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Bodies of deceased dispatched to native areas: 11 persons including 9 from Punjab gunned down in two firing incidents in Noshki

CM Balochistan strongly condemns Noshki firing incident; Says assassination of passengers inhumane act, unforgivable; vows not to spare terrorists involved

Independent Report
QUETTA: At least 11 persons including nine from different cities of Punjab were shot dead and three others got injured by unknown armed assailants in two different incidents of firing took place on the main highway in Noshki on late Friday night. According to the reports reaching here, nine persons were gunned down by armed assailants after making their identification from a passenger coach on

way to Taftan from Quetta. The armed assailants took them with them from the passenger coach. Later, their bullet-ridden bodies of the ill-fated persons were found from nearby hilly area. The deceased belonged to Mandi Bahauddin, Wazirabad and Gujranwala areas of Punjab. Afterwards, their bodies were shifted to Civil hospital Noshki from the spot. Later, their bodies were taken to Quetta by ambulances

where they were kept in the mortuary of Civil sandeman hospital. After legal formalities, the bodies were shifted to the Police line for funeral prayer. The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, members of the provincial assembly, Inspector General of Frontier Corps, Additional IGP, Jawad Dogar and other high ups participated in the funeral prayer. They also offered fatha for the departed

soils after the funeral prayer. After the funeral prayer, the bodies of assassinated people were transported to their native areas from the police line. Meanwhile, two other persons were killed and three others injured in the firing incident took place at the same spot in Noshki. The reports suggested that the armed assailants resorted to open fire on the vehicle passing through

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ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of Muslim World League Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif

Tehreek Tahafuz Aayeen-e-Pakistan gets underway from Balochistan: Opposition parties' alliance leadership pledges to continue struggle till full supremacy of law & constitution

Six-parties alliance leaders vow to make Pakistan best country of the world with support of people and collective wisdom; urges masses to join movement aimed at ensuring protection of constitution and supremacy of parliament in country; Mehmood Khan Achakzai calls for withdrawing cases against PTI Quaid and other political prisoners; Umar Ayub announces to hold public meetings all over country and meet all segments of society; Sardar Akhtar Mengal says our struggle would remain continued till supremacy of constitution

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Tehreek Tahafuz Aayeen-e-Pakistan (movement of protection of constitution of Pakistan) got underway from Balochistan with the maiden public meeting held under the auspices of six parties alliance of the opposition at Pishin on Saturday. The public meeting organized at the Taj Lala football stadium was presided

over by the Chairman of Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) and President of the movement, Mehmood Khan Achakzai and participated by the secretary General of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Umar Ayub Khan, President Balochistan National Party, Sardar Akhtar Mengal, Head of the Summi Tehreek Council, Sahibzada Hamid Raza, Head of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen, Allama Raja

Nasir Abbas, PTI leader, Sher Afzal Marwat, senior leader of JI Balochistan, Dr. Attaur Rehman besides other provincial leaders of the opposition parties. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman PKMAP and other leaders urged all segments of the society to join the movement aimed at protection of constitution of the country and supremacy of law besides ensuring rights of the people of country.

They stressed the need that all institutions of the country including Pak army have to abide by their oath and ensure supremacy of law and constitution. The leadership of the six-parties alliance also pledged to make Pakistan best country of the world with support of the people and collective wisdom. The Chairman PKMAP asked the people who believe in supremacy of constitution and to join in the

movement. He stressed that "let make Pakistan a democratic country together." He said that we want such Pakistan where the rights of all nationalities are protected and there is their hold on their resources. He stressed that every institution of the country would have to follow the constitution and abide by their oath. He said that we have to

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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, IGFC and MPAs offering Fateha for the departed souls of passengers gunned in Noshki last night

PM, SG Muslim World League discuss matters related to Muslim Ummah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sheikh Dr. Mohammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House on Saturday and discussed matters of mutual interest. The Prime Minister welcomed Dr. Al-Issa and thanked him for visiting Pakistan on the occasion of Eid ul Fitr. He appreciated the valuable contributions and services of Dr. Al-Issa for promoting the true image of Islam around the world. He also acknowledged the critical role of Muslim World League in developing unity among the Muslim Ummah, advocating for Muslim causes around the world and in spreading the message of peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony.

conveyed his best wishes and prayers for the health and long life of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz as well as for the Crown Prince and Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz. He underscored that Pakistan attached utmost importance to its strong fraternal ties with Saudi Arabia that were rooted in common faith, shared values and culture. Extending his best wishes to the Secretary General for the success of his ongoing visit, the Prime Minister assured him of Pakistan's continued support and partnership with the Muslim World League. Secretary General of Muslim World League praised the Prime Minister for his commitment and efforts to further strengthen ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

President condemns killing of passengers in Noshki

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari Saturday strongly condemned the merciless killing of passengers in Noshki. In a statement, he expressed grief and sorrow over the barbaric killing of passengers by the terrorists. Those who targeted the innocent citizens could not be well wishers of the nation, he said adding that the whole nation rejected the heinous designs of the terrorists. The President said the security forces with the support of the nation were determined to completely eradicate terrorists. He expressed sympathy with the heirs of those who lost their lives. He prayed for the departed souls and for patience to the bereaved families.

Pakistan repays \$1b in Eurobonds

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has repaid \$1 billion in Eurobonds as a scheduled payment ahead of seeking a long-term bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The bond, launched in 2014 and repaid on Friday, was maturing this month. "The payment was made to the agent bank for onward distribution to the bond holders," the State Bank of Pakistan said in a statement. Pakistan has been struggling with a balance of payments crisis, record inflation and steep currency devaluation since an IMF standby arrangement averted a sovereign default.

CM visits pays surprise visit to PDMA; gets briefing about ongoing rescue operation in rain & flood hit areas

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti paid surprise visit to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) here on Saturday night. During the surprise visit, the Chief Minister was briefed by the PDMA high ups about the relief activities continued in different rain and flood affected areas of the province. The spokesman of PDMA said that the leaves of all officers and staff of the Authority have been cancelled on directives of

Security plan to be revisited, passengers to be protected at highways, asserts CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: While strongly condemning the assassination of nine persons from Punjab in Noshki, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that he is ashamed as Baloch on such type of manslaughter occurred in Noshki. He was speaking to the media persons after the funeral prayer of deceased at the Police Line Quetta on Saturday evening. The Chief Minister said that he said that terrorists are terrorists, whether they are Balochs or otherwise. They would be called as terrorists, not Baloch, he added. He said the inquiry of the Noshki gory incident is being conducted and those involved in it would be taken to task. He said that every Pakistani would be protected.

FBR decides to block mobile phone sim cards of 18 lac non filers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) while starting to implement the IMF conditionality has decided to block mobile phone sim cards of 18 lac non filers across the country. Sources said chairman FBR has given approval to block sim cards of non filers. FBR has sent rules to respective officers. FBR has directed field formations to submit data of those who have not filed income tax return in 2023. The chief commissioners have been directed to compile final list of non filers and send it to FBR. As per sources action will be taken against 18 lac non filers and tax defaulter in the country. FBR is empowered to block sim cards of mobiles of non filers besides disconnecting electricity supply to them.

Heavy rainfall in Balochistan, Punjab, KP claims 23 lives

Independent Report
QUETTA: Heavy rainfall has killed twenty three people including two children in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. Rainfall lashed parts of Balochistan, including Quetta, Chaman Chagai, Nushki, Dera Bugti, Sorab, Kohlu, and Khuzdar. Heavy rainfall also lashed southern Punjab, including Multan, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan, Malakand, Mohmand, and Kohat districts also received downpours. Low-lying areas in Quetta flooded after heavy rainfall. Rainfall was also reported in Mastung, Kalat, Nushki, Pishin, Kharan, Qila Abdullah, and Kachhi. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority Balochistan reported that two children died in a thunderbolt in Sorab district. Rainfall with thunderstorms in Upper and Lower Chitral demolished two houses, while landslides and flash floods suspended vehicular traffic at Chitral, Garam Chashma, upper Chitral, and Torkho road. Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed all civic agencies to keep rain drains and drainage system clean. He also directed the Disaster Management Authority to coordinate with all civic agencies.

Flooding at Hanna Urak reported

Independent Report
QUETTA (APP): Flooding has been reported from Hanna Urak area, District Quetta, following the torrential rains. According to officials, high flow of water has been reported from Urak area as several vehicles are stuck in the affected area. PDMA Balochistan swiftly responded and dispatched two Rescue Teams along with life saving equipment to safely evacuate stranded people. One V Loader is also deployed to divert the flow of water and to recover the main Hanna Road.

Two soldiers embraced martyrdom, terrorists' ring leader killed in Buner IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): Two valiant soldiers of the Pakistan Army on Saturday embraced martyrdom while killing the terrorists' ring leader Saleem alias Rabbani during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted by the security forces in Buner District. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the terrorists' ring leader Rabbani was a high value target who was killed during the conduct of the operation, after an intense fire exchange while two other terrorists were injured. However, during the operation, two brave sons of the soil, Lance Havildar Mudassar Mehmood (age 36 years; resident of district Rawalpindi) and Lance Naik Haseeb Javed (age 27 years; resident of district Poonch, AJ&K), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat (martyrdom). Terrorist Saleem alias Rabbani remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as extortion and target killings of innocent civilians, it said. He was highly wanted by Law enforcement agencies and the Government had fixed a head money of Rs 5 Million on him.



QUETTA: Members of Voice of Baloch Missing Persons are holding protest demonstration for recovery of their missing loved one

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PISHIN: Chairman PKMAP Mehmood Khan Achakzai, PTI leader Umar Ayub Khan, President BNP Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, Sher Afzal Marwat, leader of Sunni Ulema Council Sahibzada Hamid Raza and leader of MMWM Allama Raja Nasir addressing a public gathering organized opposition alliance



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti and IGFC Shaudhry Amir Ajmal carrying coffin of a passenger gunned down in Noshki

Match officials announced for Pakistan vs New Zealand T20I series

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Cricket Board Saturday announced match officials for the Pakistan versus New Zealand five-match T20I series, which is set to be played from April 18 to 27 in Rawalpindi and Lahore.

