

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol XXV No 32, Zil Hajj 17, 1445 AH Monday June 24, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding law & order and security projects in Islamabad, in Lahore.

Citizens' protection, security top priority No tolerance for negligence in maintaining law & order: PM

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif affirmed the protection of Pakistani citizens and foreigners in Pakistan as a paramount state priority during a high-level meeting, held here on Sunday.

The session, which reviewed ongoing security and law-enforcement projects in Islamabad, underscored the government's unwavering commitment to maintaining law and order. The prime minister emphasised that any negligence in safeguarding citizens and upholding the law and order would not be tolerated.

He ordered an inquiry into the delays affecting completion of the Islamabad Model Jail and directed that the project be expedited to meet modern standards. Additionally, he mandated the establishment of a professional training institute and hospital within the jail premises.

In his directives, the prime minister called for consultations with Chinese experts to form the Special Protection Unit in the capital. He also stressed the need for a state-of-the-art forensic lab as part of the Islamabad Safe City initiative. He highlighted the importance of merit-based recruitment and the adoption of advanced technologies across all security projects in Islamabad to align with international standards.

The meeting featured comprehensive briefings on various aspects of Islamabad's security infrastructure, including the Islamabad Model Jail, Islamabad Safe City, the Federal Counter Terrorism Department, and the Special Protection Unit. Updates were also provided on the Islamabad National Facilitation Centres and the K-9 Unit, aimed at enhancing detection of narcotics and explosives.

PTI siding with terrorists after party opposes 'Azm-e-Istehkam' operation: Khawaja Asif

Ruckus mars NA session as treasury, opposition benches divided over anti-militancy operation; Defence minister says the operation was approved with PTI members on board during apex committee meeting; Gohar objects, says parliament not taken into confidence on "Azm-e-Istehkam"

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): A turbulent National Assembly session took place on Sunday as the government and opposition remained divided over a new military operation, Azm-e-Istehkam, to root out militancy.

The lawmakers from the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said that they weren't taken into confidence over the operation, while the government assured them that their concerns would be addressed.

The lower house session, which is currently discussing the budget but went off track to exchange views over the operation, saw a ruckus ensued from the opposition benches.

The PTI staged a walk-out from the session for an hour and returned later, following which their leaders

addressed the National Assembly, while they also chanted slogans, including "end the operation", and "we want peace".

The Shehbaz Sharif-led government had Saturday announced the fresh counter-terrorism operation, pledging to utilise the full strength of the country's resources, including military, diplomatic, and legislative, to turn the

heat up on militants. The Central Apex Committee on National Action Plan (NAP) gave the approval for the operation, in which top officials of all provinces were present, including PTI-backed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

The move comes as the country has witnessed a significant surge in terrorist attacks in recent months

resulting in scores of both civilian and security forces' casualties.

Defence Minister and senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khawaja Asif on Sunday accused Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of siding with terrorists against the military.

The development

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Delegation of Member National Assembly belonging to Balochistan led by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan in a meeting with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

Govt accepts all demands to woo PPP amid crucial budget session

LAHORE (INP) - The government on Sunday accepted all the demands of Pakistan Peoples Party regarding the concerns related to development funds and share in the governmental committees in Punjab.

In this regard, the power sharing formula between the PML-N and PPP has been made public.

According to sources, PPP would be given development funds while the party would also be accommodated at key administrative offices in Punjab.

The PML-N would get some power in all districts of Sindh obviously without becoming a part of the cabinet.

It should be noted that the demands of the PPP have also emerged in the agreement. The PPP have asked for a share in the governmental departments while also demanding representation in the market committees, zakat committees and bail-ul-maal committees.

Meanwhile, the PPP have also claimed share in the development fund and projects while also put forward its points to take the notice of its concerns regarding the transfer and posting in Punjab.

The dialogue committees of both parties met in Islamabad. From the PPP: Raja Parvez Ashraf, Ali Haider Gillani and Hassan Murtaza participated while Malik Ahmed Khan, Rana Sanaulah and Khawaja Saad Rafique joined the session from the PML-N side.

