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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that being rich with immense scenic beauty, particularly the Northern Areas, Pakistan could turn the resources into a great opportunity.

The prime minister was addressing the launching ceremony of the "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 about to complete its term very soon.

Prime Minister Shehbaz instructed the advisors as well as the government officers not to interact merely with their counterparts but also those from other countries which had excelled in tourism, cultural heritage and other fields.

"Allah Almighty blessed our country 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

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ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi welcomes the Iranian Minister for Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Syed Ezzatollah Zarghami, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Iran on Friday agreed to strengthen cultural linkages and people-to-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 potential.

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

Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam was also present on the occasion.

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

He appreciated the steps taken by the Iranian government for the facilitation of Pakistani pilgrims visiting the holy shrines in Iran.

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 issues of Islamophobia, Jammu and Kashmir, and Palestine.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and 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 strangled 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 his cabinet for the theft of 190 million pounds.

Castigating the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

Continued on page 2



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with 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-hearing.

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 Farooq issued the written order regarding the termination of lower court's

verdict pertaining maintainability of the criminal case against the former prime minister. The court also instructed the trial court to also give answers 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 reasons.

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 court.

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

The order said that the additional session judge Hamayun Dilawar had also denied the social media posts associated with his name. The court directed the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to conduct inquiry from all the people involved in uploading posts on social media about trial court's judge without verification.

President signs three bills into law

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday gave his assent to three bills following their passage by the parliament.

The president approved Elections (second amendment) Bill 2023 aimed at amending the Election Act 2017.

He assented to Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill 2023 that provides for establishing the Pakistan Sovereign Fund.

President Alvi also approved Pakistan Airports Authority Bill 2023 aimed at establishing the Authority for improving the management, operations and transport services.

The president approved the said three bills in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Article 75 of the Constitution.

Shehbaz summons CCI meeting today

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has summoned Council of Common Interests (CCI) meeting today (Saturday).

The meeting will be headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at 12 (noon). Chief ministers of the four provinces and federal ministers 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.

Bill for privatization of PIA presented in Senate

ISLAMABAD (Online): Bill regarding privatization of PIA was presented in Senate Friday.

Chairman Senate sent the bill to respective committee on the proposal of opposition senators.

Federal minister Khawaja Saad Rafiq while presenting the bill regarding 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 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 lease.

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.

Talents like you 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 Headquarters (GHQ).

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."

PM inaugurates Aerospace Science & Technology Park

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday inaugurated the National Aerospace 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 participants that the PAF had achieved numerous successes in the field of aerospace technology.

He said the institution 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 benefits."

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 Jinnah to achieve self-reliance.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Zamrak Khan Achakzai presiding over a meeting regarding University Finance Commission

Police Martyrs Day observed at CPO: Sacrifices of police martyrs not to be wasted, asserts Governor Balochistan

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar emphasizes we have to extend wholehearted cooperation to security institutions for complete elimination of terrorism together

Independent Report

Musakhail, Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove, former Federal Minister and Senator (Retd) Mrs. Roshan KHURSHED Bharucha, other parliamentarians, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Saleh Muhammad Nasar, Inspector General of Prisons, Malik Shuja Kasi, Additional IGP and Commandant Balochistan Constabulary, Chaudhary Salman, Commissioner Quetta, Sohailur Rehman Baloch, Additional IGP, Jawad Dogar, and other senior police officers and personnel were present at the occasion.

The Governor maintained that we would not

He said that the role played by the Balochistan Police, Pak army, Frontier Corps, Levies and other security forces is commendable.

The Governor was addressing the main ceremony held marking the Police Martyrs Day observed at Central Police Office on Friday.

The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Sardar Babar Khan

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QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing a ceremony held marking the Police Martyrs Day observed at Central Police Office

CM pays homage to Balochistan police martyrs: Durable peace to be established in country, province, as a result of sacrifices of martyrs, says CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has paid homage to the Balochistan police force jawans and officers who embraced martyrdom in the line of duty and for establishment of peace and protection of life and property of the masses.

In a message issued on the eve of police martyrs day here on Friday, the Chief Minister said that the jawans of Balochistan police force didn't hesitate from rendering any kind of sacrifice in the line of duty.

He presented salute to the heirs of police martyrs whose loved ones got the great status of martyrdom while performing their duties in the province.

The Chief Minister also presented salute to the martyrs who rendered sacrifice of lives for establishing peace and protecting life and property of the masses.

Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo said that the officers and jawans of Balochistan police are proud face of the province and heroes of the nation.

He said that "I assure the heirs of martyrs on occasion of police martyrs' day that we all are standing with them."

He believed that the sacrifices of martyrs would not go wasted at all and the durable peace would be established following their sacrifices in the country and province.



QUETTA: Senior Member Board of Revenue Balochistan Roshan Ali Sheikh presenting a souvenir to Secretary Information Hamza Shafqaat during inauguration ceremony of Facilitation Center and E-Stamping Project

Allied parties fully empower PM for decision about caretaker PM

Names of Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Aslam Bhoonani, Fawad Hassan Fawad and Hafiz Sheikh under consideration for caretaker PM slot

ISLAMABAD (Online): meeting that took place through video link.

The names of Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, former speaker Balochistan assembly Aslam Bhoonani, former bureaucrat Fawad Hassan Fawad and technocrat Hafiz Sheikh came under consideration.

After a prolonged consultation, the heads of allied parties expressed full

Allied parties have fully empowered Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif in connection with decision for caretaker PM.

The meeting of heads of allied parties of ruling coalition for deciding about caretaker PM concluded under the PM Shehbaz Sharif Friday.

The one point agenda about caretaker PM came under consideration in the

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Pakistan will continue to be voice of Kashmiri people: President

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 peaceful 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 August 5. He said that India unleashed its illegal and unilateral actions on August 5, 2019 in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kash-

mir (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 remarked.

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). Prime Minister

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 Security Council resolutions."



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

Umer Chohan says: People of Balochistan support Kashmiris' right to self-determination

Independent Report
QUETTA: Muhammad Umer Chohan pleaded the world community to take immediate notice of the cruelly as well as the illegal and unilateral actions unleashed by Indian state institutions and occupation forces four years ago on August 5, 2019 in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a statement issued here on the Youm-e-Istehsal being observed on Saturday (today).

By deploying additional troops and imposing unprecedented media restrictions, since 5 August 2019, the Indian occupation forces have turned IIOJK into the largest prison on the planet. The human rights situation in IIOJK has seriously deteriorated over the last four years. The Kashmiri people remain under military siege, their senior leadership remains incarcerated and their youth continue to be prime targets of Indian occupation forces' indiscriminate extra-judicial killings through staged 'cordon-and-search' operations.

In fact, the Kashmiris continue to be deprived of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

He also said that with this attempt is being made to convert the majority of Muslims into minority and the life of Kashmiris are being made miserable.

It is deplorable that in IIOJK, India continues to flagrantly violate the universal ideals of human dignity, fairness and justice with complete impunity. The just struggle of the people of IIOJK to realize their right of self-determination, guaranteed under several resolutions of the UN Security Council, is being suppressed through brutal use of force by the Indian occupation forces. He urged the international community to give right of plebiscite to the Kashmiris as per the resolutions of United Nations. He said that the people of Balochistan fully support the right of self-determination, and would continue to raise their voice against the Indian atrocities at every forum.

Chairman NDMA along with delegation paid visit to US

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik along with a ten-member delegation visited the United States of America (USA) from 23 to 29 July on special invitation from Headquarters US Army Central (ARCENT).

This visit was the follow-up to the visit of Commanding General ARCENT, Lieutenant General Patrick D. Frank to the NDMA in June this year and a continuation of bilateral engagements between US ARCENT and NDMA, said a news release issued here Friday.

The Chairman NDMA and the delegation were received by Deputy Commanding General ARCENT, Major General Henry S. Dixon and his staff at Shaw Air Force Base in Columbia, South Carolina.

The objective of the visit was to enhance mutual cooperation among both countries and armies in the field of disaster management.

The delegation visited US Central Command (CENTCOM), where they were welcomed by Lieutenant General Patrick D. Frank through video link.

The delegation also visited State Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in South Carolina, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Headquarters in Georgia Atlanta, USAID and FEMA Headquarters in Washington.

'Condemnation Day' observed across country against terrorism, extremism

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a united front against terrorism and extremism, prominent religious scholars and leaders delivered impassioned sermons during Friday prayers, denouncing recent acts of violence and urging the government to take decisive action.

The speeches were made in response to a series of alarming incidents, including an attack on Ali Masjid in Khyber and an assault on the Workers' Convention of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JU-F) in Bajaur.

Representatives from various religious and educational organizations, including Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Pakistan Ulema Council, Wifaq ul Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan, United Jamiat Ahle Hadith, Shia Ulema Council, United Ulema Council, Pakistan Sharia Council, International Khatm-e-Nabuwat Movement, Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan, and other political and religious groups, joined forces to condemn these acts of terrorism and violence.

