

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol XXIV No 324, Zil Hajj 27, 1444 AH Sunday July 16, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

## Structural, economic reforms inevitable to cope with challenges, says PM Shehbaz

Blames circular debt for recent hike in electricity tariff, says it was a condition set by the IMF

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said on Saturday that there was no other way but to initiate drastic structural and economic reforms, for which unity, sacrifices and struggle of all stakeholders including business community was need of the hour, to face the prevailing challenges and steer Pakistan out of economic and other problems.

He expressed these views in a meeting with office-bearers of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and re-

nowned businessmen and industrialists here at Governor's House. Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman, LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mehmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt and a number of former LCCI presidents and business tycoons including Shahzad Ali Malik, Mian Misbahur Rehman, Almas Haider, Muhammad Ali Mian and Mian Anjum Nisar attended the meeting. Federal Finance Minister

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Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir in a meeting with Chief of General Staff for the Armed Forces of Iran Mohammad Bagheri

## COAS, Iran's top general discuss defence cooperation

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Chief of the Army Staff Gen Syed Asim Munir met Iran's top general, Mohammad Bagheri, in Tehran on Saturday and discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including defence cooperation.

Gen Munir reached the Iranian capital for a two-day visit on Friday where, an Inter-Services Public Relations' press release said, he would meet the Iranian military and civilian

leadership and discuss with them bilateral matters relating to defence and security cooperation.

Subsequently, he met Chief of General Staff for the Armed Forces of Iran Mohammad Bagheri on Saturday morning. Iran's state news agency IRNA reported.

The meeting was held with the aim of increasing bilateral interactions to expand military, educational, defence and security cooperation, the report said.

## Services of PDMA officers, staff applauded: PDMA officers worked round the clock to provide relief & rescue to masses: Zia

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home, Tribal Affairs and PDMA, Mir Ziaullah Langove has applauded the services of PDMA for the cause of provision of relief and rescue in the difficult times. He said that the PDMA



The Minister was addressing a ceremony held to acknowledge the services of PDMA officers here on Saturday.

The ceremony was also attended by the Senator Danesh Kumar, Secretary Finance, Zahid Saleem, former senior bureaucrat, Qamar Massod, Director General Levies, Naseebullah Kakar, Deputy Commissioner Kalat, Munir Ahmed Durrani, senior officers of PDMA and other concerned.

The Director General PDMA, Jahanzaib Khan welcomed the Minister and other guests at the PDMA.

Mir Ziaullah Langove noted with pleasure that we provided peace to the masses with support of the officers. He said that the services of officers and staff of PDMA are commendable and he is proud of his whole team.

Imran Gichki says

## All resources to be mobilized to promote hockey, bring before new talent in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Gichki has stated that all available resources would be mobilized for promotion of the national sport of hockey and bringing before the new talent in the province.

He said that hockey is the national sport of Pakistan and it has become world champion for several times. It is good omen that youth of the province have deep interest in playing hockey.

The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister was

speaking at the closing ceremony of the Prime Minister Talent Hunt Youth Sports League Hockey at the Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani hockey ground on Saturday afternoon.

He noted with contentment that the provincial sports department and Hockey Association are taking wholehearted steps for promotion of hockey.

He said that at the time when the hockey is on decline in the country, it is our utmost endeavor to promote hockey and make Balochistan hub of the national sport.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addresses a delegation of members of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and renowned businessmen

## Governor exhorts colleges' professors & lecturers to materialize dream of educated Balochistan

Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar urges teachers to pay focus on character building and morality of students along with studies

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the teachers are builders of our future and they can materialize the dream of an educated Balochistan.

He exhorted the professors and lecturers of the colleges to pay wholehearted attention on the character building and morality of the students along with their studies so that they may play their effective role in development and prosperity of the country and nation.

The Governor was addressing the oath taking ceremony of the Balochistan Professors and Lecturers

Association (BPLA) held at the Government Degree Girls College Quetta cantonment on Saturday evening.

Also present on the occasion were the leader of Opposition in Balochistan Assembly, Malik Sikandar Khan Advocate, Provincial Minister for Education, Mir Naseebullah Marri, MPAs Mir Muhammad Arif Muhammad Hassani, Asghar Khan Achakzai, former Speaker, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, former Minister, Maulvi Sarwar Nadeem, former Secretary Education, Lal Jan Jaffar, newly elected President of BPLA, Tariq Baloch, General Secretary, Abdul Razzaq Kakar and

others.

The Governor administered oath to the newly elected office bearers of BPLA.

He congratulated the newly elected office bearers of BPLA and hoped that they would play their pivotal role in resolving the issues of the fellow teachers and help achieve the goal of literate Balochistan in future.

The Governor said that oath taking is not merely a traditional custom, rather it is meant to perform one's responsibilities in befitting manner. He said that new avenues of development and construction are determined by following the oath taken.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar administering oath to newly elected cabinet of Professors & Lecturers Association

## PPP not to be part of election alliance with PDM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided against election alliance with the PDM, sources said on Saturday.

"People's Party will not be a part, if the Pakistan Democratic Movement will be turned into an election alliance," PPP sources quoted as saying. "An election alliance with the PDM will be a political liability," according to sources. An inner party consultation over general elections has been underway in the People's Party, sources said.

People's Party leadership has taken opinion within the party over a likely electoral alliance. "Most party leaders have been opposed to an alliance with the Pakistan Democratic Movement," sources said.

## PPP to promote industries in country: Bilawal

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Saturday said that his party would spread the industrial revolution starting from Karachi and Thatta to the whole country.

Addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (SEZ) project involve an investment of more than \$5 billion, to be built under Public Private Partnership, he said that his party's provincial government had started another milestone project.

He said that the SEZ would create more than 150,000 employment opportunities and help eradicate poverty and unemployment.

The foreign minister said that the Sindh government working under the leadership of Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah for welfare of the people adding "the masses has also seen the destruction in

the name of change".

Bilawal pointed out that PPP was criticized even then, when President Asif Ali Zardari was making frequent visits to China during his tenure, adding that at that time it was said that the visits of the president put a burden on the country's exchequer.

"Due to visits of then President Asif Ali Zardari, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project came into existence," he contended.

The minister said that Public-Private Partnership was the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, which was being carried forward by the Sindh government.

He said that projects like Karachi-Thatta Dual Carriageway, Jhirik Bridge on River Indus and Thar Coal Mining were completed ahead of schedule under PPP-mode, adding that the projects run by the Sindh government were recognized worldwide.



THATTA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari offers Dua after unveiling the plaque of the groundbreaking ceremony of Sindh Government flagship project Dhabeji Special Economic Zone at Dhabeji.

## Govt slashes petrol price by Rs9, HSD by Rs7

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday announced a reduction in the price of petrol by Rs9 per litre and by Rs7 per litre for high-speed diesel (HSD) for the next fortnight.

The new price of petrol is Rs253 per litre and Rs253.5 per litre for HSD.

The finance minister did not announce any changes in the price of kerosene oil or light-diesel oil.

## Navaz takes Fazal into confidence over meeting with Asif Zardari

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif has made telephonic contact with PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and the two exchanged views on overall political situation of the country and care taker set up.

Nawaz Sharif has taken Maulana Fazlur Rehman into confidence on his meeting with Asif Ali Zardari besides assuring to take him into confidence on all important political decisions.

According to media reports PML-N sources have said Nawaz Sharif has clarified to Maulana Fazlur Rehman about his meeting with Asif Ali Zardari in Dubai.

PML-N Quaid said we still are part of PDM. Consultation will be made on all the matters including care taker set up.

## Pak condemns permission for desecration of Torah, Bible in Sweden

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Saturday condemned the permission for public desecration of the Torah and Bible in Sweden.

In a statement, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said, "Offensive acts of religious hatred cannot be condoned in the guise of freedom of expression and opinion. As a religion of peace, Islam calls for respect for all religions, sacred personalities and holy scriptures."

"In line with this Islamic ethos, Pakistan has always stressed the need to advance mutual respect, harmony and peaceful co-existence among religions, faiths, and cultures. We call on the international community to condemn, with one voice, all such abhorrent acts of religious hatred, which hurt the sentiments of its followers and constitute deliberate incitement," she added.

## Road accident claims 3 lives in Lasbela

LASBELA (Online): At least 3 people were killed and 20 others injured after a coach overturned near Lasbela district.

According to media reports, a passenger coach on its way from Quetta to Karachi overturned near Lasbela district Balochistan due to overspeeding.

Three commuters died and 20 sustained injuries as a result of this incident.

## CJP calls for action on population management to secure resilient future

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan, Umar Ata Bandial, emphasized the importance of enforcing laws and policies related to population management.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony of the two-day national conference, titled "Resilient Pakistan: Calibrating Population and Resources," held in Islamabad, the Chief Justice highlighted the need to implement measures that promote effective population management in the country.

Acknowledging the existence of relevant laws and policies concerning fundamental rights, Chief Justice Bandial emphasized the necessity of enforcing them in both their written text and intended spirit. He emphasized the role of the judiciary in ensuring the implementation of these laws.

During his address, Chief Justice Bandial expressed satisfaction with the significant participation of women from diverse fields in the conference.

He stated that empowered and educated women are indispensable for the development of society. He further stressed the importance of safeguarding women's rights to life, health, education, and decision-making as a means to strengthen their position in society.

The two-day conference encompassed various thematic sessions where legal and human rights experts, academics, and civil society representatives assessed the progress made thus far in population management in Pakistan. Additionally, discussions revolved around vital interconnected topics such as women's empowerment, the enforcement of fundamental rights, and international perspectives on population growth.



ISLAMABAD: The organizing committee of the National Conference Resilient Pakistan Calibrating Population and Resources consisting of Mr Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan Mr Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Ms Justice Ayesha A.Malik alongwith Secretary Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan presenting souvenir to Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr Justice Umar Ata Bandial.

## 'Enough is enough': Asif tells Afghanistan to dismantle terrorist hideouts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Defense Minister Khawaja Asif on Saturday voiced grave concerns over the existence of safe havens for terrorists in Afghanistan, urging the Taliban government to take decisive action in dismantling these hideouts as they pose threats to Pakistan's sovereignty and security.

The concerns were voiced in the wake of recent military operations in the Zhob and Sui areas of Balochistan, where 12 soldiers of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while combating terrorist elements.

Defense Minister Asif took to Twitter to rebuke

the Afghan government, accusing for neglecting their duties as a neighboring and fraternal country.

He highlighted the long-standing support Pakistan has provided to Afghan refugees, hosting five to six million of them for several decades, ensuring their rights are intact. However, he criticised the fact that the very terrorists who have shed the blood of Pakistanis find refuge on Afghan soil.

Asserting that the ongoing situation could no longer persist, the minister stated that Pakistan would utilize all possible resources and measures to safeguard its territory and citizens.



LAHORE: Former President PPP Asif Ali Zardari calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Militants not to be let hijack vision of peaceful, prosperous Balochistan: Speakers

QUETTA (APP): The people of Balochistan, who are patriotic and real owners of the province, will not let militants hijack the vision of a peaceful and prosperous Balochistan.

These views were expressed by speakers at a "Symposium: Reconciliation, A Roadmap To Peaceful Balochistan" held here at Jamali Auditorium on Saturday.

Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar, Senator Sarfraz Bugti, Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau, Provincial Minister Zahoor Ahmed Buledi and Dr. Mir Sadaat participated in the event, which

was attended by over 100 civil society representatives, political leaders, religious scholars, lawyers and journalists.

Former Commander of the Baloch National Army Gulzar Imam Shambay, who has quit militancy, also attended the event aimed at highlighting the policy of Reconciliation in Balochistan and improving the situation in the province.

The speakers stressed that the resolution of Balochistan issues was possible through table talk.

They also welcomed as a "good omen" the participation of Gulzar Imam Shambay in the event.



## Pakistan to start 2023-24 int'l season in Galle today

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan is going to launch its busy, challenging and action-packed 2023-24 international cricket season with the first Test of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 against Sri Lanka in Galle, Sri Lanka on Sunday.

The second and last Test of the series will be played in Colombo from July 24.

Apart from the ICC World Test Championship matches, Pakistan is also scheduled to participate in the ACC Asia Cup, ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, and ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in the next 12 months. With all-format back-to-back international cricket lined up, a good and strong start in Galle is what Babar Azam and his side will be aiming for.

Galle was a venue where Pakistan and Sri Lanka have achieved mixed results. In the seven Tests to date, Sri Lanka has won four times (2009, 2012, 2014, and 2022), while Pakistan has won three — by an innings and 163 runs (2000), 10 wickets (2015) and four wickets (2022).

When Pakistan last

won in Galle 12 months ago, the tourists chased down the 342-run target for the loss of six wickets with Abdullah Shafique scoring a memorable 160 not out and Babar Azam following



up his 119 in the first innings with 55.

Amongst the bowlers, Shaheen Shah Afridi took four wickets in the first innings before he was injured during the second innings and was ruled out of further participation. However, the best bowling figures of five for 88 from Mohammad Nawaz and Yasir Shah's three for 122 combined in the second innings to share wickets.

From the current squad, 13 players were part of the side that toured Sri Lanka 12 months ago. The three newcomers are all-

rounder Aamir Jamal, mystery-spinner Abrar Ahmed and middle-order batter Mohammad Huraifa.

"Really excited to be back in red-ball format and all eyes are on the Galle

Shaheen Shah Afridi. Besides his wicket-taking abilities, his presence always motivates and lifts the side. I know Shaheen has badly missed red-ball cricket and is now hungry for Test cricket."

Shaheen was sitting on 99 Test wickets and will aim to become the fourth fastest Pakistan fast bowler to complete a century of wickets. He could have achieved this feat last year had he not been sidelined due to a knee injury.

Shan Masood, Babar Azam and Saud Shakeel scored half-centuries, while Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Abrar Ahmed and Aamir Jamal took wickets against the SLC Board XI in Hambantota.

Test as we are prepared and ready for the challenge," Pakistan captain Babar Azam said, adding: "We are taking one step at a time, but we have to be consistent across all formats. One of the positives going into the Galle Test is 13 of our players were here 12 months ago. Abrar Ahmed has identified himself as a good option in our combination. I am sure this tour will be a good learning curve for him as we have high hopes for him in this and future series."

