several dimensions bordering on the financial, administrative, legal, and political realms, the rest of this piece will focus on one aspect of accountability, which is the lack of answerability for actions, which I consider one of the root causes of government malfunction.

Let's take the present state of the economy as an

example. On the revenue side, we lament the persistently low tax-to-GDP ratio, but we cannot hold tax functionaries accountable for not taxing many holy cow sectors and not deploying data analytics to catch habitual evaders. My experience with catching 820,000 BISP fake beneficiaries leads me to believe that this can be done easily with data triangulation using CNIC as the peg.

Decision-makers have consistently encouraged consumption over investment and savings and have prioritized investment of aid in non-productive assets. No one is ever held accountable for busting the ceiling of the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act repeatedly, especially for loans which were spent on non-productive politically motivated assets.

No one has ever been made answerable for the massive politically motivated human resource hirings, and procurement rent seeking which has made public-sector enterprises non-viable incurring hundreds of billions in losses annually which need to be underwritten by tax-payers money.

There has also been a

failure to deploy ease of business, e-tendering, and privatization reforms. Transparency reforms, to enable electronic filing and public expenditure tracking were not institutionalized to track pilferages from the system. Yes no one is ever questioned for the damage done and losses incurred in the process.

The list can go on and on. Explore every problem and it will be rooted in the lack of accountability — the energy sector, which has been deliberately designed to run in loss; foreign policy decisions that fostered terrorism; decisions which entrenched circular debt in many sectors; in attention to water availability and land use; the trillions which are channeled in untargeted subsidies from which the affluent benefit. Every sector has an institutionalized pattern of collusion by design.

I wrote about the systematic collusion in the wheat value chain in these columns on May 6 (<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1067410-wheat-policy-impertives>). No one has been held answerable for the loopholes and the lack of oversight in this regard. Shockingly, tax eva-

luation and money laundering has also been structurally ingrained, through loopholes in tax laws. No one is answerable for that.

Unfortunately, even the deepest governance reform to-date — the 18th Amendment to the constitution — failed to address certain key issues needed for transparency reform, such as political party finance, conflict of interest and accountability within government, despite the broad-based changes it introduced in the entire state system.

There are more recent glaring examples of the way the lack of answerability has been damaging for the country. For over a year, there were many warnings of an impending sovereign default, yet the IMF deal was delayed for months. Or for that matter, how will you hold the coalition of thirteen parties accountable for speedily legislating on matters that are widely perceived to further their own interests but failed to come together in the interest of water security and other critical needed governance reforms over the last seven decades. -- Courtesy TheNews

**The way to peace****Amin Valliani**

All human beings are different from each other in many ways. They are different in their lifestyles, cultures, thoughts, habits and likes, dislikes, etc. However, most people have an innate desire for peace and tranquillity. Everybody wants peace in life, but very few people manage to attain it. The major reasons for the absence of peace are internal and external conflicts, rigidity, quarrelsome behaviour and some other negative tendencies. In order to attain peace, one needs to be pragmatic, adaptive, flexible and compromising in his/her attitude.

It is said that a sure key for peace in life is compromise. It is by adopting such an attitude, rather than being unyielding in dealing with others, that a person becomes fluid. Many disputes within families, societies and nations are resolved by adopting the way of compromise — an agreement that involves concessions from both sides.

In the history of mankind, wars have been stopped, lives have been saved, peace has been restored, material losses have been curtailed and people have kept their dignity by resorting to compromise. An uncompromising attitude from any side is an obstacle to peace, therefore, all major world philosophies have supported the idea of compromise.

It is not good for people to remain in perpetual animosity. Holding

out an olive branch to opponents does not mean weakness, but a way out of turmoil. This principle of compromise advocates that 'half a loaf is better than none'.

The early history of Islam indicates that Muslims under the benign leadership of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) followed the principle of compromise. They concluded the treaty of Hudaibiyah, which allowed the Muslims to live in peace. The agreement also allowed the Holy Prophet and his followers to enter Makkah the following year for what came to be known as the first pilgrimage.

Similarly, the Holy Quran enjoins that if they (enemies) are inclined towards peace on just terms, the overture should be accepted: "If they incline to peace, incline you as well to it, and trust in Allah. Surely, He is All-Hearing, All-Knowing" (8:61).

Through compromise, each party gets less than it feels it is entitled to, but agrees to it because the situation it anticipates under a deal is better than the one it expects in the absence of one. It can provide a bridge across a difficult period. This is an essential aspect of life whereby one can end disputes and spend life in peace and tranquillity.

At present, Pakistan is experiencing turmoil because of differences among various political parties. The best way to address the turmoil is compromise. Violence and confrontation are never an answer to this political challenge, especially when the country is going through a serious economic crisis. The art of compromise is an essential component of politics, without which life goes into gridlock.

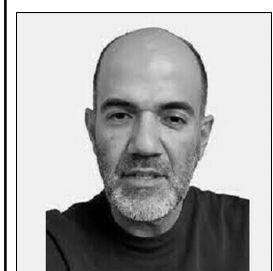
Since the beginning of time, compromise has been the main way for

people, groups and countries to work out their differences. It is a tool of diplomacy, but needed in all areas of life, such as politics, business, professions, etc. In Pakistan, where there is a huge backlog of unresolved court cases, the principle of compromise would be worth trying out. It would reduce the burden of the courts and also satisfy the disputing parties to some extent. There should, therefore, be a mechanism to make disputing parties agree to a compromise.

There are certain situations which one cannot change. It is better, then, to accept the situation as it is and wait for better times. One should never make his/her desire or liking the final word. Some things in life are not obtainable nor achievable, yet one's ego wants to achieve these. This does not mean that we should not struggle. Our struggle should be continuous but we should be ready to make any adjustments or compromises where the situation demands so.

We must never forget that human life is a series of compromises and it is not always easy to achieve in practice what one has found to be true in theory. Learning the wisdom of compromise can be highly beneficial, for it is better to bend a little than to break.

Life is like a bumpy road with many ups and downs. Many people undergo mental, emotional or physical challenges and sometimes feel lost or without hope. Most of the time, untangling oneself from these depressing thoughts can cause confusion and pain. However, compromising with life's challenges provides solace and understanding and enables one to cope with these demanding situations. Therefore, the idea of compromise needs to be promoted in life. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Aasim Sajjad Akhtar**

The French state prosecutes a mini civil war against African and Arab populations. The Israeli Defence Forces bomb and kill Palestinians in the West Bank with complete impunity, again, and Pakistani youngsters smuggle themselves on fishing vessels at the risk of death to the coveted West, even as our rulers grovel for handouts from 'donors', and then celebrate when we get them. Who says colonialism is dead?

It is fashionable these days to take a stinging view of the past, to say that talk of colonialism and imperialism is passé. The argument is that we should take responsibility for our own failures and stop blaming the white man.

It is correct that aimlessly blaming the white man or anyone is neither here nor there. But acknowledging our colonial present is not about blaming anyone; it is about accurately identifying the roots of today's structural crises so as to find a way out.

For Pakistanis — and other Muslim-majority societies — the words 'colonialism' and 'imperialism' drip easily off our tongues when we talk of Palestine, Israel, and its principal backer, the US, have engaged in naked aggression to dispossess Palestinians of their lands and dignity for decades. The Israeli settler-colonial project extends deeper into Palestinian territory with each passing day.