Andy Pycroft, a member of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, will lead the playing control team that includes five umpires, namely Ahsan Raza (elite panelist), Aleem Dar, Asif Yaqoob, Faisal Afridi and Rashid Riaz (all from the ICC's international panel), who will share umpiring responsibilities.

Pycroft, a former Zimbabwe Test batter, has to date refereed in 144 T20Is. When he will stand in the second T20I on 20 April,

he will move ahead of Sri Lanka's Ranjan Madugalle in second place in the list of match referees to officiate in most T20Is. The list is headed by New Zealand's Jeff Crowe (175).

The Pindi Stadium will stage the opening three T20Is on April 18, 20 and 21 before action will move to Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium where the last two matches will be played on April 25 and 27.

Umpire and match referee appointments:

18 April – First T20I. Ahsan Raza and Aleem Dar (on-field umpires), Faisal Afridi (third umpire), Rashid Riaz (fourth umpire), Andy Pycroft (match referee)

20 April – Second T20I.

Asif Yaqoob and Aleem Dar (on-field umpires), Ahsan Raza (third umpire), Faisal Afridi (fourth umpire); Andy Pycroft (match referee)

21 April – Third T20I. Ahsan Raza and Asif Yaqoob (on-field umpires), Rashid Riaz (third umpire), Aleem Dar (fourth umpire); Andy Pycroft (match referee)

25 April – Fourth T20I. Faisal Afridi and Rashid Riaz (on-field umpires), Asif Yaqoob (third umpire), Ahsan Raza (fourth umpire); Andy Pycroft (match referee)

27 April – Rashid Riaz and Faisal Afridi (on-field umpires), Aleem Dar (third umpire), Asif Yaqoob (fourth umpire); Andy Pycroft (match referee)

CM KP greets squash players for winning medals in Junior Australian Open

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur Saturday congratulated the best performance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa players in Australian Junior Squash Championship-2024.

In a message of felicitations, the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur congratulated the players, both boys and girls from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who showed excellent performance in the Australian Junior Squash Championship-2024. Mahnoor Ali, Mehwish Ali, Fawad Khan, Yahya Khan and Ibrahim Zeb deserve congratulations for their outstanding performance in the Championship, said the chief minister KP, who himself use to play squash as U-11, U13 and U15 levels.

These players made the name of the country and the province bright at the international level, he said and hoped that these junior players would play a role in bringing Pakistan back its lost position in the field of squash.

He said sports sector is among the main priorities of the existing provincial government. The present provincial government will take coordinated measures for the promotion of sports in the province and would take concrete measures to get rid of those damaging the sports. Talented youth will be fully mentored in the field of sports, the chief minister said. He said that all possible facilities would be provided to the athletes for the promotion of sports and for this good talented players should be encouraged, both financially and morally.

Front Line Defenders raises concern over oppression faced by rights activists, journalists in IIOJK

Dublin (INP): Ireland-based human rights organization, the Front Line Defenders has raised concerns regarding the silencing and oppression faced by human rights defenders and journalists in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir especially since Modi regime illegally abrogated the territory's special status.

Highlighting the continued detention of Kashmiri journalist Sajad Gul, the Front Line Defenders in a statement posted on its website said that despite the IIOJK High Court's order in November 2023 to quash Public Safety Act (PSA) charges against him, he remains incarcerated far from

his family home. It called upon Indian authorities to immediately release Sajad Gul and drop all criminal proceedings against him. It further urged the authorities to take adequate measures to ensure that human rights defenders in occupied Jammu and Kashmir can carry out their legitimate work without fear of reprisals.

Sajad Gul was initially arrested on 5 January 2022, after he posted a video of a family protesting against the killing of their family member in a so-called cordon and search operation in Srinagar. The Dublin-based HR organization said, "Since

January 2022, human rights defender and journalist from Kashmir Sajad Gul has been detained under the draconian Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA)", adding that in November 2023, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court quashed the PSA proceedings against him and ordered for his immediate release.

"Sajad Gul has reported on human rights issues in Indian administered Kashmir, including alleged fake encounters of civilians, forced demolition drives, and access to essential services during COVID-19". "On 15 January, Sajad Gul was granted bail, but

was immediately arrested under the PSA to prevent his release and transferred to Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu, over 300 kilometers from his family. Five months later, he was arbitrarily transferred to Bareilly Jail in Uttar Pradesh, further complicating visits from his family due to the distance and financial constraints".

"Before his arrest, Sajad Gul faced false cases due to his reporting and endured consistent judicial harassment. In February 2021, he was charged with rioting, trespassing, and assault for reporting on a forced demolition drive in Bandipora district".



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali in a group photo with children visiting Governor House on 3rd day of Eid

Clarke frustrated at Lyon's county restrictions

SYDNE (INP): Nathan Lyon's first Test captain Michael Clarke has questioned Cricket Australia's decision to cap his County Championship stint with Lancashire at just seven games saying it "doesn't make sense" if he is just going to return to home to do a pre-season given Australia do not play their next Test match until November 22.

Lyon, 36, had initially signed with Lancashire to play the entire 2024 season across all three formats before a discussion with Australia's selectors saw that stint reduced to just the first half of the season and red-ball cricket only.

Lyon, who said he was "pretty disappointed" at the restrictions, and Lancashire were left further frustrated when the first game of the season was washed out, with Lyon bowling just two overs, leaving him available for just six more of the next eight under the guidelines set out by CA although the club were hopeful that would be adjusted. Clarke was critical of CA's decision to cap Lyon's stint in England, saying he could understand it if it were an allrounder or a fast bowler but not a spinner.

"We've seen in his career he's a much better bowler the more he bowls," Clarke said. "I'd rather see him play cricket than, what's he going to do, come home and do a pre-season? Rip a hamstring or a calf trying to do a 2km time trial? This doesn't make sense to me...what's the difference? He's playing seven games instead of nine games. I'd rather see Lyon keep playing and I'm sure he would like to keep bowling. That's what he does. It's what he does well."

Pakistan, Chinese firm sign MoU of \$200m to convert thermal plant into solar power

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has signed a two hundred million MOU with a Chinese firm to convert a thermal plant to solar power.

The project will upgrade an existing thermal power plant to a 300 MW solar power plant through the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The project will generate 400 million units of electricity per year at a significantly lower cost, reducing the cost from forty five rupees to fourteen rupees per unit.

The project will eliminate the need for Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO). It is estimated to save forty four million dollars annually due to reduction in import bills, offering attractive returns to stakeholders.



LAHORE: Activists of Pakistan Markazi Muslim League shouting slogans during protest against Israel attack on Ghaza, in the Provincial Capital

Continued from page 1

bring revolution in the country with power of the masses and it is our firm resolve to make the country democratically stronger.

He said that if all nationalities are given their due rights, no one could dismantle and destabilize the country.

He also said Pakistan is our country and we would not let anyone impose war on it. He said that we have raised voice the oppressed people of the country.

Chairman PkMAP said that actually who breaks and violates the constitution is actually the traitor of country.

He said that we would oppose those who don't believe in supremacy of constitution.

In his speech, the President BNP Sardar Akhtar Mengal said that we reject the government formed through Form 47 in the country. He said that our struggle would remain continued till supremacy of constitution and securing rights of the nationalities in country.

He on the occasion gave credit of start of protest movement for supremacy and protection of the constitution to the Chairman PkMAP, Mehmood Khan Achakzai. He said

that the credit of start of the movement for protection of constitution goes to Chairman PkMAP.

He said that our workers have faced the toughest martial laws in the country, and so we would do everything possible for achieving our goals.

He said that the peoples' mandate has been stolen by those ruling the country. He said that the right of use of franchise of the people has also been stolen. He alleged that those were declared successful in the general elections were not familiar to the people of their constituencies even. The people of their communities don't recognize those who were declared successful in the elections, he charged.

He said that the common men are facing worst financial conditions in the country. He also lashed out at the rulers for not resolving the issue of missing persons in the country. Earlier, speaking on the occasion, the central Secretary General of PML, Umar Ayub said that there is a government of those declared successful in the elections based on the Form 47. He said that we don't accept the regime of the Form 47 holders.

He said that we have

to ensure supremacy of law and constitution and this is why the movement has been started by the 6-parties alliance.

He said that the people have been in the forefront to make the movement successful.

He announced that the Opposition alliance would hold public meetings all over the country and would go to all segments of the society. He said that we have come out for jihad and would take our rights at every cost through our movement.

He said that the PTI Quaid Imran Khan would come out from the jail if the supremacy of law and constitution is ensured in the country.

Umar Ayub on the occasion criticized the provincial government and local administration for creating hurdles in way of the workers of different parties to Pishin public meeting. The Sunni Council's leader Sahibzada Hamid Raza said that Pakistan is our country, but people are tortured for raising voice for their rights.

He paid tributes to those who are facing tough conditions in the country. He said that the leadership of all provinces is present in the Pishin public meeting.

11 persons including 9 from Punjab..

Continued from page 1

there at the time. The deceased and injured are stated to be locals of Noshki.

Meanwhile the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has strongly condemned the incident of firing in Noshki that claimed lives of nine innocent persons, and adding vowed that the terrorists involved in the gruesome act would not be spared at all.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that the assassination of passengers is inhumane and unforgivable.

He said that the terrorists involved in the gory incident of terrorism in Noshki would be taken to task by chasing them.

He also pledged to eliminate all the terrorists from the province. He said that the terrorists would not find any space anywhere for hiding.

The Chief Minister said that enemies of peace are the enemies of the country.

He said that the objective behind the incidents of

terrorism is to sabotage the peace of Balochistan. He said that the state would play its role at every cost.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister expressed condolence and sympathy with the bereaved families of those killed in the Noshki terrorism incident and prayed for the departed souls.



Vacancy Announcement

The Federal Project Management Unit (FPMU) invites applications from suitable candidates for appointment against the following positions based at Quetta within the POST FLOOD RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM 2022 - INTEGRATED FLOOD RESILIENT ADAPTATION PROJECT (IFRAP), World Bank funded Project, especially for Component III: Resilient Housing Reconstruction and Restoration. This initiative seeks to recruit dedicated professionals who will contribute to the project's success through their expertise and commitment.