"I am particularly pleased with the return of

## Senate's EPC takes bold steps for empowering country's future

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senator Sana Jamali chaired that the 1st meeting of the Senate's Education Parliamentarians' Caucus (EPC) held in Conference Room at the EPC Secretariat on Saturday.

The members of the Education Parliamentarians' Caucus during the meeting unanimously adopted the Terms of References (ToRs), paving the way for the operationalization of the caucus.

Senator Sana Jamali emphasized the constitutional obligation of the State to provide free and compulsory education for all children. She passionately spoke about the caucus's primary objective, which is to instill a strong sense of the value of education within society and make it accessible to underprivileged communities.

Additionally, the Convener of the Caucus shared details about the upcoming 'National Education Seminar: Empowering Pakistan's Future', scheduled for July 20th, organized by the EPC, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Senator Fawzia Arshad appreciated the initiative of the caucus and expressed that the EPC will be working

with collective good will of the education sector across the Pakistan.

The members of the Caucus also adopted the Rules of the Caucus, needful for the smooth functioning of the caucus business.

Senator Sana Jamali highlighted that the Education Parliamentarians' Caucus consists of four members from the Senate of Pakistan, four members from the National Assembly, three members from civil society, and one representative from each province. In a strategic move to ensure sustained support for educational projects nationwide, the caucus announced the establishment of a dedicated fund called 'EPC-Fund', registered with the EPC. The sole purpose of this fund will be to provide financial backing for sustainable education initiatives across the country.

Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman was unanimously elected as the Treasurer of the Caucus, responsible for managing the fund's resources.

He viewed the caucus as the central point for overseeing the education sector through the lens of equitable distribution of resources among the masses.

## PM resolves to help Old Ravian Union in welfare projects

LAHORE (APP): The newly elected office bearers of Old Ravian Union called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Saturday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar who was an alumni of Government College University were performing important roles in different walks of life.

The office bearers said it was a matter of pride for them that the prime minister himself was educated at

the Government College. The prime minister cheerfully remembered the teachers and students of his student life days.

He expressed resolve to provide all possible support to the Old Ravian Union in its projects for spread of education and welfare of people.

The delegation of the Old Ravians presented a commemorative shield and photograph to the prime minister.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar inaugurating College Teachers Welfare Scheme on eve of oath taking ceremony of Professors & Lecturers Association



QUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langko listening problems of people

## Severe heat wave in various parts of country, power shortfall reaches 6524MW

ISLAMABAD (Online): Severe heat wave continues in different parts of country.

Power shortfall reached 6524 megawatts. According to power division, the overall production of electricity is 19476 megawatts.

The requirement of electricity is 26000 megawatts. Load shedding is being done till 12 hours across country.

The production of hydroelectricity is 6803 megawatts.

Government thermal power plants are generating 615 megawatts of electricity.

The power plants of private sectors are generating 7572 megawatts of electricity.

The production of electricity by wind power plants is 1290 megawatts.

The production of electricity by solar power plants is 117 megawatts.

82 megawatts of electricity is being generated by bagasse.

The production of electricity by nuclear power plants is 2997 megawatts.

## Punjab apex body reviews security arrangements in province

LAHORE (INP): A meeting of the provincial apex committee was held at the Punjab Chief Minister House in Lahore on Saturday to review security arrangements in the province.

The meeting was jointly presided over by Chief Minister Syed Moinuddin Khan and Punjab Corps Commander Lieutenant General Syed Amir Raza.

The forum reviewed the progress made on the decisions taken during the last meeting of the apex committee in February 2023.

The participants took a comprehensive look at the progress on the revised National Action Plan (NAP) and overall security related issues including the Punjab Safe City Project.

During the meeting, major damage to Safe City Project installations/equip-

ment due to vandalism on May 9, 2023 was highlighted and the subsequent remedial measures were also discussed.

Besides this, the participants reviewed the elaborated security measures during upcoming Moharram-ul-Haram.

The forum was also briefed on the close cooperation and joint response of the civil administration and the armed forces to mitigate the difficulties arising from the floods.

The forum expressed satisfaction over the measures taken in the province to protect foreigners, especially Chinese nationals, including those working in the CPEC projects.

The committee resolved to continue to work in concert to defeat terrorism and achieve common goals in the light of the NAP.

## PM approves 3 years extension in service to ADGIB

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has accorded approval to extension in service to Fawad Asad Ullah Khan Additional Director General (ADG) Intelligence Bureau (IB).

Sources said extension in service has been given for three years.

Asad Ullah Khan was appointed as DG IB soon after extension was granted.

Establishment division has issued notification.

## France should ask India to end HR violations in IIOJK: Ali Raza

BRUSSELS (INP): The Chairman of Kashmir Council Europe (KCEU), Ali Raza Syed, has urged France to ask India to end human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and give the Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

Ali Raza Syed in a statement issued in Brussels while commenting on the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris said, France and other world powers know that the Modi government is involved in severe violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir and different parts of India.

He strongly reacted to the conferring of Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, France's highest civilian and military award, to Narendra Modi. He said, the Indian Prime Minister does not deserve it because the violence against minorities in India increased since his ascension to power in 2014.



QUETTA: MPA Shakela Naveed Dehwar, Musa Baloch, Ghulam Nabi Marri and others sitting on stage during a condolence reference for Shuhada-e-Balochistan organized Balochistan National Party

## Continued from page 1

Ishaq Dar participated in the meeting through video-link while high-ups of various departments were also present. The PM said the government was taking all possible measures for promotion of industry and agriculture; however, in the given circumstances and in the face of grave challenges, industrialists and business community would have to play their role even more actively for enhancing exports and stabilising the economy.

He said that industrialists and business community had vast experience in production and they were playing a pivotal role in the country's economy. The business community should also consider the facts that despite having rich resources, why Pakistan's economy was unable to achieve the desired targets and its full potential, he said, citing that Bangladesh textile sector totally rely on imported cotton, but it was developing fast and gaining a niche in the global market, while Pakistan's textile was losing competition in the export markets. He asserted that Pakistan had been producing 14-billion-cotton bales, but today, it had decreased to mere five-billion bales and it was a collective failure.

"We are living in a regime where industry has become nothing but rental income, as we are not ready to face challenges or to adopt modern technology," he regretted and added that

## Structural, economic ....

support and subsidies from the government had not been materialised properly," he observed.

The prime minister recalled that as the Punjab chief minister, he had constructed farm-to-market roads in the province with a cost of Rs 100 billion, and these roads should have been constructed through the Sugarcane Cuss Fund. He added that in 1990, the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif had started economic reforms, which produced the best results, and the other countries also adopted that reforms model and progressed. He said that the developmental projects, initiated by Nawaz Sharif during his tenure, were delayed and their costs increased by 30 to 40 billion rupees, which could be spent on research centres of various crops and industrial sectors development.

Shehbaz Sharif said that the government was well aware of the problems being faced by industrialists and businessmen, asserting that no government could alone make a difference, but with an active support of business community. He called upon the industrialist and business community to play their due part and support the government's initiatives aimed at promoting R&D (Research and Development), ensuring low cost of production; curbing power theft and tax evasion.

He also stressed the need for promoting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which was backbone of the economy, citing that Japan, Germany, South Korea, China and other developed countries achieved hallmarks on economic front just by focusing on the SMEs sector. He said that SMEs sector deserved the most for loans but the major industrial sector took away those loans and now they should tell the nation that how much exports they had enhanced.

(SMEs) which was backbone of the economy, citing that Japan, Germany, South Korea, China and other developed countries achieved hallmarks on economic front just by focusing on the SMEs sector. He said that SMEs sector deserved the most for loans but the major industrial sector took away those loans and now they should tell the nation that how much exports they had enhanced.

## Police officers, clerics gather in Khayaban-e-Sir Syed for Muharram Security

RAWALPINDI (APP): A Peace Caravan including senior police officers and respected religious scholars gathered at Khayaban-e-Sir Syed to establish peace and security during Muharram-ul-Haram under the direction of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani here on Saturday.

According to the Rawalpindi Police spokesperson, SP Rawal Faisal Saleem, DSP Security Mirza Tahir Sikander, Assistant Commissioner Suddar, along with SHO Pirwadhai, participated in the peace caravan.

The peace caravan included Hafiz Iqbal Rizvi, Peer Azhar Shah Bukhari, Peer Riaz Hussain Shah, Allama Zahid Hussain Kazmi, Qazi Abdul Shakoor, Hafiz Qasim Ayub, Shaikat Jafri, Atiqur Rahman Shah, Saïen Ajaz, Yaser Iqbal Rizvi, Tahir Taj Bhatti, Mufti Qasim, Chaudhry Abdul Majid, and other members.

A meeting was held at the Islamic Education Institution on Khayaban-e-Sir Syed to ensure peace and security during Muharram-ul-Haram.

The esteemed scholars stated that the senior police officers and respected

scholars have gathered in the peace caravan, and as always, this year too, the message of brotherhood, love, and respect would be disseminated during Muharram-ul-Haram.

"It is our duty to make our country a haven of peace and security," they said.

SP Rawal Faisal Saleem expressed his gratitude to the CPO Rawalpindi for mobilizing the peace caravan.

"Together, we will establish exemplary peace during Muharram-ul-Haram through the cooperation of scholars and worshippers.

The cooperation of scholars and worshippers will ensure the implementation of the orders of the Punjab government and the SOPs," he said.

At the end of the meeting, prayers were offered for the protection and safety of the nation, and a commitment was made to take every possible step to create an atmosphere of love and unity.

Meanwhile, the Rawalpindi Police conducted successful operations and arrested three wanted criminals in different cases.



QUETTA: Coordinator of Balochistan Chief Minister Musa Jan giving away honorary shield to Public Relations officer Adeel Ahmed



QUETTA: Member National Commissioner for Human Rights Balochistan Farkhanda Aurangzeb and Central Secretary General Pakistan Central Mines Labour Federation Sultan Muhammad Khan photographed with participants of working on "Job Training on Safe Mining"

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## Minister commends AIOU's role in promoting education in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Saturday said that improving the country's education quality is our top priority.

While addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony of the academic block of AIOU regional centre Sheikhupura yesterday, he said that we will train the teachers to raise the quality of education across the country.

"It's good to hear Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) ranked first in quality of education in Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood and all the faculty members of the univer-

sity deserve congratulations," said the minister.

He said that Allama Iqbal Open University is playing an important role in popularizing education, training teachers, and improving quality education in the country.

He said that education plays a key role in the development of any country, and we must focus on merit, transparency, and quality. The Minister said that Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood is one of the best educationists of Pakistan and under his leadership, AIOU is promoting education in the entire country, and I hope that the number of out-of-school children will de-

crease significantly with these efforts. He directed to complete the construction of the regional centre Sheikhupura as soon as possible so that the students of the area can get education at their doorstep.

Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that AIOU is on a mission to expand the educational network and construct its own campus buildings.

He added that AIOU is also bringing out-of-school children into the educational network with the support of various institutions. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that as per the desire of the Federal Minister of Education, AIOU will pro-

vide free education to the students of Sheikhupura who get more than 80 percent marks and in addition, a special fund will be allocated for scholarships for the deserving students of the area. He also announced to establish an examination center in Narang Mandi.

Director General, Pakistan Institute of Education, Dr. Shahid Saroya, Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmad Khan, Assistant Regional Director Sheikhupura, Javed Iqbal and different social and political personalities also attended the event and appreciated the efforts of AIOU in promoting education in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of Climate Change of Pakistan Sherry Rehman, Ambassador of France to Pakistan Nicolas Galey, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony Muhammad Talha Mahmood, CEO Serena Aziz Boolani and others posing for a group photo graph along with others after event regarding the National Day of France at the residence of France Ambassador on 14 July in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan visiting Pakistan's first National Police Hospital site.

## Confucius Institutes in Pak-an important role to spread Chinese culture

ISLAMABAD (INP): "The Confucius Institutes in Pakistan are critical and will have an important role to spread Chinese culture and to enhance understanding between our countries; Similarly, Urdu language centers and Pakistan Study Centers in China are playing a similar role."

This was stated by Mumtaz Zehra Baloch, Spokesperson and Additional Foreign Secretary at Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was Chief Guest at Silk Road Cultural Forum themed on "China-Pakistan Civilization Exchanges and Mutual Learning" organized by the Pakistan-China Institute, Islamabad, in collaboration with China Study Centre, COMSATS University, Islamabad, according to a Gwadar Pro's report on Saturday.

She said that the world has become increasingly in-

terconnected and Pakistan, China, and the entire continent were becoming more and more interlinked with connectivity projects, and "this is the pure magic of ancient Silk Road".

According to Mumtaz Baloch, the five major goals of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) include connectivity, people-to-people exchanges and contacts which are critical for understanding and mutual cooperation between countries and people. She said that Pakistan and China's relations were based on mutual respect and understanding.

"This is a prime example of friendship between two countries which have different cultures, languages, civilizations and even religions," Baloch said, adding that this relation has prospered over the last seven decades and has taken root in the hearts of our people.

## Two wanted members of car lifter gang held; five stolen vehicles recovered

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Vehicle Lifting Unit (AVLU) of Islamabad Capital Police has arrested two wanted members of car lifter gang and recovered five stolen vehicles from their possession, a Police Public Relation Officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directions, special tasks were assigned to SSP Investigation and teams were constituted under the supervision of Incharge Anti Vehicle Lifting Unit (AVLU) to ensure effective action against those involved in car theft activities.

The police teams used technical and human re-

sources and succeeded in apprehending two wanted members of the car lifters gang and recovered five stolen vehicles from their possession. The car lifters were identified as Aamir Hussain and Muhammad Waqas.

During the preliminary investigation, the accused have revealed that they committed several crimes in various areas of Islamabad, Rawalpindi and other districts. Numerous cases were already registered against the accused and further investigation is underway.

CPO/DIG (Operations) Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari has appreciated this performance of AVLU police team and directed to enhance vigilance to curb car lifting incidents.