NA passes resolution condemning mob-lynching incidents countrywide

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly (NA) on Sunday passed a resolution vehemently condemning the recent horrific and tragic incidents of mob lynching in various parts of the country.

The resolution, moved by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, emphasised that the right to life is the most cherished right enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan. "Every person is to be dealt with in accordance with the law and not otherwise," it stated.

The House expressed serious concern over the mob lynching of citizens accused of offences in Swat and Sargodha, noting with grave concern that such incidents have been on the rise. "Such actions cannot

be tolerated in any civilized society," it declared.

The NA urged both the federal and provincial governments to ensure the safety and security of all citizens, including religious minorities and other vulnerable segments of society. It called for the provincial governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab to take immediate and necessary measures to identify, investigate, and prosecute those involved in these incidents under the relevant laws.

Furthermore, the House expressed the expectation that the courts would ensure immediate and speedy justice in these cases, underscoring the need for swift legal action to prevent future occurrences of such tragic events.

BNP-Awami President rejects Balochistan's budget for next Financial Year

Mir Asadullah Baloch says budget prepared in CM's secretariat; schemes of Panjgur cut in current budget with no scheme included in next budget; demands equal schemes for all constituencies

Independent Report
QUETTA: The President of Balochistan National Party-Awami (BNP-A) and Member Provincial Assembly, Mir Asadullah Baloch has rejected the provincial budget for the next financial year saying that the budget was prepared in Chief Minister's secretariat instead of the Planning and Development Department.



The BNP-Awami chief said that the elite class has been benefitted in the budget and nothing else. He alleged that no administrative secretary of any department doesn't know as which schemes have been included in the public sector development programme.

LEAs failed to recover 10 abducted persons from Shaban area of Harnai

Independent Report
QUETTA: The law enforcement agencies including Police and Levies force have not succeeded in recovering 10 persons abducted from Shaban area of Harnai district five days ago.

According to the sources, the police, Levies force and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) are making endeavours for recovery of the abducted persons from Shaban area.

Meanwhile, the families of abducted persons have demanded of the government to ensure their safe recovery at the earliest. They said that they are undergoing mental agony due to kidnapping of their dear ones.

Govt ready to incorporate positive, constructive suggestions in budget: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that the government was ready to incorporate positive and constructive suggestions from the Opposition in the budget for 2024-25.



The debate on the next financial year's budget would remain continued till June 26. The financial draft law for year 2024 would also be tabled on June 26, as mentioned in the schedule of assembly's session.

Besides, the debate would be on the supplementary budget for the current financial year on June 27.

The ongoing session would remain continued till June 29.

Sarfraz Domki terms budget 2024-25 as people-friendly

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Local Government Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Khan Domki has termed the budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 as the development-oriented and people-friendly budget in the history of Balochistan. He said the 70 percent of the approved development projects have been included in the provincial public sector development program to initiate public interest project purely on merit and provide relief to maximum number of people.

In a statement issued here Sunday, Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Khan Domki said the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has also expressed his determination that 100 approved development projects would be included in the next financial year budget.

The provincial minister said that in the budget 2024-25, priority had been given to health and education sector as huge allocation had been awarded for the improvement of these sectors to facilitate the poor masses. He said in the budget 2024-25, the allocations of agriculture, livestock and other departments have also been increased which will start a new era of development in the province.

He said that there was coalition government in Balochistan and the Pakistan People's Party led government had presented a people-friendly budget on the instructions of the central leadership of the Party and its positive results would reach to the people soon.

JI initiates nationwide protests against rising electricity costs, budget

LAHORE (PR): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) organized nationwide protest demonstrations on Sunday against the high cost of electricity, prolonged load shedding, and an anti-people budget.

These protests, held at the call of JI Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman, marked the commencement of the first phase of a peaceful national resistance movement.

Large number of people participated in the rallies across major cities including Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi-Islamabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Faisalabad, and Multan, as well as numerous small cities.

Moreover, both leaders also exchanged views on the political situation and the upcoming budget for the new financial year.