Position	Basic Qualifications	Experience Required
Manager Disbursements & Accounts (Position-01)	Master's in Finance, Accounting or related field	At least 07 years of relevant experience, with a focus on disbursements and financial management.
Disbursement Officers (Position-01)	Bachelor's in Finance, Accounting or related field	At least 05 years of experience in financial operations and disbursements.
Accounts Officer (Position-01)	Bachelor's in Accounting or related field	At least 05 years of experience in accounting and financial reporting.
Engineers Regional-based (Divisions/District based) (Position-07)	Bachelor's in Civil Engineering or relevant engineering discipline	At least 05 years of experience in civil or structural engineering projects, preferably in housing reconstruction.
District Officer/Regional Coordinator Regional-based (Division/Districts) (Position-07)	Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, Public Administration, or related field	At least 05 years of experience in district-level project management and implementation.
Community Field Supervisors Regional-based positions (Division/District) (Position-07)	Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Community Development or related field	At least 05 years of experience Proven experience in community mobilization and field supervision.
IT Officer (Position-01)	Bachelor's degree in IT, Computer Science or related	At least 03 years of experience in IT support and network/MIS management.
Admin & HR Officer (Position-01)	Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, HR or related field	At least 05 years of Experience in office administration and human resource management, Supply chain Management/Procurement Management, Business Management or related Field.
Procurement Officer (Position-01)	Bachelor's degree in Supply Chain Management, Business Administration or related field	At least 05 years Experience in procurement processes and vendor management.
Program Associates (Position-03)	Bachelor's degree in Economics, Business Administration, IT, Project Management, Procurement Management or any relevant field	At least 03 years of experience in program support and coordination.
Program Assistants (Position-03)	Bachelor's degree in Economics, Business Administration, IT, Project Management, Procurement Management or any relevant field	At least 02 years of experience in administrative assistance or program support.

Eligible candidates may email their applications along with their CVs detailing their suitability for the role to proc.ifrap@gmail.com. Please ensure to clearly mention the position title in the subject line of your email within 15 days of the publication of this advertisement.

- Only shortlisted candidates will be required to present their original documents for verification purposes etc.
- All rights are reserved for FPMU - IFRAP to cancel or change any or all positions/applications of this advertisement at any stage without assigning any reason
- No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in the selection process at any stage.

Project Director
HRU / FPMU

PM's Arabic touch to speech at Seerat Museum event receives huge applause

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif delivered the opening and closing notes of his speech in Arabic language at the ground-breaking of Seerat Museum on Saturday, which received a huge applause by the audience.

In Arabic language, PM Sharif warmly welcomed the visiting dignitary Secretary General of Muslim World League, Sheikh Dr Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa highlighting the warm and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister appreciated the young Hufaz-e-Quran (those who learn the Holy Book by heart) with a variety of consonants.

The PM highlighted the warmth expressed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, wherein he termed Pakistan "close to his heart" and vowed extending support in trade and business.

From the establishment of Faisal Mosque to Seerat Museum, Saudi Arabia's love and affiliation with Pakistan is remarkable: PM

A high-level Saudi delegation will soon visit Pakistan: PM

Seerat Museum to positively serve in two ways: 1) To familiarize Pakistanis and the Muslims world over to learn about the way of life of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), 2) To sensitize the non-Muslims about the false propaganda about the Prophet (PBUH): PM

Pakistan concluded his speech on the note of 'Long Live Pakistan-Saudi Arab Friendship'. PM



Islamabad Police organises Eid feast for martyrs families, police officials

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Police organised an Eid festival for paying tribute to the valiant martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty where the Families of all martyrs of Islamabad Capital Police were invited to the Police Lines Headquarters

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Headquarters Hasan Raza Khan, along with senior police officers, officials and families of martyrs offered Eid-ul-Fitr prayers at the Police Lines Headquarters Masjid, a public relations officer on Saturday said.

A smart contingent of police presented the guard of honour to the families of the martyrs. The families of the martyrs visited the martyrs' memorial and recited Fatiha.

All senior police officers, including DIG Headquarters Hasan Raza Khan celebrated Eid with the families of martyrs and police officers and officials.

On this occasion, DIG Hassan said that 62 officers of the Islamabad Capital Police sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Islamabad Capital Police never forget the sacrifices of its martyrs.

He further said that, living nations never forget the sacrifices of their martyrs. The brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the peace of the country are the proud asset of the Islamabad Capital Police.

DIG Hassan and other senior police officers also distributed the gifts among the martyrs' families. On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, events were also organized for officers and officials at different police stations, where senior police officers participated and celebrated Eid with their subordinates.

Homage paid to Pakistan Pilot Cecil Chaudhry on death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Homage were paid to valor, courage, and bravery of Pakistan Air Force Pilot Cecil Chaudhry on his 12th death anniversary observed on Saturday. Born on August 27, 1941, Chaudhry distinguished himself during the 1965 war, exhibiting exceptional spirit and prowess by shooting down three Indian planes.

His remarkable endeavors earned him the Sitara-e-Jurat, a testament to his bravery on the battlefield.

Amidst the 1971 conflict, Chaudhry served at Sargodha Air Base. During a mission near the Indian border, his aircraft caught fire, leading him to eject with a parachute.

Despite sustaining four broken ribs, Chaudhry's unwavering dedication to his nation saw him participate in 14 additional air missions, earning him the Sitara-e-Basalat.

DIG HQs lauds performance of cops

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Headquarters Hassan Raza Khan has lauded the performance of the police force on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr as no untoward incident took place in the city due to effective policing and security arrangements, a public relations officer said.

He said, the DIG Headquarters was of the view that the residents were safe due to the sacrifices of the police force adding that good nations do not forget the services of their martyrs and the department was also with the personnel through thick and thin.

DIG Headquarters said that moments of Eid are very crucial for those who are far away from their near and dear ones at this occasion.

"I can feel that it is very difficult for policemen to remain away from their children, parents, brothers, sisters and relatives at this occasion."

Kaspersky warns of security concerns due to growing deepfakes in AI age

ISLAMABAD (INP): Kaspersky research has found the availability of deepfake creation tools and services on darknet marketplaces. These services offer generative AI video creation for a variety of purposes, including fraud, blackmail, and stealing confidential data. According to the estimates by Kaspersky experts, prices per one minute of a deepfake video can be purchased for as little as \$300.

The widespread adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning technologies in recent years is providing threat actors with sophisticated new tools to perpetrate their attacks. One of these are deepfakes which include generated human-like speech or photo and video replicas of people. Kaspersky warns that companies and consumers must be aware that deepfakes will likely become more of a concern in the future.

According to the recent Kaspersky Business Digitisation Survey, 51% of employees surveyed in the META region said they could tell a deepfake from a

real image, however in a test only 25% could actually distinguish a real image from an AI-generated one. This puts organisations at risk given how employees are often the primary targets of phishing and other social engineering attacks.

For example, cybercriminals can create a fake video of a CEO requesting a wire transfer or authorising a payment, which can be used to steal corporate funds. Compromising videos or images of individuals can be created, which can be used to extort money or information from



ISLAMABAD: A view of Srinagar Highway after rain in the Federal Capital.

ATSC decides 137,316 cases in 2023

ISLAMABAD (INP): A report of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan stated that administrative tribunals and special courts (ATSC), had decided 137,316 cases during the year of 2023. In this connection, the ATSC has prepared a report depicting performance of Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts for the period of 2023. The report contains data of institution and disposal of cases in the 324 ATSCs functioning in the country, said a press release. Considering the number of pending cases, it can be seen that the net number has increased from 160,697 cases to 163,211 cases which shows an increase.



ISLAMABAD: A view of traffic jam outside Lakeview Park in the Federal Capital.

Talal slams opposition rally in Pashin as political maneuvering, calls for focus on people's issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) leader, Senator Talal Chaudhry on Saturday criticized the recent opposition rally held in Pashin as a futile endeavor doomed to fail at the outset.

In a sharp rebuke, he condemned the rally as a mere ploy to seize power, devoid of any genuine concern for the people's issues. Highlighting the absence of crucial discussions on pressing matters such as

terrorism in Nushki, floods, the Palestinian issue, load shedding, and inflation, Talal accused the opposition of prioritizing political gains over addressing the public's concerns. He lambasted the opposition's tactics, accusing them of deceiving the public with empty rhetoric and futile rallies.

Talal criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, alleging that the suffering inflicted upon the people during its tenure continues unabated. He warned that the public has grown weary of the PTI's politics and will not be swayed by their tactics any longer.

Emphasizing the need for tangible solutions to address the populace's grievances rather than indulging in political theatrics, Talal condemned the derogatory sloganeering against a political leader during the opposition rally, deeming it regrettable and condemnable.

Posters urge Jammu people to foil Hindutva's nefarious agenda of snatching their rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Posters carrying an appeal to the people of Jammu region in occupied Jammu and Kashmir have emerged at various places in the territory, urging them to wake up and foil BJP-RSS's evil agenda of usurping their rights. According to Kashmir Media Service, the posters pasted by the Jammu Dogra Liberation Front have appeared at different places in the Jammu region and on social media platforms as a form of protest against India's brutal and anti-Jammu policies.

The posters read, "Since August 2019, the BJP/RSS has stripped away our rights. We vehemently oppose all BJP/RSS agendas. Our rights, land, and identity are being illegally seized". The posters further said the RSS/BJP's policies in Jammu are seeking to expel the Jammuites from their land and settling outsiders using so-called domicile certificates, thereby altering the demographic composition of the territory with the assistance of Indian armed forces and police.

Could swapping beef for fish like sardines help prevent early death?

ISLAMABAD (Online): A new study says a global shift from red meat to forage fish consumption has the potential to dramatically decrease death rates from noncommunicable diseases. Forage fish such as herring, anchovies, and sardines are a rich source of omega-3s and other essential nutrients and are also more environmentally sustainable than red meat. However, experts question the feasibility of this dietary shift in low- and middle-income regions.



ISLAMABAD: Kids enjoying ride at Lakeview Park picnic point in the Federal Capital.

High seafood diets linked to exposure to 'forever chemicals,' study finds

ISLAMABAD (Online): A new study found concerning levels of toxic PFAS, or "forever chemicals," in seafood.

PFAS are found in many foods, household, and personal products and are widely present in the environment. These human-made substances are the focus of a growing body of research given their potential toxicity and associations with serious health issues. The authors of the study do not suggest people stop eating seafood but urge more research into the effects of these chemicals in humans. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are a class of human-made chemicals that are considered "forever chemicals" because they remain in the environment for a long time.