But there is less clarity about the global implications of US-Israeli expan-

**Colonial present**

sionism. It has been advertised that the Gulf kingdoms seek some accommodation with the Zionist state.

Indeed, the Gulf states are the quintessential example of how our 'Muslim' brethren are driven by the pursuit of profit; for them, it is literally kosher to do business with anyone, including Zionists.

Seen thus, it is not sufficient to simply voice outrage vis-à-vis Israeli crimes against the Palestinians — there must be a political-economic project to isolate Israel, just like that which squeezed apartheid South Africa.

Political-economic subjugation is also the root cause of the current fires in France. Long-term immigrant populations — the vast majority from France's former colonial possessions in West Africa and the Maghreb — are rebelling against their unending trysts with systemic racism, class exploitation and other forms of discrimination. Whatever the immediate trigger, the scale and depth of the resentment demands acknowledgement of the deep-seated colonial legacies that afflict France today.

The French state has no problem assimilating Africans and Arabs when it comes to nation-state projects — most of France's footballing success, for example, has been powered by brown and black players. But it also presides over ghettoisation, incarceration and property regimes that relegate brown and black French 'citizens' to second-class status.

France also has no problem continuing to extract resources from its former colonial possessions in Africa. The slogans of the French republic — liberté, égalité, fraternité — ring hollow in the face of such colonial modalities.

Meanwhile in Pakistan, the jubilation at the IMF agreeing to give us a measly \$3 billion shows how we refuse to grapple

with our very own colonial present. Many insist the IMF and other donors have no role in our crisis. This is akin to turning one's back on the truth that Pakistan is like many former colonies in Latin America, Africa and Asia whose economies, politics and societies continue to be shaped by neocolonial debt regimes.

Why, for instance, could our donors not have responded to last summer's floods — and the approximately \$40bn in damages incurred — by not giving us more loans, and instead, cancelling at least some of our existing debt obligations?

One reason is that our ruling class — led by the military est-ablishment — is simply not committed to undoing the political, economic and cultural structures that keep them at a table in proximity to the global ruling class.

The smug contentment at doing a deal with the IMF mirrors the contentment at issuing contracts to MNCs, one's own companies and those of friends while sacrificing the resources and rights of the sons and daughters of the soil.

It mirrors the building of countless roads, expressways, mega-water infrastructure and real estate schemes despite clear evidence that the colonial logic of conquering nature are disastrous. It mirrors the fiefdoms of sardars, the epidemic of enforced disappearances, and the war economies generated by the weaponisation of religion. Deploying politically correct, liberal language to sanitise what is happening in Palestine, France, Pakistan's own peripheries, or many other parts of the world is at best self-deception, and at worst, colonial apologetics. To acknowledge our colonial present is to at least reimagine political-economic projects of decolonisation that represent the only potential salvation for our youth. -- Courtesy Dawn



## Punjab Governor says: Intl community should make an effective strategy to prevent desecration of Holy Quran

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Members of the National Assembly called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. Various issues including political and economic situation of the country were discussed in the meeting.

Talking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the top priority of the government is to stabilize the economy of the country. He said that the economic condition of the country is improving due to the sincere efforts of the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and the economic team. Governor Punjab said that politics is the name of public service and

under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the incumbent government is committed to bring economic stability, development and prosperity in the country. He said that the doors of the Governor's house are always open for public representatives. Governor Punjab further said that the incident of May 9 was very heartbreaking in which the martyrs were desecrated. He said that the law is taking its course against the people involved in the incident of May 9.

Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Muslims all over the world have been deeply hurt by the heinous act of desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden. He said that the

international community should make an effective strategy to prevent such incidents.

On this occasion, Member National Assembly, Noorul Hassan Tanveer appreciated the services of Punjab Governor for the party. Member National Assembly Waheed Alam Khan said that he strongly condemns the shameful incident of May 9. MNAs Noorul Hasan, Tanveer Chaudhry, Muhammad Ashraf Leader, Waheed Alam Khan, Adviser to Prime Minister on Religious Affairs, Shabbir Ahmed Usmani were among those who met Punjab Governor, Mian Abdul Manan Ghazali Salim Butt, Malik Zaheer Iqbal Chan, Irfan Nagra and others were also present on this occasion.



LAHORE: Muslim League-N Women are protesting on Mall Road against the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.

## Dr Jamal directs to remove encroachments along Nullah Leh

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Friday visited Qademi Qabristan, Dhoke Elahi Bakhsh and Sadiqabad areas and inspected the flow of water in tributaries of Nullah Leh.

He directed the district administration and WASA to work on an emergency basis to clean all tributaries and take strict measures to remove the illegal encroachments on the banks of the drains. The minister said that the encroachments along the drains were a leading cause of flooding, hinder the flow of water and endanger human life and property.

He warned that strict departmental action would also be taken against those who failed to remove

encroachment and no leniency would be given in this regard.

Earlier, Dr Jamal Nasir presided over a meeting of the District Health Authority, Rawalpindi and in-charge of all THQs, rural and primary health centres.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jamal Nasir directed the health officials to keep adequate stock of medicines for flood-related diseases as there were threats of urban flooding due to monsoon rains.

He directed to take immediate measures for setting up relief camps in the areas affected by urban flooding.

Dr Jamal said that due to urban flooding, snake bites may also occur and apart from this, there may be concerns of diarrhea and other stomach and skin diseases.

## KWSB to get equipment soon for clearing choked sewerage lines: Mayor

**KARACHI (APP):** Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday said that 12 suction, 12 jetting and 10 hybrid vehicles will soon be handed over to the Water and Sewerage Board which will help in opening the choke points of the sewerage lines in the city. Two mobile workshops have also been handed over to the Water Board to improve the sewerage system.

He said this on a visit to the factory of Mairaj Limited along with Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Water Board Syed Salahuddin and Project Director Karachi Water and Sewerage Services Improvement Project (KWSSIP).

On this occasion,

General Secretary Pakistan People's Party South District Karamullah Waqasi and other officers and elected representatives were also present.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab inspected the mobile workshops and also drove them and said immediate action should be taken on complaints received from any area of the city regarding the sewerage system.

He observed that it was necessary to develop the underground sewerage system on better and modern lines to protect the roads and streets of the city from the overflow of sewage and to prevent the roads and streets from falling into disrepair. For this purpose modern and standard machinery,

## 8 dead, 1,080 injured in Punjab road accidents

**LAHORE (APP):** At least eight persons were killed and 1,080 others were injured in 1,039 road traffic crashes (RTCs) in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 573 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 507 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The analysis showed that 526 drivers, 37 underage drivers, 109 pedestrians, and 453 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 207 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 198 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 83 in Multan with 85 victims, and at third Faisalabad with 82 accidents and 91 victims. According to the data, 899 motorbikes, 53 auto-rickshaws, 111 motorcars, 27 vans, seven passenger buses, 29 trucks and 100 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in these road accidents.

## SSP reviews officers performance

**LAHORE (APP):** SSP Internal Accountability Imran Kishwar presided over a meeting of officers from the Investigation Wing at his office here on Friday, aimed at conducting a comprehensive evaluation of their performance in handling pending road certificates and disposal of under-investigation cases.

