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Vol. XIII No. 233 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Saturday August 05, 2023, Muharramul Haram 17, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

# Pakistan, Iran agree to strengthen cultural, people-to-people linkages

kistan and Iran on Friday agreed to strengthen cultural linkages and peopleto-people contacts to further bring the two brotherly countries closer.

Both sides also emphasized the need for taking measures to enhance cooperation in the area of tourism to its fullest

The bilateral relations were discussed in a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and the visiting Iranian Minister for Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Seyed Ezzatollah Zarghami, who along with the members of his delegation, called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Moghadam was also Palestine.

Welcoming the delegation, the president said that Pakistan greatly valued its relations with Iran, which were based on historic, cultural and religious bonds.

steps taken by the Iranian government for the facilitation of Pakistani pilgrims visiting the holy shrines in

The meeting exchanged views on the rising cases of Islamophobia in the world and called for collective efforts to prevent such incidents.

The president remarked that both countries enjoyed good relations and had similar views on the is-Ambassador of Iran to sues of Islamophobia, Pakistan Reza Amiri Jammu and Kashmir, and

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi welcomes the Iranian Minister for

Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Sved Ezzatollah Zarghami, at

He informed the visiting dignitary about the anti-Muslim policies of India, particularly in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) where the Indian security forces had unleashed a reign He appreciated the of terror, and were persecuting Muslims.

He also thanked the Iranian leadership for supporting Pakistan's stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dis-

Congratulating the Iranian leadership and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, over the normalization of relations between the two countries, the president expressed the hope that the breakthrough in their relations would not only benefit the two countries but also the entire re-



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif alongwith Services Chiefs and Federal Ministers inaugurating National Aerospace Science and Technology Park

## **IHC** sets aside trial court verdict declaring PTI chief's Toshakhana reference 'maintainable'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday dismissed the decision of the trial court regarding the admissibility of toshakhana criminal case and remanded the case back to the additional session court for re-

The court also rejected the appeals seeking to stay the proceeding in toshakhana case and the shifting of case to another court. The bench also served notices to the respondents on another appeal regarding production of witnesses and seeking to restore the right of defence of the accused.

Chief Justice Aamer Faroog issued the written order regarding the termination of lower court's verdict pertaining maintainability of the criminal case against the former court to also give answers said.

to the question raised in the appeal while announcing its fresh verdict about the admissibility of the case.

The court rejected the appeal for transfer of the criminal case to another court and said that as per the verdicts of the high courts in similar matters a case could only be shifted to the alternative court on the basis of solid rea-

The written order said that the petitioner had raised the objection against the trial court judge due to his alleged Facebook posts about the case. The trial court judge had also rejected the plea seeking to shift the case to another

It further said that the ECP's lawyer was of the view that the Facebook posts associated with the judge were fake. It had prime minister. The court been done to damage the also instructed the trial repute of the court, he

# Pakistan's scenic beauty can be turned into a great opportunity: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sharif on Friday said that being rich with immense ernment officers not to inscenic beauty, particularly the Northern Areas, Pakistan could turn the re- those from other countries sources into a great oppor-

vas addressing the launch-'Salam Pakistan" brand and e-portal that would help promote tourist attractions across the world and guide tourists.

He said Pakistan was a great place for promoting tourism and cultural heritage

He instructed his Advisor on Tourism Awn Chaudhry to do maximum efforts to promote tourism, though the government was

**President** 

signs three

bills into law

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on

Friday gave his assent to

three bills following their

assage by the parliament.

proved Elections (second

amendment) Bill 2023

aimed at amending the Elec-

He assented to Paki-

stan Sovereign Wealth Fund

Bill 2023 that provides for

establishing the Pakistan

proved Pakistan Airports

Authority Bill 2023 aimed

at establishing the Author-

ity for improving the man-

agement, operations and

The president ap-

proved the said three bills

in exercise of the powers

conferred on him under Ar-

ticle 75 of the Constitution.

Bill for privatization

of PIA presented

in Senate

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Bill regarding privatization

of PIA was presented in

the bill to respective com-

mittee on the proposal of

opposition senators.

Chairman Senate sent

Federal minister

Khawaja Saad Rafiq while

presenting the bill regard-

ing privatization of PIA in

Senate on Friday said PIA

loss is expected to be Rs

112 billion this year. There is loan of Rs 742 billion and

we have to obtain loan to

Senate Friday.

President Alvi also ap

tion Act 2017.

Sovereign Fund.

transport services.

The president ap-

very soon.

Prime Prime Minister Shehbaz Shehbaz instructed the advisors as well as the govteract merely with their counterparts but also which had excelled in tourism, cultural heritage and The prime minister other fields. "Allah Almighty blessed our couning ceremony of the try with great natural resources of scenic beauty all over Northern Areas, which can be converted into a great opportunity,"

> he remarked. In his address, Advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Tourism and Sports Awn Chaudhry said to promote the soft image of the country worldwide, the PTDC had developed a well-coordinated strategic approach for best utilization of the available resources with focus on

Minister stan as one of most tourist friendly countries in Asia. He said the launching of Tourism Brand for Pakistan was an important step in achieving the goal. The name "SALAM PAKI-STAN" is selected as Tour-

ism Brand for Pakistan. The objectives of Tourism Brand of Pakistan include building the image and perception of Pakistan as a safe, secure, friendly and hospitable nation, promoting the country as an attractive tourist destination, especially for international tourists, projecting recreational, mountaineering, adventure, cultural, religious, historical, cuisine, geographical and other tourism related aspects of Pa-kistan and highlighting diversities of the provinces, regions, cities etc., variety of food, accommodation,



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurating Pakistan's tourism brand 'Salam Pakistan'.

# Persons now harping on freedom of expression, did strangulate media while in power: Marriyum

Minister for Information Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb stated on Friday that some persons were now delivering speeches on freedom of expression though they themselves had kept the 'media corner' in the Parliament House closed, banned programmes by journalists, and strangulated freedom of media during their four-year stint in power. Talking to the media outside the Parliament House, on a question about the economic crisis, inflation and violation of the IMF agreement, she said the PTI chief just manoeuvred to shift the blame from his economic team and

190 million pounds.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Castigating the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, she said the person arrived in courts covering his face with a bucket, box or canister as he could not face the masses and had no answer for theft allegations.

"We suffered censorship for four years but we did not put buckets, boxes or canisters on our faces and faced the odds bravely with our heads high," she added. The minister said the PEMRA (Amendment) Bill 2023 was a serious piece of legislation and on her request, the bill was referred to the Senate's Standing Committee, which should give a constructive opinion about it. The bill his cabinet for the theft of had already been passed by the National Assembly.



Minister, Atta Ullah Tarar paying homage to the martyrs of Police during his visit to Police Lines

# Talents like vou make us all proud; COAS tells World **Junior Squash Champ**

Army will continue to support young talent



RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Friday met World Junior Squash Champion Mohammad Hamza Khan here at General

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the COAS congratulated the young champion for his outstanding achievement that brought honour for the country.

'Talents like you make us all proud and your great achievement also underscores the great potential that this nation has", the COAS remarked.

The COAS also said, "Army will continue to support the young talent in the country and promised to provide him full support in academic pursuit and sports.