Mohsin Naqvi approved the deployment of Frontier Constabulary in Azad Kashmir on the request of the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir.

BA's budget session to resume today

Independent Report
QUETTA: The budget session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to resume today (Monday) here.

The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai is likely to preside over the budget session of assembly.

According to the schedule shared by the Provincial Assembly's secretariat, there would be general debate on the provincial budget for the next financial year 2024-25 in today's sitting.

The debate on the next financial year's budget would remain continued till June 26. The financial draft law for year 2024 would also be tabled on June 26, as mentioned in the schedule of assembly's session.

Besides, the debate would be on the supplementary budget for the current financial year on June 27.

The ongoing session would remain continued till June 29.

JI initiates nationwide protests against rising electricity costs, budget

LAHORE (PR): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) organized nationwide protest demonstrations on Sunday against the high cost of electricity, prolonged load shedding, and an anti-people budget.

These protests, held at the call of JI Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman, marked the commencement of the first phase of a peaceful national resistance movement.

Large number of people participated in the rallies across major cities including Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi-Islamabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Faisalabad, and Multan, as well as numerous small cities.

Moreover, both leaders also exchanged views on the political situation and the upcoming budget for the new financial year.

Mohsin Naqvi approved the deployment of Frontier Constabulary in Azad Kashmir on the request of the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir.

Mohsin Naqvi meets AJK PM: approves deployment of FC in AJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi here on Sunday met with Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhary Anwar-ul-Haq at the Ministry of Interior.

Both the prime ministers discussed law & order and overall security situation of Azad Jammu and Kashmir during the meeting.

He reiterated that the promises made to the people of Azad Kashmir were being fulfilled.

He emphasized that the Government of Pakistan stands with the Government and people of Azad Kashmir adding that all possible cooperation would be extended for the progress and development of Azad Kashmir.

Corps Commander Balochistan visits Sikh gurdwara in Quetta

QUETTA (INP): Corps Commander Balochistan Lt. General Rahat Naseem Ahmad Khan on Sunday visited a Sikh gurdwara in Quetta.

On arrival, he was welcomed by members of the Sikh community who presented him with a shawl called Sarooba.

The corps commander went inside the gurdwara and prayed there.

Later at a ceremony held in the honour of Lt General Rahat, the speakers, belonging to different religions, stressed the need for having inter-faith harmony in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, the corps commander said that inter-faith harmony, tolerance and brotherhood between people belonging to different religious backgrounds was a must for the development and prosperity of the country. "We must respect each other religions' teachings so that a society based on tolerance could come into existence," he opined.

Later langar (food) was also distributed among the participants.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhary Anwar-ul-Haq.

Mohsin Naqvi meets AJK PM: approves deployment of FC in AJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi here on Sunday met with Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhary Anwar-ul-Haq at the Ministry of Interior.

Both the prime ministers discussed law & order and overall security situation of Azad Jammu and Kashmir during the meeting.

He reiterated that the promises made to the people of Azad Kashmir were being fulfilled.

He emphasized that the Government of Pakistan stands with the Government and people of Azad Kashmir adding that all possible cooperation would be extended for the progress and development of Azad Kashmir.

Legislators urge government to review taxes on salaried class

ISLAMABAD (APP): Legislators in the National Assembly on Sunday appreciated the government for announcing a balanced budget in a difficult economic situation and urged the government to review taxes on the salaried class.

While participating in the budget debate, Pakistan Peoples Party's Dr Mahesh Kumar Malani said that his party always worked for the uplift and welfare of the people.

He thanked his party for awarding him a ticket to contest the elections. He said that the PPP always worked for the protection and welfare of minorities and commended the government for presenting the best budget in a difficult economic situation.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman arrives in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The central Ameer of Jama'at-e-Islami (JI), Maulana Fazlur Rehman arrived in Quetta on Sunday. The leaders of JUI welcomed Maulana Fazlur Rehman on his arrival at the Quetta airport.

The JUI's Ameer went to Killa Saifullah where he offered feteha for the departed soul of former Member National Assembly, Maulvi Asmatullah.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman would stay in Quetta during which he would be meeting the political leaders of different parties.