Expressing dissatisfaction, the SSP addressed the underwhelming performance of certain Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) in dealing with pending road certificates.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali taking oath from acting Chief Justice Peshawar High Court Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan.

## Reviews facilities at hospitals CM announces to open 22 social security hospitals across the province

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid visits to the Nawaz Sharif Social Security Hospital at Multan Road and Social Security Hospital at Ferozpur Road.

During his visits, the CM thoroughly inspected various wards and assessed the medical facilities provided to the patients. He interacted with the patients, inquiring about their well-being and the quality of medical services

they were receiving. The patients and their attendants expressed their satisfaction with the facilities available at the Nawaz Sharif Social Security Hospital, highlighting the availability of doctors and the provision of free medications.

The CM announced the government's decision to open 22 social security hospitals, across the province, to the public to cater to their healthcare needs. He stated that an agreement would be

reached between the government and the Punjab Employees Social Security Institution to facilitate this initiative.

He revealed plans for the establishment of a rehabilitation center for disabled industrial workers, the installation of an MRI machine, and the creation of a burn unit at the Nawaz Sharif Social Security Hospital. He also mentioned that the Rehmatul-Lil-Alameen Institute of Cardiology (RAIC) would extend its services to the general

## No compromise on nobility of Prophethood, sanctity of Quran: Ashrafi

**LAHORE (Online):** Special Representative to the Prime Minister for Interfaith Harmony and Middle Eastern Affairs Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has said that there will be no compromise on nobility of Prophethood and sanctity of the Holy Quran at all.

Addressing a press conference at Behria Town Grand Masjid, he said the Holy Quran Day was observed on Friday across various countries including Pakistan. He strongly condemned the burning and desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden. He urged the world to make legislation regarding sacred things and the Holy Quran.

Ashrafi said that the Holy Quran teaches respect for all prophets, and it was not permissible to burn the

divine books in Islam. "Muslims believe in all prophets, and they want respect for all sacred articles related to Islam," he added. He said that the honour of the last Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him should also be respected as well.

Ashrafi said all Muslims should raise voice against the desecration of Holy Quran collectively. He said all Muslims should be part of peaceful protest against such abhorrent acts, leaving aside their political and religious differences. He said all activists of political parties should take to the streets without their flags and give a message of unity to the world. He said it was not permissible in Islam to burn a church, Torah, Psalms and Bible.

## Newly appointed acting PHC CJ Ibrahim takes oath

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Acting Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court, Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan here Friday took oath of his office here on Wednesday.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali administered oath to the newly appointed acting Chief Justice PHC.

Secretary Law, Shagufta Naveed read his appointment notification.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa congratulated and expressed best wishes to Acting Chief Justice PHC on assuming charge of his new responsibilities. The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Provincial ministers, advisers to the Chief Minister.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab inspects the machineries and vehicles during his visit to Mairaj Limited factory.

## Minister directs depts to remain alert to deal with flood emergency

**SIALKOT (APP):** Caretaker Provincial Minister for Higher Education Mansoor Qadir has directed the allied departments of the district to remain alert for a rescue-and-relief operation in case of any flood emergency during the monsoon season.

Presiding over a meeting at Deputy Commissioner's Office here on Friday, he said that flood relief camps should be established immediately under the relief plan, adding that equal attention should be paid to all arrangements including security during Muharram.

The minister said that under the leadership of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, the Punjab government was fully committed to providing relief to citizens, adding that all the machinery available to the Municipal Corporation, Municipal Committees and Rescue 1122 should be made functional. The deputy commissioner Sialkot should personally inspect possible breaching points

in case of emergency, he instructed.

Mansoor Qadir said that in the areas where de-watering sets were installed, generators should also be arranged, saying that adequate measures should be taken to protect citizens from accidents at the digging site of the sewerage project.

The caretaker minister directed the district administration and police to make all necessary arrangements for the upcoming holy month of Muharram and pay full attention to law and order along with flood relief activities. Effective utilisation of available manpower was essential for the purpose, so no leave should be given to any officer or official, he added.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Adnan Mehmood Awan briefed the meeting that arrangements had been made for establishment of 22 relief camps in Sialkot district, saying that bathing in canals.

## Police finalize security plan of Muharram

**JHANG (APP):** District Police Officer (DPO) Malik Tariq Mahboob has directed police officers to provide foolproof security during Muharram.

According to details, a high-level meeting was held here to finalize the security plan of Muharram-ul-Haram which was presided by Malik Tariq Mahboob. All DSPs and SHOs of the district attended the meeting.

The meeting was told that during Muharram 493 traditional and licensed mourning processions including Tazia, Alam and Zuljnah would be taken out from different places of the district during the first ten days of Muharram while 1902 majalis Aza would be recited.

Addressing the meeting, DPO said that as per the direction of the Home department Punjab, no one would be allowed to initiate any new program in Muharram. He said district police would provide foolproof security to every Majlis Aza and mourning procession in the district.

## Sharjeel assures business community of solving their issues on priority

**KARACHI (APP):** Provincial Minister for Information and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon Friday said that efforts would be made to solve the problems of traders by taking all stakeholders into the confidence.

He said this while meeting a delegation of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) at Archives Complex office.

A delegation of Karachi Chamber of Commerce, headed by President Tariq Yousaf, met Sharjeel Inam Memon and apprised him of the problems faced by the traders from the Red Line

BRT project. The minister also assured the businessmen of resolving their problems.

He said that the businessmen of Karachi had an important position in the country's economy, therefore the provincial government solved their issues on a priority basis.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce President Tariq Yusuf, Senior Vice President Tauseef Ahmed, Vice President Haris Asghar, Automotive Traders and Importers Association President Aamir Ali Khan, General Secretary Muhammad Akbar and others were also present in the meeting.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inquiring about the health of child during his visits to the Nawaz Sharif Social Security Hospital at Multan Road.

## Religious parties condemn Holy Quran desecration in Sweden

**FAISALABAD (INP):** The religious parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami and Central Ulema Council Pakistan, observed Youme-e-Taqdees-e-Quran here on Friday and strongly condemned desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

The main protest demonstration was held outside Jamia Masjid Technical High School D-ground. District Ameer Prof Mahboob-uz-Zaman led the rally, while other leaders, including Sagib Farooq Butt, Rana Ikramullah Khan, were also present.

The JJ leaders said that anti-Islam forces had crossed all limits and they were defaming Islam by

hatching conspiracies. Such forces were injuring the sentiments of billions of Muslims across the world through shameful and provocative tactics, they said. They urged the government to sever social, economic and diplomatic relations with the Swedish government until it tendered an apology.

Meanwhile, Central Ulema Council Pakistan held a protest demonstration outside the Goal Masjid, Ghulam Muhammad Abad, which was addressed by Chairman Sahibzada Zahid Mahmood Qasmi. Pir Ji Khalid Mahmood Qasmi, Maulana Shah Nawaz Farooqi.

## Lawyers stage strong protest against Sweden incident

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** The members of the lawyers' fraternity Friday strongly condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden in a strong protest here to mark their resentment against the tragic incident.