The COAS emphasized, "Our youth is the future of this country and with focus, dedication and hard work there is nothing that Pakistan cannot accomplish"

# **India cannot suppress legitimate** struggle of Kashmiris: Kaira

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira Friday said India cannot suppress the legitimate struggle of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Addressing a press conference, he said Pakistan will not allow India to succeed in its nefarious designs to turn the Muslim majority into the IIOJK.Rahmani said according to the United Nations Charter, Kashmir has a separate identity and India's claims on Kashmir

Flanked by Kashmiri leaders, he said Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari presented the Kashmir cause in a befitting manner at all international forums even during his visit

The Advisor to Prime Minister said the Kashmir dispute was not an issue between Hindus and Muslims, rather it was a just freedom cause of the people residing over there.

Kaira regretted that India is giving the impression that Kashmir is an issue between Hindus and Muslims through



Minister on Kashmir Affairs, Qamar Zaman Kaira addresses press conference.

### **Kashmiris to** observe Youm-e-Istehsal today

ISLAMABAD (INP): Kashmiris on the both sides of the Line of Control and world over will observe Youm-e-Istehsaal tomorrow to send a clear message to New Delhi government that Kashmiris outrightly reject actions taken by Modi-led Indian government on August 5, 2019 and illegal occupation of their homeland.

Scores of events including seminars, protest rallies, screening video documentaries, photo exhibitions exposing Indian brutalities on Kashmiri people, have been organized across the country.

### China calls for proper, peaceful resolution

of Kashmir issue

BEIJING (APP): :China on Friday reiterated its clear and consistent position on the Kashmir issue ahead of 'Yaum-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir", and called for proper and peaceful resolution of the longstanding issue under the United Nations (UN) Charter, UN Security Council's resolutions and bilateral agreements.

"China's position on the Kashmir issue is consistent and clear. This issue is a dispute left over from history between India and Pakistan, and should be resolved in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council's resolutions and bilateral agreements in a properly and peaceful manner," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

### Shehbaz summons CCI meeting today

ISLAMABAD (INP) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has summoned Council of Common Interests (CCI) meeting today (Sat-

The meeting will be headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at 12 (noon). Chief ministers of the four provinces and federal minsters will participate in the meeting. A report regarding the new digital census recently conducted in the country will be presented during the meeting. The provinces will present their stance on the digital census.

### ISLAMABAD (APP): cesses in the field of aerospace technology.

PM inaugurates Aerospace

Science & Technology Park

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday inaugurated Science and Technology Park (NASTP) established with the collaboration among the government, international companies and

private sector. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, he appreciated the leadership of Pakistan Air Force for initiating the project, which augured well for activities related to the Special Investment Facilitation

Council (SIFC). Chief Executive Officer of NASTP Air Commodore Dr Liaquatullah, in his briefing, told the par-

He said the institution the National Aerospace had established research and development centers for the capacity building of new generation. "This is a project of

national and strategic importance and will provide ecosystems, besides providing multifaceted ben-He said the project,

which had been completed in record time, would prove to be a milestone for the country's self-reliance in aerospace technology. He said the Pakistan

Air Force was pursuing the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali ticipants that the PAF had Jinnah to achieve self-reli-



PESHAWAR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman talking to media persons after Grand Tribal Jirga, in Peshawar.

# Allied parties fully empower PM for decision about caretaker PM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Allied parties have fully empowered Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif in connection with decision for care taker PM. The meeting of heads of allied parties of ruling coalition for deciding about care taker PM concluded under the PM Shehbaz Sharif Friday. The one point agenda about care taker PM came under consideration in the meeting that tookplace through video link. .

The names of Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, former speaker Balochistan assembly Aslam Bhootani, former bureaucrat Fawad Hassan Fawad and technocrat Hafiz

Sheikh came under consideration. After a prolonged consultation, the heads of allied parties expressed full confidence on PM Shehbaz Sharif and gave full powers to him to decide about care taker PM. They said that PM will nominate as care taker PM to whom he considers suitable. We will extend full support to his de-

ment and prosperity

PM Shehbaz Sharif thanked the heads of all political parties for expressing confidence on him saying all the parties will have to go ahead together for the sake of national develop-

repay loans We will have to bring change in the system of PIA and no one will become jobless in this regard. Foreign investment will have to be brought in PIA. The planes on lease are being demanded back and planes are not becoming available on further He went on to say a

committee will have to be set up to save the national institutions from complete destruction. He indicated a holding

company will be set up for this purpose. PIA control will have to be given to private sector.

# Daily Soice of Masse. Independent

Saturday August 05, 2023

# Road to peace

It is a time of transition in the subcontinent, as general elections will throw up the next dispensation. Only a few days remain for the Pakistani government's tenure to end, with caretakers shortly taking over and paving the way for general elections and a new administration. Meanwhile, India goes to the polls next year.

The changing situation presents an opportunity for new administrations in both states to restart the peace process. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif illegal, unethical, and unset the tone for better ties when, speaking at an event in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said that war was no longer an option with our "neighbour", a thinly veiled reference to India.

Mr Sharif added that "abnormalities" cannot be removed in the bilateral relationship unless "serious issues are ... addressed through peaceful and meaningful discussions".

With the curtain falling on the PDM government, the next dispensation, whether it consists of old faces or new, should carry forward these "meaningful discussions", with the hope that it will find a responsive partner in New Delhi.

Bilateral relations have been in deep freeze since India controversially revoked held Kashmir's special constitutional status four years ago. To be fair, attempts have been made by the outgoing administration to mend ties with India. But the response from our eastern neighbour has been the repetirieignour has been the repeti- armed troops over a civilian population of the 'do more' mantra ian population of only 12 tinians had been dead, including 12,191 civilians, where militancy is concerned.

This is despite the fact that Karachi has turned Indian officials themselves have admitted that cross-border infiltration is down, while the LoC remains largely quiet, especially after the ceasefire was revived in 2021. Therefore, the impression is that the Modi administration is not serious about peace with Pakistan, and wants to burnish its credentials amongst its rabid support base by appearing tough on Islamabad.

But while the Sangh Parivar may dream about 'Akhand Bharat' and re-establishing People approach religion ancient India's supposed glory through the sword, saner interests, backgrounds, and minds across the border have tells us that there are counselled restraint. For example, former Indian army chief retired Gen M.M. Naravane that there may be 70 or even warned against a "two-front war" pitting India against Pakistan and China, while calling for a diplomatic solution to dis-

The months ahead will show how strong the desire for peace is on both sides. While common friends — the US, European any inner dimensions or instates, the Gulf countries can help facilitate talks, Pakistan and India will have to do the heavy lifting themselves if derstood through applying they are to achieve a breakthrough.

In Pakistan, the new civilian government, as well as the gentlemen in Rawalpindi, will mystical, spiritual (ruhani), both need to endorse a fresh peace proposal. Meanwhile in India, whether the BJP returns or the INDIA alliance manages to trounce the Hindu nationalist juggernaut, the new dispensation should respond in earnest to Pakistan's peace overtures. Once the election dust settles in both countries, back-channel hilation) leading to 'baqa' talks can get the ball rolling.