He also requested citizens to assist police in curbing crime as successful policing is not possible without the cooperation of citizens.



ISLAMABAD: Families are enjoying at Japanese Children Park during pleasant weather after rain in Federal Capital.

## IHC grants bail to Qureshi in May 9 vandalism case

ISLAMABAD (NNI): A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Saturday accepted bail application of former foreign minister and PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the May 9 vandalism case.

Additional Sessions Judge Syed Muhammad Haroon Shah heard the May 9 mayhem case registered against the PTI vice chairman in the Khana police station in Islamabad.

During hearing, Qureshi's lawyer Ali Bukhari completed his arguments. However, the court also announced a break in the case hearing till the arrival of the public prosecutor.

Later, Qureshi appeared before the court and completed his attendance.

The lawyer told the court that Qureshi was accused of instigating the violent protest. But the PTI VC was neither present at the scene nor gave any statement.

## Strict action against e-challan defaulters continues

ISLAMABAD (INP): According to the details, following the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the e-challan tickets were issued from Safe City Islamabad to all vehicle owners who violated traffic rules with the help of Safe City automatic number plate reader (ANPR) cameras. Several challan were issued to the drivers for repeatedly violating the traffic rules. In case of non-submission of challan, the vehicles were traced and impounded in the police stations with the help of modern technology brief cam alerts and safe city cameras in Safe City.

Due to these measures e-challan defaulters submitted 129 challan worth more than 36 thousand rupees. The remaining defaulters are being informed through phone calls and on the official website of Islamabad.

## CDA actions against illegal water connection

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the instructions of the Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), under the leadership of the Deputy Director General Water Management Wing, action had taken against illegal water supply connections on Saturday.

In Bari Imam and Quaid-e-Azam University disconnect about forty more illegal water supply connections. A few of these connections were re-connected, said a news release.

A total of around 150 connections have been cut and issued orders on the occasion of filing the First Investigation Reports (FIRs) and imposing heavy fines against those who have made illegal connections again.

For the past several months, the water supply to Islamabad was affected due to illegal connections, and the water pressure in the sectors of Islamabad was drastically reduced and the number of complaints was increased on a daily

basis. Because of the number of illegal connections, the pressure in the lines of the small dam was reduced and the quantity of water was not reaching the big tanks of Islamabad while civilian sectors of Islamabad were getting affected. Since starting against these connections, the pressure drop in the main water line has decreased somewhat. On this occasion, the Deputy DG Water Management issued strict instructions to the staff that all remaining illegal connections should be disconnected immediately and continued full action against them. All connections should be severed especially on Bahra Kahu and Simli Road. The water connections should be given only as per the approved and minimum requirements of the rural area. Residents are also requested to use less water in avoiding washing cars and floors. In case of violation, water supply staff will immediately issue a challan and registered FIRs as well.

## Kashmiri to never accept Aug 05, 2019 illegal actions of Indian govt: Prof Soz

ISLAMABAD (APP): A senior leader of the Indian National Congress in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Prof Saifuddin Soz on Saturday said that the Kashmiris would never ever accept the August 05, 2019, illegal and unconstitutional actions of the Narendra Modi-led Indian government.

According to Kashmir media service (KMS), Prof Saifuddin Soz in a statement said, "The Kashmiri people have made it clear that the ordinance issued by the Indian government on August 5, 2019, which repealed the special status of

IIOJK, was illegal and unconstitutional."

"The order will never ever be acceptable to the general run of Kashmiris," he said. Prof Soz said that restoration of Statehood was not the main demand of the people of the occupied territory. He said, "A group of so-called Kashmiri politicians has now come into the open by suggesting the restoration of the statehood as the main demand of the people." "This is, however, not the main demand, that is why some people have gone to the Supreme Court of India to appeal against the Indian government's Ordinance issued on August 5, 2019.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) are busy in giving final touch to the newly constructed Bara Kaho Interchange to meet the dead line for inaugurating by PM in Federal Capital.

## Downpour pounds twin cities, Peshawar

ISLAMABAD (INP): The twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad like other parts of upper Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa received heavy rain on Saturday, inundating low-lying areas and paralyzing routine life.

As the second spell of monsoon season is affecting the upper and central regions of Pakistan, the downpour started early in the morning in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar, and the adjoining areas of Punjab.

The Met Office says 52mm of rain was recorded in the city area of Peshawar and 37mm at Bacha Khan Airport by 8am during the past 24 hours. However, rain continued even after that.

But the heaviest of rainfall was reserved for Islamabad and Rawalpindi for the second consecutive day where the administration had to declare rain emergency, forcing the use of

machinery to pump out water from the submerged roads and localities. The downpour continued for several hours and continued till noon.

According to the Met Office, Shamsabad had received 79mm of rain followed by 62mm at Katcheri and 39mm at Chaklala areas of Rawalpindi during the past 24 hours till 8am. The amount of rain recorded at Zero Point, Bokra and Saidpur in Islamabad was 57mm, 39mm and 26mm respectively.

Meanwhile, various parts of Lahore too were lashed by heavy to moderate rain on Saturday afternoon - the city which has so far experienced two record-breaking days of rain this season.

The Met Office says rain and thundershowers are expected in upper Punjab, Islamabad, Pothohar region, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and northeast Balochistan on

## IRSA releases 300,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 300,900 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 316,200 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1515.79 feet and was 117.79 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 149,100 cusecs and 180,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1203.00 feet, which was 153.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 56,200 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 190,500, 186,600, 153,700 and 87,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 38,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 44,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

## Construction work of Pakistan's first National Police Hospital starts

ISLAMABAD: The construction work of Pakistan's inaugural National Police Hospital has commenced, marking a significant milestone in the country's healthcare infrastructure.

Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan personally visited the hospital site, urging swift progress on the project.

Recently, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif laid the foundation stone for the 100-bed hospital, emphasizing its importance for the police force.

The construction of Pakistan's first National Police Hospital, a groundbreaking initiative, has begun with ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan overseeing the project's early stages.

The state-of-the-art hospital is set to accommodate 100 beds, catering specifically to the capital police of Islamabad.

Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan

personally inspected the hospital site located in Police Lines, assessing the ongoing construction progress and issuing instructions to contractors to expedite the work.

The total estimated cost for the comprehensive construction of the National Police Hospital amounts to Rs. 6,479.879 million.

A budget allocation of Rs 1,197 million has been secured during the financial year 2023-24 to ensure timely completion.

This nine-storey architectural marvel will feature modern facilities, including air ambulances, to serve the medical needs of the police force.

The hospital will be equipped with 12 emergency beds, 10 orthopedic beds, 15 cardiology beds, six surgical ICU beds, six cardiac ICU beds, 14 surgical beds, 15 general medicine beds, eight neurology beds, five medical ICU beds, four cardiac care units, and five beds for weapon injuries and physiotherapy.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) are busy in giving final touch to the newly constructed Bara Kaho Interchange to meet the dead line for inaugurating by PM in Federal Capital.

## Chief Executive of Saudi Arabia Cricket meets with Zaka

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Zaka Ashraf has met with Chief Executive of Saudi Arabia Cricket Federation Tariq Sagar.

Pakistan will help Saudi Arabia to improve and develop cricket skills.

According to media reports, during the meeting held in ICC sidelines, the promotion of cricket in Saudi Arabia and cricket-related matters were discussed.

Zaka Ashraf said that Pakistan will help bring betterment and promote cricket in Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy long standing brotherly relations.

## IPP leaders contradict report on resigning from cabinet

ISLAMABAD (Online): Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leaders Aun Chaudhry and Noman Langrial have contradicted the reports about quitting federal cabinet by them.

According to media reports these two IPP leaders will remain part of federal cabinet. IPP Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Tareen has not directed the two leaders to resign from cabinet.

Jahangir Tareen has said IPP believes in political stability and it is responsible party.

## National Day of France celebrated in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The French Embassy in Pakistan celebrated the National Day with a grand event that witnessed the participation of government officials, diplomats from various countries, members of the media, and individuals from diverse segments of society.

Addressing the event, the Ambassador of France to Pakistan, Nicolas Galey acknowledged the positive trajectory of bilateral relations between France and Pakistan and expressed gratitude to various sectors within Pakistan, including government departments, businesses, cultural institutions, and the media, for their active and positive contributions in strengthening these ties.

The mutual cooperation and progress achieved in these areas exemplify the ongoing positive engagement between France and Pakistan, signifying a successful resolution to a challenging period, the envoy added.

The ambassador particularly highlighted the notable increase in the number of Pakistani students studying in France through university cooperation programs.

Furthermore, he said, "France's development agency has been actively engaged in major infrastructure projects in Pakistan, with a recent focus on the crucial agriculture sector, as prioritized by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif."

## 8 held, huge amount of drugs recovered in six operations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations countrywide on Saturday, arrested eight accused and recovered over 127 kg of drugs from their possession. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an operation, 45.6 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near M-1 Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad. During the operation, three suspects including a woman, residents of Peshawar and Lahore were rounded up.

In the second operation, 600 grams of hashish

were recovered from the possession of an accused, a resident of Jhelum arrested near Turkai Toll Plaza on Sohawa Jhelum road.

In the third operation, 24 kg opium and 42 kg hashish concealed in a rickshaw were recovered near Jaranwala Faisalabad. An accused resident of Faisalabad was also netted. In the fourth operation, 12 kg hashish was recovered from the accused resident of Quetta nabbed near Main Super Highway Karachi. In the fifth operation, 735 grams of heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for the UK at the head office of the courier company.



Sunday July 16, 2023

**An opportunity?**

With several important questions still hanging over the upcoming election, the prime minister has an opportunity to do some lasting good.

On Thursday, Shehbaz Sharif reiterated his government's intention to pack up and hand the reins over to a caretaker set-up upon the expiry of its term in August, yet offered little indication of when and how the handover process will begin.

With just four weeks remaining in the 15th National Assembly's tenure, the legally required consultations that must take place between the prime minister and opposition leader in the National Assembly over candidates for the caretaker government have yet to begin.

The nation waits with bated breath to know who will be ruling while the political parties campaign, and for how long. The names of several controversial characters have been doing the rounds, and it is with quiet trepidation that many have been speculating the actual 'mandate' of the interim set-up that will be announced.

Given the absence of any real opposition in the National Assembly, the consultation process, at the moment, appears to be a mere formality. The opposition leader, a PTI turncoat keen on securing a ticket from another political party, is unlikely to have any strong or independent opinions on the matter.

In any case, the PML-N and PPP seem to have already discussed, if not decided, the nominees between themselves during a recent huddle in Dubai. Must it be so, though?

The appointment of any individual whose credentials are not beyond reproach would mark the first step towards a questionable election, the implications and consequences of which will be impossible for the next government to escape.

On the other hand, this could also be an opportunity for Mr Sharif to salvage his rather troubled first stint as the country's chief executive.

The outgoing prime minister has already redeemed himself somewhat by ensuring a degree of economic stability with the last-minute IMF deal. He can now end his first government on an even stronger note if he can bring back some political stability before wrapping up.

To this end, Mr Sharif must consider convening a multi-party conference to take a joint decision regarding the caretaker set-up. Doing so could be the coup de grâce to what has been a dark and regrettable chapter in the country's political history.

Of course, he has no compulsion to do so: the PTI abdicated its right to have a say in the matter when its members resigned en masse from the National Assembly last year. But Mr Sharif has a legacy to consider.

He leads one of Pakistan's largest political parties and should not call curtains on his government looking like a villain. The upcoming elections should promise a fresh start, not the rerun of an already failed experiment.



Pervaz Hoodbhoy

Last week, at the invitation of the Ministry of Mujahideen, I attended five days of pomp and pageantry celebrating heroes of the Algerian War of Independence (1954-1962). Those remembered in the historic city of Algiers included a highly unusual 'Friend of the Revolution'. That 'Friend' now rests in peace in Islamabad. Eqbal Ahmad is, to my knowledge, the sole Pakistani who fought to liberate Algeria from French rule.

Born in Bihar, Eqbal was a young boy when his family migrated to Pakistan in 1948. Soon after studying at Forman Christian College (Lahore) he won a scholarship for graduate studies at Princeton University. His PhD dissertation was formally a study of labour movements in North

**Algeria honours Eqbal Ahmad**

Africa but, in fact, he travelled there to fight French imperial rule. Through the struggle, he grew close to top leaders of Algeria's FLN. In 1961, he was briefly arrested in Paris and beaten by the French police for supporting the rights of Algerian workers.

In those days, Algerian revolutionaries fleeing France's police dragnet often sought exile in nearby Tunisia. While living there Eqbal developed many close friendships. I recall his mentioning among others, Houari Boumediene (later Algeria's second president) and Ferhat Abbas (the head of state in exile). Appointed as a member of the Algerian Revolutionary Council, Eqbal was among those who researched the script of the Battle of Algiers, the classic film of the revolution. He was present while it was filmed.

According to his friend and biographer, Prof Stuart Schaar of CUNY (Brooklyn College), Eqbal frequently met with the revolutionary Belcazem Krim (assassinated in Frankfurt in 1970) and others. Through them he learned much about how they organised the uprising.

But keeping alive the spirit of liberation was a still greater challenge.

The revolution was getting corrupted. Ben Bella, who later became Algeria's first president, was cutting corners and using underhand methods to suppress political rivals. Schaar, who was then present, recalls that Eqbal was on the podium when he confronted Ben Bella — whom he had never met earlier — and, risking arrest, shouted that he had betrayed the revolution.

Upon returning to the US and submitting his PhD thesis in 1964, Eqbal maintained his connections with Algerian comrades. But this peripatetic had barely begun his journey. Eqbal's closest friend, Edward Said (who died in 2003), described the rest wonderfully.

It was, Said wrote, "an epic and poetic one, full of wanderings, border crossings, and an almost instinctive attraction to liberation movements, movements of the oppressed and the persecuted, causes of people who were not fairly punished — whether they lived in the great metropolitan centres of Europe and

America, or in the refugee camps, besieged cities, and bombed or disadvantaged villages of Bosnia, Chechnya, south Lebanon, Vietnam, Iraq, Iran and, of course, the Indian subcontinent".