Research into the effects of PFAS in humans is ongoing, as exposure to these chemicals has been associated with a range of serious health conditions. Certain foods may contain forever chemicals, and depending where you live, your drinking water may contain PFAS. Forever chemicals are also found in some types of food packaging.

Now, research shows the risk of PFAS exposure is even greater for people who consume a heavy-seafood diet.

The study's authors do not suggest people

should avoid eating fish entirely, since seafood has many health benefits and PFAS are so ubiquitous in the environment, in general.

The study's findings were published April 12 in the journal *Exposure and Health*.

Seafood consumption and PFAS exposure

The researchers investigated the eating habits and PFAS exposure of people living in Portsmouth, NH, an area in which seafood consumption is especially popular. The study consisted of two parts.

The researchers conducted a survey of 1,829 NH residents in June 2021 to learn the types of seafood they were consuming and how much. Included in the survey was seafood consumption data from adults and children ages 2-11. Among the adults, 95% reported eating seafood within the last year, most often: shrimp, haddock, salmon, canned tuna.

Researchers also purchased and analyzed a "seafood basket" of the most commonly consumed types of seafood from a Portsmouth market for analysis and detected 26 types of PFAS compounds in the purchased foods.

For shrimp and lobster, concentrations of PFAS ranged from below the limit of detection to 1.74 and 3.30 ng/g, respectively.

These findings suggest

that people who eat a lot of seafood could, therefore, consume additional PFAS concentrations.

What are the hazards associated with PFAS?

Other than their toxicity, much remains unknown about the effects of PFAS at this time.

Still, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends reducing your exposure to PFAS as much as you can.

The study's senior investigator, Megan Romano, PhD, associate professor of epidemiology at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College, explained to Medical News Today that PFAS are "a large family of highly persistent, human-made chemicals that feature a carbon-fluorine backbone."

They date back nearly eight decades and are used in various water, stain, or grease-resistant consumer products. "PFAS influence a wide range of biological systems within the body and have a wide range of adverse health impacts," Romano said.

"We are learning more about the health effects of PFAS every day, but research has demonstrated associations of PFAS with higher cholesterol levels, small decreases in birth weight, pregnancy-induced hypertension, a reduced antibody response to vaccines, and even kidney and testicular cancer."

Islamabad Police ensured foolproof security arrangements during Eid

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police officers and officials performed their duties on the third day of Eid and made the best security and traffic arrangements during Eid holidays, a police public relations officer said.

He said that the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Operations, Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari himself reviewed security arrangements for Eid holidays. Islamabad traffic police officers and officials ensured the traffic flow despite the pressure of traffic at parks and recreational places and traffic jams were not allowed. A crackdown was also done against one-

wheeling. Senior police officers requested that citizens cooperate with traffic police officers. They further said that citizens should park their vehicles in designated parking areas.

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, no untoward incident occurred due to effective patrolling and searching throughout the district. DIG Operations appreciated the police officers and officials for performing their duties by staying away from their homes on Eid. He announced appreciation certificates and rewards to the police officers and personnel who performed their duties on Eid.

Kashmiris celebrate joyous 'Eid Millan' event in Canada

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a vibrant display of unity and cultural celebration, hundreds of Kashmiri families residing in Calgary, Canada, came together to participate in the post-Eid festivities titled 'Eid Millan' on Friday, said a message reaching and released to the media here on Saturday.

The US and Canada-based Kashmiri diaspora community celebrated the sanctified festival simultaneously with the observance of the Muslim sacred day, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan ul Mubarak. "Organized by the Chinar Kashmir Community Foundation (CKCF), a non-profit organization committed to community development and preserving Kashmiri identity, the event was a testament to the strong social and cultural connections within the diaspora community. Established in 2013, CKCF has been actively fostering community cohesion through various events, providing a platform for social interaction and cultural exchange."

With over 300 Kashmiri diaspora members gathering under one roof, the Eid Millan celebration

marked a joyous occasion for all involved. On its 10th anniversary, CKCF acknowledges the dedication and hard work of its members, who have tirelessly contributed to the organization's growth and success. A special tribute was paid to key board members for their invaluable services over the past decade.

On this occasion, CKCF presented a special shield to acknowledge the services of the following board members: Akhtar Hussain Kayani, Altaf Khan, Anwar Hussain Kiani, Asif Mehmood, Asif Nazir, Imtiaz Nazir, Inzar Shah, Janat Hussain (Shero), Khalid Khan, Khalid Mehmood, Khalid Naem, Muhammad Riaz Khan, Muhammad Zahid Khan, Sajjad Hussain, Sajjad Tabassum, Saqib Khan, Shahzad Nabi, Syed Abrar Shah, Talib Hussain Khan, and Tariq Mehmood. CKCF extends its gratitude to them on behalf of the community. Mr. Irfan Sabir, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, and Mr. Happy Mann, Senior Advisor to the Leader of the UCP Community Outreach in Alberta.

1,173 bike riders fined, 290 bikes impounded for stunts during Eid holidays

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic has appreciated the police personnel for performing duties on Eid-ul-Fitr in a responsible manner and awarded commendation certificates to

clists for one wheeling and other stunts during Eid holidays.

While reviewing the report, SSP Traffic said that such steps are being taken to provide safety to the citizens. He said that traffic violations may cause the



them. According to details, Islamabad Traffic Police constituted special squads to prevent one wheeling on main avenues of the city during Eid-ul-Fitr. Policemen in these squads performed duties in a responsible manner and issued violation tickets to 1,173 motorcyclists, impounded 290 bikes and registered seven Firs against motorcy-

loss of precious lives, therefore, Islamabad Capital Police is adopting measures and to take strict action against the violators. The SSP Traffic stressed upon the parents to play their role and to refrain their children from the dangerous game of one wheeling and racing otherwise Islamabad Capital Police has to take stern action against those who indulged in such practices.



MURREE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz chairing a special meeting to review the overall law and order situation of the province.

CM Punjab approves special audit system to detect corruption and nonprofessional behavior in the police department

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif approved a special audit system to detect corruption and nonprofessional behavior in the police department. She directed to establish a special police unit to counter cybercrimes. The chief minister has further approved the adoption of a special court-martial system of punishment for police officers found involved in conniving with the corrupt mafias and criminals.

The decisions were taken during a special meeting to review overall law and order in the province which was held in Murree here today with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz in the chair.

Inspector General of Police comprehensively briefed the meeting on the overall current law and order situation across the province. During the meeting matters pertaining to improve professional policing also came under the discussion. Various proposals and recommendations were

put forth to undertake concrete steps to safeguard life and property of the masses. A number of recommendations were approved and certain decisions were taken by the chair during the meeting.

The chief minister directed the officials for making a provision of registering complaints on CM Punjab dashboard where citizens would report the bribery if demanded by any police officials. Approval was accorded to set up a 'Special Unit' in the police department to curb organized and cybercrime. The police will be given necessary IT training for a smooth and speedy response to the crimes.

During the meeting the proposal to establish border security forces to prevent smuggling was also considered. The decision has been taken in principle to establish a functional specialized police force for each crime, giving a more precise and particular investigation system.

Flood water swept away roads in Chitral due to heavy rains

PESHAWAR (APP): Heavy rain hit hard resulting roads swept away by closing all traffic between Chitral and Peshawar wherein a house was affected in Chitral city and a girl child was injured and was shifted to District Headquarters Hospital, Deputy Commissioner Chitral Muhammad Imran told media men here on Saturday. He stated that heavy machinery was working on the opening of roads besides a high alert has been issued to those living close to nullahs and stream due to heavy rain. The DC said that officials of the district administration have been on high alert along with NHA's and PDMA staff. A house was affected by heavy rains in Chitral city, a girl was injured, he confirmed.

The injured girl was

shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, Chitral and doctors said that she is out of danger. There was a confirmed report that tourists' vehicles were affected by floods in Chamarkhan Nala, and the route was restored, the Deputy Commissioner said.

He disclosed that in Lower Chitral's Belpok village, Chitral Garam Chashma road was closed due to flood relay and the traffic was also affected. Due to rain, the Chitral to Peshawar road is closed for all types of traffic due to flooding in rivers and canals and tourists and local peoples have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel.

Deputy Commissioner Chitral said that rain continues in Lower Chitral district and suburbs till now. In the light of the or-

ZA Bhutto's mazar CM directs Larkana administration to install 56 walk-through gates

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah while presiding over a meeting of the Mazar Committee, instructed the police and the administration to make adequate arrangements for the security and traffic management of the public gathering that is scheduled to be held on April 14 at Garhi Khuda Bux to observe the death anniversary of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

The meeting was held at the CM House and was attended by Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, and Chief Metrologist Sarfraz Khan. Minister Home Zia Lanjar, Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, Commissioner Larkana Mustafa Phul and Khair Mohammad Shaikh of PPP attended the meeting

through video link.

The CM directed the administration of Larkana to increase the number of walk-through gates from 40 to 56 at the Mazar, ensuring easy access for the public attending the meeting. He also emphasized the need for appropriate traffic arrangements for the easy flow of people to and from the venue.

The CM was informed that separate entry and exit points have been designated for parking around the Mazar compound.

Furthermore, Mr Shah instructed the District Larkana administration to liaise with HESCO to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the public meeting. Additionally, standby generators must be arranged to ensure backup power. The IG briefed the CM about the security arrangements and traffic management measures in place.



LAHORE: Arrival of Sikh Yatees at Wagah Border to participate in the religious rituals in Pakistan.

Minister Food underlines steps for welfare of people in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Food Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Zahir Shah Toru has said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, our government in the province is working on projects with far-reaching results for the welfare of the people.

He said that health cards have been restored besides the provision of cash assistance worth billions of rupees to the poor citizens during Ramadan. He was interacting with the local elders, party workers and people who came to greet him on Eid-ul-Fitr at his residence and interacting with the media.

Zahir Shah Toru said that Mardan is the second largest city in the province,

the development of which is the top priority of the provincial government.

He said he had already talked to the Chief Minister and Health Minister to provide funds for the completion of the ongoing projects of DHQ Hospital and Benazir Children Hospital in Mardan and the required funds will be provided soon and by June this year these projects will be completed.