# **Kashmir: A bleeding Paradise**



By Qamar Bashir

On August 5, 2019, the Indian government repealed Article 370, which prohibited the Indian Parliament from applying certain laws to Jammu and Kashmir without the state's consent, as well as Article 35A, which empowered the Jammu and Kashmir state legislature to define and grant special rights and privileges to "permanent residents" of the state. This constitutional decision precipitated a massive political and security crisis in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), resulting in a five-year-long brutal military siege in which communications were cut off. restrictions on freedom of and people were denied easy access to food, medicine, and other critical sup-

The use of extreme tactics such as arbitrary detentions, torture, and extrajudicial killings has degraded Kashmiris' fundamental rights. Businesses have been shut down, schools have been closed, and healthcare facilities have been disrupted. People are unable to communicate with their families and friends, and the occupying forces have recently begun using disturbing and inhuman tactics that have never been used in many other conflict zones. such as refusing to return the bodies of martyred civilians to their families, denying them funerals, and denying their families the ability to fulfill their reli-

gious obligations. The deployment of less than the population of IIOJ&K into the most militarized Zone of the world having no parallel in the current world history. ian Kashmiris. There is only one comparable case of Palestine, which has been under Israeli blockade since 1967, but it is likewise dwarfed when compared to IIOJ&K. On a combined population of 5 million, Israel has stationed roughly 60,000 troops in the West Bank and 15,000 in the Gaza Strip, resulting in one soldier for every 83 civilians, compared to one soldier for every ten civilians in IIOJ&K. This high level of militarization wreaked havoc on the lives of the people who reside there. The forces are frequently viewed as an occupying force, and their presence has resulted in extensive human rights violations including as arbitrary detentions, torture,

and extrajudicial killings, in

addition to wreaking

havoc on the economy

According to numer-

and infrastructure.

ous credible reports, India's draconian illegal rule over a UN-mandated disputed region has killed 96,225 innocent civilian Kashmiris, tortured 7,297 Kashmiris, imprisoned 168,202 civilians without recourse to justice, and destroyed 110,500 homes and businesses. An estimated 100,000 widows confront severe difficulties in providing for themselves and their families. In Indian-controlled Kashmir, an estimated 50,000 halfwidows married to men who have disappeared or been arrested and are subjected to sexual violence and harassment. The violence has impacted an estimated 2 million children in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Many of these children have lost one or both of their parents, and they may have also been subjected to violence, displacement, and trauma. 20,000 women had been raped, gang raped, or molested, according to the International People's Tribu-

nal on Kashmir (IPTK). casualties These greatly outnumber those in Palestine, where as of Deover one million heavily cember 2022, 21,104 Palestinians had been dead, in-

including 3 125 children also significantly bigger Afghan war, in which at least 47,368 Afghan civilians, including 16,440 chil-tensity.

This equates to one dren, were killed as of January 2022, according to the Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs at Brown University.

> Many reports and research have documented human rights breaches in IIOJ&K: "Kashmir: A Year of Darkness" (2020) was released by Human Rights Watch. Amnesty International released a report titled "India: Kashmir: Clampdown on Dissent and Media Freedom" in 2021. The International Commission of Jurists produced a study paper titled Kashmir: The Impact of the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990" (2018), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights published a report on the human rights situation in Kashmir" (2018). The Asian Centre for Human Rights published "Kashmir: The Human Cost of Conflict" in 2017. These papers and studies detail a wide range of human rights breaches in IIOJ&K, including arbitrary detentions under the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act (AFSPA), in which thousands of people have been jailed without charge or trial. There have been numerous reports of torture and ill-treatment by Indian security forces, as well as hundreds of extrajudicial deaths. Indian security forces have used sexual violence against women and girls. The Indian government has restricted freedom of expression in Kashmir, including a prohibition on public gatherings and the use of social media.

The International Crisis Group's (ICG) Conflict Tracker ranks the Kashmir conflict as "High" based on a number of indicators such as the number of people murdered, the number of people displaced, the level of violence, and the level of instability.

The Kashmir dispute is ranked 143<sup>rd</sup> out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index (GPI), an annual index that analyses the level of peace in countries

eation & Event Data These casualties are Project (ACLED), a re- and that there is a "serisearch project that collects than the casualties of the data on political violence around the world, ranks the Kashmir conflict as High In-

The Indian government has put a number of limitations on freedom of movement in Kashmir, including a curfew and a ban on travel between regions. For reporting on sensitive themes, journalists have been arrested, detained, and harassed. The government has banned the coverage of public gatherings and their reporting on social media. Journalists have been arrested and incarcerated for reporting on sensitive themes under the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act (AFSPA). Police and security forces have harassed journalists for reporting on sensitive topics and visiting particular areas of Kashmir or meeting with certain persons. In 2019, the government restricted access to Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms. Journalists have found it difficult to report on the situation in Kashmir as a result of these restrictions and have made it difficult for Kashmiris to obtain reliable information

about what is going on in

their own land. The rise of violence against the civilian Kashmiri people, particularly after August 5, 2019, has been widely condemned. The US Department of State found the Indian government to have arrested hundreds of Kashmiris without charge or trial, and to have subjected them to torture, including beatings, electric shocks, and sexual assault, in its annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practises released on March 8, 2023. According to the report, Indian security forces have killed dozens of Kashmiris without due process, have limited freedom of expression in Kashmir, notably by prohibiting public meetings and restricting the media. and have restricted freedom of movement by imposing curfews and checkpoints. The UN has consistently urged a halt to human rights violations in Kashmir. Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, stated in 2019 that is "deenly concerning" ous risk of further viola-Union has also de-

mir be stopped. The EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borrell, stated in 2020 that the situation in Kashmir was "of great concern" and that the EU was 'monitoring the situation closely." The US has also raised alarm about human rights abuses in Kashmir. The US State Department stated in 2021 that it was "deeply concerned" about "ongoing restrictions on freedom of movement, communications, and assembly" in Kashmir. China has also criticised India's violations of human rights in Kashmir. In 2021, the Chinese Foreign Ministry stated that India's "activities in Kashmir are a severe violation of human rights" and that they 'endanger regional peace and stability.'

Undaunted by international condemnation and rebukes, the BJP government views the Kashmir crisis primarily through a security lens, ignoring the situation's political and humanitardeploy more troops across the region while wearing the blinkers of its Hindu nationalist ideol-

After nearly five years of siege, it is apparthat the BJP government's iron-fist policy is failing. While New Delhi appears unwilling to stray from its greatly from acknowledging the political roots of the Kashmir crisis and approaching it as a multirather than framing it as a security crisis fueled by Pakistan that must be solved with greater and greater use of force. All nations commit-

ted to peace, particularly the United States and the European Union, have a critical role to play. They should encourage the Indian government to reengage with Kashmir's political leaders, emphasizing that government's unrelenting onslaught on The Armed Conflict the situation in Kashmir Kashmiri civil society is only fueling dissatisfaction and increasing the risk of militancy. They tions." The European should make it clear that Former Press Minister success on distinct mat- to the Embassy of Pa-

fighters to their families, may boost India's foreign image and soothe public resentment. They should also address the problem of harassment and abuse of journalists and human rights activists in bilateral talks on a regular basis

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The entire Muslim world should unite and boycott Indian products and services, downgrade their diplomatic ties and put in abeyance all trade and investment agreements until India reverses its illegal action of 5th August, 2019.