Prominent figures such as Mufti Mohammad Taqi Usmani, Maulana Anwar-ul-Haq, Hafiz Mohammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi,

Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Pir Naqeeb-ur-Rehman, Sahibzada Hassan Haseeb ur Rehman, Maulana Muhammad Hanif Jalandhari, Allama Arif Hussain Wahidi, Maulana Hamid ul Haq Haqqani, Maulana Syed Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Maulana Muhammad Islam Qadri, Maulana Muhammad Yousuf Salfi, and Maulana Muhammad Ayub Safdar, among other scholars and leaders, emphasized that the perpetrators of violence and terrorism had no connection with Islam or Muslims.

They reiterated the unanimous stance of scholars and clerics from all schools of thought that suicide attacks and military operations within Pakistan were strictly prohibited (Haram), and the government must take rigorous action against those involved.

The people of Pakistan, along with religious scholars, leaders, political and religious organizations, government, armed forces, and security agencies, stand united in their determination to combat terrorism and extremism and ensure the safety and well-being of the nation.

Pakistan debunks as a 'myth' India's claims about Kashmir situation being normal

NEW YORK (APP):

Marking the fourth anniversary of India's brutal siege of occupied Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan Friday described as "a fantasy and a myth" New Delhi's claim of progress, development and normalcy in the disputed territory.

Speaking at the Kashmir solidarity webinar, Ambassador Munir Akram said that since Aug 2019, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, sexual and gender-based violence and restrictions on freedom of expression and religion, among others, had accelerated, debunking the myth of normalcy.

In the occupied territory, there is only one normality, i.e., normalization of violence," the Pakistani envoy remarked, as the "Youm-e-Istehsal" was observed with fervour.

At the same time, he said that the Kashmir dispute must be resolved on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions that had granted the people of Kashmir the right to self-determination.

Participating in the webinar, organized by the Pakistan Mission to the UN in New York, representatives of key OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) countries also reaffirmed their support to the Kashmiri people's UN-pledged rights to self-determination.

They Included Saudi Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil, Azerbaijan Ambassador Yashar Aliyev, OIC Ambassador to the UN, Hameed Opeylover, and the Turkish Charge D'affairs, Onar Akran.

Among other panelists were: Dr. Imtiaz Khan, a prominent Kashmiri leader; Abdelhamid Siyam, UN correspondent for al-fund and university professor; and other Kashmir activists, including Dr Waleed Rasool, Dr Mujahid Gilani, Ahmed Bin Qasim, Wajid Sawar, and Ms Farrukh Avais.

A moving documentary on the Kashmiris' struggle for freedom, produced by the Pakistan Mission, was also screened. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Akram said, "As part of the 'final solution', the Indian Government is not only imposing demographic change on Jammu and Kashmir but also promoting myth of normalcy in the name of promoting trade and tourism in the IIOJK in violation of international law, including the Security Council resolutions."

Abusing its G-20 presidency, he said, India organized a meeting of the group on tourism in Srinagar in May amid extraordinary security, but nothing was "normal" there, noting a UN Rapporteur comment that India was "seeking to normalize...military occupation."



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar distributing scholarship awards among heirs of Shahuda on eve of Youm-e-Shahuda-e-Police

Naseem Shah proves to be different bowler, very well suited for T20

PALLEKELE (INP): Colombo Strikers are all set for their third match in the Lanka Premier League, where they will be facing Dambulla Aura at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium. The team from Colombo came out victorious in their last encounter

is good, and all of them look fairly balanced. The main thing will be to get the basics right in the game."

Head Coach of the Colombo Strikers, Simon Helmot, on the other hand, stressed the areas of improvement for the team and said, "The two things that

Sacrifices of police..

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let the great sacrifices of the martyrs wasted at all. He said that the government is standing by the heirs of martyrs.

He stressed that we have to extend wholehearted cooperation to the security institutions for complete elimination of terrorism together as it is included in our national obligation.

The Provincial Minister for Home and Additional Inspector Police Jawad Dogar also highlighted the sacrifices of the Balochistan police martyrs and paid homage to them.

The Minister Home paying homage to the martyrs said that he present salute to their parents, families and children.

The Additional IGP mentioned that over 1,000 brave officers and jawans of Balochistan police have rendered sacrifice of their lives while fighting against terrorism and other criminals. He said that as a head of Balochistan police, the best welfare of the families of police martyrs is our top priority.

He thanked the provincial government for increasing the shuhada package for the heirs of police martyrs.

The Governor also distributed scholarships among the brilliant male and female students of the heirs of Police martyrs.

Meanwhile, the children of police martyrs presented tableaux highlighting the importance of Police Martyrs day.

Allied parties....

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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 decision.

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 development and prosperity. Any one party cannot steer out the country from crisis. We have made a difficult journey and its positive results have come to fore. In future we together will take ahead the country with consultation.

On the other hand no consultation was made with opposition leader with reference to name of care taker PM.

When asked by a journalist from Raja Raza that has any consultation been made with him in connection with care taker PM, he said no consultation has been made with him so far. The consultation will be completed with regard to name of care taker PM till August 08. We will give good results.

NAB summons PTI chairman in 190 million pound scandal

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) summoned PTI chairman on Friday in the 190 million pounds Al-Qadir Trust scandal. He has been ordered to appear at the NAB office in Rawalpindi at 11:30am as an accused. The NAB has also directed PTI chairman to bring documents related to Al-Qadir Trust.

Summons have been served on PTI chairman at Bani Gala in Islamabad and Zaman Park Lahore addresses. On the other hand, Islamabad police also summoned PTI chairman in five cases - two cases registered in Tarnool police station, two in Karachi Company police station and one in Kohsar police station.



NASEERABAD: Provincial Secretary Health Asfandiyar Kakar and Commissioner Bashir Ahmed Bangulzai presiding over a high level meeting regarding medical facilities

Persons now harping on freedom....

Continued from page 1

control of the legislature and the government for four years, which kept the media corner closed in the Parliament and today they were talking about freedom of press and freedom of expression.

She said 12-month long consultation was held on the PEMRA bill. All the representative organizations of the media, including the Parliamentary Reporters Association, provided their professional input and guidance for which she was grateful to them. The bill would further strengthen the freedom of expression in the country, she added.

Mariyum said while tabling the bill in the Senate today, she briefed the House about the amendments being made in it.

In the amended bill, the difference between misinformation and disinformation had been defined, besides providing the margin of error.

As per the bill, powers, after taking back from the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) chairman, had now been given to the

Council of Complaints which had representation of the media as well, she added.

The minister said the bill was drafted in consensus of all media organizations, and unanimously passed by the National Assembly after thorough discussion by its Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting. However, she wished that the senators should also have their opinion on the bill as it was a serious legislation.

"I do not want to make it controversial, so I requested the Senate chairman to send the bill to the Senate's Standing Committee," she added. There were enough members in the House to pass the bill, but the government wanted to complete the process and did not object to sending it to the committee, the minister said.

Taking a jibe on the PTI chief, she said today was not the era when the programmes hosted by journalists were banned. On the contrary, the prime minister got the title of a 'media predator' as journalists were kidnapped, arrested, beaten and imprisoned during his government, she added.

Mariyum said the bill had been sent to the standing committee as the opinion of all the senators was important. However, there should be constructive discussion in the committee so that the legislation could be improved but there should not be opposition for the sake of opposition, she added.

The minister said the world was moving towards "co-regulation" and "self-regulation", and after assessing the laws and best practices of the world, the PEMRA law was being amended. Answering a question, she said the chairman of the Senate's Standing Committee on Information was absconding. The Senate chairman had the power to appoint any member of the committee as its acting chairman for the important legislation.

To another question, she said the PRA guided her in the preparation of the bill for which she was thankful to it. The Council of Complaints had been given powers to summon the person to whom the matter was related to.

Pakistan's scenic beauty can be....

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stan 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 building the image of Pakistan 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 PAKISTAN" is selected as Tourism 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, travel, communication and infrastructure facilities etc.

The portal contains information about the top 20 tourist destinations of Pakistan, including K2, Gwadar, Ziarat Valley, Uch Sharif, Deosat National Park, Kalash Valley, Takht Bhai, Hingol National Park, Shandur Pass, Kambhar Lake, Fairy Meadows, Ratti Gali, Lahore Fort, Makli Graveyard, Derawar Fort, Rohtas Fort, Kumrat Valley, Hunza Valley and Mohenjo-Daro.

It guides the tourists about the beaches and waterfalls, nature and landscape, festivals, spiritual tourism and eco-tourism.

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran Sayeed Ezzatullah Zarghami and Ambassador of Iran Reza Amiri Moghaddam, religious and diplomats from different countries also attended the ceremony.

TENDER NOTICE

The Balochistan Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education Quetta invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. **TSE-232408346501 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Bid Security 5%**

S.No.	Class of Object	Tender Fee
1	Furniture & Fixtures (Total Item(s) Count: 11)	1,000 PKR

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 10,000,000 in Previous 3 Turn over at least 4,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. Tenancy agreement or ownership documents of the office premises or Copy of recently paid utility Bill (maximum 3 months old). Must unconditionally agree with all the instructions, terms & conditions specified in the bidding documents & contract agreement. Provided Furniture MUST be Terminate-free for at least 1 year from the date of delivery. Firm Must have Manufacturing License through Government Department FBR Code 310000- Manufacturing/Manufacture of furniture/Manufacture of furniture. The bidders are bound to provide the samples to the procuring agency on demand.

Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of amount 5PKR specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 21 August, 2023 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 21 August, 2023 till 10:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM **Address:** Quetta **Phone no:** 0819202771 **Email:** BBISE@bppra.gob.pk

AB No.39/04-8-2023

Secretary
Balochistan Board of Intermediate & Secondary
Education Quetta

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Ahsan Iqbal for translation, global knowledge exchange to foster innovation in Pakistan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday emphasized the importance of translation and knowledge exchange, urging Pakistan's reconnection with the global community and embrace innovation.

Addressing the participants of an "Open House & Job Fair-2023" organized by the National University of Technology (NUTECH) here, he shed light on various development projects and initiatives undertaken by the incumbent government.

He shared his recent visit to the Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, where three significant centers were established including the Pakistan China Joint Research Centre, Pakistan China

Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences, Dr A Q Khan Institute of Material and Emergency Sciences.

Drawing parallels from history, he compared the establishment of these centers to the historical significance of Darul Hikma during the rise of Muslim knowledge in Baghdad. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of "translation and knowledge exchange, urging Pakistan to reconnect with the global community and embrace innovation."

Highlighting the country's journey towards progress, the minister recalled the challenges faced in 2013, including severe electricity shortages and a struggling economy.

He applauded the efforts made by the government to turn the situation around, leading to

Pakistan's recognition as an investment destination following China's announcement of investing \$46 billion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The minister praised the achievements of CPEC projects, which resulted in the addition of 8,000 megawatts of electricity and crucial infrastructure developments. Focusing on the importance of continuity in policies, he emphasized that sustainable development and progress required consistent efforts and a shared vision.

He commended the National University of Technology's focus on innovation and the establishment of several National Centers for various technological domains, positioning Pakistan as a potential information power in the world.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Atta Ullah Tarar paying homage to the martyrs of Police during his visit to Police Lines in Islamabad.

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.

He also instructed the Bank to educate their customers about the pros and cons of online funds transfer facility before activating digital banking.

The president gave these remarks while deciding upon a 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 Friday.

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

The president also asked the Banking 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 Police again summoned Chairman PTI for further investigation

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

Imran Khan was summoned by the Islamabad police at 2 o'clock in a case registered at Karachi company police station.

Chairman PTI was also summoned in two other cases of PS Tamol and one of Kohsar police station at 3 o'clock. Chairman PTI was directed to appear in SSP office G11.

In the summon notice, it is said that in case of non-appearance, action will be taken as per law.

Pakistan always forcefully raised plight of Kashmiris at world forums: NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Friday informed the National Assembly that Pakistan has always forcefully raised the plight of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) at all world forums. Replying to a question during Question Hour, he said all the political parties of the country have a united stance on the Kashmir dispute. Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) defended issues, complaints and related matters on human rights through Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he said.

He said the concerns were usually conveyed by United Nations, EU, and USA State Department. Some INGOs such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch also share their concerns against

the state of Pakistan on human rights issues.

Such concerns include freedom of expression, custodial torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, protection of minorities, women rights and child rights etc, he said.

He said accordingly, the MoHR submitted its responses through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as per the given mandate under the rules of business. Additionally, various UN treaty bodies communicate their observations/recommendations as a result of a review of obligatory reports submitted by Pakistan on ratified human rights conventions.

The Minister for Parliament Affairs said our departments concerned are alert to counter the negative propaganda against Pakistan.

Rain with wind, thundershower expected in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD (Online): Rain with wind and thundershower is expected in Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad, 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 thirty-one, Karachi and Peshawar twenty-nine, Quetta twenty-two, Gilgit twenty, Murree eighteen and Muzaffarabad twenty-five degree centigrade.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

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 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 the government and law enforcement agencies to

stop the reoccurrence of such gruesome incidents.

He thanked the Prime Minister for announcing Rs 2 million compensation each to the martyred of the 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 strongly condemned the tragic incident in Bajaur. She also condoled all the

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 said.

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 in the country. The development funds should be spent through local bodies system, he added.

Imran using delaying tactics to evade punishment: Atta

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM), on Interior and Law Affairs, Atta Ullah Tarar on Friday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), chairman was using delaying tactics in cases against him to evade punishment from the courts.

"Khan has been unsuccessful to provide valid reasons to courts in 'gifts and foreign funding cases'," he said while talking to a private television channel.

The PTI's last regime, he said had filed illegal cases against the rival party members, he said adding that leaders of PML-N, never tried to escape from the court cases.

He said that PML-N leaders appeared before the courts and pleaded the cases in respect of the judiciary.

He suggested that the PTI chairman should appear before the trial courts with valid evidence and avoid wasting the time of the nation.

EOBI dept has become property tycoon: Mohsin

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman Senate has handed over the matter of olive import in country and non-handing over EOBI funds to provinces to relevant committees.

Senate meeting was held under Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani in Parliament House on Friday.

While asking supplementary questions Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan said that hundred of teachers are working on daily wages in Islamabad Model Colleges and there has been no hiring for many years.

Saudi Fund for Development inaugurates King Abdullah Campus project at UAJ&K

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Saudi Fund for Development, Director General for Asia Operations, Dr. Saud bin Aayed Al Shammari, on Friday officially inaugurated the King Abdullah Campus project at University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJ&K).

The inauguration ceremony took place in the presence of President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, along with dignitaries including Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of Higher Education Commission, and Professor Dr. Mohammad Kaleem Abbas, Vice-Chancellor of University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, said a press release issued by the Saudi Embassy here.

The King Abdullah Campus project, funded by a generous grant of \$90 million from the Saudi Fund for Development,

marks a significant milestone in enhancing educational facilities in Pakistan. Covering an expansive area of 365,000 square meters, the campus features 15 faculties across various disciplines including Sciences, Engineering, Arts, Economics, Linguistics, Islamic Studies, and Law. It also includes accommodation for students with six hostels and several other prominent buildings such as an auditorium, a grand mosque, and a services center.

The primary objective of this project is to contribute to the development and expansion of the university, enabling a higher influx of students and providing them with modern facilities.

The project includes the provision of technical laboratories, classrooms, and equipment for administrative departments.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal addressing at NUTECH.

Chinese delegation visits Margalla Station, reviews Green Line Train dev.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from the China Media Group has visited Margalla Railway Station Islamabad to see the development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, especially the Green Line Train, as part of the 10 years of celebrations of CPEC.

The visit was organized on Thursday to highlight the advanced Chinese technology and expertise used in the railway sector, emphasising the beneficial impact of China-Pakistan cooperation.

The Chinese delegation consisting of newsmen and representatives of manufacturing companies conversed with the passengers about the facilities in the Green Line Train, during their brief travel from Islamabad to Rawalpindi.

The passengers appreciated the facilities provided in the train, saying it had made long

distance travelling particularly between Islamabad and Karachi hassle-free and easy.

Speaking on the occasion, a Pakistan Railways official said, "The train comprises two air-conditioned (AC) coaches, one each business class and parlour, two AC standard and two economy class.

Most of the people travelling between Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi preferred the Green Line Train due to its better standard, he added.

He also said that the train's schedule of departure/arrival was strictly being maintained. The Railways Minister had directed the officials concerned to reduce its travel time to less than 23 hours which would further improve the confidence of passengers in the Pakistan Railways, he added.

The official said it had been decided to provide the best travelling facilities in the Green Line Train, including high-quality food and affordable fare.



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

Parliamentarians must submit asset statements by Dec end: ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked all members of parliament and provincial assemblies to submit their statements of assets and liabilities including those of their spouses and dependents by December 31.

According to ECP, all parliamentarians have to submit their yearly statements of assets and liabilities including similar details of their spouses and dependent children as on the preceding June 30 on Form B for the financial year 2022-2023.

The Commission, on the first day of January each year will publish names of members, who fail to submit the requisite statement of assets and

liabilities within the period specified under sub-section (1).

The commission will on January 16 by an order suspend the membership of a member of an Assembly or Senate, who fails to submit the statement of assets and liabilities and such Member shall cease to function till he files the statement of assets and liabilities.

The ECP further said that any member submitting fake statement of assets and liabilities under this section in material particulars may, within 120 days from the date submission of the statement, be proceeded against for committing the offence of corrupt practice.

River Indus still flows in medium flood: FFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that River Indus continues to flow in medium flood at Guddu and Sukkur with falling trend.

According to daily FFC report on Friday, owing to heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas above rim station during the last two weeks or so, Eastern Rivers Ravi & Sutlej have been experiencing mild category floods since July 27, 2023. The flows have receded gradually and at present, Rivers Ravi & Sutlej at Suleimanki & Islam are in low flood. Other major Rivers i.e. Kabul, Jhelum & Chenab are discharging normal flows. Tarbela and Mangla Reservoirs are at 1542.29 feet and 1232.90 feet respectively. Total live storage attained to date is 90.24% as compared to 54.31% last year.

Yesterday's depression over North Chattisgarh (India) has now moved slightly Westwards, converted into monsoon low and lies over Northeast Madhya Pradesh (India). Besides, trough of Westerly Wave continues to prevail over Northeastern Afghanistan with Seasonal Low lies over Northern Balochistan. These meteorological conditions are bringing light to moderate moist currents from Arabian Sea which are penetrating into upper parts of Pakistan.