Counted among the very first opponents of America's war in Vietnam, Eqbal gained national fame and notoriety for his brilliant writings and tactics. A nervous American government indicted him in a spectacular 1970 trial, along with the Berrigan brothers, of a conspiracy to kidnap Henry Kissinger and blow up the heating system of the Pentagon. In later years, Eqbal would relate with great gusto — often sending his listeners into fits of laughter — events surrounding the trial and the FBI's futile attempts to nab him and his friends.

Ostracised by most of the American academic community for his passionate advocacy of Palestinian rights, Eqbal remained an itinerant professor at several US universities for much of his life. He recalled that his colleagues at Cornell University chose to stand elsewhere rather than sit with him at the same caf-

eteria table.

With a strong memory for events and people, an uncanny ability to quickly grasp the essence of a political situation, and a large circle of contacts that kept him informed, Eqbal achieved a reputation for prescience. Invited by Yasser Arafat to the Palestinian Council, he demurred. Instead, he bluntly warned Arafat in 1982 that firing Katyusha rockets from south Lebanon into Israel would achieve nothing beyond brutal Israeli retaliation. He was proved tragically correct.

Eqbal's message to the Arabs was that they must learn to live with a democratised Israel, abandon exclusionary ideologies of Arab nationalism and Islamic extremism, and develop movements of mass resistance instead of terror tactics. Jerusalem as the capital of Israel was unacceptable but so was the control of all holy places by any one contender. An ancient heritage must be shared by Arab and Jew, and its protection should be a joint responsibility as well.

A lifelong involvement with Algeria, Palestine, Pa-

kistan, and India, led Eqbal to a firm position on Muslim causes. Values, knowledge, aesthetics, and style, he said, was what had defined the Islamic civilisation and invested it with greatness. But those who glorify the past and seek to recreate it invariably fail while those who view it comprehensively and critically are able to draw on the past in meaningful and lasting ways. In Pakistan, said Eqbal, Islam has been a convenient refuge for troubled and weak leaders. While the country suffers from a protracted crisis of leadership, promises of an 'Islamic state' serve to distract attention away from core issues. To quote Noam Chomsky, another of Eqbal's friends, Eqbal saw the postcolonial state as "a bad version of the colonial one", with the same structure of "a centralised power, a paternalistic bureaucracy, and an alliance of the military and landed notables". The new elite are the inheritors of the old: the propertied classes, the intelligentsia, the bourgeoisie that are "as heartless in its lack of concern for the poor, in some ways even more so, as the colonial state". -- Courtesy Dawn

**How to appoint a judge to the SC**

Salar Rashid

If you wander far enough into Shenandoah Valley, you might find yourself in an orchard brimming with plum trees, their bare branches twisting and writhing in odd angles.

These aberrant existences have fought — and lost — against nature itself, the cruel touch of wind compelling them to submit and grow in unnatural ways. Scientists have a name for this phenomenon: thigmomorphogenesis, the tendency of plants to alter their growth patterns in response to mechanical forces.

Sixteen years ago, our judiciary underwent their own version of thigmomorphogenesis. The political tempest created by Musharraf's suspension of former CJ Iftikhar Chaudhary, and the Lawyers Movement that followed, injected a unique brand of

tribalism into the legal fraternity. It became near-universally accepted that the interests of the judiciary and of various bar associations were to be guarded jealously, even if said interests undermined the administration of justice.

Our superior courts are the victims of a vicious siege mentality, wherein the existential threats to their interests come from without, not from within. More specifically, the process for judicial appointments to the Supreme Court is a warped, reactionary byproduct of executive overreach. The current process doesn't merely frustrate the objective of elevating deserving individuals to the SC but undermines the very credibility of the Court, and therefore, the judicial orders that flow from it. No number of 'My Lord' (s) uttered in court, no appending of 'Honourable' before one's name, can possibly erase the stain of partisanship from Our Lordships' robes.

Some of Pakistan's sharpest legal minds have offered their thoughts on how the process for judicial appointments can be reformed. While perspectives differ, there is broad consensus on two issues: (a) the

process is inadequate as it currently stands, and (b) there is a need to structure the JCP's discretionary powers.

The debate has largely been divided into two camps. For clarity, let us refer to one camp as that of the proponents of the 'seniority rule', and the other as that of those in favour of 'elevation-by-merit'. The former proposes that the senior-most nominee should be selected for elevation, while the latter proposes that members of the JCP should evaluate whether the nominees deserve elevation on individual merit. This bifurcation, at face value, seems to suggest that those belonging to the former camp hold that seniority is a suitable metric to determine elevation. In truth, even the more ardent supporters of the seniority rule accept that seniority is only a desirable determinative tip in the absence of a transparent, structured, quantifiable process.

In view of the upcoming vacancy and the controversy SC appointments have attracted historically, it seems prudent to ask: what can be done to improve the process of judicial appointments?

I submit that four key

elements must be reformed: (a) the nomination process; (b) the composition of the JCP; (c) the unwritten rules; and (d) the factors used as proxies for 'merit' and the weightage given to them. Let's tackle the big one right out of the gate.

As it currently stands, all individuals to be considered for elevation are nominated by the CJP — irrespective of who eventually ends up being elevated, all of them have the blessing of the CJP. It is this rule that represents, by far, the greatest hurdle in ensuring the legitimacy of judicial appointments.

Nothing in the constitution disallows each member of the JCP from nominating candidates on their own, and for good reason — if we are to accept that the members of the JCP can be trusted to vote on the candidates that appear before them, we should extend that trust to the nomination process too. Each member of the JCP should nominate a candidate, and if said nomination is seconded by another member, the nominee should qualify for consideration.

Though this will undoubtedly serve to make the process more complicated, that isn't a negative. The friction incidental to such a sys-

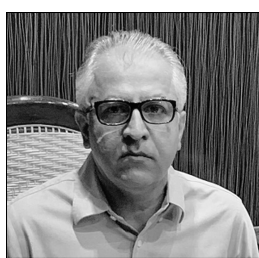
tem will limit the chances of only the 'like-minded' being considered, making the system more reliant on the collective wisdom of the JCP. Frankly, the process should be complicated. A justice of the SC wields immense power: developing jurisprudence that echoes in a hundred courtrooms, present and future. Their judgments have the potential to fundamentally alter the way over two hundred million of our countrymen lead their lives. To make their selection easy would be an act of injustice itself.

Next, consider the composition of the JCP. At the time of writing, the JCP consists of the chief justice, four senior-most members of the SC, a former justice of the SC, the federal law minister, the attorney general of Pakistan, and a representative of the Pakistan Bar Council. If you're looking for a common denominator for all of them, beyond that they all belong to the legal fraternity, it is that they are men. From the highest courts of the land to the masses of lawyers pleading before the lower courts, there is a dearth of diversity.

Consider. Beyond the honorifics and pristine

robes, judges are still human, with human limitations and human idiosyncrasies. When they decide cases, they not only interpret the law but subconsciously juxtapose the facts of the case against their lived experience. Research has long indicated that diversity on the bench — the inclusion of perspectives unique to women and minorities — positively impacts decision-making and bolsters public faith in the judiciary.

If we accept the argument that we need a diverse range of perspectives on the SC to administer justice to all citizens of Pakistan, it isn't too difficult to extend that understanding to the need to reform the composition of the JCP as the body that elevates the very individuals administering justice in the Supreme Court. For example, the JCP might reserve seats for a female or minority member of the Supreme Court, representative of the SCBA, and eminent academic in the field of law. That said, such changes will fail to realize their objective until the overarching issue of homogeneity in the legal fraternity is rectified. -- Courtesy TheNews

**Forestry and carbon offsets**

Aijaz A. Nizamani

Thanks to the use of fossil fuels, coal, crude and natural gas over the past few centuries, the world has seen a massive release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Politicians and business leaders of the developed part of the world are under tremendous pressure to respond to the calamity of climate change. Rich countries are committing to a net zero world; if they make good on their pledge, they will eliminate carbon dioxide emissions emanating from their societal and business functions by 2050. But policymakers still confront the challenge of removing 2.5 trillion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions already pumped into the atmosphere over the last 200 years.

Currently, the world has two options to remove these emissions from the atmosphere. One option is nature-based and mainly involves the planting of trees and raising forests to sequester carbon. The other option is technology-based and involves the use of machines and engineering hardware pressuring the air to pass through filters which capture carbon dioxide and release only the remaining gases into the atmosphere. Currently, annual emissions are nearly 40 billion tonnes a year while the world's largest functional engineering-based carbon-capture plant has an annual capacity of a mere 4,000 tonnes. The advocates of both sides — tech- and nature-based solutions — have their own arguments but it can be safely said that, for now, the only workable option is nature-based.

Carbon credit generated from trees and forests is gaining traction internationally. Recently, the Sindh government through the forest department sold one year of carbon credits from the mangrove forests in the Indus delta, earning millions of dollars. It is a 60-year arrangement and the government can continue to earn revenue from carbon offsets for the next 59 years, according to the yearly credits generated and at the rate prevailing in the international carbon trading market. This has created a unique opportunity, arguably, the first of its kind anywhere, whereby a tree or cumulatively a forest is monetarily valuable while still living.

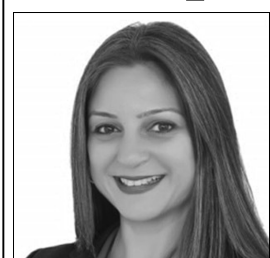
Farmers working in the irrigated plains of Sindh have known for centuries that farming on their lands cannot be sustainable without forestry. This plain truth is also echoed in their folk songs and local tales. However, international trading in tree-/ forest-based carbon offset has created a unique opportunity for them — one in which local sustainability and international climate change needs have converged. If new and innovative business models can be worked out, both local farmers and international companies can be connected and facilitated in offset transactions with farmers through a tech-enabled aggregator model.

The modern irrigation network in the Indus basin was installed in the second half of the 19th century and continued till the late 20th century, with the most recent barrages — Kotri and Guddu — in Sindh on the Indus river constructed in 1955 and 1965 respectively. The installation of the irrigation network increased agricultural productivity — at the cost of nature which is not our topic of discussion here. However, bringing supplementary irrigation to the soil makes it unsustainable as the absence of functional drainage raises the

sub-surface water table rendering the soil waterlogged and unsuitable for farming. Farmers in Sindh have used forests called 'hurri' to manage the sub-surface water table. Hurri forests comprise the acacia tree species which is from the leguminosae family and naturally restores nitrogen and fertility to the soil.

I was an observer in a CSIRO Australian researchers' study on the acacia tree's water transpiration rate in the Tando Jam area of Sindh in the mid-1990s. The Australians, with their most modern gadgets pinned to tree trunks, found that a five-year-old acacia tree was transpiring as much as 80 litres of water daily in the hot summer months of May and June. The transpiration rates in winter months fell to as low as 20 litres, concluded the study. This scientific study merely confirmed the benefits that farmers were already availing with excellent hurri economics — in some cases better than cash crop economics.

The irrigation networks of Sindh and Punjab are vastly different, with different implications for sustainability. The latter province, barring a few southern districts, has smaller rivers; even those without embankments have no drainage issue. The province has the added advantage of being an overwhelmingly fresh groundwater zone, where water can be reused for irrigation. Hence there is no issue of a rising water table. In Sindh, on the other hand, 80 per cent of the groundwater area is saline and with embankments on the Indus, natural drainage is blocked. The province suffered massively last year in what was wrongly described as 'floods' — a more suitable description would have been 'blockage' of the natural drainage. The result is that Sindh has massive sustainability issues and is far more vulnerable to the growing threat of climate change. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Upskilling teachers**

Neda Mulji

For decades after independence, schools in Pakistan 'imported' education in the form of skilled and experienced teachers from other countries. It was not just the privileged schools but, across the board, schools had access to skilled teachers at a time when it was still safe and feasible for foreigners to live in Pakistan. The Middle East has, for very long, also followed this model successfully to improve the provision of education for its residents, particularly for diverse curricular needs. Across Pakistan, we now have about 15 examination boards that cater to vast differences in curriculum, academic targets and skills. However, we don't have all teachers specifically trained to deliver the curriculum, actively monitor the success of students and mentor those who fall behind.

The irony is that we continue in the same vein although we now have more opportunities to learn from global experts. There are free courses that teachers can access for their professional development, as well as paid e-learning degrees. However, knowing where to look and how to select what is required for job progression is a battle for teachers who have not been taught the necessary digital skills. This is why they continue to resist the local online training available, choosing instead to undertake in-person teacher-lead training.

For decades, many of our educators and students

have been numbed into the belief that teaching is about delivery of content rather than a journey of curiosity, exploration and discovery. Many will argue that their students cannot get good grades without rote learning when, in fact, skilled teachers can use retention strategies successfully during lesson time. During lesson time, however, we skip essential steps — the necessary 21st-century learning skills that develop our students' critical thinking, problem-solving, and creative ability.

In a recent discussion with a teacher who has more than three decades of classroom experience, I was told that teachers simply don't know or understand 21st-century pedagogy. Without formal training and teacher licensing, schools are mostly rudderless ships following the units of the textbook in a race to cover content in time for exams. A textbook can be a treasure house, but only if used by skilled teachers.

In the absence of skilled teachers, students are left to struggle to understand concepts, which results in frustration and feelings of incompetence. This ad hoc system of 'surviving' school life can hardly promise a holistic education. A school is a place where students are sent to thrive, not merely survive the system.

Many students know how to use digital tools and create content that they share far and wide, but they still don't produce anything deep or concrete. What we produce as a nation depends on what we have cultivated — the thinking process determines the outcome. If we don't upgrade our own skills as educators, we end up allowing the 'dumbing down' of society, something we can't really afford as the fifth most populous nation-state in the world.

The most dramatic consequences of decades of compromising on quality may be future generations that have to borrow content for businesses and outsource skills for lack of in-house expertise.

From our carpenters and plumbers to our doctors and engineers, we are hard-pressed to find the quality of knowledge and expertise that we were once proud of. Apprentices don't have experts to learn from; students don't get enough academic support in school; university graduates walk away with degrees that don't land them jobs.