India, instead of changing the demo-graphics of the region, should address the issue through a series of public consultations, and to lend credibility to this process, it should roll back its constitutional coup of August 5th and restore articles 35A and 370 to their original positions, repeal all draconian laws specific to Kashmir, stop crackdown on political activity, allow free expression ian aspects in order to and peaceful dissent, and release Kashmiri politicians.

Then it should into a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan to decide the modus of operandi to hold free fair and transparent plebiscite under the auspices of United Nation to give inalienable right to the Kashmir to decide their current course, the gov-ernment would benefit aspiration of Kashmir people. If the Modi's hindutva inspired Kashmir strangulation continues unabated it would dimensional problem, only fuel resentment of the IIOJ&K, motivating even more youth to join the militants' ranks.

The only way to find a long-term solution in Kashmir is to implement several UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions calling for a peaceful end to the conflict and a plebiscite to determine the region's future, or else Kashmiris will have to wait for another Mohammad Bin Qasim to rescue them from Raja Dahar's iron fist. --- The writer is Former Press Secretary manded that human ters, such as returning kistan to France; rights atrocities in Kash-the corpses of deceased Former MD, SRBC

# Mystical doors



Jan-e-Alam Khaki

with multiple perspectives, based on their inclinations, perspectives. John Renard "Seven doors to Islam". Looking at history, one would be inclined to believe 170 ways Islam could be interpreted. Maulana Rumi stretches it to as many as there are human beings.

In the 'House of Islam', one can categorise three major doors of entry. One is exoteric, which adheres to literal truths, with a strong focus on external performances, and consistency in ritual performances, refusing to admit terpretations of faith. The second is the rational door, interpreting Islam through rational processes. It claims that Islam can be better una rational approach. Defenders of Reason in Islam demonstrates the perspectives of this approach.

There is the third door, that is often described as esoteric (batini), or gnostic (irfani). This approach sees faith as essentially spiritual, and has to be approached as something more esoteric that requires an additional effort beyond the literal. Traditionally, this door has been called the 'path' or 'tariqa'. It leads to unity (wahda), wherein the lover' (ashiq) and 'beloved,' (ma'shuq) are fused at the stage of 'fana' (anni-(affirmation) or 'Fana Fillah Wa Baqa Billah'

(Mystical Dimensions of Many thinkers have

tried to connect these major paths through different angles. In his Reconstruction, Iqbal divides religious life into three periods: faith, thought and discovery. In the first period, "... religious life appears as a form of discipline which the individual or a whole people must accept as an unconditional command without any rational understanding of the ultimate meaning and purpose of that command". The second stage, Iqbal thinks, is characterised by a perfect submission to discipline, and is "followed by a rational understanding of the discipline and the ultimate source of its author-

In the third period, Iqbal argues, "metaphysics is displaced by psychology, and religious life develops the ambition to come into direct contact with the Ultimate Reality. It is here that religion becomes a matter of personal assimilation of life and power; and the individual achieves a free personality, not by releasing himself from the fetters of law, but by discovering the ultimate source of the law within the depths of his own consciousness'

Similar to these categories, Sufis, too, divide religious life into three stages: sharia, tariqa, and haqiqa. Still more interesting is the Christian tripartite division to which Annemarie Schimmel gives a larger canvas. She argues: mystics in every reli-

gious tradition have tended to describe the different steps on the way that leads towards God by the image of the Path. The Christian tripartite division (for example) of the via purgativa, the via contemplativa, and the via illuminativa is, to some extent, the same as the Islamic definition of sharia, tariqa and haqiqa". This means that religions tend to reflect often similar,

though not necessarily the same, stages of develop-

ality to a deeper level still.

Iqbal pushes spiritu-

He argues that, "as in the words of a Muslim Sufi -'no [true] understanding of the Holy Book is possible until it is actually revealed to the believer just as it was revealed to the Prophet [PBUH]'. Iqbal explains this further in some of his verses, of which only one is quoted here. "Tere zameer pe jab tak na ho nazool-i-Kitab/ Girah kusha hai na razi na sahib-i-kashshaaf" meaning unless it is revealed to your consciousness as was revealed to the Prophet, no razi, no sahib-i kashshaaf is able to untie the knots (of the secrets), referring to Fakhruddin Razi and Zamakhshari, the writer of Tafsir-i Kashshaaf, both renowned commentators of the Quran. To Iqbal, the Quranic revelation is not just a revela-

tion, but an experience. For Sufis, this is music to their ears, because they also emphasise experience of the heart, not just literal or philosophical debates. It is the inner experience, the irfan, the ma'rifa, the ilm-i ladunni (Quran, 18:65) that enables one to grasp the true

meaning of faith. Echoing this perspective, in the preface of Light Within me, Allama Mohammad Hussain Tabatabai says: "Gnosis (ma'rifa or irfan) is a perfect way of worship, based on love (ishq), not on fear or hope. It is a way of understanding the inner facts of religion instead of being contented with its outward and perceptible

The author continues salt in a deep wound. to argue that, "Among the followers of all revealed religions, ... there are individuals who follow the path of gnosis." In sum, spirituality is akin to religion, not an add-on.

# Where are we going? generation of Pakhtun much to resist the onslaught



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Democracy is dead! Long live democracy! In the space of 16 short months, the PDM government has put paid to the notion that the PTI's 'hybrid' regime was the worst thing that could happen to Pakistani politics. With no clarity on when elections may be held, the outgoing coalition comprising our most hallowed 'democrats' has bulldozed a series of bills through parliament to cement the power and plunder of Pakistan's two main arbiters — foreign states/capital and the military establishment.

There are still some who labour under the delusion that all is well because Imran Khan and the former top brass of the military are no longer ruling the roost. Khan is facing disqualification, his party in tatters. The generals who patronised him are gone. But for all that changes,

much remains the same. Take Baloch youth who have been screaming at the top of their lungs about the pillage of Reko Diq, Saindak and Gwadar. About enforced disappearances. About majoritarian tyranny and demographic change. The passing of a bill to establish the 'Pak-China Gwadar University' in Lahore and the naming of Gwadar airport after Feroz Khan Noon is like rubbing

Also in Balochistan, the Hazara community has lost young men to target killers over successive days in Quetta this past week. Is another wave of genocidal violence against Hazaras on the cards? Then there is the than 20 years ago, has been made pawns in unending strategic games. We have reached a point where even the pro-'jihad' JUI-F is targeted in bloody attacks, yet there is no sign that the establishment or the parties that rule in its name will be held to account.

In the ethnic peripheries and metropolitan Pakistan alike, IMF-mandated subsidy cuts — petroleum, electricity, gas and whatever else our rulers can think up to keep donors happy wreak havoc on working people. Remarkably, many who were celebrating the receipt of \$3 billion from the IMF a few weeks ago are lamenting price hikes now.

Meanwhile, the sale of land, minerals, mountains, coastlines and more to the highest foreign bidders continues with reckless abandon. They tell us that foreign investment is necessary at all costs, whether the sacrificial lamb is Karoonjhar in Sindh or the Hindu Kush/Karakoram in Gilgit-Baltistan. The choreographers talk of 'dust to development' and label anyone who disputes this narrative anti-state.