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

Medical colleges asked to avoid offering unrecognized postgraduate program

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 directions of the Council, the Registrar PM&DC has strictly refrained all the colleges and universities, not to advertise or offer any unrecognized postgraduate medical and dental program.

"In case of non-compliance to the intimation, the PM&DC will initiate disciplinary proceedings under section 35(i) of PM&DC Act 2022 in which states Section 35 which says whoever runs or establishes or endorses any institution or advertises admissions in an institution for imparting education in medicine or dentistry, which is not

recognized under sections 21, 22, 25, 26 or 29 or in respect of which 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.

According to PM&DC, all medical and dental practitioners intending to acquire postgraduate medical or dental qualifications in Pakistan have been informed to take admissions in PM&DC's recognized postgraduate programs only. The PM&DC will register only those PG qualifications which are duly inspected and recognized by the council and are included in the 2nd schedule.

We appeal the world To unshackle the Chains of oppression and free Kashmir from Indian Illegal Occupation

ISLAMABAD CAPITAL

ISLAMABAD: A police man on his way in front of a banner showing solidarity 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.



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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 set 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 repetition of the 'do more' mantra where militancy is concerned.

This is despite the fact that 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 'Akhanda Bharat' and re-establishing ancient India's supposed glory through the sword, saner minds across the border have counselled restraint. For example, former Indian army chief retired Gen M.M. Naravane warned against a "two-front war" pitting India against Pakistan and China, while calling for a diplomatic solution to disputes.

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

In Pakistan, the new civilian government, as well as the gentlemen in Rawalpindi, will 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 talks can get the ball rolling.



Faisal Bari

Broken arms and legs, lacerations all over, wounds on the head, infections to the point where the life of the child is hanging in the balance. The Rizwana case is not the first of its kind. Tragically, it will not be the last one either. The question is: can we at least honestly try to make it the last case? Can anyone say that a child, any child, should be exposed to such brutality and outcomes? I appeal to everyone's sense of humanity and justice to help move our society in the right direction.

Why do we need to employ children as domestic workers? I can understand that some households might find child servants to be more affordable, more manageable, easier to manipulate and less difficult to introduce into a household

and more suitable for some tasks like babysitting, but these are exactly the reasons why children should not be working as domestic help. We do not want children to be in spaces that are not monitored by parents and others. We do not want them to be 'manipulated' and 'managed'. Some households might treat their domestic workers very well. But this is besides the point. As a principle, we do not want children to be placed in environments where they can be exploited.

The dominant reason, various research reports say, why parents or guardians send children to work in homes is poverty. Children contribute to household incomes. But to put a child, potentially, in harm's way, even if it generates some income, cannot be acceptable. Most people will find this to be a hard position but if a parent sends a child to be a live-in domestic help or even a part-time one, they bear some responsibility for what happens to the child. Yes, the bulk of the responsibility of any mistreatment will be on the perpetrators and the

host family. But some of it will be parental as well.

So the reasons for the demand for child domestic workers and their supply are clear. They might even be understandable but they are not and should not be justifiable. Children should not be working before a certain age. They should be getting an education, having a childhood and growing up. This is as true of the children of the rich as it is of children born in poorer households.

The laws in this domain are clear, though there is a need to harmonise them. And a tremendous need to implement them and to monitor the implementation strictly. All children, and there are no caveats or conditions in the Right to Education (Article 25-A) in our Constitution, should be getting an education at least till age 16. This is compulsory. Any activity that does not allow a child to get an education cannot be allowed to go on concurrently.

Children below the age of 15 (in Punjab) or 14 (in Sindh and KP) cannot be employed in any job.

Again, there are no ifs and buts. No child below 18 years can be employed in any hazardous work.

But 20 million-plus children between the ages of five and 16 are out of schools and do not have access to educational opportunities. Twelve million or so children work, and around 300,000 of them work as domestic workers. These are unforgivable failures of implementation. And it is not that one government or political party has failed to ensure implementation. All of them have. And despite assurances for justice in individual cases, all governments and all of us, as a society, continue to fail the children of this country even in such basic things as right to food, clothing, basic amenities, and access to quality education and health facilities. Shame on all of us.

If we are to ensure that our children are given the environment needed for their safety and growth and that our children get opportunities to grow and reach their potential, there are a lot of changes that need to hap-

pen. We need to ensure every child gets 10-12 years of education, we need to ensure they are not forced to work (domestic work or other work), are not forced to live away from parents/home for economic reasons (live-in domestic workers), they are not exposed to any kind of abuse.

This will need multiple tools. Employing children under 14 or 15 years is already illegal and education is compulsory. But there is no implementation. We need to ensure implementation, monitoring and strict compliance. We need to harmonise the laws as well. A child is a child till what age? Fourteen, 15 or 16? What is 'hazardous' work? If there is a violation of the law, what recourse is there? Do we have helpines and offices where we can complain? All of these issues need to be addressed.

But we need a lot more. We need society and state to commit to keeping our children safe and well and providing them with access to quality education and health facilities. This will re-

quire significant investment in changing mindsets of people who demand child domestic labour and parents who supply it. If people still do it, we need to criminalise such behaviour and catch and punish the culprits. Enough is enough. We need a larger and stronger safety net that provides income support to children in poorer households. We need compulsory provision of education to all. If all of these are not done, cases as the horrendous one we have just witnessed, will continue.

There should be justice for the victims but post-fact justice provision will not stop abuses from happening and will not eradicate the issue at the root level. For that, we need a much broader, deeper and serious effort to change the narrative completely, harmonise laws, improve data on compliance, and ensure 100 per cent compliance and zero tolerance for violations. Will society and state stand up for their children? -- Courtesy Dawn

This is not how laws are made



Syed Ali Zafar

Law making by parliament is its most important task and huge responsibility. I do not need to dwell upon its significance and suffice it to say that laws made by parliament become applicable upon and immediately affect the lives of two-hundred and fifty million people of Pakistan and generations to come. Every institution in the country, including the Supreme Court, operates in accordance with these laws. Indeed law is order, and good law is good order. 'Parliament' comes from the French word 'parley' and is used for an institution because in it debate takes place. The object of parliament is that there is a place where the best people from amongst the people will deliberate upon national matters. But that is not all. What is expected of these learned parliamentar-

ians is that they will debate not simply for the sake of discussion but to find a solution. Finally, it is the duty of the legislators that when they debate to find a solution, it will not be for finding any solution, but one which is acceptable to all, and in the country's and the nation's best interest.

When we talk about parliament, we expect that every issue, whether it is a matter of law-making or oversight or criticism of government and other institutions, must be done with mutual discussion and an eye to resolving the matter for the future. Conducting affairs through mutual consultation is one of the teachings of Islam.

But this is not what I see happening in Pakistan. Instead, the manner in which in the last many months law-making is being treated by government ministers has left me with feelings of grief, sadness and even anger. I see that a bill is brought to parliament on the day of its session and the speaker or chairman is requested that it be passed immediately.

The majority of parliamentarians have not even seen, let alone read the law. Others, who want to understand, are not provided with

an opportunity to do so. The speaker or chairman then puts the bill to the House asking that those in favour of this bill be read or understood by anyone, may say 'aye' and those who are against it may say 'no'. Such mechanical passing of legislation without debate has rightly been termed by the media as 'bulldozing'. In this way, an unseen bill becomes the law applicable to the entire country.

When I see laws being bulldozed, I am reminded of a master that is herding sheep across the land. The sheep are following his orders but do not know where they are heading. Sometimes the master is leading the sheep to the slaughter house but the sheep continue trotting happily without realizing that they are going to their own deaths. They don't know but they continue to obey. This is the scene that sometimes I imagine when I see laws being passed in parliament without deliberation or debate.

We are a blessed nation that we have amongst us a vibrant media which is consistently trying to keep us awake by writing about this oppressive manner of push-

ing through legislation because of which parliament's reputation is suffering. Pakistani intellectuals are reminding us that because of this oppressive way of conducting legislative business the people of Pakistan are losing confidence in parliament and democracy and Pakistan's image is suffering. The world is a global village now and other nations are looking at us and laughing.

Bulldozed laws are more often than not arbitrary, flawed, malafide and irretrievably harm the people and national interest. Even if the object is good, by bulldozing it, the real law is always buried.

I say that this is no way to run a civilized country.

We are also lucky that amongst our parliamentarians we have educated people who have experience, expertise, intelligence and are lawyers, doctors, engineers, professors etc. I always felt in my heart that such parliamentarians cannot be herded like sheep. Yet day after day I saw legislative bills passed in minutes without much ado, and only the opposition in the Senate raising a voice against it.

I made an impassioned

plea before the Joint Session on July 25, 2023 — warning the House that if the practice of bulldozing laws continues then there will come a day when the nation will become so disappointed that people will start addressing parliament in the same language as Oliver Cromwell addressed the British Parliament in 1653.