Finance Secretary District Bar Association Rawalpindi, Azma Mubarak, Member Executive, Azmat Ali Mubarak, Tahira Bano Mubarak former Member Executive Lahore High

Court Bar Association Rawalpindi and other lawyers said that they strongly condemned the incident which spread hatred in world. "We demand immediate action against the culprits," they said. The lawyers said that unfortunately this was not the first incident, such heartbreaking incidents had already been reported earlier. Advocate Uzma Mubarak and other members of District Bar Association Rawalpindi.



HYDERABAD: A view of Accumulated water on the streets after heavy rain in the city.

## Rescue 1122 holds flood rescue mock exercise

**SARGODHA (APP):** The second flood rescue mock and camp management exercise was held at the River Jehlum in Tehsil Sahiwal on Friday, in which caretaker Provincial Minister Bilal Afzal was the chief guest.

All district government departments participated in the exercise. Officers from Police, Education, Health, Irrigation departments, assistant commissioner Sahiwal, livestock, Social Welfare Department, PDMA coordinator, and Community Emergency Response Teams participated.

The rescue teams presented demonstration of rescuing the flood affected people.

District Emergency Officer Sargodha Mazhar Shah gave detailed briefing about the purpose and importance of the mock exercise.

The minister appreciated the quality of service delivery. He expressed his satisfaction at rescuers' preparedness level, quick and efficient response to rescue a drowning person and highly appreciated turned-out rescue staff.



KOHAT: Youngsters are bathing in natural pond to cool off during high temperature as such ponds are the special gift of God, in which the water feels cold in summers and hot in Winters.



# PM directs for steps to curb smuggling of tyres, spare parts

Assures to extend facilitation to Chinese investors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned for the early formulation of a comprehensive policy to do away with the smuggling of tyres and spare parts.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Service Long March Tyres and Chaoyang Long March Tyres led by their Chairman Li Qingwen, also instructed the relevant authorities to take effective measures to curb the smuggling of tyres.

He told the delegation that being a time-tested

friend, China always supported Pakistan like a brother in every hour of need.

He also assured the delegation that the government would extend all possible support to the Chinese investors to facilitate their investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister appreciated the delegation for their company's investment through Pakistan's renowned tyre manufacturing company.

The prime minister was told that tyres being manufactured by Chinese

investment were also being exported to the international market.

It was told that within a short span of a year, the company's tyres have created their space in the world markets.

The prime minister was told that the company would enhance tyres manufacturing to boost its exports to \$200 million annually.

The prime minister instructed the authorities to extend all-out support to the Chinese investors to uplift the tyre industry in Pakistan.

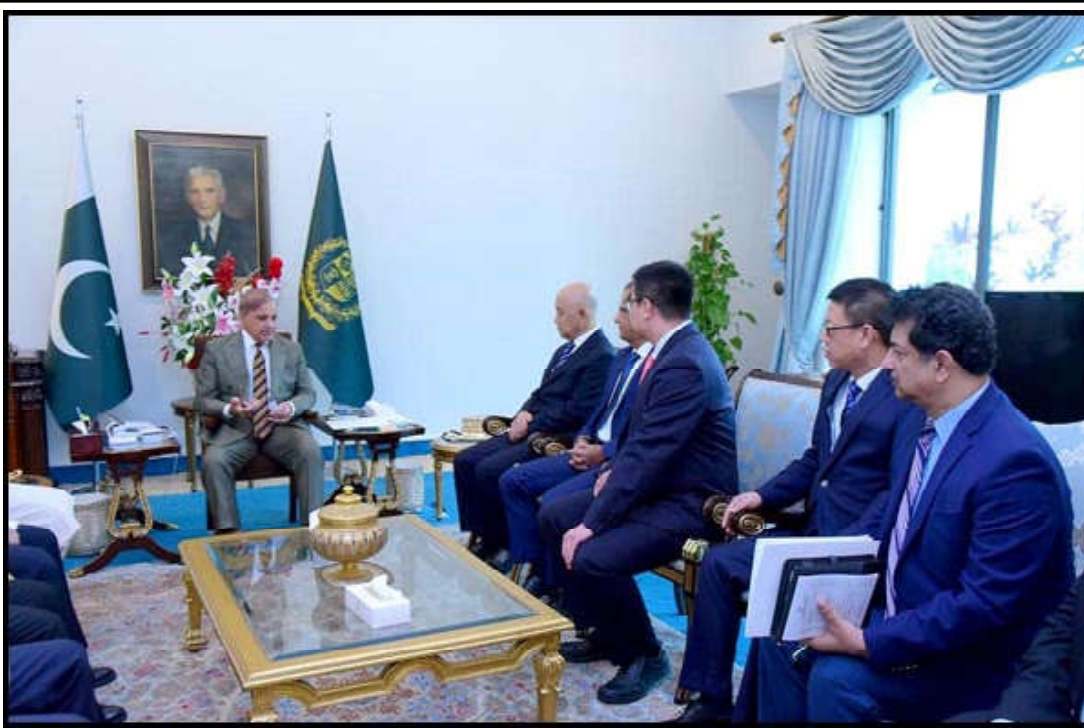
Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Pasha

and other relevant officers attended the meeting.

**Online add:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has assured to extend every possible facilitation to the Chinese investors for investment in Pakistan.

He made the remarks while talking to a delegation of Service Long March Tyres and Chaoyang Long March Tyres led by Chairman Li Qingwen in Islamabad.

Shehbaz Sharif said China has also supported Pakistan in difficult times. He said China is a longstanding friend of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Service Long March Tyres and Chaoyang Long March Tyres led by their Chairman Mr Li Qingwen calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



MULTAN: Governor Punjab Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur-Rehman cutting the ribbon to inaugurate three days of "Mango Festival 2023" at DHAA Arena Hall.

## Wafaqi Mohtasib mediates to ensure payment of Rs 5m as wages to MEPCO labourers

**Independent Report**  
MULAN: More than 100 daily wage labourers working in the Multan Electric Supply Company (MEPCO) were provided five months salary by their contractor duo to the timely intervention and mediation of Mr. Muhammad Zahid Senior Investigation Officer (IRD) of Wafaqi Mohtasib Office, Multan.

Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan a daily wage labourer along with 33 others lodged complaint against "Ali Azam Enterprises", a contractor of MEPCO, wherein they claimed that the said contractor had failed in paying their daily wages for the last five months and they were living miserably.

The complaint was processed under Informal Resolution of Disputes (IRD) through mediation and conciliation between the representative of MEPCO and the contractor, Mr Riaz Ahmad, under Wafaqi

Mohtasib IRD Mechanism.

The said contractor admitted the fact about non-payment of wages and undertook that payment of wages to all the laborers of D.G Khan, Kot Chutta and Rajanpur MEPCO Division would be made till June, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

On 27<sup>th</sup> June, the representative of "Ali Azam Enterprises" appraised the Wafaqi Mohtasib Office that pending wages of more than 100 labourers amounting to Rs Five million has been paid and their rightful grievance have been redressed through mediation and conciliation.

Mr. Zeeshan, the representative of the complainants also endorsed the version of the agency to the extent that their wages have been paid before Eid-ul-Azha and extended gratitude to the Ombudsman office for redressal of their grievances.