At a molecular level, the epidemic of sexual violence and patriarchal suffocation intensifies with each passing day. The scandal at Islamia University in Bahawalpur was only the most recent of its kind. This was followed by news of the young minor girl, Rizwana, almost tortured to death allegedly by the wife of a serving judge. We are an increasingly brutalised and repressed society, and our law-enforcement apparatus is itself at the heart of the epidemic while our media and political mainstream blame the victim.

There is more. But the real question is if and how there is a way out. Principled objectors and political organisers are doing

youth who, since the onset in the ethnic peripheries, of the 'war on terror' more within feminist circles, and amongst at least some segments of the working class. So why do all of these efforts not aggregate into a critical mass that can actually present the people of Pakistan with a political alternative? Are we forever doomed to being caught between the dynastic 'old guard' and populists like Imran Khan?

It is true that the establishment — and most of its foreign pa--trons — are quite ha--ppy for Pakistani politics to continue to be a game of musical chairs between vario--us factions of the bou-rgeoisie. They diand Choreo-gr-a--ph and rig the game. Stunt the political imagination.

But this does not com-

pletely explain our impasse. To move beyond an establishment-centric politics motored by foreign capital, property developers, cartels and patriarchs of all descriptions — requires more than outrage and selective solidarity. All those who want to transcend the status quo must coalesce around a shared political and economic programme. Limiting one's politics only to the members of an insular identity - whether ethnic, gender, religious or other may be rewarding within the particular social media bubbles that each of us inhabit, but takes us no closer to dismantling the hydraheaded monster that subjugates all. Back in the day, progressives called such a programme socialism. It matters less what we call it and more that we commit to building something together. Ethnic-nationalists, feminists, Marxists, and whoever else who can see through the liberal hobnobbing and sloganeering, ought to be thinking along these lines. Or we can remain stuck in our own echo chambers as fires engulf us all. -- Cour-

**Page** 

# Naqvi inspects work

# on Ring Road Southern Loop-3 project

Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Ring Road Southern Loop 3 project near Multan Road Maraka today to inspect the ongoing work. During his visit, Chief Minister Naqvi provided instructions to the concerned authorities, emphasizing the importance of completing the project

promptly.
CM Punjab said that the Ring Road Southern Loop 3 project, which began after a hiatus of 12 years, aims to provide the people with improved transportation facilities. Chief Minister Naqvi expressed confidence that the project would be completed by December

SUKKUR: Water level increases while high grade

flood water reaches at Sukkur Barrage into River

Indus due to heavy downpour of monsoon season,

**National Police** 

Martyrs' Day observed

in provincial metropolis

LAHORE APP): National terrorists and robbers

we sleep good due to the to deal with any aggression

vigilant police, who at the or the menace of terrorism

and defeated the cowardly learn from Pakistan.

told APP.

Police Martyrs' Day was

observed in provincial

metropolis on Friday to pay

tribute to great martyrs,

brave fighters of the nation

while expressing solidarity with their families. "In night,

time of need, had combated

project is expected to be finished in just 5 months. court cases surrounding the around Multan Road will project, but they have now also benefit from the been resolved, clearing the way for its progress.

The project's path

through Bahria Town received tremendous society. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi assured that all obstacles have entire area for the project is now clear. He emphasized that the project would be executed with the highest quality standards.

Ring Road Southern Loop and the Punjab government will significantly ease

Independent Report media that the Lahore Ring travelling from South LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Road Southern Loop 3 Punjab to Lahore, relieving pressure on Thokar and Canal Road. The residents Previously, there were of all Housing Schemes project

Addressing concerns about his intentions, Chief Minister Naqvi clarified that he is solely committed support from the housing to serving the people and not seeking votes. He highlighted the efforts being made by the entire been removed, and the team to provide maximum relief to the public.

In response to inquiries about the Islamia University Bahawalpur incident, Chief Minister Naqvi said that a judicial The completion of the commission will be formed will submit a detailed He informed the traffic congestion for those report to the commission.

### 12 dead, 1,263 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 12 people were killed and 1,263 others injured in 1,161 road traffic crashes in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 639 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 624 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams.

The analysis showed that 649 drivers, 34 underage drivers, 147 pedestrians, and 479 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 256 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 289 persons.

placing the provincial capital at top of the list. followed by 81 in Faisalabad with 78 victims and at third Multan with accidents and



gifts to the orphans of the Martyrs Police Soldiers during ceremony at Al-Hamara Hall in Provincial Capital.

# Federal Ombudsman stresses need for speedy implementation of decisions

Federal Ombudsman, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi here Friday said that swift resolution of people's complaints was the topmost priority of his department and asked employees of all the federal government organizations to double their efforts for speedy resolution of masses complaints and

decisions made by his Chairing a high-level meeting here at Federal

implementation of the

Peshawar, Ejaz Qureshi said that access of people Federal the Ombudsman office has been made easy and comfortable

registered through a simple application or submitted He said it has been mandatory that all complaints were disposed

complaints could be

of in 60 days. Urging the Govt departments to swiftly implement the decisions of the Federal Ombudsman Office, Ejaz people's doorsteps.

advisers and consultants were hired on merit while facilitation centres were established for the assistance the complainants. He said that 18

offices of his organization were working in all provinces of the country including in Peshawar, Abbottabad, Swat and DI Khan for speedy disposal cases

implementation of the Federal Ombudsman Office's decisions at

# **Indian persecution** can't stifle voice of Kashmiris: Baligh

Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that state persecution by the Indian rulers can not stifle voice for freedom of the Kashmiri people. In a message on the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day here on Friday, he said August 5, 2019 is the darkest day in the history of Kashmir when India abolished special status of Kashmir by usurping human rights through illegal action.

'Persecution and violation of rights of Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is condemnable," he said, adding that India could not suppress the spirit of freedom of Kashmiris persecution.

people are constantly making sacrifices for the legitimate right of self-determination and India is continuously violating human rights in illegally Occupied Kashmir, adding that United Nations (UN) and international community should take cognizance of human rights violation in IIOJK.He said Kashmiris should be given their right of self-determination according to the UN resolutions and international community should take notice of the inhumane atrocities on the oppressed Kashmiris. Governor Balighur Muhammad Rehman emphasized that peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue in the light of UN resolutions is very important for durable peace in the region.



PESHAWAR: Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar, Shah Fahad administrating polio-vaccine drops to a child during inauguration ceremony of anti-polio immunization campaign, in Peshawar.

# Internship programme concludes at ICCBS-UOK

KARACHI (APP): The 16<sup>th</sup> Summer Internship Programme-2023, the country's largest internship programme has successfully completed at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi (UoK) on

This year, the internship program provided 180 students, belonging to various academic and research institutions of all four provinces, quality training in various fields of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Plant Biotechnology, Engi- competitive world, and of sciences, he said, adding

neering, Information Technology, Food Sciences, Library Sciences, ISO and Marketing, Diagnostic Labs, IAC, CBSCR, etc. Addressing the certifi-

cate distribution ceremony of the summer internship program 2023, held at the Golden Jubilee Hall of the ICCBS, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Director of the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, and Coordinator General COMSTECH, highlighted the significance of scientific research in today's fast-paced and ment in the frontier fields

how it is important for a developing country like

He said, "The prime objective of this internship is to motivate students towards scientific research that attempts to explore and understand the working of the physical world."