I said be fearful of the day when Pakistanis may say that "This parliament is not a parliament. These parliamentarians have blindfolds on their eyes and cotton in their ears. Their mouths are sealed. The only thing they are permitted to say is 'aye' when so ordered. We do not accept parliament." I warned that: "This is the day when democracy will come to its eventual end in Pakistan. We should all fear that day." I pointed out that the only solution to this is to let the parliamentarians think and debate. No ruling party should be allowed to reduce any assembly to rubber-stamp for their legislative agenda.

But a few days ago I saw light at the end of the tunnel when senators from both sides of the aisle, treasury and opposition, stood

together to oppose two oppressive unconstitutional bills tabled by the government in the Senate. The senators said enough is enough, we are not sheep to be herded where the master wants; we have a mind and conscience, and will not be bulldozed into passing laws which are against the nation.

This happened when the government was trying to bring in such black laws as the Prevention of Extreme Violence Act (which while ostensibly punishing terrorist organizations was in reality targeting political activities and was an anti-freedom of expression law) and Officials Secret Act (under which any person or place can be searched without warrants and properties seized). Ministers expected that these bills, like before, would also sail through. But after months of silently accepting this dictatorial dismissive attitude of the government towards legislators, the government's own senators have been forced to rebel and join the opposition. Hats off to my fellow senators. This is how we will enhance the image of parliament and the name of our country. -- Courtesy TheNews

Mystical doors



Jan-e-Alam Khaki

People approach religion with multiple perspectives, based on their inclinations, interests, backgrounds, and perspectives. John Renard tells us that there are "Seven doors to Islam". Looking at history, one would be inclined to believe that there may be 70 or even 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 esoteric, which adheres to literal truths, with a strong focus on external performances, and consistency in ritual performances, refusing to admit any inner dimensions or interpretations of faith. The second is the rational door, interpreting Islam through rational processes. It claims that Islam can be better understood through applying a rational approach. Defenders of Reason in Islam demonstrates the perspectives of this approach.

There is the third door, that is often described as mystical, spiritual (ruhani), 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' (annihilation) leading to 'baqa' (affirmation) or 'Fana Fillah Wa Baqa Billah'

(Mystical Dimensions of Islam).

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 authority".

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 Anemarie Schimmel gives a larger canvas. She argues: "... mystics in every religious 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,

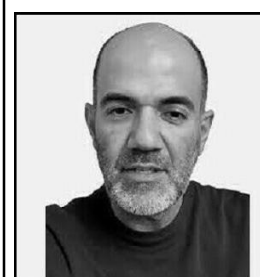
though not necessarily the same, stages of development.

Iqbal pushes spirituality to a deeper level still. 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 revelation, 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 laduni (Quran, 18:65) that enables one to grasp the true meaning of faith.

Echoing this perspective, in the preface of Light Within me, Allama Muhammad 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 form."

Where are we going?



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 salt in a deep wound.

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

generation of Pakhtun youth who, since the onset of the 'war on terror' more 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 Islamabad 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

much to resist the onslaught in the ethnic peripheries, 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-geoisie. They divide and rule. Choreo-gra-pph and rig the game. Stunt the political imagination.

But this does not completely explain our impasse. To move beyond an establishment-centric politics — motivated 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 hydra-headed 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 hollow sloganeering, ought to be thinking along these lines. Or we can remain stuck in our own echo chambers as fires engulf us all. -- Courtesy Dawn

Naqvi inspects work on Ring Road Southern Loop-3 project

CM also inspects hospital, flyover, police station in Shahdara

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief 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 31.

The project's path through Bahria Town received tremendous support from the housing society. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi assured that all obstacles have been removed, and the entire area for the project is now clear. He emphasized that the project would be executed with the highest quality standards.

The completion of the Ring Road Southern Loop 3 will significantly ease traffic congestion for those travelling from South Punjab to Lahore, relieving pressure on Thokar and Canal Road. The residents of all Housing Schemes around Multan Road will also benefit from the project.

Addressing concerns about his intentions, Chief Minister Naqvi clarified that he is solely committed to serving the people and not seeking votes. He highlighted the efforts being made by the entire 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 commission will be formed and the Punjab government will submit a detailed report to the commission.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori meets with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahdi Safari and Governor of Sistan Muhammad Kumari at the Governor's House.

Federal Ombudsman stresses need for speedy implementation of decisions

PESHAWAR (APP): 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 implementation of the assistance made by his office.

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 of cases and implementation of the Federal Ombudsman Office's decisions at people's doorsteps.

He said the majority of complaints in KP were received against PESCO, adding significant reduction in complaints against NADRA, BISP and SGNPL were witnessed. To address people's complaints, he urged all federal government departments to establish a well-equipped digitization system and upload all the necessary data and information on their websites for people's facilitation.

Indian persecution can't stifle voice of Kashmiris: Baligh

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that state persecution by the Indian rulers can not stifle voice for freedom of the Kashmiri people.

He said Kashmiri 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.



LAHORE: Inspector General Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar presenting gifts to the orphans of the Martyrs Police Soldiers during ceremony at Al-Hamara Hall in Provincial Capital.

Sharjeel Memon says: Sindh Assembly completes term successfully

KARACHI (APP): Minister of Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon has stated that the Sindh Assembly was poised to successfully complete its term.

The provincial Assembly has passed a historic number of legislations during this period, and its performance is marked by several groundbreaking initiatives, notably in flood management. Speaking to journalists at the Sindh Assembly Media Corner on Friday, Sharjeel Inam Memon mentioned that we all collaborated under the guidance of Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah during the challenging flood situation and extended relief to the victims to the best of our abilities, all institutions also fulfilled their role effectively and continue to do so.

Sindh health minister inaugurates BIUT in Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Health Dr Azra Fazal Pechohu on Friday performed the opening of Benazir Institute of Urology and Transplantation (BIUT) at Nawabshah—a project on kidney diseases.

Pechohu said the BIUT was handed over to SIUT Karachi where Dr Adeb Rizvi was providing the best treatment of kidney disease patients without any recommendations.

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.

National Police Martyrs' Day observed in provincial metropolis

LAHORE (APP): National 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.

Senior Professor of SIUT Dr Anwar Naqvi and SIUT-BIUT Coordinator Muhammad Ameen said BIUT comprises 300 beds where patients would get the same free treatment facilities as SIUT Karachi and Sukkur, which include the latest Robotic Operation Theater and Dialysis. Vice Chancellor Peoples Medical University for Women SBA, Prof Dr Gulshan Ali Memon, Commissioner Muhammad Abbas Baloch and Prof Muhammad Ali Suhail also addressed the occasion.

Encroachments removed from Jail Road

FAISALABAD (APP): Encroachments were removed from Jail Road and its adjacent localities including Islam Nagar with the help of heavy machinery here on Friday.

LHC CJ inaugurates dispensary at judicial complex Multan

MULTAN (APP): Chief Justice Lahore High Court Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti on Friday inaugurated a dispensary for judges, lawyers and litigants at the judicial complex, Matti Tal in Multan.

He asked District and Sessions Judge Akmal Khan to provide all basic facilities to the litigants at the judicial complex and increase the number of trees and seasonal flower plants outside courtrooms.

Shopkeeper killed by unknown assailants

SWABI (APP): Unknown assailants killed shopkeeper by indiscriminate firing in village Adina of District Swabi here on Friday.



SUKKUR: Water level increases while high grade flood water reaches at Sukkur Barrage into River Indus due to heavy downpour of monsoon season, in Sukkur.

Tanzila Umi Habiba says: Sindh Govt launches skill development IT trainings in higher learning institutions

HYDERABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Chief Minister Sindh on Information, Science and Technology Tanzila Umi Habiba has said that the provincial government has launched skill development trainings to youth in educational institutions of the province aimed to prepare the future generation to meet the challenges of the modern world.

purpose of this programme was to bridge the gap between universities and industries and provide trained youth to the private organizations, which will benefit the industrial institutions on the one hand and provide jobs to the youth of Sindh on the other hand.

KU postgraduate entry test on Aug 06

KARACHI (APP): The entry test for postgraduate admissions to the University of Karachi will be held on August 06.

Rallies, seminars to be held on Aug 5 to observe Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir

KARACHI (APP): Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir will be observed here in Karachi like other parts of the country on Saturday (August 05) to record protest against revocation of the status of disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir by India.

organizations will organize rallies and seminars to show solidarity with Kashmiri brethren and condemn Indian brutality against them.



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

Education minister for timely resolution of issues of department employees

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Education and Culture, Syed Sardar Ali Shah on Friday, directed the concerned officers to promptly resolve the issues of employees of the school education department.

and reviewed the performance. Syed Sardar Shah also met people present in the secretariat, listened to their problems and issued on-the-spot instructions in this regard.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Qaumi Awami Tehreek are holding protest demonstration against auction of Karoonjhar Mountains, at Hyderabad press club.