He praised President Asif Ali Zardari, calling him the king of reconciliation and credited him with the ability to bring the country out of difficult situations by uniting all institutions and political parties.

He also appreciated the government for not imposing taxes on medicines and supported the tax on luxury

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami shouting slogans during protest against inflated electricity bills

England thump USA to qualify for T20 World Cup semifinal

Buttler slams five sixes in an over, sets up WI vs SA knockout game

Sports Desk
BARBADOS: England's emphatic win over the United States in Barbados on Sunday secured their qualification for the T20 World Cup 2024 semi-final, leaving South Africa and West Indies in a direct showdown for another spot from Group 2.

England thumped the United States by 10 wickets in their final Super 8 clash to qualify for the semifinals at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Sunday.

Opting to bowl, England skittled USA for 115, with Chris Jordan bagging four wickets in five balls, including a hat-trick – the first by an Englishman in T20Is. USA lost five wickets in six balls without adding a run.

Jos Buttler's men cruised through the chase with the skipper leading the charge with a quickfire knock. Buttler brought up his half-century in only 32 balls and smashed five consecutive sixes off Harmeet Singh in the eighth over. England romped home in 9.4 overs, with Buttler

remaining unbeaten on 83 off 38 deliveries, including six fours and seven maximums.

Implications for Group 2
England's massive win has secured them a semifinal spot, but their final position will be decided after the West Indies-South Africa clash on Monday. While South Africa are undefeated in the tournament and Super 8s with two wins, the Proteas hold a middling +0.625 Net Run Rate, compared to West Indies' +1.814.

South Africa's path to the semifinal
With four points, South Africa need a win over West Indies to join England in the semifinal. If they win, England will finish second and feature in the first semifinal. West Indies' path to the semifinal
Hosts West Indies will take confidence from their NRR lead. A comfortable win over South Africa will likely propel Rovman Powell's team through to the last four alongside England.



ISLAMABAD: MNA Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari speaks during National Assembly session

Azhar Mahmood to pursue legal action over false allegations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan men's cricket team's assistant coach Azhar Mahmood announced that he will be taking legal action over false allegations about him in the aftermath of the Green Shirts' dismal T20 World Cup 2024 campaign. The former all-rounder took to his official X (formerly Twitter) and vehemently denied the accusations that the families of the national team's players and coaching staff travelled to the United States of America (USA) at the expense of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). "This culture of falsely accusing and misleading people to believe a false narrative is now getting ridiculous and dangerous. Speaking without evidence and misconstruing facts is a criminal offence, and those engaging in such behaviour will be dealt with through legal action," Azhar Mahmood posted.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the cabinet meeting regarding the approval of budget of 2024-25 of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Legislators urge government to...

Continued from page 1

He highlighted the issues of Tharparkar and urged the federal government to address these problems.

Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan's Shahida Akhtar Ali said that the current budget cannot be called people-friendly. She alleged that the budget had been prepared under the directions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and claimed it did not reflect the will of the people.

She asked the government to announce a sustainable policy for the solar system and to allocate more funds for the education and health sectors. She opposed the tax on the salaried class.

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's Ali Zahid said that his party had taken charge of the government in a difficult situation and congratulated the finance minister for presenting a balanced budget.

He claimed that the country's economy always performed well during PML-N regimes. He mentioned the stock exchange's remarkable performance and the willingness of friendly countries to invest in Pakistan.

He said that the CPEC project, stopped by the previous government, had been reactivated by the current government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said that inflation has decreased due to government policies and praised the performance of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in Punjab, highlighting the many welfare policies announced in the Punjab province.

He criticized the Sunni Ittehad Council for ending the politics of tolerance and condemned the May 9 incident, stating that defence installations had been attacked by miscreants.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (Pakistan)'s Syed Amin Ul Haque appreciated the government for increasing salaries, pensions and minimum wages. He suggested that beneficiaries of BISP should be given Rs 12,000 per month instead of Rs 10,000.