## Companies fail to distribute electricity, waste 1237k units daily

ISLAMABAD (Online): Reason behind unannounced electricity load shedding disclosed as distribution companies failure in distribution and waste of 1237000 units of electricity on daily basis.

It has been revealed that electricity distribution companies are failed and due to technical error electricity of 30 million is wasting on daily basis.

Source told that daily consumers are burdened 900 million without even consuming electricity.

FESCO cannot use 176 Mega Watt (MW) daily due to maintenance work daily. GEPCO fails to use 232 MW due to technical error. PESCO also fails to use 134MW due to overloading and faults. SEPCO cannot use 140MW due to electricity theft and line losses. MEPCO don not use 225MW. HESCO fails in using 114 MW due to theft, faults and overloading. KESCO fails in using 193 MW electricity.

## Pak-Korea program on certified seed system to yield 160,000 tons of seed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Project Steering Committee of Korea Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA) Pakistan Center was informed on Friday that "Pakistan-Korea Joint Program on Certified Seed Potato Production System" is set to yield an impressive production of 160,000 tons of certified seed potatoes.

The meeting was held with Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali in the chair and discussed collaborative efforts in various research projects, focusing on the development of technologies for potato seed, chilli, and fodder crop production. This meeting was also attended by Korean scientists, representatives from the

Korean Embassy, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, universities and senior officials of allied departments, said a press release. These initiatives are being implemented through the joint efforts of PARC and the KOPIA and the successful outcomes of these projects are anticipated to significantly enhance both the quantity and quality of these crops.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ali lauded the invaluable cooperation extended by the Government of Korea in this regard and emphasized the potential extension of this cooperation to the livestock sector and the application of sex semen technology. He assured the Korean counterparts of PARC's commitment to maintaining close collaboration and acknowledged the people.



QUETTA: Vendor sells mosquitoes net to earn his livelihood for support his family during hot day of summer season at a roadside stall located on Zarghoon road in Quetta

## Ahsan Iqbal inaugurates 200kv solar PV system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal on Friday inaugurated the installation of a 200kv solar PV system at the ministry to promote environment-friendly electricity.

The ceremony was held at the Ministry's auditorium which was attended by the Secretary, Ministry of Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Additional Secretary (AS) and officials of the ministry, said a press release issued here.

Speaking at the occasion, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said, "The provision of affordable, reliable and clean energy has always remained a priority of the government."

"Pillar IV of Vision 2025 outlines the approach

towards achieving energy, water, and food security," the minister said.

"The recent 5E framework provides a short to medium-term strategy to achieve economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability in the coming years," he remarked.

"The recently launched 5Es framework and energy is one of the important E, he highlighted.

"Plan House will be established soon."

He said, "This generation will also reduce the annual energy bill for the Ministry from Rs 26.746m per annum to Rs 14.09m resulting in annual savings of Rs 12.66m. At the existing prices, the project is expected to recover its capital cost within four years."

## Sindh Bank selects PTCL to implement cutting edge SD-WAN Infrastructure

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Sindh Bank have signed an agreement for deployment of SD-WAN at 200 branches of Sindh Bank.

Karachi. The ceremony was witnessed by Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO PTCL, Imran Samad President & CEO Sindh Bank and their teams.

PTCL is providing Sindh Bank with its state-of-the-art infrastructure

agreement with Sindh Bank, emphasizing PTCL Group's commitment to assisting the bank in meeting its digital connectivity requirements. As a national carrier, PTCL is at the forefront of driving digitalization throughout



Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G and Syed Ata Hussain Jaffri, EVP Head of IT, Sindh Bank, signed the agreement at a ceremony recently held at Sindh Bank Head Office in

## Govt taking concrete steps to stabilize country's economy: Governor

MULTAN (APP): Punjab Governor Engineer Baligh ur Rehman Friday said that the incumbent government was taking concrete and immediate steps to stabilize Pakistan's economy as country had come out of the economic crisis to a great extent.

He expressed these view while inaugurating the three-day Mango Festival organized here by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Agricultural University, DHA Multan and Mango Research Institute.

The governor said that the honest and hardworking leadership was working round the clock to get the country out of the problems, adding that everyone had to play his due role for developing the country.

Baligh ur Rehman said that those who spread hatred caused irreparable damage to the country, today even the monuments of the martyrs were not preserved.

He said that the nation had to end hatred and promote love in the society, adding that a lot of work had been done in

education sector in the province as new universities had been established in South Punjab and the research on crops was being made in the universities.

The governor pointed out that in 2018, the country was going to become the 24<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world but it moved to 44<sup>th</sup> economy in 2022.

The country's leadership was striving hard to get it out of troubles, he said, adding that the stock exchange had been improved after the agreement with the IMF as the dollar was now heading towards a decline.

The governor said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif took crucial steps for the development of the agricultural sector as wheat crop's production had increased this year.

He said that the incumbent government had fixed the support price of wheat on time which benefited the farmers.

Baligh Ur Rehman said that the agriculture sector of South Punjab

## Gold prices up by Rs 600

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 600 and was sold at Rs 208,400 on Friday against its sale at Rs 207,800 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 515 to Rs 178,670 from Rs 178,155 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 163,780 from Rs 163,309, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs 2480 and Rs 2,126.20 respectively.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships named, Seaspan Beacon, Singapore, and Atrotos Heracle Containers carrying Canola and Palm oil, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain & Fertilizer Terminal, and Liquid Cargo Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile, two more ships, Kition-M and Perth-I with Mogas and Coal also arrived at the outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on Friday.

## SBP says: Financial system exhibit resilient performance with 18.3% growth in asset base

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), on Friday said that financial sector had shown resilience against internal and external headwinds and posted steady performance as the financial sector's asset base grew by 18.3 percent in Calendar year 2022.

The banking sector witnessed 19.1% growth in its assets mainly driven by investments while the credit risk remained contained as gross NPLs ratio lowered to 7.3 percent by end CY22.

The observations were made in Financial Stability Review (FSR) for CY22, the annual flagship publication of the central bank published under

Section 39(3) of the SBP Act 1956, said a statement issued here.

The review presents the performance and risk assessment of various segments of the financial sector including banks, non-bank financial institutions, financial markets, financial market infrastructures and non-financial corporates.

The FSR for CY22 noted that Pakistan's economy experienced a turbulent year as the existing economic imbalances were compounded by the unfavourable external environment.

The review termed the twin deficits, high inflation, catastrophic flooding, and

## FPCCI, business bodies welcome direct link with Kazakhstan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and other business bodies on Friday welcomed commencing of direct air link between Pakistan and Kazakhstan on Saturday as it would help enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

It would prove to be a miles tone in forging mutual business and economic integration with Kazakhstan and other Central Asian states, FPCCI President Irfan Iqbal Malik said while talking to APP.

He said the direct flights would increase the possibilities of economic cooperation between the two countries. Two flights in a week from Almaty, the industrial hub of Kazakhstan, to Lahore, would help enhance

economic activities.

Irfan Malik said Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yezan Kistafin, deserved appreciation for playing an important role in the launch of a direct air link between the two brotherly countries.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce (KCCI) President Muhammad Tariq Yousaf said with the start of direct flights, the economic relations between the two countries would improve further.

He said the business community of Karachi considered that the step would have positive impact on trade relations with Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Kashif Anwar said Kazakhstan was an important country.