Alvi urges business community to help deprived segments of society

ISLAMABAD (Online): Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan has urged that the key issues of the business community should be addressed to facilitate them in business promotion that would help revive the economy. He said that weak decision making as a nation has deprived Pakistan from realizing its actual economic potential. He said this while addressing as Chief Guest the ICCI Vice Presidents Awards

Ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Dr. Arif Alvi said that South Korea adopted the economic plan of Dr. Mehboob ul Haq and achieved fast economic growth, but Pakistan could not take benefit of it. He urged the business community to play a role for uplifting the deprived segments of the society and economic empowerment of women. He further said that 20.7 million children in

Pakistan were out of school and emphasized that the business community should play a role to bring them to schools to make them productive citizens of the country. He said that investment in employable sectors of the economy would create more jobs and reduce poverty. He said that the private sector should provide jobs to the persons with disabilities to engage them in productive activities. Speaking on the occasion.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the former Vice Presidents ICCI have rendered useful services for the business community and the purpose of organizing the award ceremony was to acknowledge their role. He stressed that the government should give awards to highest taxpayers to acknowledge their role.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori participates in a conference on "Opportunities and Challenges of Economic Relations between Iran and Pakistan".



QUETTA: People purchase used goods due to price hiking, at makeshift weekly market located on Benazir Flyover road in Quetta.

Pakistani businessman honored for boosting investments in Guinea

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Republic of Equatorial Guinea has given the Medal of Honour to Dubai-based Pakistani-origin businessman Umar Farooq Zahoar for bringing in direct foreign investment to the country in the tune of over \$55 million.

The award has been given to the Pakistani-origin businessman by the President of Equatorial Guinea at a ceremony attended by dignitaries from local as well as Middle Eastern countries. Umar Farooq Zahoar is Liberia's Ambassador-at-Large for Middle East & South East

Asia. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the President of Equatorial Guinea, a country on the west coast of Central Africa, praised the efforts of Umar Farooq Zahoar for bringing investment to the minerals-rich country with an area of 28,000 square kilometres and population of nearly 1.5 million.

The Presidential Office issued a statement saying that Equatorial Guinea and the United Arab Emirates have strong relations that began in 2017 with the construction of a 36-megawatt Diesel

power plant. The awards were given at the inauguration and commissioning ceremony that took place on August 2 in the City of Peace, Djibloho. The President of the Republic, Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, at the ceremony also awarded Commander and Knight medals to Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoock Al Maktuum, a member of the ruling family of Dubai. The Presidential Office said the plant was built in 24 months on BOOT basis with a total cost of \$55 million CFA francs.

Weekly inflation up by 1.3 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 1.30 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on July 31, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 271.56 points as compared to 268.08 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption

group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 29.83 percent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.82 percent and went up to 277.55 points from last week's 275.30 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 0.92 percent, 0.97 percent, 1.11 and 1.53 percent respectively.



QUETTA: A man push wheelbarrow loaded with delivery stuff in local market.

Malaysia to open trade office in Karachi, commence direct flights: CG Herman

KARACHI (APP): Consul General of Malaysia, Herman Hardynata Bin Ahmad, on Friday, said that his country was keen to enhance trade and investment ties with Pakistan and efforts were underway to open a trade office in Karachi and commencing direct flights from Kuala Lumpur.

An 18-member Malaysian trade delegation, comprising representatives from food, agriculture, cosmetics, textiles and other sectors, will be arriving in Karachi next week to explore possibilities of enhancing trade ties, he informed during his visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

The consul general said that Malaysian trade office will be activated in Karachi by the end of the year and presence of Malaysian trade representative would result in improving trade ties with the business community of Karachi which is very important to Malaysia.

A Malaysian Airline will also be commencing direct flights between Kuala Lumpur and Karachi for promoting trade ties and also opening up tourism opportunities, he further said adding that efforts were being made to timely complete all the formalities for the direct flights by the end of this year.

Referring to Pakistan Malaysia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) he said that FTA between the two countries was being refreshed by adding more tradable items in the lists which would help increasing trade volume between the two brotherly countries.

Herman Hardynata urged the business community to take advantage of the immense opportunities of exporting goods to Malaysia as a lot of goods being manufactured in Karachi would find a very good market in Malaysia.

On the matter of visa-free access to Malaysia, the Envoy said that visa free facility.



FAISALABAD: Deserving people stand in long queue outside utility store at District Council Chowk to get grocery on subsidized prices in City.

Rs12.817m disbursed under PM youth agriculture loan scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has disbursed Rs12.817 million under Prime Minister Youth Agriculture Loan Scheme in order to encourage youth towards a agriculture entrepreneurship as well as promote the agriculture and livestock sector in the country.

The initiative was aimed at creating livelihood opportunities for the huge existing bulge of youth in the country through incentivizing the agriculture sector, said an official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

Talking to APP here on Friday, he said that the

amount was disbursed among the youth from all four provinces including Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan to absorb the existing bulge of youth in agriculture entrepreneurship to promote the sector in the country.

He said that the initiative was also aiming at encouraging them to adopt agriculture as a career to become entrepreneurs as well as creating employment opportunities for other skilled and semi-skilled workforce.

He said that over 24,776 applications were approved and out of that 23,857 applications were disbursed, adding that an

Pakistan's sports goods industry benefiting from ties with China

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan has an enduring practice of producing high-quality sports goods, including footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, cricket equipment, and other sports accessories.

Experts believe that the country's skilled artisans are renowned for their expertise in this field. Despite its superb craftsmanship and a large pool of workers, the industry's poor access to international markets has hampered its growth for a long time.

Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in China, remarked that China provides Pakistan with an excellent opportunity to expand its influence and open up new markets.

As the world's largest manufacturing country, China has advanced manufacturing technology, a huge economic volume and a complete trade network, all of which can help Pakistan's sporting goods industry to undergo significant changes.

Pakistan's basketballs, footballs, and volleyballs (community code: 95066210) exported to China in the first six months of this year crossed \$5.53 million, whereas in the same period last year, it was only \$4.22

million. Similarly, equipment for sports outdoor games, swim/paddling pools (community code: 95069990) crossed \$0.3 million, which is expected to improve this year", he added. The Commercial Counsellor further said that China's advanced manufacturing technology has revolutionized Pakistan's sports goods industry. Through collaboration, Pakistani manufacturers have gained access to state-of-the-art machinery, production techniques, and quality control processes, adding that this has not only enhanced the overall quality of the products but also increased production efficiency, allowing the industry to meet the growing demands of international markets.

Sony Iqbal, Chairman of the Small & Medium Enterprise (SMEs) Association in Pakistan told China Economic Net that one of the key advantages of partnering with China is the cost-effectiveness. By using Chinese methods including latest technology and efficient supply chain management, production costs for manufacturers could be significantly reduced. "Importing Chinese technologies could

help us to improve quality while reducing costs, making Pakistani sports goods more attractive in global markets. We should also participate in more exhibitions held in China, as a result, the industry can experience a surge in export orders, boosting its revenue and contributing to Pakistan's economic growth", Iqbal emphasized.

He further noted that China's extensive trade networks and global reach have opened new doors for Pakistan's sports goods industry. By collaborating with Chinese manufacturers and distributors, Pakistani companies have gained access to a wide range of international markets.

"We should promote our SMEs by participating in different exhibitions in China and this strategic alliance would enable Pakistani businessmen to expand their customer base and diversify their product offerings. The government of Pakistan should encourage SMEs by providing some subsidies that they could enhance their domestic and international business."

Answering a question that how Pakistan can convert from traditional sports goods to innovative designs.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers carrying a bundle of sugarcane after off load from a delivery truck at fruit and vegetable market.

NUTECH holds job fair for students

ISLAMABAD (APP): National University of Technology (NUTECH) here on Friday organized the second "Open House and Job Fair 2023" to connect graduating students with 90 leading companies from various sectors like Corporate, Engineering, IT, Banking and Research and Development.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal was the esteemed chief guest at the ceremony. Dignitaries from the industry and armed forces were also among the attendees, said a press release. The event emphasized industry-academia collaboration to strengthen the economy.

FBR's decision of introducing new rules for monitoring of cargo containers hailed

PESHAWAR (APP): Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia ul Haq Sarhadi has hailed the issuance of notification by Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for introducing new Tracking and Monitoring of Cargo Rule 2023.

In a press statement issued here on Friday, Zia Sarhadi said that the decision was a long demand of the business community of the country aimed at ending the monopoly of one company providing tracking service to vehicles carrying cargo goods.

It merits to mention here that FBR has issued SRO996(I)/2023 to notify

new Tracking and Monitoring of Cargo Rules, 2023 on August 2.

The FBR has allowed companies having a minimum annual turnover of Rs175 million or financial worth of Rs100 million to obtain the licence for tracking and monitoring of vehicles and containers carrying transit/imported cargo.

Under the new rules, the annual turnover has been reduced from Rs350 million to Rs175 million and financial health from Rs200 million to Rs100 million for the companies intended to apply for the licenses for tracking and monitoring of vehicles.

Zong 4G VAS ensures connectivity for prepaid customers during emergencies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G Pakistan's leading telecommunications company has in a remarkable leap towards empowering its customers with the launch of a new value-added service (VAS) Zero Balance.

Despite having low or zero balance in their prepaid accounts, Zong customers can make calls, use mobile data, give missed calls, and send text

messages SMS, said a news release.

Recognizing the importance of seamless communication and asserting connectivity as an essential service at the time of emergency, Zong 4G aims to provide its prepaid customers with uninterrupted communication capabilities.