He said that they are working on many projects for the development of Mardan, the fruits of which will benefit the people here.

In response to a question, Zahir Shah Toru said that there are specific situations regarding the security of our province, in the context of which a meeting

was held with Corps Commander Peshawar.

He said that being a responsible government, it is necessary to communicate with the security agencies to be aware of the security situation so that necessary measures can be taken to protect the public.

The provincial food minister mentioned the steps taken by the food department to control prices and prevent artificial inflation during Ramadan and said that the food department and administrative officers' throughout the province had worked hard to provide food items at reasonable prices to the people. He himself directly supervised these initiatives which yielded positive results, he concluded.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Excise and Taxation, Transport Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon addressing a press conference at Tandojam.

Punjab CM believes in taking practical steps: Azma Bukhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari said on Saturday that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz believed in taking practical measures instead of making hollow slogans. In a statement issued here, she said that in just one month, the CM bought a plane to launch as an air ambulance, as per her promise. She said that Maryam Nawaz had announced launching air ambulance service during her maiden speech after being elected as the Punjab CM.

Performance of the Punjab government was visible on ground not on

Child drowned in swimming pool of family park

By Tanveer Ahmed
MIRPUR MATHELO: A child who was bathing in the swimming pool of the family park with his friends drowned. Deputy Commissioner Ghotki took notice of the news of the child who allegedly drowned.

Report sought from Assistant Commissioner Mirpur Mathelo.

According to details, on the day of Eid, a 12-year-old boy Zahid Ali Channa, a resident of Soumra Colony, Mirpur Mathelo, drowned while bathing in the swimming pool of Mirpur Mathelo. Taking notice by Syed Muhammad Ali DC Ghotki of the news, the Assistant Commissioner of Mirpur Mathelo Babar Ali has asked for a report, so that action can be taken against those guilty of negligence. He has recommended to SSP Ghotki that a transparent investigation of the tragic incident should be conducted so that the facts can be brought out.

Israel's oppression upon Palestinians worst act of open hostility: JI Sindh

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Muhammad Hussain Mehnti, the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Sindh on Saturday said that Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people is their worst act of open hostility.

The independence of Al-Aqsa Mosque will be based on the sacrifices made by more than 33,000 Palestinian martyrs.

He expressed his views while addressing at a Jamaat-e-Islami Mirpurkhas Eid-Milan celebration on behalf of the people of "Gaza" in a straightforward yet respectful ceremony.

The martyrdoms of the leaders, including the sons and grandsons of the leaders of the freedom of Palestine and Aqsa, are a practical picture of sacrifice

for Palestine and Aqsa, he added. In his speech, Muhammad Hussain Mehnti went on to say that Ramadan is a time for believers. It's a really wonderful present. Through the blessing of this holy month, the believer becomes worthy of its joy, intimacy, and heaven by means of fasting, charity, remembering, reciting the Qur'an, and prayer. Zafar Ahmed Khan, the town chairman of Karachi Model Town, Haji Noor Elahi, and Muhammad Akram Sheikh spoke at the ceremony as well. At Eid marketplaces, Eidgahs, and other locations of Eid prayer on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, Haji Noor Elahi Mughal and other officials under Jamaat-e-Islami Mirpurkhas received a cheque.

Secretary health inspects vaccination process

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Secretary Health, Mehmood Aslam Wazir visited various designated polio vaccination spots during Eid and inspected the ongoing inoculation process.

He visited various toll plazas and check posts to witness the vaccination process of children. He also listened to the problems of polio workers and assured them of cooperation.

Stressing upon workers to realize their responsibilities in the national cause of polio eradication he directed them to be vigilant to inoculate children who missed vaccination due to travelling from one place to another.

PHC orders Transparency Intl to republish report on Pak corruption perception

PESHAWAR (INP): The Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) has directed the final verdict regarding the case involving the Transparency International report, which had labeled the judiciary as the 3rd most corrupt institution.

In a comprehensive 31-page judgment, the Chief Justice has ruled that Transparency International must republish its 2023 annual report on Pakistan, including all relevant facts and unpublished data.

According to the written verdict, Transparency International was required to submit the revised report to the Registrar of the PHC by April 24th.

PHC has directed Transparency International to disclose the percentage of public opinion and make public all the rejected forms during the survey to eliminate any ambiguities.

The court emphasized that Transparency International must provide clarification on the National Corruption Perception Survey Report of 2023.

It further clarified that the decision to republish the revised report should not be construed as a restriction on freedom of speech.

One person killed, two other injured in rain related incidents: PDMA

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Saturday released a report on the loss of lives and properties due to rain in the last 24 hours and confirmed that one person was killed and two injured due to rain since last night.

A spokesman of the PDMA said that due to the rain, 1 house was completely damaged while 4 houses were partially damaged. The loss of life and property took place in Chitral Lower, the PDMA official release said.

Many roads are closed

for traffic due to rain in Chitral district and instructed the district administration to ensure the availability of small and big missionaries to open the closed highways, the official said. The official of PDMA said that the PDMA relief workers and other related organizations are being engaged in relief operations while PDMA is in touch with all concerned institutions.

The emergency operation center of PDMA is fully functional and the people should report any untoward incident in 1700, the spokesperson said.



RAWALPINDI: Fire fighters extinguishing an inferno erupted in Dhoke Ratta area of the city.

Alhama Eid gala continues

LAHORE (APP): The Alhama Arts Center, The Mall, is alive with the spirit of Eid-ul-Fitr, treating visitors to a three-day celebration filled with joy and entertainment. According to a spokesperson here Saturday, families and children flocked to the center to enjoy the festivities. Among the highlights were the heartwarming distribution of Eid gifts to children, adding to the festive cheer.

Alhama Executive Director Tariq Ali Basra emphasized the significance of the festivities in fostering a deeper connection to Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, especially among the younger generation. He thanked the talented artists and enthusiastic participants whose contributions made the event a resounding success. Renowned artist Haseeb Pasha, also known as Hamun Judghar, commended the Alhama administration for creating a memorable celebration that brings the community together through the arts.

17 dacoits arrested, looted items and weapons recovered

FAISALABAD (APP): The police have claimed to arrest 17 dacoits from various parts of Faisalabad during Eid holidays and recovered looted items and illicit weapons from their possession. Police spokesman said here on Saturday that ASI Sajjad Ahmad Incharge police post Lorry Adda conducted raid near Darbar Noor Shah Wali and arrested two dacoits namely—Ali Raza and Abdullah along with a snatched motorcycle, mobile phones and illegal weapons.

Similarly, Kotwali police nabbed two dacoits Ahmad, etc from PTCL road and recovered looted cash, illicit pistols, mobile phones and other items from their possession.

Meanwhile, Ghulam Muhammad Abad police conducted raid in Chak No.217-RB Achkera and arrested two outlaws

namely—Mehmood, etc. who were wanted to the police in a number of dacoity, robbery and other cases. Millat Town police also nabbed four dacoits namely—Ali Hasan, Muzammil, etc from Jhunra road and recovered two snatched motorcycles, cash, mobile phone and illegal weapons from their possession.

The spokesman further said that ASI Mohsin Iqbal of Khurrianwala on a tip-off conducted raid in Chak No.103-RB and arrested two criminals namely Shahzad, etc who were wanted to the police in a dozen cases of dacoity, robbery, theft, etc.

Chak Jhumra police also nabbed three dacoits including Tahir, Shahjahan and Muneeb from Chak No.188-RB Nallaywala and recovered two looted motorcycles, cash, mobile phones and illegal guns from their possession.

Armed men killed youngster

By Tanveer Ahmed
MIRPUR MATHELO: Armed men shot and killed a young man, according to details, armed men shot and killed a young Wazeer Ahmed Boohar in the Village of Muhammad Azim Boohar last midnight. After arriving at the spot, the body was transferred to DHQ Hospital from where it was handed over to the heirs after necessary procedures, Mirpur Mathelo Police have arrested four people of Boohar community on the basis of suspicion.

32 people die in traffic accidents during Eid days across Punjab

MULTAN (APP): As many as 32 people died in traffic accidents during the last three days of Eid-ul-Fitr across the province.

According to a spokesperson for Rescue 1122 Punjab, exactly 6294 accidents including 603 accidents of motorbikes, 304 rickshaws and 704 accidents of cars were reported across Punjab during the last three days. 5609 men and 1735 women were victims of accidents during above said period, the spokesman added.

The highest number of 1082 accidents took place in the provincial capital. 3478 seriously injured people were hospitalized while first aid was given to 3834 people on the spot. 1082 accidents were reported in Lahore, 405 in Faisalabad, 382 in Multan and 347 in Gujranwala.

Secretary Emergency Services Dr Rizwan Naseer said that thousands of motorcycle accidents during the three days of Eid were very dangerous. Parents, teachers, civil society and all stakeholders have to work on a war footing, he said.

Minister directs necessary measures after rainfall

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Local Government and Community Development (LG&CD) Minister Zeeshan Rafique has directed the municipal administrators across Punjab to ensure all necessary arrangements put in place in light of recent rainfall in the province.

The minister emphasized the importance of precautionary measures, advising that the alerts regarding rainfall from the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab should be taken into consideration.

LG&CD Minister Zeeshan Rafique stressed the need for machinery to be prepared for the drainage of rainwater, especially in low-lying areas, and for a proactive review of the sewage systems to prevent any blockages. Despite the ongoing holidays, he insisted that the citizens should not face any inconvenience due to the rains.

Furthermore, he instructed the Secretary LG&CD and CEOs of waste management companies to maintain coordination with the local government department and other relevant departments, including the PDMA, to take joint actions and avoid any emergency situations.



HYDERABAD: Children are enjoying camel and horse rides at Fun Land with their families as they are spending Eid holidays, at Rani Bagh in Hyderabad.

No Security Council ‘consensus’ on Palestinian UN membership

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Members of the UN Security Council failed to reach a consensus Thursday on a bid by Palestinians for full UN membership, meaning the longshot effort is more likely headed for a more formal council vote. The Palestinians, who have had observer status at the world body since 2012, have lobbied for years to gain full membership, which would amount to recognition of Palestinian statehood. Any request to become a UN member state must first pass through the Security Council—where Israel’s ally the United States wields a veto—and then be endorsed by the General Assembly. In light of Israel’s offensive in Gaza, Palestinians revived a 2011 UN membership application last week, prompting the Security Council to launch a formal review process.