LAHORE: A wood worker given the final touches and polishes on a clothes hanger stand at Shahdara Furniture Market.

## Weekly inflation up by 0.70 pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.70 per cent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on July 06, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 257.79 points as compared to 256.00 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 28.55 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential

items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 1.08 per cent and went up to 265.88 points from last week's 263.03 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175; and above Rs 44,175 witnessed an increase of 1.02 per cent, 0.91 per cent, 0.83 per cent and 0.51 per cent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 24 (47.06%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 17 (33.33%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW), included bananas (7.51%), chicken (2.80%), eggs (1.17%).



# China's Xi urges greater innovation amid tech curbs from US

### US treasury secretary says 'impossible' to decouple China, US economies

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping, on an inspection tour of a major industrial province, renewed his call for greater innovation and technological self-reliance, as the United States intensifies curbs on Chinese access to advanced technologies.

technology and the emergence of disruptive technologies at any time, it is necessary to maintain a solid footing on the path of innovation and contribute to the realisation of high-level self-reliance in technology," Xi said.

and would destabilise global markets, in comments made while on a visit to Beijing packed with talks with officials and businesses.



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen talks with U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns as Yang Yingming, Director General of the Department of International Economic Relations of China's Ministry of Finance, looks on after arriving at Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing, China.

## Hong Kong slashes number of directly elected council seats

**Monitoring Desk**  
HONG KONG: Hong Kong's legislature unanimously voted on Thursday to overhaul district-level elections by drastically reducing the number of directly elected seats, which critics said would further shrink democratic freedom in the Chinese-ruled city.

arrest of former lawmakers and district councillors and the break-up of several political parties.

## Iran seizes tanker with 900 tons of 'smuggled fuel' - Fars news

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran's Revolutionary Guards seized a tanker holding 900 metric tons of "smuggled fuel" and 12 crew members based on a court order, a report by the semi-official Fars news agency said on Friday.

## Fire in Milan retirement home kills 6 people, injures around 80

**Monitoring Desk**  
MILAN: An overnight fire in a retirement home in Milan killed six people and injured around 80, including three who are in a critical condition, Italian authorities said on Friday.

housed 167 people. Firefighters' spokesman Luca Cari said the cause of the fire was under investigation, but added that it was likely accidental.

## Indian court rejects Rahul Gandhi's plea to suspend defamation conviction

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: A high court in western India rejected an appeal by opposition leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday to suspend his conviction in a defamation case, quashing for now his hope of returning to parliament and contesting national elections due next year.



Connecticut state Rep. Maryam Khan surrounded by friends, family and fellow lawmakers, in Hartford, Conn. gives a harrowing account of her attack last month as she left a Muslim prayer service.



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks during a meeting of the International Council of Nurses Congress in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

## West clashes with Russia and Iran at UN over Tehran's uranium enrichment and drones for Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The United States and its Western allies clashed with Russia and Iran at the U.N. Security Council on Thursday over Tehran's advancing uranium enrichment and its reported supply of combat drones to Moscow being used to attack Ukraine.

the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which the U.S. under then-President Donald Trump left in 2018.

dor Robert Wood countered, accusing both Iran and Russia of participating in the transfer of drones used in Ukraine without prior Security Council approval in violation of the 2015 resolution.

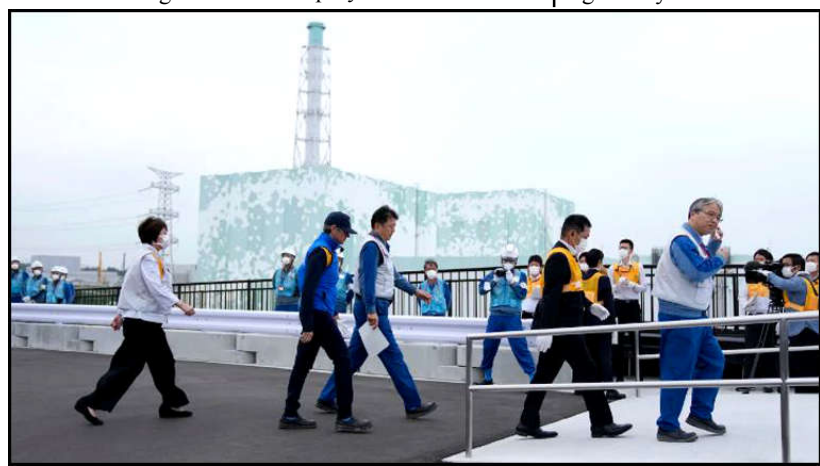
## Threads swiftly signs up 30m users; Twitter threatens to sue Meta

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Meta's Threads racked up more than 30 million sign-ups within 18 hours of its launch, emerging as the first real threat to Elon Musk-owned Twitter, as it took advantage of its access to billions of Instagram users and a similar look to that of its rival.

"The cage match has started, and Zuckerberg delivered a major blow. In many ways, it's exactly what you'd expect from Meta: Stellar execution and an easy-to-navigate user interface."

## Sweden mulls criminalising desecration of holy scriptures

**Monitoring Desk**  
STOCKHOLM: The Swedish government is examining whether it could make desecration of the Holy Quran or other holy books on fire illegal, as recent incidents have damaged Sweden's security.



IAEA chief Rafael Grossi arrives to inspect the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant with Japanese officials.

## Britain to target Iranian decision makers with new sanctions regime

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Britain said on Thursday it would create a new sanctions regime for Iran, giving the UK greater powers to target decision makers, including those involved in weapons proliferation and threats against British nationals.

Middle East, and threatening to kill and kidnap on UK soil," British Foreign Minister James Cleverly said in a statement.

## Malaysia PM Anwar to meet Elon Musk to discuss investments

**Monitoring Desk**  
KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Friday said he will meet Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla and owner of Twitter, to discuss the billionaire's investment in the Southeast Asian nation.

## US jobs report likely to show a solid gain, potentially complicating Fed's drive to cool inflation

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Another solid month of hiring in the United States is expected to be reported Friday, an outcome that would suggest no recession is near but could make it harder for the Federal Reserve to succeed in its drive to cool the economy and curb high inflation.

Employers are forecast to have added 205,000 jobs in June, according to economists surveyed by data provider FactSet.

## World food prices fall again in June - UN food agency

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: The United Nations food agency's world price index fell in June to its lowest level in more than two years, pushed down by a drop in the cost of sugar, vegetable oils, cereals and dairy products.

## Escalation 'not the answer', UN chief tells Tel Aviv

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations chief on Thursday accused Israel of using disproportionate force against Palestinian groups in a recent raid and warned against escalating the violence.

airstrikes and ground operations in a crowded refugee camp "the worst violence in the West Bank in many years, with a significant impact on civilians, including more than one hundred injured and thousands forced to flee."

## Zelenskiy urges NATO summit to send 'clear signal' on membership

**Monitoring Desk**  
PRAGUE: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy called on NATO leaders to take concrete steps towards Ukrainian membership at a summit next week, and he received support during a visit to Prague from the Czech president, who backed Kyiv's bid to join the alliance.

"We are talking about a clear signal, some concrete things in the direction of an invitation," Zelenskiy told a news conference alongside his Czech counterpart, Petr Pavel.