He said that internships provide students with hands-on experience, enabling them to enter the real-work scenario with practical skills. ICCBS has contributed to the global human resource develop-

that the 16<sup>th</sup> summer internship program, organized by ICCBS, University of Karachi, was a great opportunity for talented students who sought to get exposure to working in the worldclass research and academic institution.

He underlined the importance of kindness for students, and said, "Benevolence improves people's way of living and it brings people and society together and decreases hatred, negativity, and jealousy in the society."

Prof. Choudhary con-

Salim and her team for the successful completion of the 16<sup>th</sup> summer internship program

Prof. Dr. Asmat Salim, senior scientist at Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD) and the organizer of the internship program, said this internship program was initiated in the year 2008, and since then we have organized it regularly every year. This year, around 2000 students, who are in their final year of graduation from institutions all over the country, applied gratulated Prof. Dr. Asmat for the training program.

# International News

# Russia says thwarted Ukraine attacks on Black Sea naval base, Crimea

including the scourge of

terrorism in a befitting

manner," Muhammad Rauf, a retired elderly police officer

a wide range of experience

and the entire world could

"Our brave police have

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia said on Friday it had thwarted Ukrainian sea and air drone

attacks on a naval base in the Black Sea and the Crimean peninsula. The number of attacks in the sea has increased from both sides since Moscow exited a deal last month that had allowed Ukrainian grain

tween the two countries. "Tonight, the Armed Forces of Ukraine, with the use of two unmanned sea boats, attempted an attack on the Novorossivsk naval base of the Russian Armed Forces," the defence ministry said on Telegram.

**Monitoring Desk** 

NEW DELHI: India's top

court on Friday suspended

the defamation conviction

of Rahul Gandhi, a decision

that could pave the way for

the senior opposition poli-

tician to return to parlia-

ment after his disqualifica-

tion. Gandhi, 53, was sen-

tenced to two years' im-

prisonment in March in a

case that critics have said

attack targeting the port

The Black Sea port of carries most Kazakh oil exports through Russia. The fuel artery's op-

erator Caspian Pipeline exports via the shipping Consortium said it was conhub during the conflict betinuing to ship oil to moored tankers at the terminal. Russian state media reported on Friday. But "a temporary ban has been established on the movement of ships in the port", said the company, as quoted by Interfax news agency. Russia's Black Sea Fleet has been

of law in the world's larg-

has stayed out of jail while

appealing the case up to the

supreme court in New

Delhi. A justice there said

that the initial trial judge had

failed to justify imposing

the maximum sentence on

Gandhi for his comments,

made during a campaign

He was turfed out of

est democracy.

Rahul Gandhi's defamation

conviction

showed threats to the rule rally four years ago.

Russian ships de- targeted since the beginning stroved the naval drones, it of Moscow's military camsaid. It was the first such paign in Ukraine more than a year ago, but attacks have increased in recent weeks. On Tuesday, Russia's de-Novorossivsk hosts the fence ministry said it foiled terminus of a pipeline that a Ukrainian drone attack targeting patrol boats in the Black Sea. Three drones were trained on ships navigating in waters 340 ilometres southwest of Sevastopol, the base of Russia's Black Sea fleet in Crimea. A similar attack was repelled a week earlier. The ministry also said on Friday it had downed 13 drones over the Crimean peninsula. There were no casualties or damage in either attack, the

# India's top court suspends 52 hurt in clashes at Stockholm

festival **Monitoring Desk** 

ministry said.

STOCKHOLM: More than 50 people were injured and dozens detained in Stockholm on Thursday as clashes broke out at an Eritrean pro-governthe legislature as a result but ment festival, police and health officials said, with antigovernment protesters trashing property at the site. "Another public gathering took place close to the festival site. during which a violent riot broke out," police said, adding in a statement they had detained "around a hundred people".



Rescue workers sift through wreckage at the accident site of a three-train collision near Balasore, about 200 km (125 miles) from the state capital Bhubaneswar.



conference, during a meeting of the United Nations Security Council where he presides as president.

# US to keep Russia's food exports flowing if grain deal revived, Blinken says

**Monitoring Desk** UNITED NATIONS: The

United States would continue to do "whatever is necessary" to ensure Russia can freely export food if there was a revival of a deal allowing the safe Black Sea export of Ukrainian grain, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday.

Russia last month quit the July 2022 deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey aimed at easing a global food crisis after Russia's invasion of

Ukraine and Russia are both leading grain exporters. In the event of return

to the agreement, of course, we'll continue to do whatever is necessary to make sure that everyone can export their food and food products freely and safely to include Russia," Blinken told reporters at the United Nations. "We want to see that

food on world markets. We want everyone to benefit from the lower prices," he said after chairing a U.N. Security Council meeting on food insecurity caused by Ukraine five months earlier. conflict. Many countries at

the gathering expressed disappointment that Russia had quit the deal and urged them to reconsider. To convince Russia to agree to the Black Sea deal, another pact was also struck in July 2022 under which U.N. officials agreed to help Russia get its food and fertilizer exports to foreign markets.

While Russian exports of food and fertilizer are not subject to Western sanctions imposed after Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has said restrictions on

# Saudi Arabia, Kuwait reject Iran's claims to gas field Monitoring Desk

Kuwait said on Thursday they had sole ownership of

a disputed gas field also claimed by Iran, in an escalating feud after Tehran threatened to pursue explo-The offshore field —

known as Arash in Iran and Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia — has long been focal point of contention between the three countries.

The Kuwaiti and Saudi authorities said in a joint statement published

on Thursday that "we alone have full sovereign rights to exploit the wealth in that area? The two Gulf states

renewed "their previous and repeated calls to the Islamic Republic of Iran to negotiate" the demarcation of their maritime borders to settle the issue, according to the statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency. Iran and Kuwait have

held unsuccessful talks for many years over their disputed maritime border area, which is rich in natural gas.

### Former Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny sentenced to 19 years in prison **Monitoring Desk**

MOSCOW: A Russian court Friday sentenced former opposition leader Alexei Navalny to 19 years in prison after he was found guilty on a series of new charges including extremism, according to his spokesperson. In his jail garb, Navalny stood before the judge, grinning and interacting with another prisoner. Navalny is already serving jail time on embezzlement charges which are regarded as politically motivated according to his friends.

# **US Congress urged to** recognise Islam as great religion Ouran. Mr Green, a Texas

WASHINGTON: Congress has taken a significant step towards recognising Islam as a major religion, emphasising its role in pro-

The resolution — introduced by Representative Al Green of Texas and backed by Representatives Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, and Andre Carson comes at a time of renewed effort to brand Islam as a radical faith and would discourage anti-Islamic deeds

moting peace and harmony.

Democrat, is also a member of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus. He opposed President Trump's order to ban immigration from Muslim countries and a 2015 move to brand Islam as a radical faith.

The House received the resolution, which aims to foster better understanding and respect for the Islamic faith within American society on July 28 and referred it to the House Committee on Foreign Af-



Students stage a walk out from Hillsborough High School to protest after Florida education officials voted to ban classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in all public school grades, expanding on a law signed by Republican Governor Ron DeSantis that barred such lessons for younger students and was derided by critics as the "Don't Say Gay" bill in Tampa, Florida, U.S.