Through the ZONG 4G Emergency Pack,

prepaid customers will get a comprehensive set of features at Rs 7+tax (weekly), allowing them to make 2 phone calls (one on-net, one off-net) of 60 seconds each along with 10 missed calls, 20MB internet, 20 SMS, to stay connected or seek assistance when it matters the most.

To avail this service, customers can dial *2445# activation code



MULTAN: Vendor is busy arranging and displaying national flag color children's garments to attract customers at his roadside setup for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations.

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

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 allowed Ukrainian grain exports via the shipping hub during the conflict between the two countries.

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

Russian ships destroyed the naval drones, it said. It was the first such attack targeting the port city.

The Black Sea port of Novorossiysk hosts the terminus of a pipeline that

carries most Kazakh oil exports through Russia.

The fuel artery's operator Caspian Pipeline Consortium said it was continuing 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 targeted since the beginning of Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine more than a year ago, but attacks have increased in recent weeks. On Tuesday, Russia's defence ministry said it foiled a Ukrainian drone attack targeting patrol boats in the Black Sea.

Three drones were trained on ships navigating in waters 340 kilometres southwest of Sevastopol, the base of Russia's Black Sea fleet in Crimea. A simi-

lar 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 ministry said.

Crimea, annexed by Russia in 2014, has been targeted by Kyiv throughout Moscow's Ukraine offensive but has come under more intense, increased attacks in recent weeks.

Ukrainian drone attacks on Crimea in July blew up an ammunition depot and damaged a strategic and symbolic bridge linking Russia's mainland to the peninsula.

Kyiv has repeatedly said it plans to take back Crimea, which is a regular target for its forces.

On Sunday, Russian-installed authorities in Crimea said 25 Ukrainian drones were destroyed over the peninsula.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken stands at a podium as he holds a press 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 five months earlier.

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 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 payments.



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.

8 killed, 4 injured after freight train crashes into truck in Thailand

Monitoring Desk
BHUBANESWAR: At least eight people were killed on Friday after a freight train collided with a pick-up truck that was trying to cross the tracks in central Thailand, according to the kingdom's railway agency.

According to a statement from the State Railway of Thailand, the accident occurred on Thursday at about 2:20am (1920 GMT) at an unapproved crossing in the eastern province of Chachoengsao.

The statement claimed that the train driver honked his horn as he approached the crossing but was unable to stop in time to avoid striking the truck carrying fish.

"The train driver followed the protocol by sounding the alarm three times, but the close proximity made it difficult for

the driver to stop the train in time," the statement added.

Eight people — five men and three women — died in the collision. Four more were injured, one of whom is in hospital in critical condition.

A 20-year-old survivor who leapt out of the pick-up just before the crash explained that they thought the vehicle could make it over the crossing, but then saw the train only a few metres away.

Deadly accidents are common in Thailand, which regularly tops lists of the world's most lethal roads, with speeding, drunk driving and weak law enforcement all contributing factors.

In October 2020, 18 people were killed when a freight train crashed into a bus taking passengers to a religious ceremony.

52 hurt in clashes at Stockholm festival

Monitoring Desk
STOCKHOLM: More than 50 people were injured and dozens detained in Stockholm on Thursday as clashes broke out at an Eritrean pro-government festival, police and health officials said, with anti-government 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".

Police said they remained at the scene in a suburb northwest of Stockholm and were "continuing their efforts to disrupt criminal acts and restore order." They said they had also opened an investigation into violent rioting and arson as well as obstructing the work of police and rescue services.

Abortion standoff leaves top US Army job unfilled

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US Army's chief of staff stepped down on Friday, leaving a second military branch without a confirmed leader as a lawmaker stalls the approval of scores of nominations to protest Pentagon efforts to aid abortion access. More than 300 nominations — including the generals selected as the next heads of the Army and the Marine Corps — are awaiting confirmation by the US Senate, and the number continues to grow. The Senate can still vote on nominees individually, but the "hold" by Senator Tommy Tuberville, a Republican from Alabama, means they cannot be quickly approved in groups by unanimous consent.

"Unfortunately, today, for the first time in the history of the Department of Defense, two of our services will be operating without Senate-confirmed leadership."

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

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia and 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 exploration.

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

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Congress has taken a significant step towards recognising Islam as a major religion, emphasising its role in promoting peace and harmony.

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 like the desecration of Holy Quran.

Mr Green, a Texas 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 Affairs.

The text covers basic tenets of Islam and practices and traditions of the Muslim community, pointing out that the word "Islam" means "submission to the will of God" and "peace". It recognises the Holy Quran as the primary scripture of Islam and notes that Muslims consider it to be the book of divine guidance. It also points out that Islam is the second largest and fastest-growing religion of the world, with approximately two billion Muslims worldwide while 3,500,000 Muslims live in the US as well.

IAEA: No explosives found on Zaporizhzhia reactor roofs after month-long wait

Monitoring Desk
VIENNA: The U.N. nuclear watchdog has been granted access to areas of the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine a month after requesting it, and has found no explosives, it said in a statement on Friday.

On July 4, Russia and Ukraine accused each other of planning to stage an attack on Europe's biggest nuclear power plant, where the International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly warned of potential catastrophe from nearby military clashes.

A small IAEA team based at the plant sought to verify the accusations. It issued updates in the following weeks to say that it had found no signs of explosives in the areas it had been able to visit, except mines outside the perimeter

that appeared to pose no danger to the plant's safety.

"(IAEA) experts have observed no mines or explosives on the rooftops of Unit 3 and Unit 4 reactor buildings and the turbine halls ... after having been given access yesterday afternoon," the IAEA said.

The IAEA said on July 5 that access to the roofs of the two units and parts of the turbine halls was essential. Ukraine's armed forces had said the day before that "operational data" showed "explosive devices" had been placed on those two roofs.

"Following repeated requests, the team had unimpeded access to the rooftops of the two reactor units and could also clearly view the rooftops of the turbine halls. The team will continue its requests to visit the roofs of the other 4 units," Friday's statement said.

Japan's Kishida hopes to further strengthen strategic cooperation with US and South Korea at summit

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Friday he hopes to discuss further strengthening of three-way strategic cooperation with leaders of the United States and South Korea at a summit hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden at Camp David later this month.

The Aug. 18 summit with Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol is the first stand-alone summit among leaders of the three countries, not in connection with international meetings. The summit is also the latest sign of warming ties between Tokyo and Seoul. Both governments have moved to set aside decades-long tensions over wartime history, while Washington seeks to deepen its commitment in the Indo-Pacific region.

"I have high hopes that this summit meeting will further strengthen the foundation for strengthening ties with the United States and South Korea, which have been built up through multi-layered efforts including at the summit level," Kishida said, responding to a question about the summit, during a news conference Friday.

"On top of that, I expect we will further reinforce our strategic cooperation among the three countries, Japan, the United States and South Korea" as the three leaders discuss joint responses to North Korea's threats and maintaining and strengthening a rules-based, free and open international order, Kishida said. He declined to provide more details, saying he should avoid prejudging the outcome of the summit ahead of time.

The Biden administration has been urging stronger economic and defense ties between South Korea and Japan as it looks to bolster the region against China's assertive territorial moves and economic influences, and to secure their cooperation in support of Ukraine's fight against Russia's full-scale invasion.

Japan and South Korea are both key U.S. allies and their cooperation is key to Washington's security strategy in the Indo-Pacific as tensions grow with China.

An American billionaire says he'll stop funding the think tank behind Israel's judicial overhaul

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: An American billionaire and major donor to a Jerusalem think tank backing the Israeli government's divisive judicial overhaul said on Friday that he would stop giving to the conservative group.

The decision by Arthur Dantchik, a 65-year-old libertarian multimillionaire from New York, cut funding to the Kohélet Policy Forum reflects the scope of the unrelenting protest movement against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plans to weaken the Supreme Court. "I believe what is most critical at this time is for Israel to focus on healing and national unity," Dantchik said in a statement shared with The Associated Press announcing his move to halt funding. "Throughout my life, I have supported a diverse array of organizations that promote individual liberties and economic freedoms for all people."

The protests have raged in Israel for seven months, exposing deep-

seated social tensions and thrusting the country into a crisis over the future of its democracy.

The Kohélet Policy Forum, founded in 2012 by American-Israeli computer scientist Moshe Koppel, has emerged as one of the main architects of Netanyahu's judicial overhaul package.

Kohélet declined to comment specifically on Dantchik, saying only that the donations it receives "are broad-based and increasing steadily." Israeli media has reported Kohélet has been involved in negotiations over the overhaul plans. The changes would give the government more control over the selection of judges and make it harder for the Supreme Court to strike down laws. At one point earlier this year, a member of Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party said the think tank even provided the government with the same overhaul proposal that it presented to Israel's parliament.

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.

India's top court suspends Rahul Gandhi's defamation conviction

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 politician to return to parliament after his disqualification. Gandhi, 53, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in March in a case that critics have said showed threats to the rule of law in the world's largest democracy.

He was turfed out of the legislature as a result but 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 rally four years ago.