## Swedish court convicts man of helping Kurdish militants, in boost for Sweden's NATO bid

**Monitoring Desk**  
STOCKHOLM: A Swedish court on Thursday found a man guilty of attempting to finance the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), in a ruling that could help end Turkey's veto of Sweden's application to join the NATO military alliance.

said Gungor had tried to pressure a Kurdish businessman in Stockholm at gunpoint to pay money to the PKK.

## US Forest Service and historically Black colleges unite to boost diversity in wildland firefighting

**Monitoring Desk**  
HAZEL GREEN: Before starting college, Taylor Mohead had never been outside her hometown of Houston, Texas. Now, the recent Tuskegee University graduate is trekking around trees in Hazel Green, Alabama, in fire gear and sweltering heat.

Mohead said, grinning: "I got goosebumps right now."



## President for accelerated efforts to provide jobs to differently-abled people

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the need to accelerate efforts for the job placement of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the public and private sectors to empower them financially. He said that the suitability of PWDs for different jobs in the market should be determined as per international standards, and they should be facilitated in finding jobs for their financial empowerment. The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting regarding the framework for the classification and severity of disability, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Senior officials of the Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination, NAVTTC, and NADRA, and representative of the World Health Organization, Dr Maryam Malik, attended the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that prospective employers for the job placement of skilled Differently-abled People (DAPs) should be identified and, in the first phase, large employers in the private sector should be ap-



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting regarding the framework for the classification of disabilities, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Launches 'Benazir Social Protection Account' Pakistan will soon stand on its feet, says PM Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday launched the "Benazir Social Protection Account" under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) here along with Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) and BISP Chairpersons on Shazia Marri.

Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister directed the BISP authorities to place a condition for the Programme beneficia-

ries to get their children enrolled in schools to promote the education culture in the country.

It must be ensured that after a certain period the beneficiaries would get stipends only in case their children were attending schools, he reaffirmed.

The government, he said, should not go for promoting the "flocks of beggars" in anyway, rather it must promote the ones who were 'doers' in the real sense, with both mental and physical capacity to

build Pakistan.

The time would come soon when the country would be standing on its own feet and generating resources itself, he added.

The launch ceremony was attended by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation Faisal Kareem Kundi, members of diplomatic community and BISP beneficiaries.

Briefing about the salient features of the Ac-

count, Shazia Marri said under the new system, beneficiary women would have the option to select the bank of their choice, and they would receive the payments directly in their accounts which they could withdraw at their convenience.

Four banks namely National Bank of Pakistan, Bank Alfalah, JS Bank Limited and United Bank Limited had been initially selected through a competitive process for the new payment model, she added.

## Mariyum says: Young people shining stars of successful Youth Program of PML-N

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Friday that several young people had become shining stars of the success of the Youth Programme of PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif.

In a tweet sharing a video clip of an icon of the programme, she said this was not only the success story of the enviable and proud Muhammad Mohsin Ali, but also an excellent example of success of the inspiring vision and thinking of bringing change in the lives of the youth and society through education.

This capable and hardworking young man Mohsin Ali of Mian Rahima village of Hafizabad, who

won five gold medals, has explained the secret of success of Pakistan's youth.

The minister said as Chief Minister of Punjab, Shehbaz Sharif mentored hundreds of intelligent but poor young boys and girls like Mohsin Ali. "Shehbaz Sharif encouraged and patronized them by giving educational scholarships and opportunities to pursue higher education abroad", said Marriyum Aurangzeb. The minister said these young people were witnessing the success of the vision of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif. She said today Mohsin Ali presently had been serving as a lecturer in the same MAO College, Lahore near which he was earning livelihood for his family by working on a "Tandoor".



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging view with Inspector General Islamabad Akbar Nasir Khan at Naval Headquarters.

## ICCPO meets CNS at Naval Headquarters

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan met Chief of Pakistan Navy Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi, at Naval Headquarters Islamabad, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, ICCPO and Chief of Naval Staff held discussions on professional matters and the law and order situation in the federal capital and exchanged valuable insights on important matters.

During the productive meeting, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan and Chief of Pakistan Navy Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi engaged in a comprehensive discus-

sion regarding the law and order situation.

Chief of Pakistan Navy Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi expressed his appreciation for the relentless commitment demonstrated by the Islamabad Capital Police in upholding law and order and he commended the police force for their unwavering dedication and proactive approach in ensuring the safety and security of the federal capital.

During the meeting it was also decided to further improve intelligence sharing between the Islamabad Capital Police and the Pakistan Navy to make the security of Islamabad more effective.



Federal Minister for Planning and Development Prof Ahsan Iqbal addressing the seminar on "CPEC: The Road to Prosperity and Growth Amidst Challenges" in Islamabad.

## Quarantine certificates issuance delay puts export of mangoes in jeopardy

QUETTA (APP): The export of mangoes to the neighboring countries through land route has been in a great jeopardy as Plant Protection Department is allegedly using delaying tactics in issuance of quarantine certificate to the exporters, Fruit and Vegetable Import Exporter Association.

In order to get immediate relief and amicable solution to the issue, Balochistan exporters resorted to the Federal Ombudsman against the non-issuance of quarantine certificate, said Taj Mohammad Barich, President of Fruit and Vegetable Import Exporter Associa-

tion Balochistan during a meeting of his delegation with Associate Advisor Regional Head of the Federal Ombudsman, Mir Ghulam Sarwar Brohi in his office here Friday. Taj Mohammad Barich told that the importers and exporters of Balochistan export fruits and vegetables to the neighbouring country of Iran. "The mango season is going on, but an official of the Plant Protection Department, Karachi held the entire department hostage. Quarantine certificate is not being issued to the importers and exporters of Balochistan causing massive loss to the traders of Iran and Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Ester Perez Luis, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) resident representative, calls on the finance team of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), including Syed Naveed Qamar, the Federal Minister for Commerce, and Senator Saleem Mandwivala.

## Samina Zehri says: Country needs national unity & harmony

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: Central Vice President Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on Friday said that the enemy was after the integrity and peace of Pakistan and the recent incidents of terrorism were a link to the same nefarious plans of the enemies.

All Pakistanis should unite together for the country and would fully support to Pakistan Army, security agencies to root out terrorism, she said in a statement adding that Pakistan needed national unity at this time, not riots.

Pakistan needs peace and security, not chaos and unrest. Pakistan cannot afford any political chaos and unrest.

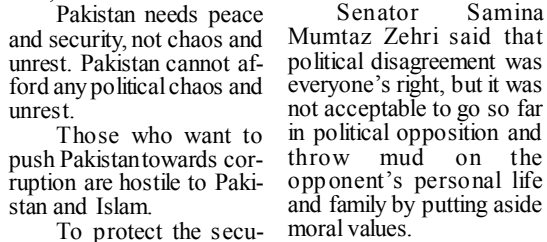
Those who want to push Pakistan towards corruption are hostile to Pakistan and Islam.

To protect the secu-

rety and peace and stability of Pakistan, the whole nation has to work together for the integrity and survival of Pakistan and for this we will not hesitate to make any sacrifice and it will destroy the nefarious intentions of the enemies forever, she said.