He proposed that employees earning Rs 120,000 should be exempted from taxes and that the tax base should be expanded. He supported a tax on the agriculture sector and suggested abolishing the 10 per cent GST on laptops and computers to promote digital Pakistan.

He also asked the government to promote mobile phone manufacturing in the country and to improve health facilities in Karachi. He urged the government to initiate urban development projects for Sindh Province and assured that his party would stand by the government.

Pakistan Peoples Party's Nawabzada Ifthakhar Ahmed Khan Babar said that the best budget had been presented in a difficult situation. He appreciated the government for not imposing taxes on solar and medicine and suggested that hybrid vehicles should be exempted from tax. He also asked the government to review the tax on the salaried class and provide more incentives to farmers.

Senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party Syed Khurshed Shah said that the budget had been announced in a difficult situation. He said that the country is facing population issues that need urgent attention and that more resources are required to tackle the growing population.

He suggested that the salaries of employees should be increased in line with inflation and said that Parliament is the supreme

body where all issues confronting the country must be discussed.

He called for more funds to be allocated for the construction of water reservoirs and expressed hope that remittances would increase in the coming years. He also asked the House to discuss the issue of climate change.

Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan (MMAP) member Aliya Kamran said that the budget for 2024-25 would not bring any relief to common people. She urged that the National Finance Commission (NFC) award should be revised.

Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) member Ali Muhammad Khan said that parliament, representing the will of the people, has the right to discuss all issues confronting the country.

He said that all political parties should work to protect the interests of the country, putting aside party and personal interests. "We should commit to the parliament that we would always prioritise the supreme interest of the country," he added.

He asked the government to work towards an interest-free economy.

Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian (PPPP) Tariq Hussain Shah appreciated the finance minister for presenting a balanced budget despite the difficult economic situation. He said that the salaried class should be provided more relief.

Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian (PPPP) Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani urged the government to allocate more funds for the education and health sectors.

He warned that the youth of the country should be a focus of the budget, otherwise, they could be entrapped by terrorists, extremists and drug dealers.

BNP-Awami President rejects...

Continued from page 1

He also alleged that the public development schemes of Panjgur amounting to Rs. 7 billion have been cut in the current financial year budget. The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has cut the schemes of Panjgur, and the schemes of the district have also not been included in the next financial year budget, he charged further while addressing a press conference here at the Quetta Press club on Sunday.

Mir Asadullah Baloch said that he has not come in the assembly by parachute, rather people of Panjgur has given him mandate.

He charged that the Chief Minister Bugti has reflected Rs. 16 billion for his election constituency in the next financial year budget. He demanded schemes for all constituencies on equal

Govt ready to incorporate....

Continued from page 1

the government had increased the salaries of government employees by 20 to 25 percent and raised the minimum wage.

He questioned the Opposition's objection to the government's decision to bring non-filers into the tax net and noted that the government had reduced electricity tariffs for the industry.

The minister pointed out that currently, Pakistan has foreign reserves to cover two months, compared to only 15 days during the PTI regime. He also mentioned the remarkable performance of the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

Condemning the objectionable language used by Sunni Ittehad Council member, he remarked that the same member used to call Nawaz Sharif as "Aaq" when he was in the PML-N.

The minister recalled that Maryam Nawaz Sharif was arrested in front of her father, and Faryal Talpur was arrested in a hospital; both could have fled but they chose not to do so.

Regarding the minorities, he said that he represented about 70,000 Christian voters in his constituency. He stressed the need to end the trend of street justice and criticized the Opposition for not supporting a resolution in the House for the protection of minorities.

"We attended the last rites of Christian Pakistan Army sepoy Haroon William, who sacrificed his life for the country," the minister said.

He lamented that a unanimous resolution for the protection of minorities could not be passed by the House due to the opposition attitude. "Even today, we remember the incident of the Sri Lankan factory manager who was killed in the name of religion," he added.

The minister stated that Operation Azm-e-Istehkam was approved to combat terrorism and

JI initiates...

Continued from page 1

ies. The demonstrators voiced their discontent with the IMF-imposed budget and rising utility bills, demanding immediate relief.