"The order of conviction needs to be stayed pending final adjudication," Justice B.R. Gavai said in his ruling. Gandhi is the leading face of the opposition Congress party, once the dominant force of Indian politics.

He is also the son of India's premier political dynasty and the son, grandson and great-grandson of former prime ministers.

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

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: 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 and Agriculture Organization said Friday.

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

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.



A schoolboy walks along the Kenya-Uganda railway line during the reopening of schools in Kibera slums of Nairobi, Kenya.

Ahsan launches Rs 25b fund to address out-of-school 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 out-of-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 among others by dignitaries, officials and education experts.

Addressing the 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

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

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

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 nation.



KARACHI: Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, along with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, unveils a plaque designating the Old Clifton Road as "Shahra-e-Imam Khumani".

Shazia Marri says BSP committed to fulfill BB's vision of empowering underprivileged sections

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 to labour and underprivileged sections of society had always been a dream close to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's heart.

She was speaking at a 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 of empowering the weakest segments.

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 her 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 women's empowerment, leading to a transformation in the social fabric of society.

She informed the audience that Contingent Employees have been regularized along with Time Scale Promotions of grade 1 and 2 employees.

Panezai elected President, Mehwish SVP of PTI Women Wing Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has elected Kulsom Kakar Panezai the Provincial President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Balochistan Women/Women Wing, Mehwish Janjua as Provincial Senior Vice President, Niazmin Durrani as Provincial Vice President and Farzana Khilji as Provincial General on Friday in Quetta. According to PTI media wing, the services rendered by these senior leaders for the vision of Imran Khan and for the party manifesto despite the most difficult conditions, lack of resources, and tribal traditions are proud and admirable. The party statement detailed that considering their ideology, political struggle, they have been appointed to

important positions. It is hoped that as provincial president, provincial senior vice president and provincial general secretary, they will use their skills, political, academic experience and leadership abilities to play an exemplary role for the development and functioning of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Balochistan, especially the women of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Under their guidance ideological workers will emerge.



QUETTA: People are offering Fateha for the departed soul of Nawabzada Mir Haroon Raisani during condolence meeting with Nawab Aslam Raisani and Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani.



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

CM pleads international community to take prompt notice of cruelty of Indian state institutions in IIOJK

5th August blackest day of Indian history; exposed undemocratic face of India, says Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has pleaded the world community to take immediate notice of the cruelty as well as the illegal and unilateral actions unleashed by Indian state institutions and occupation forces four years ago on August 5, 2019 in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a message issued here on the Youme-e-Istehsal being observed on Saturday (today), the Chief Minister said that India has been continuing inhuman military siege and callous disregard to the unspoken sufferings of the Kashmiri people. By deploying additional troops and imposing unprecedented media restrictions, since 5 August 2019, the Indian occupation forces have turned IIOJK into the largest prison on the planet. The human rights situation in IIOJK has seriously deteriorated over the last four years. The Kashmiri people remain under military siege, their senior leadership remains incarcerated and their youth continue to be prime targets of Indian occupation forces' indiscriminate extra-judicial killings through staged 'cordon-and-search' operations. In fact, the Kashmiris continue to be deprived of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Chief Minister maintained that millions of innocent Kashmiris have been martyred and now the extremist Hindus are being settled by snatching the land of Kashmiris and annulling the special status of Kashmir. He maintained, "He also said that with this an attempt is being made to convert the majority of Muslims into minority and the life of Kashmiris are being made miserable. It is deplorable that in IIOJK, India continues to flagrantly violate the universal ideals of human dignity, fairness and justice with complete impunity. The just struggle of the people of IIOJK to realize their right of self-determination, guaranteed under several resolutions of the UN Security Council, is being suppressed through brutal use of force by the Indian occupation forces."

He urged the international community to give right of plebiscite to the Kashmiris as per the resolutions of United Nations. He said that the people of Balochistan fully support the right of self-determination, and would continue to raise their voice against the Indian atrocities at every forum.

Meanwhile the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar has stated that the day of 5th August is the blackest day of Indian history when it (India) had exposed its undemocratic face by annulling its constitution's Article 370 and 35-A on the same date in 2019.

The Advisor to the 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 propaganda.

He said that in that regard, the resolution will be presented in the National Assembly session on Monday.

"We are proud of our friendship with China", he said, adding that China has also expressed concerns over the Indian move of August 5.



QUETTA: Retired Officer of Revenue Department Javed Iqbal and Naib Qasid of Department in presence of Senior Member Board of Revenue Balochistan Roshan Ali Sheikh pressing button to inaugurate Digitilization of E-Stamping Project facilities in Quetta

Facilitation center inaugurated at Quetta: E-stamping project launched under Board of Revenue

Independent Report
QUETTA: The E-stamping project has been launched under the Board of Revenue Balochistan here on Friday.

In this regard, an agreement was signed between the Government of Balochistan and the Bank of Punjab about digitalisation of E-stamping system.

With this the facilitation center has also been inaugurated.

The senior Member Board of Revenue Roshan Ali Sheikh and Group chief of the Bank, corporate and investment, Fareed Ahmed Khan signed the agreement.

On the occasion, senior MBR Roshan Ali Sheikh and Group Chief Business Solution Officer, PTCL and Uphone, Zarrar Hashim Khan also signed another agreement.

The signing ceremony was also attended by the Secretary Excise and Taxation, Zafar Ali Bokhari, Secretary Information, Hamza Shafiq, Vice Chancellor BUIEMS, Professor Dr. Khalid Hafiz also attended the ceremony.



ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has issued detailed decision on holding election on May 14 in Punjab.

Sherry Rehman calls for timely elections

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman reiterated on Friday that the elections should be held on time.

Expressing her views, Sherry made it clear that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) wanted the timely elections in the country.

Speaking about the torture of the teenage maid Rizwana, Sherry said: "So far, no court has taken notice of the incident of Rizwana's torture".

She lamented that the teenage girl was subjected to "torture by the civil judge's family".

Last week, PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi said his party's position was that elections should be held within 60 days.

Addressing a public gathering, Kundi asserted: "Nine million people are being helped through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). Under the BISP, poor families are provided Rs 9,000 each".

He recounted the role played by the PPP leadership.

Pakistan's minority wing holds protest against India's atrocities on minorities

Independent Report
QUETTA: Under the auspices of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) Balochistan minority wing, a protest was held in front of the provincial secretariat of the party against the atrocities on minorities in India.

PML (N) senior vice president Balochistan Suleman Khilji, Naem Sikandar Advocate, Mir Zaman Lehri, Shama Shehzad, Mir Riaz Gul Barani, Pastor Anjum, Master Humayun Akram and others addressed the gathering. They said that the pro-Hindu Modi government in India has made life difficult for Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and other minorities.

He said that all the religions of the world teach respect for each other and humanity, but under the auspices of the Modi government, there has been a series of atrocities on minorities in India.

Hundreds of people belonging to minorities have been killed in India and thousands of people have been injured, but international human rights organizations were silent spectators, they deplored. Atrocities committed on minorities in India are now unbearable, they said.

They demanded from the United Nations and other international organizations to play their role to end the harsh suppression of Indian minorities.

Minister Home pays homage to police martyrs

Over 1,000 brave officers, jawans of police embraced martyrdom in line of duty, maintains Langove

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has paid homage to the martyrs of Balochistan police force saying that over 1,000 officers and jawans of the police embraced martyrdom in line of duty.

In an official statement issued here on Friday marking the Police Martyrs Day observed in the province, the Minister Home presented salute to the parents of martyrs whose sons sacrificed their lives for the cause of country in Balochistan.

He also presented salutes to the families and children of the martyrs who got the great status of martyrdom while performing their professional duties. He said that this day is the day to make pledge for the cause of protection of the homeland and protection of life and property of the general public.

He said that he has always strived for the best welfare of the families of martyrs in Balochistan. He said that the living nations don't forget their heroes.



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

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 minority in the IIOJK.

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 to India.

The Advisor to the 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 propaganda.

He said that in that regard, the resolution will be presented in the National Assembly session on Monday.

"We are proud of our friendship with China", he said, adding that China has also expressed concerns over the Indian move of August 5.



ISLAMABAD: Incumbent Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs, Qamar Zaman Kaira addresses press conference.

AJK President urges UN to take notice of violation of resolutions

MIRPUR (AJK)
(APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry on Friday urges United Nation (UN) to take notice of brazen violation of UN resolution in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by Indian government.

While president Mahmood Chaudhry said that despite using all these tactics, India has miserably failed to break the Kashmir's political resolve and their unwavering commitment to the noble cause of freedom from India's illegal and forcible occupation.

He said that Kashmir's settled on both sides of the Loc and the rest of the world would observe August 5 as Yome-e-Estehsal to convey their message to the world that they don't accept India's control over the territory.

He said that protest rallies would be held in important world capitals to highlight the nefarious designs of the Indian government and the ongoing human rights situation in Occupied Kashmir.

He said that the Indian bid to convert Yasin Malik's life sentence to a death sentence was part of this grand conspiracy to whip up anti-Muslim sentiment before the next elections.

Voicing his serious concerns over threats to Malik's life in the Indian prison.

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QUETTA: Workers of Pakistan Muslim League (N) holds protest rally against India, in Provincial Capital.