Of course, there are top-notch Pakistani universities that are worth their salt, but we don't have enough of these to serve our large population. We no longer have the talent or resources to rebuild our education sector with homegrown expertise.

For those who are committed to the profession, there are many avenues to learn from but, sadly, there are no shortcuts to developing skills. Reflection and collaboration may be a good place to start, followed by assessing teachers and developing action plans that can bring change. Teachers require a solution-focused approach to teaching — training to learn new classroom strategies and a system of continuously assessing and monitoring their subject knowledge. Eventually, upgrading skills and self-learning may result in massive benefits for our students.

The tragedy of our education landscape is that "the roads may keep on changing but the song remains the same" — to borrow words from a popular music band. Changing roads need new strategies as skills for the future cannot be taught by age-old methods that were developed for another time. -- Courtesy Dawn



## CM Naqvi says: Role of Ulema, Mashaikh in establishment of Pakistan, its stability bright chapter of history

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Ittehad Bainul Muslimeen Committee Punjab meeting was held under the auspices of Auqaf and Religious Affairs Department Government of the Punjab at CM office today which was presided over by the Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi.

More than 70 renowned Ulema Karam, Mashaikh of all schools of thought along with representative literary and religious personalities participated in the meeting. A joint declaration was unanimously announced after the meeting of Ittehad Bainul Muslimeen Committee Punjab.

It was stated in the declaration that the role of Ulema Karam and religious personalities in the establishment of Pakistan and its stability is a bright chapter of its history.

The objective

condition of our dear homeland deem that Ulema Karam, religious personalities have always been playing their pivotal role for the overall peace and stability, national solidarity, national stability and sectarian homogeneity in the country. It was stated in the declaration that with the cooperation of Punjab government, we assure the whole nation that we are fully cognizant with the requirements of the defence of our dear homeland and national integrity. We are standing united and unanimous with the whole nation like an iron wall on being needed.

It was also declared in the declaration that Ulema, Khateeb and Zakireen will adopt moderation and positive attitude in their sermons so that sectarian strife should not occur. Ulema Karam will especially focus on

tolerance and unity of ummah in their sermons and will completely refrain from causing mutual differences. We will completely cooperate with the administration for establishing law and order during Muharram ul Haram. Ulema from all schools of thought are also unanimous that feelings of any Muslim should not be hurt on which we will strictly adhere to our policy of not leaving ones belief and not interfering in others belief. We will refrain and prohibit from every such speech and writing which will hurt the feelings of any school of thought and can cause provocation. It was stated in the declaration that the present international conditions demand that the government circles will make more effective and result oriented contacts as well as collaboration with the religious leaders.



**JAMSHORO:** Sindh Minister for Universities and Boards Ismail Rahoo giving away gold medal award to Successful student during 19th annual convocation 2023 ceremony of Liaquat University of Medial & Health Sciences.

## Minister stresses strict surveillance to curb dengue mosquito breeding

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Dr. Javed Akram has said that strict surveillance is inevitable to curb breeding of dengue mosquito in the monsoon season.

Addressing as the chief guest at the international seminar/webinar, organised by the Institute of Public Health (IPH) here on Saturday, he said complete eradication of dengue was not possible, but the virus could be controlled by ensuring effective anti-dengue measures/arrangements and hard work.

The health minister said that as a physician, he knew that no patient should die because of dengue as dengue was a completely treatable disease. But people, who already had various diseases like diabetes, heart issues, liver or suffering from kidney diseases, were in danger in

case of dengue infection. He said that case management was an art for quick recovery of dengue patients. "If fluid management is not maintained in case of dengue, applying more drips can endanger patient's life," he said. Dr. Javed Akram said that the chemicals and drugs used in fogging and spraying for dengue control were harmful to environment and also create resistance in dengue mosquito.

Dean Institute of Public Health Professor Dr. Zarfshan Tahir said that in spite of all efforts, according to the data, the total number of dengue cases and deaths had increased in different countries of the world last year. She said for prevention of dengue and provision of good clinical care to patients, affected by the virus, coordinated efforts were required instead of taking individual measures.

## LG by-poll on vacant seats on August 27 in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The District Election Commissioner has said that the local government by-poll on vacant seats of various categories in Village and Neighborhood Councils in Dera Ismail Khan would be held on August 27. According to a notification issued by District Election Commissioner Abdul Rauf Khan Marwat, the candidates could submit their nomination papers from July 17 to July 19. The list of candidates who submitted nomination papers would be released on July 20, while the scrutiny of nomination papers would be held from July 21 to 24. The appeals against acceptance and rejection of papers could be filed from July 25 to July 26 and the decision on these appeals would be made by August 1. The revised list of candidates would be made public on August 2 and the candidates would be able to withdraw their nomination.

## Experts condemn Modi regime's unleashed 'reign of terror' in occupied Kashmir valley

LAHORE (APP): Experts on Saturday strongly condemned the massive crackdown by forces in different districts of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), while subjecting the residents to severe torture and harassment.

Army, including dreaded National Investigation Agency (NIA), paramilitary and police personnel have launched a violent crackdown in Shopian, Kulgam, Islamabad and Pulwama districts of South Kashmir after the injuring

of three non-local labourers in a firing incident in Gagan area of Shopian on Kashmir Media Service (KMS) reported Friday. India's belligerence as the biggest threat to peace and stability in the region, is creating war hysteria and deflecting the world attention from serious human rights and war crime situation in the IIOJK, the experts said.

Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik's wife Mushal Hussein Mullick told APP that the RSS-inspired 'Hindutva' ideology was being pursued in IIOJK by

the BJP-led Modi government, which was a major threat to 'foreign investment' in India.

She said the dire political and human rights situation in the occupied territory had left India exposed at the international level. Lauding the sacrifices of people living at the Line of Control (LoC), adding that Kashmiris had been braving the brunt of firing at the LoC with the utmost courage. She urged the people of IIOJK to observe a complete strike on July 19 on both sides of the line of control.



**PESHAWAR:** A view of fallen wall of Jinnah Park Due to heavy rain.



**LAHORE:** Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presiding over meeting of Ittehad Bainul Muslimeen Committee Punjab. More than 70 renowned Ulema Karam, Mashaikh of all schools of thought along with representative literary and religious personalities participated in the meeting

## Need increase bilateral coop. in various fields including education and trade: Baligh

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: High Commissioner of Ghana to Pakistan, Eric Owusu Boateng, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. Issues of mutual interest, bilateral trade and ways to expand cooperation in various fields were discussed in the meeting. Governor Punjab also congratulated the High Commissioner of Ghana on the successful presidency of the United Nations Security Council in 2022.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said cordial relations exist between Pakistan and Ghana and there is a need to increase bilateral cooperation in various fields including

education and trade. He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a game changer not only for Pakistan, but for the region and the whole world.

Governor Punjab said that the government has accelerated the pace of work on development projects under CPEC. He said that export processing zones are being established under the Pakistan China Economic Corridor project.

Governor Punjab said that there is a favorable environment for foreign investors in Pakistan, adding he said that there are vast opportunities for foreign direct investment. He said that Pakistan has suitable and vast opportunities for investment in various sectors including infrastructure, agriculture and energy.

## Safe City project to be completed at Rs 2bn

MULTAN (APP): City Police Officer (CPO), Mansoor-ul-Haq Rana, said on Saturday that the "Safe City Project" will be completed at a cost of Rs two billion.

He said that caretaker Punjab CM Mohsin Naqvi has assured for funds and PC 1 of the project will be sent to the provincial government next week. He said that the project would be completed in phases.

He expressed these views while addressing the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) members.

MCCI President Mian Rashid Iqbal, Senior

Vice President Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, Vice President Sheikh Muhammad Asim Saeed, Former President Khawaja Muhammad Hussain, Khawaja Muhammad Usman, Aziz Ahmed Sheikh, Shahid Mehmood Khan and others were present.

CPO said that the role of the business community was most important in the country's economy.

The economic development of any country was subject to peace and law and order.

Multan Police was taking concrete steps to maintain peace in the city.



**HYDERABAD:** A large number of seized vehicles and motorcycles parked at Hatri Police Station in a miserable condition.

## Strict action ordered against misuse of loudspeakers in Muharram

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Higher Education Mansoor Qadir has directed Divisional Commissioner Faisalabad Madam Silwat Saeed to ensure implementation of the Muharram security plan.

Addressing a meeting of Standing Committee of Cabinet for Law & Order through media link, he said religious harmony was utmost necessary during Muharram. Therefore, if anybody would be found misusing loudspeakers

during Muharram, strict action would be taken against him without any discrimination, he added.

He directed the divisional commissioner to call meetings of divisional, district and tehsil peace committees and direct them to ensure implementation of the Muharram security plan. The divisional commissioner assured the provincial minister of maintaining law and order across the division through strict implementation of the Muharram security plan.

## BISP to make solid mechanism of money transfer

SARGODHA (APP): Hundreds of women were hailed on Benazir income support program here on Saturday.

According to a spokesperson it was said that government of Pakistan under Benazir income support program had been taking revolutionary step to support millions of poor families through this program, but they did not

express their satisfaction from the procedure of transfer money.

APP on Saturday has interviewed many BISP beneficiaries aimed to know the satisfaction level of the women on this great initiative.

A group of women BISP beneficiaries including Sabaan Bibi, Nazeeran Bibi, and Sakeena Bibi said that when they received a message of BISP,

## Murad directs LG dept to protect salary, pension of local bodies employees

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed Local Government and Finance departments to carry out an extensive exercise to resolve the issue of timely payment of salaries and pensions to all the local bodies employees by removing the ghost employees and pensioners.

"I am ready to enhance the share of local bodies by giving them additional funds in Octroi and Zila Tax and other grants but simultaneously the local bodies have to generate their own

revenues," he added.

He issues the directives while presiding over a meeting which was attended by Minister of Local Government Syed Nasir Shah, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, acting Chief Secretary Baquallah Unar, Secretary Local Government Najam Shah, Secretary Finance Sajid Jamal Abro, Secretary to Chief Minister Raheem Shaikh, Special Secretary Finance Shuhab Ansari and others. The chief minister said under the Provincial Finance Commission (PFC), he wanted to

protect salaries and pensions. "The employees will not perform if they are not paid on time," he added.

Local Government Minister Sayed Nasir Shah told the local councils to had their mechanism to pass their budgets.

"When the budgets are passed means funds for salaries, pension, and development works are allocated but even then issues of salaries and pensions crop up," he said and added his department started an exercise to post the surplus employees.

## RDA organizes walk to create dengue awareness

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) here on Saturday organized a walk in connection with an anti-dengue awareness campaign.

Following the directives of the Director General (DG) of RDA, Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa, the authorities concerned were taking steps to spread anti-dengue awareness, the RDA spokesman said.

He informed that the walk organized from the RDA office to Murree Road was attended by Deputy Director Finance RDA, Khawaja Arshad Javed, Deputy Director Building Control, Ali Raza and others. The spokesman said that the DG had urged the citizens.



**LAHORE:** High Commissioner of Ghana to Pakistan, Eric Owusu Boateng, meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

## QWP calls for electoral reforms to ensure holding of free, transparent elections

PESHAWAR (APP): Calling for electoral reforms to ensure the holding of free, fair and transparent elections, Quami Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Saturday said the next general election should be held on time and whoever won the polls should be allowed to run the country.

Addressing a gathering at Tangi tehsil in Charsadda district, he welcomed the government's agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), saying the bailout package would help bring economic stability to the country.

"We want Pakistan to become financially stable so that the issues of unemployment and inflation could be tackled," he said. He said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and his associates were hell-bent on

sabotaging the IMF's agreement, but they did not succeed in their designs.

"PTI chief wanted the country to go bankrupt," he remarked.

Blaming PTI's chief for the country's economic woes, he said the PTI chairman had violated the IMF agreement, which created problems for the country. He recalled that the May 9 incidents proved the last nail in PTI's political coffin, adding that the ones behind the mayhem would continue facing the courts. "Even the country's enemies could not dare attack its military installations the way the PTI arsonists and rioters did. This was unprecedented in Pakistan's political history," he maintained, adding that the PTI tarnished the country's image at the international level.

## Governor Sindh donates 9 months salary to JDC

KARACHI (Online): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tesori has donated his salary to JDC. Kamran Khan Tesori handed over a cheque of 9 months salary to JDC leader Zafar Abbas and said that JDC should use this amount for public welfare.

Zafar Abbas thanked the Governor of Sindh and said that even before becoming the Governor, Kamran Khan Tesori has been helping in every difficult hour and his this unique initiative is also highly commendable.

## Three died, 2 injured in road accident at Parvak area of upper Chitral

CHITRAL (APP): Pothohar vehicle was heading towards Parkosap village on Saturday, when this vehicle reached Roromo Tech in Parvak village it faced a fatal road accident and fell down in a deep ravine due to the poor condition of the road wakes up in a deep ditch.

According to police officials, a woman and two male persons died on the spot while two were injured badly.



**MULTAN:** Motorcyclists purchasing safety helmets from a shop. District Govt has issued a notification to enforce the order of wearing helmets to ban petrol refueling to motorcyclists, and a zero-tolerance policy for motorcycle riders without helmets has been adopted.

## HED to implement syndicate marking to improve paper marking

MULTAN (APP): Secretary of the Higher Education Department Punjab Javed Akhtar Mahmood said that they were going to implement syndicate marking which would improve paper marking.

He expressed these views during a surprise visit to Education Board Multan and also reviewed the paper-checking process here on Saturday.

He directed relevant officials to make two years ban on teachers' paper

marking over improper paper marking.

Secretary said that the intermediate examination 2024 pattern was changed by making reforms to end the cramming system.

He said that matriculation and Inter examinations would consist of 25 percent conceptual questions in the education boards across Punjab in the 2024 examinations.

"Students who get 33 percent marks in theory.



## Pak Businessman says: Alsuwaidi's appointment to enhance Pak-UAE trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned Pakistani businessman Shakeel Ahmad Meer warmly welcomed the appointment of Mohammed Alsuwaidi as the new Minister of Investment in the UAE, praising him as a visionary economist who made significant contributions to the development of the United Arab Emirates.