According to reports, JI vice-Emir Liaqat Baloch led the protest in Rawalpindi, Secretary General Amirul Azim in Gujrat, JI Emir Punjab South Rao Zafar at the Multan Press Club, JI Emir Punjab Central Javed Kasuri in Kasur, JI Emir Balochistan Maulana Abdul Haq in Quetta, JI Emir KP Professor Ibrahim in Peshawar, JI Secretary General KP Abdul Washeh in Mardan, JI Emir Lahore Ziauddin Ansari Advocate in Lahore, JI Emir Karachi Munam Zafar at Kala Pull in Karachi, JI Emir Sargodha Awais Qasim in Sargodha, and JI Emir Sheikhupura Rana Tufha Dastgir in Sheikhupura.

Additional protests were held across interior Sindh and at district and tehsil levels, led by local JI leaders. Speakers at these events criticized the government for what they termed a complete capitulation to the IMF, resulting in a harsh and anti-poor budget. They asserted that the government lacks credibility and legitimacy, and vowed that JI would persist in its struggle for the people's rights.

He expressed regret that the PTI government differentiated between good and bad Taliban. "When a Pakistani soldier is hit by a bullet, it does not carry a label indicating whether it is from the good Taliban or the bad Taliban," he said, stressing the need for unity against terrorism. "We want to secure the country," he added.

The minister also mentioned the negative propaganda against a Chinese delegation visiting Pakistan. He said that Pakistan's friendly countries want to invest in Pakistan and trade with Pakistan, which was beneficial for both sides.

Regarding the opposition's remarks about hospitals in Punjab, he pointed out that many hospitals were closed during their rule in the province.

II initiates...

Continued from page 1

ies. The demonstrators voiced their discontent with the IMF-imposed budget and rising utility bills, demanding immediate relief.

According to reports, JI vice-Emir Liaqat Baloch led the protest in Rawalpindi, Secretary General Amirul Azim in Gujrat, JI Emir Punjab South Rao Zafar at the Multan Press Club, JI Emir Punjab Central Javed Kasuri in Kasur, JI Emir Balochistan Maulana Abdul Haq in Quetta, JI Emir KP Professor Ibrahim in Peshawar, JI Secretary General KP Abdul Washeh in Mardan, JI Emir Lahore Ziauddin Ansari Advocate in Lahore, JI Emir Karachi Munam Zafar at Kala Pull in Karachi, JI Emir Sargodha Awais Qasim in Sargodha, and JI Emir Sheikhupura Rana Tufha Dastgir in Sheikhupura.

Additional protests were held across interior Sindh and at district and tehsil levels, led by local JI leaders. Speakers at these events criticized the government for what they termed a complete capitulation to the IMF, resulting in a harsh and anti-poor budget. They asserted that the government lacks credibility and legitimacy, and vowed that JI would persist in its struggle for the people's rights.

He expressed regret that the PTI government differentiated between good and bad Taliban. "When a Pakistani soldier is hit by a bullet, it does not carry a label indicating whether it is from the good Taliban or the bad Taliban," he said, stressing the need for unity against terrorism. "We want to secure the country," he added.

The minister also mentioned the negative propaganda against a Chinese delegation visiting Pakistan. He said that Pakistan's friendly countries want to invest in Pakistan and trade with Pakistan, which was beneficial for both sides.

Regarding the opposition's remarks about hospitals in Punjab, he pointed out that many hospitals were closed during their rule in the province.

Afghanistan stun Australia with 21-run T20 World Cup win

Saint Vincent (AFP/APP): Afghanistan handed an upset defeat to T20 World Cup one of the favourites Australia by 21 runs in Kingston on Sunday.

Chasing a victory target of 148-6, Aussies were all out for 127 runs on the second delivery of the 20th over.

Australian batting line-up crumbled against disciplined Afghanistan bowling attack led by Gulbadin Naib who grabbed four scalps for 20 runs in his four overs. He was ably supported by Naveen-ul-Haq who captured three wickets for 20 runs.

Only three Australian batsmen could enter double figure. Glen Maxwell scored 59, skipper Mitchell Marsh 12 and Marcus Stoinis 11.