# Global food prices rise after Russia ends grain deal and India restricts rice exports

**Monitoring Desk** ONDON: Global prices for food commodities like rice and vegetable oil have risen for the first time in months after Russia pulled out of a wartime agreement allowing Ukraine to ship grain to the world, and India restricted some of its rice exports, the U.N. Food

tion said Friday. The FAO Food Price which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of commonly traded food commodities, increased 1.3% in July over June, driven by

and Agriculture Organiza-

higher costs for rice and vegetable oil. It was the first uptick since April, when higher sugar prices bumped up the index slightly for the first time in a year.

Commodity prices have been falling since hitting record highs last year in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Disrupted supplies from the two countries exacerbated a global food crisis because they're leading suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other affordable food products, especially to nations in parts of Africa.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal launches Rs. 25 Billion Performance-based Challenge Fund for Outof-School Children and Early Childhood Education.

# Ahsan launches Rs 25b fund to address out-ofschool children issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday formally inaugurated the Rs25 billion "Performance-based Challenge Fund" for outof-school children, and to promote early childhood education across the country. The

launching ceremony, held here in collaboration with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, was attended others by among dignitaries, officials and education experts.

Addressing ceremony, the minister highlighted the critical importance of ensuring stability and continuity of policies in the country's development agenda.

He emphasized the need to differentiate between political changes and the national agenda, urging all stakeholders to work together for the

He said the country needed a charter of economy to ensure consistency and continuity in policies. "Stability and continuity prerequisites

development, and without them, progress remains elusive. India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Korea, China, and Turkey, among others, have achieved remarkable success due to their sustained policies over the years. We must follow suit and provide a consistent direction for our country's

Ahsan Iqbal stressed importance of knowledge exchange and innovation for Pakistan's progress in the modern

He highlighted the significance of early childhood education and its role in fostering creative thinking, critical analysis, and collaborative skills in the young minds of the



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Division Fareena Mazhar addressing a seminar on National Cultural Narrative of Pakistan-2023 at National Library.

# President directs UBL to refund Rs 79,500 with profit to fraud victim

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the United Bank Ltd (UBL) to refund defrauded amount along with profit to a fraud victim and to remove the inherent flaws in their system to prevent online fraud and fraudulent

transactions. Bank to educate their customers about the pros and cons of online funds transfer facility before asked the Banking activating digital banking.

The president gave these remarks while deciding upon representation filed by UBL against the decision of Banking Mohtasib directing it to refund Rs 79,500 to Abdul Rauf (the complainant), whose account was fraudulently

debited through the Inter-Bank Funds Transfer (IBFT) facility, a President House press release said

He urged banks to comply with the relevant rules and regulations of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) regarding online funds transfer facility, He also instructed the customer consent and authentication transactions.

The president also Mohtasib Pakistan to approach the SBP and other banks that on the rejection of complaints about disputed

transactions, the customers concerned should be informed in a simple letter that they could approach the institution of Banking Mohtasib for relief.



ISLAMABAD: A large numbers of people parked their vehicles outside Friday Weekly Bazaar at Peshawar Morr area at sector H-9 in Federal Capital.

# **Over 20 Red Crescent volunteers** successfully conclude internship with Islamabad Capital Police

**Independent Report** 

enthusiastic volunteers from the Red Crescent has recently completed an enriching internship program as part of a three-day special road safety campaign organized by the Islamabad Capital Police.

tion and commitment, Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad highlighted the invaluable contribution of these individuals towards fostering a culture of friendly policing. We take immense pride in the collaboration between our police force and the community. The engagement of young people like you is pivotal for effective

law enforcement and ensur-ISLAMABAD: A group of ing road safety," stated enthusiastic volunteers CTO Islamabad.

He emphasized that with the continued support of the younger generation, the Islamabad Capital Police can achieve even greater performance milestones. He expressed confidence Praising their dedicathat these volunteers will serve as future ambassadors, playing a significant role in safeguarding the lives of citizens and road users in the capital.

The primary aim of this internship initiative is to advance the principles of community policing and cultivate the skills of the youth who are integral to the progress of our nation.

### Isb Police again summoned **Chairman PTI** for further investigation

SLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI Imran Khan was summoned again today by Islamabad Police to join the investigation.

Imran Khan was

summoned Islamabad police at 2 o'clock in a case registered at Karachi company police

Chairman PTI was lso summoned in two other cases of PS Tarnol and one of Kohsar police station at 3 o'clock. Chairman PTI was directed to appear in SSP office

In the summon notice, t is said that in case of nonappearance, action will be taken as per law.

## Rain with wind, thundershower expected in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD (Online): Rain with wind and thundershower is expected in Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad, Pothobar region, northeast Pothohar region, northeast Punjab and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the next twelve hours. Heavyfalls may also occur at few places in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pothohar region, northeast Punjab and Kashmir during the forecast period. Hot and humid weather is expected elsewhere in the country.

Temperature of some major cities recorded this morning: Islamabad twenty-seven degree centigrade, Lahore thirtyone, Karachi and Peshawar twenty-nine, Quetta

**We appeal the** 

the Chains of

Indian Illegal

Occupation

oppression and

# **BISP** committed to fulfill BB's vision of empowering underprivileged sections ISLAMABAD (APP): empowering the weakest

Shazia Marri says

Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson of the Benazir

Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Marri Friday said that extending a helping hand labour underprivileged sections of society had always been a dream close to Mohtarma Shaheed

Benazir Bhutto's heart. She was speaking at special ceremony organized by the All Pakistan BISP Employees Coordination Committee.

The event, held at the Benazir Income Support Programme headquarters, was a heartwarming gesture to acknowledge and thank the dedicated efforts of the BISP chairperson to address the long-standing issues of BISP within the organization. During her address as the chief guest, Shazia Marri spoke passionately about the programme's commitment to fulfilling the vision of the late Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

Commending the employees of BISP for their remarkable service, the minister acknowledged their steadfast dedication over the course of 15 years, even in the absence of basic benefits. She emphasized that the employees, through their relentless efforts, have been instrumental in catering to the needs of 9 million families across the nation.

Expressing concern over the neglect of the just demands of BISP employees, Shazia Marri noted that their hard work often went unnoticed.

She asserted that the programme has not only provided financial assistance but has also played a pivotal role in leading to a transformation in the social fabric of

She informed the audience that Contingent Employees have been regularized along with Time Scale Promotions of grade

### Dar announces Rs 2 million compensation for Bajaur Attack Martyrs' families

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday announced that the government would pay martyr from the Bajaur Sui-

ate session, while speaking on a Point of Order, the Minister of Finance and Revenue mentioned that the seriously wounded individuals of the suicide blast would Rs 2 million as compensa- receive Rs 700,000 each, tion to the families of each and Rs 500,000 would be given to each wounded viccide Attack. During a Sen- tim as compensation.



ISLAMABAD: A police man on his way in front of a banner showing soliderity with the people of Kashmiri, August 5 is being observed as a black day as it marks the completion of 3 years since the people of IO Kashmir were deprived of their fundamental human rights.

# Lawmakers for effective measures to root out menace of terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lawmakers in the National Assembly while strongly condemning Bajaur's blast incident on Friday called for taking effective each to the martyred of the measures to eradicate the menace of terrorism.