This included the ad hoc committee that failed to reach consensus Thursday and was composed of the council’s member states. During its closed-door meeting, “there was no consensus,” said Maltese Ambassador Vanessa Frazier, who holds the council’s rotating presidency for April. However, two-thirds of the members were in favour of full membership, she said, without specifying which countries. While the ad hoc committee can only move forward by consensus—loosely speaking, when everyone is in agreement—any Security Council member may now put forth a resolution for vote on the matter. According to diplomatic sources, a vote could be held April 18, brought forth by Algeria which represents Arab nations on the Council. Even if the matter were

to receive the necessary nine of 15 votes, observers predict a veto from the United States. Washington maintains the United Nations is not the place for hashing out Palestinian statehood, which it stresses should be the result of an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. “All we ask for is to take our rightful place among the community of nations,” Palestinian UN envoy Riyad Mansour told reporters earlier this week. The Gaza war began after Hamas’s unprecedented October 7 attack against Israel left 1,170 people dead, mostly civilians, according to Israeli figures.

Israel’s retaliatory offensive has killed at least 33,545 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run territory’s health ministry.



KHAN YUNIS: A view of buildings destroyed in Israeli attacks

Biden says expects Iran launch attack against Israel soon

WASHINGTON (INP): President Joe Biden has said he expects Iran to launch an attack against Israel “sooner than later” as Middle East tensions soar. Iran will respond to Israel’s deadly attack on its embassy compound in Damascus, Syria, “sooner rather than later,” according to US President Joe Biden. Biden said he did not want to elaborate on what classified intelligence Washington had about Tehran’s plans. “We are devoted to the defense of Israel. We will support Israel. We will

help defend Israel. And Iran will not succeed,” he said. When asked by a journalist what his message to Tehran would be, Biden replied: “Don’t.” In view of Iran’s possible imminent retaliatory strike against Israel, the US earlier announced that it was increasing its military presence in the Middle East. “We are moving additional assets to the region to bolster regional deterrence efforts and increase force protection for US forces,” a US defense official told German news

agency on Friday, speaking on condition of anonymity. With the world on high alert, countries including France and India issued travel advisories warning their citizens to avoid Israel and Iran. The US embassy in Israel also issued a security warning for its employees in light of the situation. Iran is adjusting its strategies for a significant retaliatory attack while avoiding triggering a regional conflict that would prompt a response from Washington, Biden administration officials said Friday.

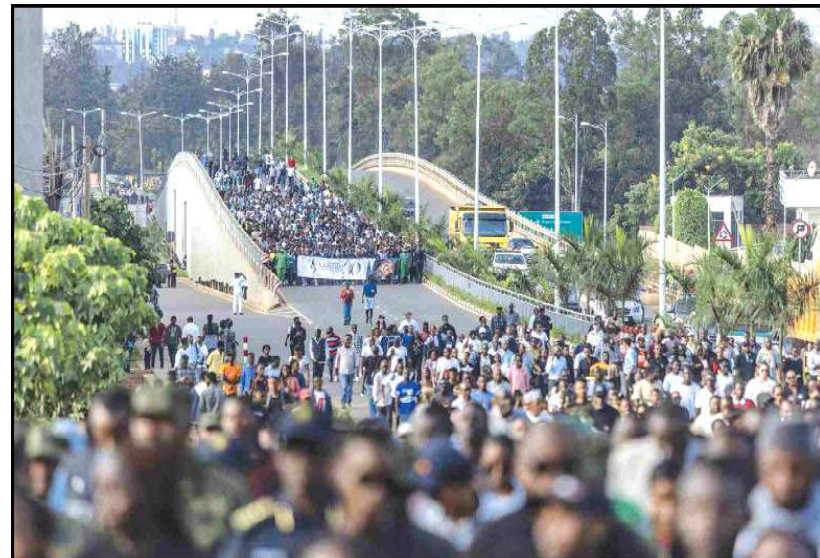
Six killed in Sydney shopping centre attack

SYDNEY (AFP/APP): Six people were killed and several others injured—including a nine-month-old baby—when a knife-wielding attacker rampaged through a busy Sydney shopping centre on Saturday. Australian police said multiple people were stabbed by the unidentified assailant, who was tracked down and shot dead by a policewoman who is being hailed as a national hero. The incident occurred at the sprawling Westfield Bondi Junction mall complex, which was packed with thousands of Saturday afternoon shoppers.

New South Wales police commissioner Karen Webb said five women and one man had died. A baby was undergoing emergency surgery. Police said the attacker is believed to be a 40-year-old man who was known to law enforcement, but he has not yet been formally identified. Webb played down suggestions that the attack could have been an act of terrorism and said it is believed the attacker acted alone. “If it is in fact the person we believe it is, then... it’s not a terrorism incident,” she said.

Sri Lanka frees hundreds of prisoners to mark New Year

COLOMBO (INP): Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe granted amnesty to nearly 800 convicts to mark the traditional Sinhala and Tamil New Year on Saturday, his office said. The amnesty of 779 inmates followed the release of 1,000 prisoners to mark Christmas. A prisons official told reporters that a recent spate of amnesties had eased congestion in the island country’s still-overcrowded jails. As of Friday, there were just under 30,000 inmates in Sri Lankan prisons, which were designed to hold around 11,000 people.



KIGALI: Rwandans participate in a walk as part of commemorations for the 30th anniversary of the Tutsi genocide

King Charles III ‘horrified’ by ‘senseless’ Sydney attack

LONDON (AFP/APP): Britain’s King Charles III said Saturday that he and his wife Queen Camilla were “horrified” by “senseless” stabbings at a shopping centre in Sydney that killed six people. “While details of these shocking circumstances are still emerging, our thoughts are also with those who were involved in the response, and we give thanks for the bravery of the first responders and emergency services,” he added. King Charles III is the monarch of Australia, which is part of Britain’s Commonwealth. Earlier, his son and heir to the throne Prince William and his wife Catherine said they were “shocked and saddened” by the stabbings. “Our thoughts are with all those affected, including the loved ones of those lost and the heroic emergency responders who risked their own lives to save others. W & C,” the Prince and Princess of Wales said in a post on the social media site X, formerly known as Twitter.

Kyiv says eastern front ‘deteriorated’ as Russia claims village

KYIV, Ukraine (AFP/APP): Ukraine’s commander-in-chief Oleksandr Syrsky said Saturday the situation on the eastern front had worsened significantly and Russia claimed the capture of a village near the occupied industrial town of Avdiivka. “The situation on the eastern front has deteriorated significantly in recent days,” said Syrsky, who took over as commander-in-chief in February after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky fired his popular predecessor, Valery Zaluzhny. Russia’s defence ministry announced its troops had “liberated” the village of Pervomaiske in the Donetsk region, about 11 km (7 miles) west of the largely destroyed town of Avdiivka, captured by Russia in the middle of February. Ukraine has not confirmed this. Its army said Friday that it had repelled attacks on the village. Syrsky spoke of “a significant intensification of the enemy’s offensive after the presidential elections in Russia” last month. The commander-in-chief added decisions were being taken “to strengthen the most problematic defence areas with electronic warfare and air defence.” In the southern Zaporizhzhia region, Russia accused Ukraine on Saturday of killing 10 by shelling the occupied town of Tokmak. The town fell to Russia at the start of the invasion. Ukrainian authorities in Zaporizhzhia said Russia had struck the region more than 400 times over the last day, including from planes. Ukraine has also said the situation around the eastern frontline city of Chasiv Yar is “difficult and tense” with the area under “constant fire.” Chasiv Yar lies 20 kilometres (12 miles) west of the town of Bakhmut, which was flattened by months of artillery fire before it was captured by Moscow last May.

Thousands flee flooding in Russian Urals region of Orenburg

ORENBURG, Russia (AFP/APP): Russian emergency services on Saturday said they had evacuated thousands of people from the Orenburg region in the south of the Urals as flood water continued to rise. Fast-rising temperatures have melted snow and ice, and along with heavy rain have caused a number of major rivers that cross Russia and Kazakhstan to overflow this month. In the city of Orenburg, one of the worst affected areas in Russia, the Ural River breached its banks, submerging streets and residential areas and water levels continued to rise Saturday. On Saturday afternoon, the river level reached almost 12 metres (39 feet), more than 2.5 metres above the level considered critical. The Ural River flows through the centre of

Orenburg. Flood water covered the embankment promenade and swirled around houses and an high-rise apartment blocks built close to the river, an AFP journalist saw. Almost 14,000 people have been evacuated from Orenburg and the surrounding region, according to authorities. Eldar Rakhmetov, an official from the Ministry of Emergency Situations involved in the evacuation said: “There has been an increase in the number of homes flooded since this morning and more areas are being evacuated.” Local residents were using rubber dinghies to try to retrieve pets and belongings from flooded houses and some areas were left without power. Valery, 64, a local factory worker, was one of those evacuated Saturday by a police truck.



A view of damages due to cyclone in Lozana



GAZA: Palestinians react as smoke billows after Israeli bombing in the Firas market area

Vietnam tycoon sentenced to death in \$12.5bn fraud case

HANOI (INP): A court in Vietnam handed the death sentence on Thursday to real estate tycoon Truong My Lan for her role in a 304-trillion-dong (\$12.5-billion) financial fraud, the country’s biggest on record, state media said. Her trial, begun on March 5 and ending earlier than planned, was one dramatic result of a campaign against corruption that the leader of the ruling Communist Party, Nguyen Phu Trong, has pledged for years to stamp out. Lan, the chairwoman of real estate developer Van Think Phat Holdings Group, was found guilty of embezzlement, bribery and violations of banking rules at the end of a trial in the business hub of Ho Chi Minh City, state media said. “We will keep fighting to see what we can do,” a family member told foreign news agency, speaking on condition of anonymity. Before the verdict he had said Lan would appeal against the sentence. Lan had pleaded not guilty to the embezzlement and bribery charges, Nguyen Huy Thiep, one of Lan’s lawyers told Reuters. “Of course she will appeal the verdict,” he added noting she was sentenced to death for the embezzlement charge and to 20 years each for the other two charges of bribery and violations of banking regula-

tions. Vietnam imposes the death penalty mostly over violent offenses but also for economic crimes. Human rights groups say it has executed hundreds of convicts in recent years, mainly by lethal injection. Uniqlo-owner Fast Retailing said Thursday that it clocked profit growth of 7% for the second quarter. The Thanh Nien newspaper said 84 defendants in the case received sentences ranging from probation for three years to life imprisonment. Among them are Lan’s husband, Eric Chu, a businessman from Hong Kong, who was sentenced to nine years in jail, and her niece who got 17 years. Lan started as a cosmetics trader at the central market in Ho Chi Minh City, helping out her mother, she told judges during the trial, according to state media. She later founded her real estate company Van Think Phat in 1992, the same year when she got married, according to state media. She was found guilty, with her accomplices of siphoning off more than 304 trillion dong from Saigon Joint Stock Commercial Bank (SCB), which she effectively controlled through dozens of proxies despite rules strictly limiting large shareholding in lenders, according to investigators.