In a statement, Dubai-based Pakistani businessman Shakeel Ahmad Meer said Mohammed Alsuwaidi possesses a remarkable vision that extends beyond the United Arab Emirates (UAE), encompassing Pakistan as well.

According to Shakeel Ahmad Meer, Mohammed Alsuwaidi has made significant efforts in the past to promote investment in Pakistan. As a result of his endeavours, numerous companies based in the UAE have made investments in both India

and Pakistan in recent years.

He remarked that Mohammed Alsuwaidi, the Managing Director and Chief Executive of ADQ, an investment and holding company based in Abu Dhabi, has been selected to lead a newly established ministry with the objective of shaping the nation's investment vision. This decision was made in recognition of Alsuwaidi's visionary approach and dynamic outlook. "The aim of the new ministry is to develop the country's investment vision, stimulate the investment environment internally and continuously enhance the competitiveness of our procedures and legislation to ensure that the country remains a global destination for investment and a major player in the global investment movement," Sheikh Mohammed wrote on Twitter after the

appointment.

Shakeel Ahmad Meer mentioned that Dubai is prioritizing the improvement of the country's economic status by creating an attractive environment for investment. They are also focusing on guiding companies to invest abroad, leading to profit generation and job growth.

Shakeel Ahmad Meer, said multiple companies based in Dubai have made significant investments in Pakistan recently. These investments have encompassed key areas such as the Karachi seaport and the real estate sector.



**KARACHI: Former Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Syed Shabbar Zaidi addressing a seminar titled "The State of Pakistan Economy: What Next" organized by the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA).**

## Business leader calls for steps to restore confidence of expatriates

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh has called for concrete measures to restore the confidence of the expatriates.

In a statement issued here, he said that resolving problems and restoring the confidence of expats was necessary as the country lost over \$4 billion in FY23 as it received a total of \$27.024 billion against a record \$31.278 billion in FY22.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said that we lost four billion dollars in remittances, which is much higher than the amount the government struggled to secure from the IMF.

The country received a total of \$27.024 billion

in remittances during FY23, compared to a record \$31.278 billion in FY22, a decline of 13.6 percent or 4.254 billion.

The central bank did not offer any reason for the decline of the remittances, but analysts said the government's effort to keep the dollar at lower than actual rates hit the inflows through banking channels.

The government tried to maintain the dollar-rupee parity at Rs220 in the first half of FY23, which proved counterproductive. The USD grossly appreciated in the open market, and resultantly a grey or black market emerged that started offering Rs20 to Rs25 per dollar higher rates, badly hitting remittances, he informed.

The business leader said that under pressure from the IMF.

## LWMC CEO for improving compost's quality

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) Chief Executive Officer Babar Sahib Din has said that the International Growth Centre would provide support to further improve the quality of compost as per market requirements.

Presiding over a consultative meeting held to improve the production of compost plant here on Saturday, he said that the LWMC was producing environment friendly fertilizer called "Belia" through composting process.

The CEO said that by ensuring the use of modern processes, the quantity and

process of composting would be accelerated.

Babar Sahib Din said that instructions for installing additional belts had been issued to speed up the process of waste segregation at the compost plant, adding that waste segregation could ensure less dumping of waste at the landfill site and the production of good compost would also help in increasing the business of the company.

A delegation from International Growth Centre, LUMS University visited the LWMC compost plant located at Mahmood Booti, where Plant Manager Yasir.

## PM to inaugurate 1244 MW Haveli Bahadur Shah power plant

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday will inaugurate the 1244MW Haveli Bahadur Shah power plant in Jhang district.

During his visit, the prime minister would be briefed by the relevant authorities about the power plant. He will also address the ceremony, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Haveli Bahadur Shah plant would provide power to 2.5 million houses with the generation of 10 billion units annually.

With the use of the latest technology and fuel efficiency, it would save Rs25 billion annually in the cost of fuel.

## CM's aide inaugurates furniture expo

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister on Labour, Malik Mehar Elahi here Saturday inaugurated three-day Pakistan Furniture Expo and visited its various stalls.

Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted potential of furniture industry and said that provincial government in extending cooperation to stakeholders to promote the industry that had lot of potential.

He said that furniture items produced by skilled workers of KP were well known for excellent quality.

He also lauded efforts of organizers for holding the exhibition and suggested that these events should be arranged in future to benefit people associated with the industry.



**LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the delegation members of Chamber Of Commerce at Governor House.**

## ICCI calls for strong academia-industry linkages to revive the economy

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the developed countries have achieved phenomenal economic growth by promoting strong academia-industry linkages and urged that we have to adopt the same approach to promote industrialization and revive the economy. He said this while addressing as Chief Guest the inaugural ceremony of TECHSPARK Exhibition organized by the Industrial Liaison Office of the Faculty of Engineering & Technology (FET) of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

Ahsan Bakhtawarisaid that the close academia-industry linkages would help produce demand-driven students, improve the efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of industry and manufacture value-added products to boost exports. He along with Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi, President of IIUI and delegation of ICCI visited the various stalls set up by the final year students in the exhibition and said that the students had prepared the projects according to the needs of society. He assured that ICCI will help introduce these students to the concerned industries so that their projects should

benefit the society. He further said that ICCI is ready to provide opportunities of internships to the IIUI students. He also appreciated the role of the Saudi Government in promoting industry and education in Pakistan. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawarisaid met with the President, IIUI Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi and discussed with him matters pertaining to mutual cooperation and initiatives for academia industry linkages. The President IIUI said that the universities must address the requirements of society and IIUI is focusing on research in the light of contemporary trends.

## Neelum Jhelum Project resumes power generation by end July

ISLAMABAD (INP): Neelum Jhelum Hydel Power Project will resume power generation by end of July, said a Wapda spokesperson on Saturday.

Wapda spokesperson has said that remedial work of the tail race tunnel of the project has been nearing to completion.

This was informed during a briefing given to Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani by the management during his visit to the project site.

It was informed that hectic efforts were underway to complete the remedial works being carried out in the tail race tunnel of the project. "The concrete lining of the collapsed portion of the tail race tunnel has been completed".

"Other affected parts of the 3 1/2 kilometers long tunnel have been strengthened. "The

cleaning work will begin next week after removing machinery from the tail race tunnel," chairman Wapda briefed.

"Water will be filled in the tunnel after completion of the cleaning work. After filling of the tail race tunnel, power generation will begin," Chairman Wapda was informed.

The Chairman WAPDA directed the project team to ensure restarting of the Hydel Power Station by end of the month without any compromise on its structural integrity.

The 969 MW-Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project had started electricity generation in April 2018. Prior to collapse of its tail race tunnel last year, the project had generated more than 18 billion units of the electricity for the national grid.

## Third Hualong One unit to produce clean electricity: CNNC

BEIJING (APP): Unit 5 in the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant would be the third one-million-kilowatt-class unit of Hualong One, China's self-developed third-generation nuclear reactor, China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) said.

A groundbreaking ceremony for a unit of a nuclear power plant in Pakistan was held on Friday, CGTN reported on Saturday.

The new project will enhance Pakistan's energy security, promote economic development and improve the well-being of the local people, the CNNC said.

It also has significant importance in building a closer China-Pakistan partnership with a shared future in the new era, its developer added. The two countries have jointly built four 300,000-kilowatt nuclear power units.



**MULTAN: A farmer ploughing field before the next crop by the help of tractor at the outskirts of the city.**

## Start-ups urged to adapt modern techniques to harness benefits of growing digitization

PESHAWAR (Online): Speakers at an awareness seminar highlighted the importance of E-commerce, online businesses and trade promotion in the emerging world and asked the business community, especially young male and female start-ups to adapt modern techniques and tools to harness benefits of growing digitization in businesses and trade.

The awareness seminar on 'E-commerce' was organized by Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) here at the chamber's house on Saturday. The SCCI's acting president Ijaz Khan

Afridi presided over the awareness session while TDAP Director General Nouman Bashir was chief guest on the occasion.

Besides, the TDAP officials Zahid Muhammad, Aamir Khan, members of the SCCI's executive committee Naem Qasmi, Laal Badshah, and Aurangzeb, Ihsanullah, Fazal e Wahid, Saddar Gul, Ishtiaq Muhammad, traders, importers and exporters, digital leaders, innovators, and male and female entrepreneurs were in attendance in a large number on the occasion.

Ijaz Khan Afridi in his opening remarks stressed the need for equipping modern knowledge and techniques for business and trade promotion.

He said the business community, start-ups, and young entrepreneurs should take full advantage of online businesses, especially with the advent of Amazon in Pakistan.

The chamber's president said Pakistan has ranked fourth in freelancing in the world and will soon improve and consolidate its position by consistent and vigorous efforts. He noted Pakistan's IT exports are gradually increasing over the passage of time. He said E-commerce is ideal for young male and female entrepreneurs, especially start-up businesses.

He went on to say that the Trade Development portal has provided assistance for Pakistan's share in global trade.

## Agri sector given relief to ensure rural development: Musadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Musadiq Malik on Saturday said that a major relief was given to the agriculture sector by giving incentives on seeds and fertilizers to ensure development in rural areas.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the incumbent government has primarily focused on the stability of the

economy.

To a question about elections, he said the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will lead the election campaign after his arrival in Pakistan. He hoped that PML-N would win the general elections with majority votes.

He said that the Opposition parties must follow moral legitimacy as they were bound to abide by the rule of law of the country.



**ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in their work during the construction of Interchange at National Highway in Federal Capital.**

## SCCI, MoC, TDAP organize seminar on E-commerce, online businesses

PESHAWAR (APP): The awareness seminar on 'E-commerce' was organized by the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) here at the chamber's house on Saturday.

Speakers at the seminar highlighted the importance of E-commerce, online businesses and trade promotion in the emerging world and asked the business community, especially young male and female start-ups to adopt modern techniques and tools to harness the benefits of growing digitization in businesses and trade. The SCCI's acting president Ijaz Khan Afridi presided over the awareness session while TDAP Director General

Nouman Bashir was the chief guest on the occasion.

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He said the business community, start-ups, and young entrepreneurs should take full advantage of online businesses, especially with the advent of Amazon in Pakistan.

## Commissioner says: Govt taking steps for development of agriculture sector

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatha here on Saturday said that the Punjab government was taking all possible steps for the development of the agriculture sector.

Presiding over a prize distribution ceremony organized by Punjab Agriculture Department (PAD), Rawalpindi Division for the farmers who succeeded to achieve positions in the wheat production competition, the Commissioner hailed the initiative and said that through such competitions, the spirit of hard work and more production would be highlighted among the farmers.

Seminars regarding increasing wheat production should also be organized at the tehsil level, the Commissioner

added.

A huge amount had been allocated in the current budget, Liaquat Ali Chatha informed.

The Agriculture Department had taken solid steps to solve the problems of the farmers at the tehsil level, he said adding, through this way, the agriculture sector could be improved at the local level.

A coordinated campaign should be conducted for better production of wheat in the coming Rabi season, the Commissioner directed the relevant authorities.

He said, the farmers should also take advantage of modern technology to increase the production of the crops. "Pakistan is an agricultural country and the agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's development," Liaquat Ali Chatha added.

## WUS, SCCI signs MoU to foster research and innovation

PESHAWAR (APP): Women University of Swabi (WUS) and the Swabi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster research and innovation.

Representing WUS, Director of the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) Dr Ome Kalsoom Afridi, and President of the SCCI Muhammad Babar Hamayun signed the MoU.

The agreement aims to create new opportunities for research and innovation, while also fostering e-commerce commercialization efforts.

One of the key highlights of the partnership is the establishment of business incubation centers at WUS Muhammad Babar Hamayun, President of the

SCCI, has assured full support for this initiative.

These centers will provide a conducive environment for nurturing entrepreneurial ventures and promoting startups, ultimately contributing to the economic growth of the region.

To commemorate the occasion, the SCCI organized a one-day seminar titled "e-Commerce, Amazon, and the Pakistan Trade Portal" in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority, Government of Pakistan.

This seminar aimed to shed light on the potential of e-commerce and the utilization of platforms like Amazon and the Pakistan Trade Portal for trade activities.

The event witnessed active participation from WUS faculty members, including Malecha.



**MULTAN: Bull cart holders on the way loaded with green fodder for animals after cutting from the field**



# China's top diplomat urges stable ties with India as military tensions simmer

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China's top diplomat Wang Yi told the Indian foreign minister that bilateral ties need to be stabilised, as the two Asian neighbours searched for ways to ease simmering military tensions along their vast border.

On the sidelines of ASEAN meetings in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, Wang told Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar that mutual support between the two nations is needed instead of suspicion, according to a readout from the Chinese foreign ministry.

India and China share a 3,800-km (2,360-mile) frontier, much of it poorly marked, and fought a brief but bloody war over it in 1962. Since the 1990s, ties

have improved after a series of border agreements, and China is now India's second-largest trading partner.

A setback in 2020, however, when 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese soldiers were killed in hand-to-hand fighting during a border clash, spurred both militaries to fortify positions and deploy large numbers of troops and equipment.

Several rounds of military and diplomatic talks have helped to ease tensions between the two armies, but New Delhi has described the situation on the border as fragile and dangerous.

China and India need to work in the same direction to find a solution to border issues acceptable to

both sides, Wang told Jaishankar during their meeting on Friday. "The two sides should support each other and accomplish things together, rather than wear each other down or suspect each other," Wang said. India and China should not let specific issues define their overall relationship, he said.

The two sides agreed to hold the next round of military commander-level talks on border issues at an early date, the Chinese foreign ministry said.

Since 2020, New Delhi has also ramped up scrutiny of Chinese businesses, banning more than 300 Chinese apps, including TikTok. It has also intensified scrutiny of investments by Chinese firms.



Malaysia's Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir, Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong, China's Communist Party's foreign policy chief Wang Yi, India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar attend the East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia.

# US sending F-16 fighter jets to protect ships from Iranian seizures in Gulf region

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The U.S. is beefing up its use of fighter jets around the strategic Strait of Hormuz to protect ships from Iranian seizures, a senior defense official, adding that the U.S. is increasingly concerned about the growing ties between Iran, Russia and Syria across the Middle East.