Speaking on a point of order, Muhammad Jamal Ud Din said that innocent people were targeted in the JUI-F gathering on July 30. He said tribal people

always supported Pakistan and never damage government properties. Jirga' of tribal people was being held which would decide the future course of action, he said.

He urged government and law

such gruesome incidents. He thanked the Prime Minister for announcing Rs 2 million compensation

incidents and inquiring about the health of injured people during his visit to Peshawar. He also thanked the governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Secretary and caretaker Chief Minister for providing a helicopter to transport the injured people to Peshawar's hospitals and other necessary assistance.

Nuzhat Pathan said the entire parliament the strongly condemned the tragic incident in Bajaur. enforcement agencies to She also condoled all the added.

stop the reoccurrence of bereaved families and said our armed forces rendered supreme sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi said innocent people including children were brutally killed in the terrorist attack. It was the responsibility of State and its institutions to provide security to the people, he Speaking on a point of

order Mosa Gillani called for a constitutional amendment on the pattern of the 18th amendment to strengthen local bodies' system inn the country. The development funds should be spent through local bodies system, he

# Medical colleges asked to avoid offering unrecognized postgraduate program

Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has directed all medical and dental Institutions or universities to register with the council under section 25 of the PM&DC Act for offering postgraduate programs.

In a letter written to these institutions on the colleges and universities, not to advertise or offer any recognized under sections

compliance to the intimation, the PM&DC will initiate disciplinary proceedings under section 35(i) of PM&DC Act 2022 which states Section 35

which says whoever runs or establishes or endorses any institution or directions of the Council, the advertises admissions in an Registrar PM&DC has institution for imparting strictly refrained all the education in medicine or dentistry, which is not

SLAMABAD (APP): unrecognized postgraduate 21, 22, 25, 26 or 29 or in medical and dental program. respect of which
"In case of non-recognition has been withdrawn under section 33, shall be guilty of an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, but shall not be less than a year, or with fine which may extend to twenty million rupees, but shall not be less than ten million rupees, or with both and shall also be liable to the closure of such institution," read the letter.

# Pakistan will continue to be voice of Kashmiri people: President

Pakistan to continue moral, political, diplomatic support to Kashmiris: PM

President Dr Arif Alvi has resolved that Pakistan would continue to be the voice of its Kashmiri brothers and sisters, who had been making invaluable sacrifices, and would extend all possible support for the fullest realization of their legitimate rights.

We have no doubt that durable peace and stability in South Asia can only be achieved through a peace-ful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people," the president said in his message on Youm-e-Istehsal annually observed on Au-

He said that India unleashed its illegal and unilateral actions on August 5, 2019 in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) with the aim of disempowering, disenfranchising, and dispossessing the Kashmiri people in their own land.

These measures were designed to permanently occupy the disputed territory and erase its distinct Kashmiri character, he re-

He said that India deviously attempted to convince the world that Jammu and Kashmir was an undisputed part of its territory. However, it was India

that took the Jammu and Kashmir issue to the Security Council, where the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir was internationally recognized. It was decided that the final disposition of the State should be determined through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations (UN).

President Alvi said that the indomitable will and courage of the Kashmiri people had enabled them to withstand every Indian attempt to terrorize and subjugate them. "Despite all of India's

massive coercive methods, they have not been able to extinguish their yearning for freedom. India has been trampling upon the rights and aspirations of the Kashmiri people through machinations and intrigue for the last 75 years. However, since 5 August 2019, IIOJK has been transformed into an open prison," he added.

Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan will continue to lend its unstinted moral, political and diplomatic support to the rightful and just cause of the freedom struggle of

the Kashmiri people.

In a message on the
Youm-e-Istehsal to be observed on August 5, 2023, he said, "It is Pakistan's abiding commitment and promise to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters that we will echo their voices, at every forum until the world takes action and urges India to end its egregious human rights violations and forcible occupation of IIOJK. undo all unilateral and illegal measures it has taken since 5 August 2019, and take necessary steps to carry out a fair and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Se-

curity Council resolutions.3 It has been four years since India unilaterally and illegally revoked the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) on 5 August 2019. Since then, India has resorted to use of brutal force and violence to suppress the Kashmiri



RAWALPINDI: Pir Syed Riaz Hussain Shah receiving Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival at Idara Talemat-e-Islamia.

### Senate chairman refers PEMRA Bill to standing committee for fine tuning

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Friday referred the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, to the Standing Committee Information Standing Committe for further refinement and improvement

concerns raised by the senators. The amended PEMRA bill, drafted after in-depth debate and consultations with all the stakeholders and presented Minister Information and

response

Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, has already been passed by the National Assembly.

Under the bill, the powers of the PEMRA chairman have been given to the Council of

# **Streamlining visa issuances:** Hina enhances efficiency, accountability for Afghan nationals' applications

surrounding visa issuances routine applications, making the process multifaceted.

of the national diplomatic mission to extend leniency system. Additionally, in granting visas on grounds of health or humanitarian reasons. However, she responsibility of evaluating underscored that this benevolent intention before granting visas, she the system.

revelation was made by specific incident.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Hina as she highlighted the Minister of State for comprehensive overhaul of Foreign Affairs, Hina the visa issuance process. Rabbani Khar on Friday Presently, the authority to shed light on the intricacies grant visas, especially in cases requiring relaxation, for Afghan nationals in the rested solely with the head Senate. Recognizing the of the mission, she said complexity of the matter adding that this shift in during the question hour, power had been enacted in she emphasized that the last two months, with national foreign missions the delegation of such receive a staggering number authority withdrawn from other embassy staff.

Modernizing the approach to In her statement, Hina facilitation, Hina detailed outlined the commitment the introduction of an online visa application specific staff members had been entrusted with the all necessary formalities sometimes led to misuse added. Addressing concerns by Afghan nationals, raised by senators, the causing challenges within minister of state for foreign affairs responded to important questions regarding a

Youm-e-Shuhada program held at Police Lines HQs Islamabad Capital Police pays glowing tribute to martyred policemen

**Independent Report** 

ISLAMABAD: CPO Headquarters Awais Ahmad Malik paid rich tribute to the police-men who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. He said that, we, the heirs of 59 martyrs, narrated the stories of the martyrs adding

that our martyrs fulfilled their duty with utmost dedication, and as a nation, we are indebted to their supreme sacrifices. Salute to these noble families whose brave sons

and daughters sacrificed their lives for the protection of the country.

According to details, 4th August, the Police Martyrs' Day is being observed across the country with full enthusiasm. CPO Headquarters and senior police officers paid



Floral wreaths were laid, and a special prayer was offered for the high ranks of the martyrs. Police contingents presented salutations at the occasion, and the families of the martyrs were also present, who planted trees in their memory.

A dignified ceremony was also arranged at Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad, attended by CPO Headquarters, families of police martyrs, renowned actor and musician Saifi Hassan and Sheraz Hassan and a large number of senior police officers and officials. CPO Headquarters addressed the gathering, expressing that 59 officers and officials of Islamabad Capital Police sacrificed their lives for the country and its people. They fulfilled their duty with utmost dedication, and we, as a nation, are indebted to the eternal sacrifices of our martyrs