She said that Pakistan was in dire need of political and economic stability at this time and, for this, all political elites should respect each other while avoiding intolerance and extremism and should not take any steps that would strengthen the tactics of the enemies.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that political disagreement was everyone's right, but it was not acceptable to go so far in political opposition and throw mud on the opponent's personal life and family by putting aside moral values.



QUETTA: Activists of Suni Ulema Council hold protest out Quetta Press Club.

## PM announces aid of Rs 1m each for kids' families killed in Shangla landslide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday announced financial assistance of Rs 1 million each for the families of eight children who were buried alive in a landslide in the Martung Tehsil of Shangla.

The ones who sustained injuries in the incident would also be provided with financial support from the prime minister, according to a PM Office statement.

The prime minister announced the financial assistance at the request of his Advisor and President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter Engineer Amir Muqam who had written a letter to him appealing for support to the families of the deceased and the injured people.

## PML-N submits request to retain 'tiger' as poll symbol

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N has filed application in Election Commission (EC) for the allotment of election symbol of tiger to the party in coming general election.

EC had invited applications from all political parties through its July 01, 2023 press release for allotment of election symbols for next general elections.

PML-N Assistant Secretary General Dr Mehr Liaqat and office secretary Sجاد Hussain filed application duly signed by party president Mian Shehbaz Sharif in EC office on July 07.

## CPEC to promote growth, social prosperity: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that the government was promoting China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC) to attain sustainable economic growth and social prosperity as envisaged by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the country.

Addressing a seminar on CPEC, organized by the Bahria University Islamabad, the minister said that CPEC was a mega-development project, which included developmental projects related to basic infrastructure, energy generation, Gwadar Port development and industrial cooperation.

The minister said that the project which was started 10 years ago on July 5, 2013 which provided

employment opportunities to millions of people across the country, besides speeding up the pace of development in various sectors of national economy.

The CPEC has made significant progress due to the vision of the leadership of the Chinese President Xi Jinping, he said adding that Gwadar, energy, infrastructure and industrial development projects were agreed upon during the visit of the Chinese President.

He said that 11 working groups were established in the context of CPEC projects, adding that there were key achievements in the construction and development of Gwadar port, adding that the port was fully functional, Gwadar airport, hospital, sea water potable plant and other projects have also been built.

The minister said that the projects which were completed under CPEC were contributing in economic development and employment creation and played a key role in improving the lives of the people. He said that the One Belt One Road initiative promoted economic and maritime cooperation in the world.

The first memorandum of cooperation of CPEC was signed on July 5, 2013, which was the story of Pakistan's development, he said adding that the previous government threw away this opportunity for development.

Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan had made a revolution in industrial development in the 60s, but later geographical and social inequality hindered the phase of development.

## People rejected JUI in local bodies election in Ziarat: Dummar

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The senior Provincial Minister Noor Muhammad Dummar has stated that the people of Ziarat district have rejected the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam in the local bodies elections.

In a statement on Friday, Noor Muhammad Dummar said that the Jamiat faced failure in the local bodies election in Ziarat district as it has no public support.

He said that the people of the district tested the religious party time and again and made it success

in the previous elections, but it didn't honour their support. The senior Minister claimed that Jamiat has not been enjoying the public support and power, so it has been rejected by them at every platform. While on the other hand, we have served the people round the clock and provided jobs to the unemployed youth, Mr. Dummar claimed further.

He said that the newly elected chairman and vice chairman of Ziarat district council would work on priority basis to resolve the public issues.



TORKHAM: First Russian Truck under Pak-Russia Road Trade Agreement reaches Torkham.

## Prime Minister's Empowered Youth Program: 3,000 internship allocated in various depts. for youth of Balochistan, maintains CS

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The provincial government is taking steps to provide employments to youngsters of the province. In this regard, 3,000 out of total 8,000 internships have been allocated for youth of the province. These internships would be offered to them in different departments. In addition to this, scholarships have also been increased from 1,000 to 3,000 by the Google through which they may earn their own livelihood.

These views were expressed by the Chief Secretary while presiding over the meeting of secretaries committee here on Friday.

The Secretary Law, Abdul Saboor Kakar, Secretary prosecution, Ghulam

Ali Baloch, Secretary Finance, Zahid Saleem and other secretaries participated in the meeting. The Commissioners and deputy Commissioners participated in the meeting through video link.

The matters pertaining to the development projects, PSDP, federal development projects, payment of the QESCO bills and bids of the official vehicles came for threadbare discussion.

It was informed to the meeting, all borders have been sealed for prevention of the wheat, which has resulted in reduction of the prices of wheat and flour as compared to other provinces.

The Chief Secretary

directed all administrative officers to take steps for conservation of the electricity and gas by implementing the national conservation initiatives by the federal government.

He particularly mentioned that the federal government has launched internship empowered youth programme for the students of Balochistan, and so far some 4,000 youth have submitted applications for the programme. He asked the youth belonging to remote areas to fully benefit from the programme and get them registered at [www.bnip.gov.pk](http://www.bnip.gov.pk).

Similarly, he told that 961 students have so far joined the programme for scholarship offered by Google.



QUETTA: A delegation led by former Federal Secretary Sardar Ijaz Ahmed Jaffar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

## Desecration of Quran in Sweden hurts billions of Muslims: Talha

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal minister of religious affairs Senator Talha Mehmood said Holy Quran Desecration in Sweden is condemnable act.

Quran is our holy book and constitution/guideline of life, said religious minister.

He said insolence of Holy Quran in unacceptable in any condition.

Senator Talha said in his statement on Sweden incident that Quran is beacon for other religions. We respect all religions. We believe of freedom of speech but disrespecting sacred of any religion is completely intolerable. Country level protest will be lodged on the call of Prime Minister Shehbaz Shareef, said Talha Mehmood. He said Pakistani nation loves Islam and Quran and they are sacrifices their lives for it.

He also called JUI workers to take full part in this peaceful protest.

Issue will be highlighted on international level with this peaceful protest, he said own and others properties must not be damaged.

## Ejaz Sanjrani says Desecration of Holy Quran intolerable, condemn heinous act

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA (APP): Coordinator to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ejaz Sanjrani on Friday said that the 'Sweden incident' had hurt and insulted Muslims all over the world.

He expressed strong reaction to the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and said that such extremist and criminal acts

had hurt the religious and spiritual feelings of the Muslim Ummah. The incident appears to be part of a plan to create conflict and chaos aimed to sabotage the efforts for global peace, he said and added that the Muslim Ummah and the people of Pakistan strongly condemned this heinous act.

## Desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden conspiracy against Muslims: Vicky

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The member of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Vicky Manzoor Friday strongly condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden in a protest here to mark their resentment against the tragic incident.

He said the Christen community demanded from the UN to take immediate action against the culprits.

He said that desecration of Holy Quran in Swe-

den was conspiracy against Muslims living across the world.

Vicky said that unfortunately this was not the first incident, such heart-breaking incidents had already been reported earlier.

He said that the Charter of the United Nations advocated the respect and observance of human and fundamental rights without discrimination of race, sex, language or religion. "The right to freedom of expression must be exercised with responsibility," he demanded.



QUETTA: A protest demonstration being held by Balochistan Hindu Council and Hindu Panchayat Quetta against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.