Speaking to Pentagon reporters, the official said the U.S. will send F-16 fighter jets to the Gulf region this weekend to augment the A-10 attack aircraft that have been patrolling there for more than a week. The move comes after Iran tried to seize two oil tankers near the strait last week, opening fire on one of them. The defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details of military operations in the region, said the F-16s will give air cover to the ships moving through the waterway and increase the military's visibility in the

area, as a deterrent to Iran.

The U.S. Navy said in both instances the Iranian naval vessels backed off when the USS McFaul, a guided-missile destroyer, arrived on the scene.

In addition, the defense official told reporters the U.S. is considering a number of military options to address increasing Russian aggression in the skies over Syria, which complicated efforts to strike an Islamic State group leader last weekend.



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and Paraguay's President-elect Santiago Peña react at Taiwanese artist Derex Chu's performance in Taichung, Taiwan.

# No sign of Russian intent to change tack on Ukraine war, Blinken says

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Russia shows no sign of changing direction in its war on Ukraine, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, as foreign ministers from two dozen countries met in Indonesia's capital for Southeast Asia's annual security-focused gathering.

Top diplomats from China, the United States and Russia were among those who travelled to Jakarta for the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), where broad-based agendas are typically hijacked by geopolitical flare-ups.

Speaking to reporters after the talks concluded, Blinken said there was no indication that Russia was willing to engage in meaningful diplomacy on the war, which Moscow calls a "special military operation" launched in February 2022 to "denazify" its

neighbour.

"I didn't hear anything from Foreign Minister (Sergei) Lavrov that suggested any change in direction when it comes to what Russia is doing in Ukraine," Blinken said, adding that Russia was focused on blaming the United States for the world's problems.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said separately Lavrov had "aggressively" rejected a call to withdraw troops from Ukraine.

Lavrov said earlier this week the war would not end until the West "gives up its plans to preserve its domination", including its "obsessive desire" to defeat Russia strategically.

He had no plans to contact U.S. counterparts while in Jakarta, according to his spokesperson, Maria Zakharova.

# Thailand's Pita open to coalition ally leading government if he fails in PM bid

**Monitoring Desk**  
BANGKOK: Pita Limjaroenrat, leader of Thailand's election winning Move Forward Party, on Saturday raised the prospect of a political ally leading the new government if he fails to become prime minister. Pita, 42, whose progressive party scored a surprise victory in the May 14 election, lost an initial vote for the premiership on Thursday, unable to secure enough votes in a joint sitting of the country's 749-member parliament.

The Move Forward leader said he will seek a second vote for the top job on Wednesday, adding if he fails again he will ask the Pheu Thai party, which came second in the election and is Move Forward's key partner.

# Zelenskiy warns of Russian efforts to halt Kyiv's troops, general notes advances in south

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskiy warned Ukrainians that Russia was throwing all its resources into a campaign to stop Kyiv's troops from pressing their counter offensive and a top general reported new progress on the southern front. But Ukrainian military analysts suggested that things were not easy for Ukrainian forces in their bid to advance southward.

Ukraine has launched a counter offensive to take back swathes of land in eastern and southern Ukraine captured by Russian forces in their invasion launched in February 2022.

It has focused on capturing villages in the south-east in a drive towards the Sea of Azov and areas near the eastern city of Bakhmut, taken by Russian forces in May after months of battles.

Russian accounts said its forces had repelled Ukrainian attacks in eastern Donetsk region, including around Bakhmut.

"We must all understand very clearly, as clearly as possible, that Russian forces in our southern and eastern lands are doing everything they can in order to stop our soldiers," Zelenskiy said in his nightly video address after chairing a meeting with top commanders.

# Biden forgives \$39 billion in US student debt using program tweak

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: U.S. President Joe Biden's administration will cancel \$39 billion in student debt for more than 804,000 borrowers, the Education Department said on Friday, describing the relief as the result of a "fix" to income-driven repayment (IDR) plans. Borrowers will be eligible for forgiveness if they have made either 20 or 25 years of monthly IDR payments, the department said. The IDR program caps payment requirements for lower-income borrowers and forgives their remaining balance after a set number of years.

# Prigozhin refused to cede command of Wagner: Putin

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin refused to let his fighters serve under someone else's command, which could have settled the fate of the group.

Three weeks after Prigozhin launched a short-lived rebellion against Russia's top military brass, the future and whereabouts of Wagner members remain uncertain.

The Kremlin had confirmed but gave few details about a meeting between Putin, Prigozhin and other Wagner commanders on June 29, five days after the mutiny.

In an interview to Kommersant published on Thursday evening, Putin said he had offered a way

forward for Wagner fighters. "[The fighters] could all gather in one place and continue to serve," Putin told the daily newspaper.

They would come under the authority of a commander, nicknamed "Sedoy", according to the newspaper.

"Nothing would have changed for them, they would have been led by the same person who by their real commander all this time," Putin was cited as saying.

Wagner had operated in the shadows for years. It came into the spotlight during the military operation in Ukraine, despite the fact that private military companies are illegal in Russia.

"The (Wagner) group is here, but it does not exist legally!" said Putin.

# EU ministers back more Ukraine aid, but differ on other spending

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRUSSELS: European Union finance ministers unanimously backed extra funds for Ukraine through a top-up of its long-term budget, although differences persisted over other spending that threaten to delay or block proposed aid to Kyiv.

Spanish Finance Minister Nadia Calvino told a news conference that EU finance ministers meeting on Friday had backed continued financial support for Ukraine. "The Spanish presidency is committed to proceed swiftly to have a stable framework in place by January 2024," she said. Calvino added that more technical work would be needed to support Ukraine, whose economy has been damaged by Russia's invasion.

The European Commission has proposed increasing the EU's budget until 2027 by 66 billion euros (\$74.11 billion). The part for Ukraine would be 17 billion euros, with a further 33 billion euros of loans.

The other money is earmarked to cover higher interest payments, for migration policy and to spur more investment in critical technology.

German Finance Minister Christian Lindner said he backed extra spending on Ukraine, but not increases elsewhere. "We see fiscal constraints in all member states. This is why the Commission should not expect member states to contribute more. Ukraine is a separate issue," he told reporters before the meeting of EU finance ministers. Polish finance minister Magdalena Rzeczkowska said her country was unhappy that the EU's budget review did not also cover the extra needs of Ukraine's EU neighbours that have accepted refugees fleeing the conflict.

Asked if Poland would block the package of support for Ukraine without this, she said Warsaw would analyse the situation.

# Tunisia rights groups urge aid, shelter for stranded migrants

**Monitoring Desk**  
TUNIS: Tunisian rights groups called on Friday for emergency aid and shelters for migrants expelled from Sfax last week, as dozens of people protested in Tunis in support of their plight.

Hundreds of migrants fled or were forced out of Tunisia's second-largest city after racial tensions flared following the July 3 killing of a Tunisian man in an altercation between locals and migrants.

The port of Sfax is a departure point for many migrants from impoverished and violence-torn countries seeking a better life in Europe by making a perilous Mediterranean crossing, often in makeshift boats.

Hundreds of migrants were forcibly taken to desert and hostile areas bordering Libya and Algeria after the unrest in Sfax.

Romdane Ben Amor, spokesperson for the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights (FTDES), told reporters on Friday that between 100 and 150 migrants, including women and children, were still stuck on the border with Libya.

He said about 165 migrants abandoned near the border with Algeria had been picked up, without specifying by whom or where they were taken.

"Migrants are transferred from one place to another while other groups hide out in the wild in catastrophic conditions for fear of being detected and suffering the same fate as those stranded on the borders," Ben Amor said.

He called for emergency accommodation to be given to the migrants and said the authorities must send "a clear message" to Tunisian citizens to help them, regardless of their status.

# Sudan warring factions clash in city of Bahri as army tries to make gains

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Sudan's warring factions fought heavy clashes in parts of the city of Bahri, residents said, a day after both sides welcomed a new mediation effort that seeks to end a three-month war.

The fighting that broke out on April 15 has driven civilians out of the wider capital region - consisting of the cities of Khartoum, Bahri, and Omdurman - and triggered ethnically motivated attacks in the Darfur region.

Regional and international mediation efforts have so far failed to end the fighting and U.N. officials have said Sudan could slide into civil war.

The latest mediation attempt was launched in Egypt on Thursday. Both the army, which has close ties to Egypt, and the RSF paramilitary group welcomed the effort.

But four residents of northern Bahri told Reuters they woke to heavy early morning clashes between the two sides, apparently

centred around the Halfaya bridge.

While the RSF quickly fanned out across the capital in the early days of the conflict, the army has focused on air and artillery strikes that have done little to change the scene.

The army has conducted more ground operations in recent weeks, particularly in Omdurman.

The Bahri residents said they heard air strikes, artillery fire, and gunshots, continuing into the afternoon.

An army source said the army had succeeded in pushing the RSF out of neighbourhoods in the far north of the city in the morning, but the RSF said in a statement they were able to defeat the forces and claimed to kill hundreds.

In a statement the Sudanese army said it had launched ground operations in all three cities of the capital and that it had been successful, acknowledging some losses in Bahri but calling the RSF number inflated.

# South Korea landslides, floods kill more than 20 as over 1,000 evacuated

**Monitoring Desk**  
YECHON: Some 24 people have died, 10 were missing and thousands were evacuated in South Korea as of Saturday, Yonhap news agency said citing various regional governments, as a third day of torrential rains caused landslides and the overflow of a dam.

As of 11am (2am GMT), 1,567 people had been evacuated nationwide, according to the Ministry of Interior and Safety, as water overtopped the dam in North Chungcheong province on Saturday morning.

Local governments' evacuation orders covered more than 7,000 people at various times, according to provincial authorities.

The tally is expected to rise as more heavy rain is expected on the Korean peninsula on

Sunday, the Korea Meteorological Administration forecasted.

Korea Railroad Corp said it was halting all slow trains and some bullet trains, while other bullet trains might be delayed due to slower operation, as landslides, track flooding and falling rocks threatened safety.

A slow train derailed late on Friday when a landslide threw earth and sand over tracks in North Chungcheong province, the transport ministry said.

The engineer was injured, but no passengers were on board.

In a meeting with government agencies on Saturday, Prime Minister Han Duck-soo called for the military to actively join in rescue activities, working with government officials to mobilise equipment and manpower.

# 289 children died in Mediterranean crossings this year

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: Some 289 children are known to have died in the first half of 2023 while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe, the United Nations said.

The figure is double that recorded in the first six months of 2022, the U.N. children's agency Unicef said, as it called for expanded safe, legal and accessible pathways for children to seek protection in Europe. Verena Knaus, a Unicef official, said the true figures were likely to be higher as many shipwrecks on the central Mediterranean leave no survivors or go unrecorded. "These deaths are absolutely preventable."

Knaus said that in the first six months of 2023, an estimated 11,600 children made the crossing.

Tunisian rights groups called on Friday called emergency aid and shelters for migrants expelled from Sfax last week, as dozens of people protested in Tunis in support of their plight.



Demonstrators lift placards and chant anti-racism slogans during a protest in Tunis.

# UN says Damascus conditions for cross-border aid 'unacceptable'

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations is concerned about "unacceptable conditions" set by Damascus for allowing aid to flow through its Bab al-Hawa crossing to rebel-held areas in northwest Syria, according to a document reviewed Friday by AFP.

The delivery of humanitarian aid through the crossing has been stalled since Monday, when a 2014 UN deal expired.

A letter this week from Syrian authorities allowing use of the border crossing between Turkey and Syria "contains two unacceptable

conditions," according to a document sent to the UN Security Council from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

OCHA said it was concerned that the Syrian government had "stressed that the United Nations should not communicate with entities designated as 'terrorist'." The second condition it bridled at was that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) should "supervise and facilitate the distribution of humanitarian aid" in northwest Syria.

# Italy asks Louvre to return antiquities

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: Italy has demanded the restitution of seven antiquities which it believes were looted before being sold by dealers to the Louvre in Paris in the 1980s and 90s, the museum said on Friday. The claim, first reported in Le Monde newspaper, was made in a letter handed over by Italian Culture Minister Gennaro Sangiuliano in February during a visit to France, a spokesperson for the museum said. All seven items, which include an amphora as well as ancient Greek vases ranging from the 4th-6th centuries BC.

# Strikes at British airport likely to hit holiday travel

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Workers at Britain's No.2 airport Gatwick will strike for eight days at the end of July and in early August, potentially causing cancellations and travel misery for thousands of passengers at the busiest time of year for summer holidays.

European travellers are already on high alert over worries about air traffic control problems arising from both the reduced air space available due to the Ukraine war, plus staffing issues and industrial action at some locations. The Unite trade union said around 950 Gatwick workers, including ground staff.

# Sikh demands expulsion of Indian envoy in Canada

**Monitoring Desk**  
CANADA: Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has demanded 'Persona Non-Grata' against the Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma over his interference in Canada's internal affairs, promoting hate and inciting violence against Pro Khalistan Canadian Sikhs.

Sikhs for Justice ("SFJ"), a registered human rights advocacy organization in Canada, is demanding the expulsion of the Indian envoy in Canada to avoid meddling in the upcoming July 16 Khalistan Referendum Voting.

SFJ is dedicated to peacefully advocating for the Khalistan Referendum

to secure the rights of self-determination for Sikhs in the Punjab region, where they form the majority, and which is currently governed by India.

In an official communication dated July 13, 2023, High Commissioner Verma addressed the Government of Canada, stating that the Sikh for Justice's 'illegal' referendum is an ineffective effort to undermine the Canada-India relationship.

Furthermore, he warned Canadian Sikhs, mentioning that millions of India's supporters in Canada would counter the



A general view shows landslide caused by torrential rain in Yecheon, South Korea.



# Pakistan calls for rectifying UN report omitting sexual crimes in Kashmir, Palestine

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has denounced a UN report on conflict-related sexual violence for not including the crimes of violence committed in Indian-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (HoJK) and Israeli-occupied Palestine, with a forceful call for its rectification.

“There is ample documented evidence that since 1989 Indian occupation forces have used rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war in occupied Kashmir,” Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN Security Council which met to examine implementation of its resolutions on conflict-related sexual violence.