‘Face justice’: New Yorkers ready for Trump criminal trial

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): Donald Trump made his name and fortune in New York, but supporters of the former president are thin on the ground in the city that never sleeps ahead of his historic trial that opens Monday. “He has to face justice, right?” said Valmir Do Carmo, 30, a babysitter, as he walked his dogs on Court Street in the city’s Brooklyn borough. “He hasn’t a lot of supporters in New York City though, but I’m confident, New York City... is very upfront, and I’m pretty sure justice is going to be made.” Trump has repeatedly claimed that he will be unable to get a fair trial in New York which leans Democratic in local and national elections, and because of the intense media scrutiny his cases have attracted. Comic Stephen Colbert, who shoots his late night TV show in the city, joked this week that Trump was seeking “an impartial jury who knew nothing about the events in America over the last nine years.” “I don’t know if he’ll get a fair trial, but whatever happens, he caused it on himself. Because everything he does, he likes to put it on the news or TV,” said carer Alberto Vasquez, 45.

3 sons of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh ‘killed in Israel strike’ in Gaza

GAZA (INP): The leader of Hamas said on Wednesday Israel had killed three of his sons in an air strike in Gaza as the war in the Palestinian territory raged despite ongoing peace negotiations in Cairo. Qatar-based Ismail Haniyeh said his three sons and “some of” his grandchildren had been killed in the strike in an interview with Al Jazeera. The strike came as talks in Cairo aimed at a ceasefire and a hostage release deal dragged on without signs of a breakthrough. Israel did not immediately comment on the strike. The United States has been ramping up pressure on Israel to agree to a truce, increase the amount of aid it allows into the Gaza Strip and abandon plans to invade the southern city of Rafah. US President Joe Biden labelled Israel’s conduct of the war a “mistake” in an interview broadcast on Tuesday. Wednesday marked the first day of the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, with Gazans gathering to pray amid the devastation of the six-month war. Tens of thousands also

flocked to Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem’s Al-Aqsa mosque compound where one worshipper, nurse Rawan Abd, said: “It’s the saddest Eid ever... you could see the sadness on people’s faces.” Israeli forces meanwhile kept up combat operations and air strikes in Gaza, a day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed no let-up in the campaign to destroy Hamas and bring home the hostages. Israeli war cabinet member Benny Gantz said on Wednesday that militarily “Hamas is defeated”, but insisted that Israeli troops would nevertheless enter Rafah and return to Khan Yunis, from which they withdrew last week. The army would have to fight for years to come “in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank and in the Lebanon front”, he added. More than 1.5 million civilians are sheltering from the war in Rafah, the last Gaza city yet to face an Israeli ground invasion. The United States has repeatedly warned against an invasion, although it said on Tuesday it believed an invasion of Rafah was not “imminent”. Biden, voicing his growing frustration with the hawkish Netanyahu, issued some of his sternest criticism yet of the war. “I think what he’s doing is a mistake,” Biden told the US Spanish-language TV network Univision in an interview that aired on Tuesday night having been recorded last week. “I don’t agree with his approach.” He urged Netanyahu to “just call for a ceasefire, allow for the next six, eight weeks, total access to all food and medicine going into” Gaza.

Talks, mediated by the United States, Egypt and Qatar, have been ongoing in Cairo since Sunday, with Hamas still considering the latest proposal. Hamas member and spokesman in Doha Hossam Badran told reporters: “Hamas is studying the offer presented... It has not responded yet.” A framework being circulated would halt fighting for six weeks and see the exchange of about 40 hostages for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

Former US ambassador who spied for Cuba sentenced to 15 years

MIAMI (INP): A former US ambassador who pleaded guilty to spying for Cuba for over four decades was sentenced in federal court on Friday to 15 years in prison. Victor Manuel Rocha, 73, was arrested in December for what US officials called “one of the highest-reaching and longest-lasting infiltrations of the United States government by a foreign agent.” Rocha pleaded not guilty in February to charges of conspiring to act as an agent of a foreign government but later accepted a plea deal with federal prosecutors. Judge Beth Bloom, after a three-and-a-half hour hearing in Miami on Friday, told Rocha she would give him “the maximum penalty permitted by law.” In addition to the 15-year sentence, Rocha was given a \$500,000 fine. Rocha, a naturalized US citizen originally from Colombia, allegedly began aiding Havana as a covert agent of Cuba’s General Directorate of Intelligence (DGI) in 1981, and his espionage activities continued until his arrest, according to US authorities. Attorney General Merrick Garland, announcing Rocha’s arrest in De-

cember, said he had “repeatedly referred to the United States as ‘the enemy’” and “repeatedly bragged about the significance of his efforts.” Rocha joined the State Department in 1981 and rose through the ranks as a career diplomat, serving in posts in Havana, Buenos Aires, Mexico City and Washington. Rocha served on the National Security Council from 1994 to 1995 in the administration of president Bill Clinton, and was the ambassador to Bolivia from 2000 to 2002 under Clinton and George W. Bush. He also served as an advisor to the US military command responsible for Cuba. The criminal complaint against Rocha details how, over multiple meetings with an undercover FBI agent beginning in November 2022, he “behaved as a Cuban agent,” praising the communist-ruled island’s late leader Fidel Castro and “using the term ‘we’ to describe himself and Cuba.” “Despite swearing an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States, Rocha betrayed the US by secretly working as a Cuban agent for decades,” said Larissa Knapp, executive assistant director of the FBI’s National Security Branch.

US troops head to region as fears grow of Gaza war’s spread

GAZA STRIP, Palestinian Territories (AFP/APP): Troop reinforcements from Israel’s ally the United States headed to the region on Saturday, with fears of wider war growing more than six months into Israel’s battle against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. After pulling forces from the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis one week ago, Israel’s military said Saturday it was continuing to operate against militants in central Gaza. In central Gaza’s main city of Deir al-Balah, fire burned in the rubble of a destroyed mosque. Israel’s military “demanded that the whole area be evacuated” before it was “wiped out in minutes,” said Abdullah Baraka, a witness. The military said it had struck more than 30 militant targets across the Palestinian territory over the previous day. Airlines said they are avoiding Iranian airspace, nearly two weeks after a strike, which Iran blamed on

its arch foe Israel, destroyed Tehran’s consular annex at its embassy in Damascus, Syria. Violence involving Iran-backed groups around the Middle East, including in Lebanon, Yemen and Syria, has increased since Israeli forces began their retaliation against Hamas militants in Gaza for their October 7 attack on Israel. Tensions have also flared in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where settler attacks left at least one Palestinian dead and dozens injured, and a search continued for a missing Israeli teenager, sources from both sides said. As talks for a Gaza truce and hostage release dragged on, the region braced for the retaliation which Iran has vowed after the consular strike whose victims included two generals. “We are moving additional assets to the region to bolster regional deterrence efforts and increase force protection for US forces,” said a US defence official in Washington.

PM Shahbaz says Seerat Museum to counter Islamophobia, spread teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW)

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday said the project of Seerat Museum would help counter the adverse effects of Islamophobia and would support in spreading knowledge about the teachings and life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) among people living in Pakistan and abroad. He was speaking here as the chief guest at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Seerat Museum to be built for spreading the teachings of Prophet

Muhammad (PBUH) among the new generation and for creating awareness about his life and character. The prime minister said in a heinous move, an ideological divide had been created in the world due to which some elements were making negative propaganda against Islam and the personality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This negative attitude had created hate and divisions, he remarked adding the Seerat Museum would not only raise awareness about the life, character and

teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) but would also educate people how to live their lives and manage relationships with other people. The museum would familiarize people outside the world about the life and character of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and nullify the negative propaganda, he noted. He thanked His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz as well as the Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz for extending their cooperation

for the project of Seerat Museum. He said people of Pakistan would not never forget adoration of leadership of Saudi Arabia whose landmarks where spread all over Pakistan, like the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad capital. While talking about his recent visit to the two holy mosques in Makkah and Medina and offering of prayers there, he said Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz warmly received his delegation and exhibited deep love and affection for Pakistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes prizes among the winners of Annual Quran Kareem Hifz/ Qirat Competition organized by the Muslim World League in Islamabad.



QUETTA: MPs Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai, Mir Ubaidullah Gorgage, Mir Liaquat Lehri, Mir Samad Gorgage and Mir Ziaullah Langoo meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

Historic measures to improve the quality of life for people in AJK: PM Anwaar ul Haq

MIRPUR (APP): Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Ch. Anwaar ul Haq said that his government has taken historic steps to improve the living standards of people throughout the territory. Anwaar was talking to people during a visit to Barnala town in his native Bimber district on Eid-ul-Fitr day, where he extended Eid greetings to the locals. The Prime Minister asserted that a number of initiatives were taken to improve education, health,

and road infrastructure across the state. Anwaar said that an endowment fund worth ten billion has been set up to provide financial support to orphans, widows, the destitute, elderly women and men, transgender people, and divorcees. During his visit, Prime Minister Haq interacted with people hailing from different walks of life and greeted them on the sanctified Eid festival. He was accompanied by senior minister Col. (Rtd) Waqar Ahmad Noor

on this occasion. Meanwhile, Chairman District Council Bimber Chaudhry Muhammad Yusuf and other notables of the constituency called on the Prime Minister and discussed the issues of public interest related to the Bimber district. Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq also visited various places in his parent constituency, Bimber, to offer his condolences to the bereaved families over the demise of their loved ones.