Earlier, paceman Pat Cummins took a hat-trick for a second match in a row, dismissing three Afghan batsmen in successive deliveries after doing the same against Bangladesh on Thursday.

As in Antigua, the Australia Test skipper took the first wicket, that of Rashid Khan, with the final ball of one over before sending back Karim Janat and Gulbadin Naib with the

first two balls of his next over.

On Thursday, Cummins was unaware he had achieved the rare feat until told by team mates but he was in no doubt on Saturday and celebrated with a shake of his fists and huge smile.

"I remembered that one," the 31-year-old said at the innings break. "I've played I don't know how many hundreds of games for Australia and now I've got two in a row."

Cummins was the second Australian, after Brett Lee, and seventh bowler overall to claim a hat-trick in the tournament but is the first to take two.

All three wickets came courtesy of catches, and Cummins would have taken four in a row had David Warner held out on a reasonably straightforward catch running in from deep point to dismiss Nangeyalya Kharote.

It was one of a series of fielding errors from the Australians as Afghanistan, helped by an opening partnership of 118 between Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran, racked up 148-6 in their 20 overs at Kingstown's Arnos Vale Ground.



KARACHI: Activists of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding and high inflated electricity bills, at Mehmoodabad area in Karachi

PTI siding with terrorists after party opposes...

Continued from page 1

comes a day after the Apex Committee of National Action Plan, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, approved "Operation Azm-e-Istehkam" to eliminate terrorism and extremism across the country.

The meeting, held in Islamabad on Saturday, included key federal cabinet members such as the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Defence Minister, Interior Minister, Finance Minister, Law Minister, and Information Minister.

Chief ministers from all provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan, services chiefs, provincial chief secretaries, and other senior civilian, military, and law enforcement officials also attended.

The forum conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing anti-terrorism campaign and internal security situation. It examined the progress of the National Action Plan's multi-domain principles and highlighted areas where implementation was lacking. Emphasis was placed on addressing these shortcomings as a priority.

During a National Assembly (NA) session chaired by Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Sunday, Asif was given the floor to speak on the budget.

His remarks prompted protests from the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), who chanted slogans against the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) operation and the killing of Pashtuns.

"PTI is standing with terrorists against the army,"

Asif stated.

He added, "The voice of minorities in Pakistan is being silenced. There are killings in Swat, Sargodha, and Faisalabad. Bloodshed in the name of religion cannot be allowed."

He explained that the decision for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam was made in an Apex Committee meeting, which included PTI members and the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P).

The Apex Committee of National Action Plan, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved "Operation Azm-e-Istehkam" to eliminate terrorism and extremism across the country yesterday.

Asif noted, "We will discuss Operation Azm-e-Istehkam in this house. If PTI has objections, they can raise them then. Today, they are demonstrating in support of terrorists and against the army."

Confirming the launch of Operation Istikham-e-Pakistan, Asif mentioned that the Apex Committee had approved the continuation of previously incomplete operations, and this decision will be brought to the cabinet and then to the parliament.

During the NA session today, PTI and SIC walked out of the parliament in protest after being denied the opportunity to speak on the floor.

During a media talk following the walkout, PTI asserted that the military must seek confidence through parliament before initiating operations.

APP adds: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif on Sunday called for sending a clear message from the National Assembly that the country's parliament is committed to protecting the rights of minority communities in the country.

Giving a policy statement in the House, he said the National Assembly needed to adopt a unanimous stance against the misuse of religion. The minister said, "It is the responsibility of the House to come up with a unanimous stance so the message should go out that Pakistan's National Assembly is united on this issue."

The minister said that the message should be clear that the people are united to safeguard the rights of minorities, including Christians, Sikhs and Parsis. He said, "Our constitution does not allow violence and the killing of innocents in the name of religion. People are exploiting religious sentiments for personal disputes."

Expressing deep concern over the rising incidents of violence against minorities in the country, he said that due to this, the country is facing embarrassment at the international level.