The meeting was convened by the United Kingdom, which holds the rotating presidency of the 15-member Council this

month. Opening the debate, Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, said that rising militarization and arms proliferation is bringing conflicts across the globe to a boiling point, with gang rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence being used as tactics of war, torture and terrorism.

Ms Patten presented data from her latest report, published last month, which documented 2,455 UN-verified cases of wartime rape committed during 2022.

Women and girls accounted for 94 per cent, with six per cent against men and boys, with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) again accounting for the highest



QUETTA: Pir Khalid Sultan, Syed Habibullah Chishti, Rao Abdul Rahim, Syed Shabbir and others addressing All Parties seminar organized by Jamaat Ahle Sunnat Balochistan.

## PDM parties to contest elections on performance basis: Asad Mehmood

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Mufi Asad Mehmood on Saturday said the Pakistan Democratic Movement’s (PDM) parties would contest next general elections on the basis of their 14-months performance.

He stated this while talking to media persons during his visit to Bandkorai Grid Station wherein he was accompanied by Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Arif Sadozai.

The minister said the PDM parties were ready for the general elections as the national assembly was going to complete its tenure in August.

However, he said, it was prerogative of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold the elections and announce its date.

He said the previous government of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had pushed the country into economic crises while toeing anti-state policies, but the present government saved the country from default.

Asad said the government successfully restored the trust of international community, adding the PTI government was removed in a constitutional manner.

The PTI chief, during three and a half year governmental tenure, repeatedly claimed that he was fighting against corruption but the record corruption was noticed in that period.

The minister said about 1000 employees were made unemployed from his ministry.

The performance of PDM government was in front of people on the basis of which they would contest the next general elections.

The government had restarted the mega projects

which were halted during PTI tenure, he said.

The minister said the Abdul Khel Grid was inaugurated last month adding work on up gradation of Ratta Kulachi and Bandkorai grid stations would be started soon.

The 66-KV Bandkorai grid station was being upgraded to 132-KV which would help to permanently resolve the problem of low voltage in the area.

Earlier, Director Grid Construction Sardar Aslam Gandapur briefed the federal minister and PESCO CEO about the work of 132-KV Bandkorai grid station. On this occasion, SEESCO Dera Circle Nadir Zaman Kundi XEN City Division Hizbullah Khan Mehsud, XEN Rural Division Shaukatullah Khan Mehsud, Zonal Chairman of PESCO Dera Circle Noor Ul Amin Marwat were also present.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the residence of Leader of Isteqam-e Pakistan Party Jahangir Khan Tareen and offered condolences on the sad demise of his brother.

## Ruling alliance summons meeting on July 20

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ruling alliance has summoned its crucial meeting on July 20 to consider the matter that National Assembly (NA) should be dissolved before time or it should be allowed to complete its tenure.

During the meeting of constitutional committee held under speaker NA Raja Pervez Ashraf invitation were sent to parliamentary leaders of allied parties to attend the meeting.

The disposal of pending legislation and recommendations of parliamentary committee on electoral reforms will come under discussion in the meeting.

According to speaker office sources NA speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf has summoned constitution committee meeting on July 20. Parliamentary parties leaders of ruling alliance and legal experts have been invited in the meeting. Federal ministers Nazir Tarar, Ayyaz Sadiq, Navid Qamar, Attorney General, Aslam Bhotani and Qadir Mandokhel will also participate in the meeting. Key constitutional and legal matters will be reviewed in the meeting. The proposed draft worked out by parliamentary committee of electoral reforms will also come under consideration.

## Mohenjodaro train to restart from July 20

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Railways has decided to restore 213-Up/214-Down Mohenjodaro passenger train from July 20 to facilitate people of the area.

According to a press release issued here on Saturday, the train would run between Kotri and Rohri (Sindh) via Dadu and Habibkot.

The train will leave Kotri for Rohri at 8:15 a.m. and it will reach its destination at 7:30 p.m. via Sehwan Sharif.

Dadu, Mohenjodaro, Larkana and Sukkur. While from Rohri, the train will leave at 7:00 a.m. and reach Kotri at 6:15 p.m. via the same route. The train composition will consist of 8 economy class passenger coaches, one brake and one power van.

## Dar review progress to outsourcing airports’ operation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee to review the progress of work related to outsourcing of airports’ operations, at Finance Division.

Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Aviation, CEO Public Private Partnership Au-

thority, DG Pakistan CAA, IFC team and other government officials attended the meeting, said a press release issued here.

During the meeting, IFC, the transaction advisor, briefed the meeting on the latest status and progress on the matter.

The meeting discussed the broad parameters and issues to be resolved for fast-tracking the outsourcing of the first airport in order to improve service delivery in line with best industry practices.

## PM condoles with Tareen over death of his brother

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Saturday visited the residence of chief of Isteqam-e-Pakistan Party Jahangir Tareen and condoled over the death of his brother. The prime minister offered feteiha for Alamgir Tareen, brother of Jahangir Tareen. He prayed for the elevation of ranks of the departed soul in Jannah and for grant of patience to the bereaved family.



QUETTA: PPP Balochistan President Changez Jamali addressing a press conference.

## IPP’s Awn Chaudhry, Langrial to keep federal cabinet positions

LAHORE (INP): Awn Chaudhry and Nauman Langrial, two federal cabinet members of the IPP, would keep their cabinet positions till culmination of the present set up, it was learnt on Saturday.

Party leader Jahangir Tareen has directed both Isteqam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leaders to keep their federal cabinet positions till the government completes its tenure. “IPP is a respon-

sible party and believes in political stability,” Tareen was quoted as saying.

“We are part of the prime minister’s team and will remain till completion of the government’s tenure,” Awn Chaudhry said. “There is no truth in resignations from the cabinet,” he added. Earlier, on Thursday, it was reported that Awn Chaudhry and Nauman Langrial had resigned as special assistant to PM.

## PTI’s Qureshi granted bail in May 9 case

ISLAMABAD (INP): A local court of Islamabad on Saturday granted pre-arrest bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi in a case related to May 9 violence.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Syed Haroon Ahmed heard the case registered against PTI’s top gun at Khanna police station, while Qureshi and his council Ali Bukhari appeared before the court. During the hearing, the counsel argued that the PTI’s vice chairman believed in the rule of law and supremacy of the constitution. He told the court that Qureshi had not been present at the scene of the incident and had not made any incriminating statements.

## To improve Family Planning & RHS Multi-sectoral approach being adopted in Balochistan: Abdullah

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Population Welfare Department, Balochistan, Abdullah Khan shared progress high-

lights the case of Balochistan in the “National Conference on Resilient Pakistan: Calibrating Population and Resources” held on July 14-15, 2023 at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad.



Addressing the conference, the Secretary Population said that multi-sectoral approach is being adopted in Balochistan to improve Family Planning and Reproductive Health Services, aiming at improving the health of mothers and children.

Population Action Plan was highlighted. The Conference was organized by the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan & the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination Government of Pakistan.

## Banking court issues release order of Pervez in money laundering case

LAHORE (Online): FIA Banking court has issued release order of former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervez Elahi in money laundering case.

Pervez Elahi filed surety bonds in FIA Banking court in this case.

The banking court accepted surety bonds after completion of their scrutiny

process and issued release order of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi.

The banking court accepted bail after arrest plea of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi against surety bonds in the sum of Rs 5 lakh.

Rasikh Elahi filed filed surety bonds on behalf of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi.

## Masood says: Strong Pak-lawmakers’ coordination helpful to play role in US politics

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan’s Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan says Strong networking and greater coordination among law-makers of Pakistani descent would serve the interests of the community by aggregating their strength and enhancing their ability to play even a greater role in U.S. politics.

In a virtual interacting with U.S. state law-makers of Pakistani descent who are serving their respective constituencies in different parts of the United States, he said coordinated efforts will ensure synergy to the efforts aimed at promoting Pak-US relations and bringing the people of two countries close to each other.

The Ambassador expressed satisfaction over increasing role of Pak-

American politicians in political arena and expressed the hope that services of Pak-origin law makers would contribute positively towards US politics and serving the interests of the community and their constituents. Referring to the landmark resolution successfully introduced by Rep. Farooq Mughal in Georgia for establishing sister-state relations between Sindh province and the state of Georgia, he said the agreement provided a blueprint for other law-makers to facilitate similar arrangements of Pakistan with their respective states. Masood Khan said Pakistani diaspora could freely travel to Pakistan on their NICOP and there is no truth to the rumors about lists being prepared to target overseas community members.



QUETTA: Director General Sports Dara Baloch presenting a souvenir to Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan Imran Gichki during concluding ceremony of Prime Minister Talent Hunt Youth Sports League Hockey

## LHC declares extracting cellphone data sans person’s nod illegal

LAHORE (INP): In an important decision, the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Saturday declared access to phone data of an individual, including that of a suspect, without his or her permission illegal and a violation of article 13 of the constitution.

Pronouncing a decision on the criminal appeal filed by Rehmatullah, who was serving a 10-year prison term for having links with a terrorist organization and spreading prohibited material, a two-member bench of the LHC, comprising Justice Ali Baqar Najafi and Justice Muhammad Amjad Rafiq, set

Rehmatullah free. In its decision, the LHC said that getting access to somebody’s phone data was a violation of an individual’s privacy. The court further said that if a person, including a suspect, was not ready to share his or her cellphone data with the law-enforcement agencies (LEAs), then permission could be sought from a magistrate for that. Furthermore, it said, that in these modern times, a person could contact members of his or her family and loved ones through audio and video. “Our phones are nothing less than our homes.



ZIARATA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh inaugurating Police House

## CTD arrests 5 ‘terrorists’

LAHORE (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab has arrested five alleged terrorists, who are stated to be members of a proscribed organisation, from different parts of the province. According to a spokesman for the CTD, the suspected terrorists, identified as Hanif, Syed, Tariq Khalid and Abdul Sattar, were arrested from Gujranwala and Multan, and investigation was underway after registration of cases against the accused. The CTD recovered Afghan identity cards, explosive materials, detonators, mobile-phones.

## Damage of over Rs20m done to cameras, traffic signals in Lahore on May 9: report

LAHORE (INP): PTI leaders and workers who went on a rampage following the arrest of former prime minister and their party Chairman Imran Khan on May 9 caused to the national exchequer the loss of over Rs20 million when they broke security cameras and traffic signals installed at Zaman Park, Sarwar Road, Main Boulevard and different other roads of Lahore.

According to a report compiled by the Safe City Lahore, the damage done to

traffic signals caused the loss of Rs5.3 million, while that done to security cameras caused the loss of over Rs1 million. Police officials have said that the protestors broke the cameras so that they could not be identified with the help of footages obtained from them. They have further said that cases were registered against PTI workers at several police stations of Lahore on the complaint of Safe City Lahore.

## BFA in collaboration with Nutrition International organize training session

Independent Report QUETTA: Balochistan Food Authority, in collaboration with Nutrition International, successfully organized a training session at its head office in Quetta.

The training aimed to educate Deputy Directors, newly appointed field officers, and laboratory staff on the importance of adding additional nutrients to food, the effectiveness of food fortification, and ensuring access to safe food for the people.

The training session was facilitated by esteemed trainers from Nutrition International, including Qavi Khan Achakzai, Provincial Program Manager, Syed Khalid Ahmed, Zonal Manager, and Nazeebullah Nasir, Deputy Director of

Balochistan Food Authority. The event witnessed active participation from the attendees who expressed great enthusiasm to learn and implement newfound knowledge in their respective roles.

During the training, Qavi Khan Achakzai highlighted the alarming situation of malnutrition in Balochistan province, as identified by the National Nutrition Survey 2018 conducted by the Government of Pakistan. The survey revealed severe deficiencies of essential nutrients, such as iron and vitamin D, which have been associated with anaemia in pregnant women and children, as well as weak bones in older individuals. Achakzai emphasized that

food fortification is a proven strategy adopted by many countries worldwide to address these nutritional deficiencies and enhance the nutritional value of food. Achakzai further shared that Nutrition International, under its food fortification project, provided 25 flour mills and 10 mills in Balochistan with micro-feeder machinery to add vitamins to flour free of cost. This initiative aims to improve the nutritional content of flour and subsequently help combat malnutrition in the region. Nazeebullah Nasir, Deputy Director, Balochistan Food Authority, informed the participants that the Food Fortification Law has been formally approved by the provincial assembly.

Addressing the conference, the Secretary Population said that multi-sectoral approach is being adopted in Balochistan to improve Family Planning and Reproductive Health Services, aiming at improving the health of mothers and children.



PISHIN: Provincial Ombudsperson Noor Jahan Mengal addressing a seminar on harassment at rest. Additional Deputy Commissioner Ashraf ud Din and officers of Line Department are also present

## Awareness seminar held in district Lasbela on World Population Day

Independent Report HUB: In observance of World Population Day, the District Population Welfare Office in Lasbela organized an awareness seminar in Hub city on the Saturday day. The seminar saw the participation of women and men from various walks of life.

During the event, speeches were delivered by several dignitaries, including Safiullah Shahwani, the District Officer of the Population Welfare Department; Dr. Azma, Lady Medical Officer; Dr. Sangeeta Kumari; and Family Welfare Worker Jamila. District Officer Safiullah Shahwani, in his address, highlighted that the increasing population in Balochistan not only adversely affected the health of mothers and children but also hinders the achievement of developmental goals in the province. He emphasized that one significant reason for the high infant mortality rate (IMR) is the lack of proper birth spacing, which also contributes to rising maternal mor-

talidity rate (MMR), blood deficiency in mothers, and various physical and psychological issues. Shahwani further stated that the growing population deprives children of opportunities of education and upbringing, forcing them into child labour during their childhood. He also pointed out that early age marriages among girls are another major cause of extended families, as parents who cannot afford to provide their daughters with education and fulfill their other necessities put them at risk by marrying them off at a young age, not only endangering their lives but also jeopardizing the lives of



ductive health and disseminate the message of using contraceptives to couples desiring birth spacing. These medications are freely available at department centers, he added. The participants posed several questions regarding reproductive health and contraceptive methods, to which the panel provided detailed and satisfactory answers.