2400 Indian Sikhs arrive for Khalsa Janam-din, Vasakhi Mela celebrations

LAHORE (APP): A jubilant gathering of 2400 Indian Sikh pilgrims arrived at the Wagah Border near here on Saturday, marking the commencement of festivities for Khalsa Janam-din and Vasakhi Mela 2024. Welcomed with warmth and hospitality, the pilgrims were greeted by prominent officials including PSGPC Pardhan Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora and Additional Secretary Shrinies Rana Shahid Saleem, along with esteemed Sikh leaders such as Sardar Mampal Singh, Sardar Tara Singh, and Satwant Kaur. Expressing gratitude towards the government of Pakistan and the Evacuee Trust Property Board, group leader Kulwant Singh and deputy party leader

Amarjit Singh expressed their delight at being in Pakistan. They emphasized the significance of visiting the sacred Sikh sites in the country, highlighting the fervent desire among Sikh communities to make this pilgrimage. Secretary Shrinies Rana Shahid Saleem assured that all necessary arrangements for security, medical facilities, and other amenities had been meticulously organized under the guidance of board Chairman Arshad Farid Khan. The Gurudwara Panja Sahib in Hasan Abdal was adorned with vibrant colors and decorations, symbolizing the spirit of the occasion. Similar preparations were completed at Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and other significant Gurudwaras.

PM grieved over loss of lives in accident near Lasbela

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed deep grief over the loss of precious lives in the traffic accident happened to the pilgrims' vehicle near Lasbela. The prime minister expressed his condolences to the families of those died in the accident. He prayed for the elevation of ranks of the departed souls in paradise. The prime minister also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the incident. He directed the relevant authorities to provide all possible medical aid to the injured.

PM praises security forces for successful anti-terrorism operation in Buner

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday lauded the security forces for their successful operation against terrorists in District Buner. The prime minister said that the valiant Jawans of the Pakistan Army with their professional capability had sent the enemies of the country to hell. He further said that he along with the entire nation paid tribute to the valorous soldiers for their valiant act. The prime minister also expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the Shahadat of Lance Havildar

Mudassar Mehmood and Lance Naek Haseeb Javed, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. He prayed for the high ranks of the martyred and for the bereaved families to bear the losses with fortitude. The unprecedented sacrifices of the sons of the soil were a matter of great pride for the whole nation, he said, adding that the nation was standing along with its armed forces in the fight against terrorism. He also expressed the resolve to continue fighting the specter of terrorism till its complete elimination.

Ambassador Hashmi stresses upon commitments to reduce carbon emission

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to Nepal Abrar Hashmi said that developing nations like Pakistan and Nepal bore the brunt of carbon emissions largely produced elsewhere in the world and urged the developed countries to fulfill emission reduction commitments. "Pakistan has been active in international negotiations, advocating for measures like the Loss and Damage Fund. Collaboration with Nepal is crucial in leveraging scientific knowledge to mitigate these impacts," the ambassador said during an interview with Radio Nepal on Saturday. The ambassador said that melting of glaciers in

the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges presented serious risks like floods, droughts, and water shortages for both the nations and beyond. Pakistan, with its diverse zones and seasonal changes, faced these challenges and had experienced devastating floods due to rapid glacier melt in recent years, he added. "Pakistan and Nepal, with negligible emissions compared to our population, need collective action from major emitters. We must highlight this injustice on global platforms for effective climate policy," the ambassador stressed. To a question, Ambassador Hashmi said that im-

proved connectivity was key to realizing the full potential of their relations, adding initiatives like reviving direct flights via national flag carriers and facilitating private airlines could enhance trade and tourism. He further said that South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's (SAARC) progress had been significant, yet more needed to be done. "Addressing developmental disparities and resolving internal issues are critical. Our shared history and civilizations provide a strong basis for revitalizing SAARC's role in regional cooperation," Radio Nepal quoted the ambassador as saying.

Navi pays homage to Army Jawans, martyred in operation against terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday paid homage to two soldiers of the Pakistan Army who were martyred in the operation against terrorists in Buner district. Martyr Havildar Mudassar and Lance Naik Haseeb bravely thwarted the nefarious intentions of the terrorists, said the minister in his message. Naqvi expressed heartfelt sympathy and

condolences to the families of the martyrs and said that Havildar Mudassar and Lance Naik Haseeb got the high status of martyrdom for the sake of peace of the nation. Martyrs are the pride of the nation, he said adding that martyrs have cultivated peace with their precious blood. He said that the nation is determined in the war against terrorism and such cowardly acts cannot defeat the unwavering resolve of the nation.

FIA arrests XEN of LESCO

LAHORE (Online): FIA has arrested one XEN of LESCO. It has been said that arrest has been made due to overbilling of consumers. The arrested XEN is charged with billing additional one crore 90 lac units to consumers and sent them additional electricity bill of Rs. 480 million. This led to cause loss of millions of rupees to national kitty.



QUETTA: A delegation of Joint Action Committee University of Balochistan greets Deputy Chairman Senate Saidal Khan Nassar

Akhunzada concerned about non-payment of salaries to UoB employees on Eid

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior political activist and head of Majlis Fikro Danish, Abdul Mateen Akhunzada has expressed concern over non-payment of the salaries to the teachers and employees of university of Balochistan even on the Eidul Fitr. In a statement issued here on Saturday, Abdul Mateen Akhunzada said that the poverty is rampant in the resource rich province of Balochistan which is evident from the fact that the employees of university and different other departments are deprived of the salaries. He said that the

peoples party is once again in government, but is not paying attention towards the public issues. He said that the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti could not form its cabinet despite passage of one month. He said that a reform committee has been formed led by Chief Secretary. The senior bureaucrats have been included in the committee, but the issues would be resolved with utmost attention. As a result of the steps taken by the previous governments, the people of province are suffering a lot, he maintained.



GWADAR: Deputy Commissioner Aurangzeb Badini enquiring about health of patients at Dialysis ward of Civil Hospital

ZAB 45th anniversary Jalsa to be held in Garhi Khuda Bux

LARKANA (APP): Pakistan People's Party would hold a public meeting on Sunday in Garhi Khudabakhsh on the occasion of the 45th death anniversary of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, which will be attended by President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Central and provincial leaders of PPP and address the workers of PPP. On the occasion of the rally, security arrangements have been made extremely strict by preparing a stage on the ground in front of the martyrs' shrine in Garhi Khudabakhsh Bhutto and decorating it with party flags, panaflogs and pictures of party leaders. IG Sindh police Ghulam Nabi Memon reached Garhi Khudabakhsh late at night to review the security arrangements for the anniversary rally, where relevant

PMA, Kakul's cadet wins Hodson's Horse Merit Award

KAKUL (INP): A cadet of Pakistan Military Academy (PMA), Kakul has achieved distinction at the UK's Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst by winning Hodson's Horse Merit Award, reported on Saturday. PMA 148 Long Course's gentleman cadet (GC) Abdullah joined the Sandhurst in April 2022, and after showing outstanding performance graduated from the institution on April 12, 2024. Meanwhile, under the chairmanship of DIG Larkana range, SSP Larkana briefed him about the arrangements made for the rally. On this occasion, IG Sindh police directed DIG and SSP Larkana that security arrangements should be made foolproof on the occasion of Varsi Jalsi so that people coming from all over the country to participate in Varsi Jalsi and they do not face any kind of problems. In the meeting, DIB-in-charge Larkana gave a briefing to DIG Larkana about the security arrangements made regarding the Varsi Jalsi.

Ban imposed on plastic bags in Quetta, says Commissioner

Independent Report QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Diversion, Muhammad Hamza Shaqat has stated that ban has been imposed on plastic bags in Quetta. According to an official handout issued here, the Commissioner warned that the shopkeepers violating the ban would be arrested. He mentioned that the decision has been taken in light of the bill approved in the provincial legislative assembly in 2023. Moreover, implementation has been started on directives of the Chief Minister, Commissioner said. He said that legal action would be taken against those violating the ban.

Allauddin Marri condemns Noshki firing incident

Independent Report QUETTA: The former caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Allauddin Marri has strongly condemned the incident of terrorism that claimed life of nine innocent persons from Punjab in Noshki. In a condemnation statement issued here on Saturday, Allauddin Marri said that the incident of targeting innocent people by terrorists is

condemnable and inhumane act. He said that it is unforgivable act to target and kill the innocent people without their fault. He stressed that those involved in the incident must be taken to task. The former Chief Minister expressed sympathy with the bereaved families of those martyred in Noshki. He also prayed for their departed souls.

Khurshid Shah says PML-N-led govt will perform better if its given 'tough time'

SUKKUR (INP): Dispelling the impression that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) plans to play friendly allies, Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah, a central party leader and Member National Assembly (MNA) on Saturday said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led coalition government would perform better under pressure. "The government's performance will improve only when it's given tough time," Shah said talking to media in Sukkur. To a question, he said all the issues of the Civil Hospital Sukkur would be resolved within three months and things would change. The PPP leader stressed that the farming sector had the potential to help the country take on its economic challenges. "Pakistan's economic situation can only be improved if attention is paid to agriculture," Shah said.



LORALAI: MPA Haji Muhammad Khan Toor Utmankhail visiting Teaching Hospital

PDMA heavy machinery reaches Pishin to mitigate flood impact

QUETTA (APP): Heavy machinery dispatched by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has reached Pishin District to mitigate flood impact. "PDMA Balochistan's deployment of heavy machinery, including excavators, V loaders, and a grader, is a strategic effort aimed at mitigating flood impacts in Killi Hameedabad, District

Pishin, PDMA officials said on Saturday. By creating drainage systems, these machines will help divert floodwater, preventing further inundation and facilitating the recovery of affected areas. This proactive approach seeks to minimize the damage caused by floods and expedite the restoration of normal conditions for the local community, they added.

Over 63,000 parents refuse polio vaccine for children during national campaign

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's fight against polio faces a renewed challenge as a recent national anti-polio campaign encountered resistance from a significant number of parents. According to media reports, over 63,000 parents across Pakistan refused to vaccinate their children during the campaign with a significant majority from the province of Sindh. The breakdown of the refusal rates by province is as follows: 38,749 parents in Sindh declined the drops, followed by 20,392 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and 4,081 in Balochistan.