"We must ensure the safety of our minority brothers and sisters. They have as much right to live in this country as the majority. Pakistan belongs to all Pakistanis, regardless of whether they are Muslim, Christian, Sikh, or of any other faith. Our constitution guarantees full protection to minorities," he added.

He said that the unfortunate incidents occurring in Swat, Faisalabad, and Sargodha. He proposed a resolution from the House to ensure the safety of minorities in the country, emphasizing that such a move is essential to improve the country's international reputation.

He recalled the formation of the Apex Committee following the Army Public School tragedy and said that PTI had representation in this committee and participated in its meetings. Khawaja Asif said that the government is revising the Apex Committee and the issue would be brought to the Cabinet and the National Assembly. The debate also to be initiated in the National Assembly, he added.



THATTA: Large number of people enjoying & Bathing in Keenjhar Lake to get relief from hot weather.

PM's aide lauds Punjab CM for enforcing plastic ban, urges others to follow suit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that imposing of ban on plastic bags in the Punjab by the Provincial Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was a long-awaited move to deal with the hazardous effects of plastic on the environment and human health.

The PM's aide in a press statement on Sunday said that the Punjab chief minister has enforced a comprehensive ban on the manufacturing, distribution, sale and purchase of plastic all over the province in its strict form. "We urge other provincial governments to follow suit to

make Pakistan a plastic-free country", she added.

"Achieving plastic-free Pakistan is an extremely challenging goal, but it is possible with co-ordinated efforts by all provincial governments to completely ban manufacturing, distribution and sale and purchase of plastics in all forms and manifestations at all levels," Romina Khurshid Alam remarked. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif enforced the province-wide ban on plastics on June 5, a move deliberately coincided with World Environment Day marked every globally on the same day.

The Punjab chief minister had announced weeks before that the provincial

plastic ban policy would be strictly enforced, particularly in hotels, restaurants and eateries, citing the detrimental effects of plastics on the environment and public health and stating that "No to Plastic" campaign is core of the anti-plastic policy, which aims at reducing environmental pollution and promoting eco-friendly initiatives.

The PM's aide on climate change Romina Khurshid recalled that when the ban on plastics was being imposed in Islamabad under a relevant law, all the provincial, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir governments were requested by the federal government to impose plastic

ban in their respective provincial and admirative territories as a part of the federal government's "Plastic-Free Pakistan" campaign.

But, "now it is heartening to note all provincial governments are making efforts to rid the country of environmentally-damaging plastics in support to achieve the goal of Plastics-Free Plastic," PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid said, rejoicingly.

The PM's aide recalled that in Islamabad implementation ban on single-use plastics and other plastic items faced stiff challenges including resistance from businesses, lack of alternatives, and enforcement issues.



ISLAMABAD: Peoples standing in queue as they are heading to different cities from twin cities.



ISLAMABAD: After heavy rain and hail in the federal capital, the roads are looking like ponds. A serious problem of water drainage, the rains controverts the CDA's tall claims.

Aseefa Bhutto criticizes 'anti-people budget' in NA

ISLAMABAD (INP): Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, speaking in the National Assembly's budget session, Sunday voiced strong criticism of the newly proposed budget, labelling it as anti-people and failing to meet the aspirations of the Pakistani populace.

"Do our people deserve this anti-people budget?" Aseefa questioned, emphasizing that the budget does not offer relief to the common people, farmers, or workers.

She highlighted the severe 20-hour load-shedding in Sindh, terming it as a

punishment in the scorching heat.

Aseefa Bhutto pointed out the lack of provisions for farmers, workers, and the poor, arguing that the budget does not represent the needs of the people.

She expressed her disappointment, stating, "There is nothing in this budget for farmers, workers, and the poor."

She urged the government to prioritize the welfare of the common man and the prosperity of the nation.

"We have to move

forward for the relief of the common man. We have to strengthen the farmer," she asserted, noting the severe damage farmers have faced due to floods and import problems.

She also addressed the critical issues of inflation and unemployment, which are at their highest levels in the country's history.

She called for concrete steps to provide facilities for the poorest citizens and to work towards the nation's prosperity. "We have to work for the prosperity of Pakistan and the nation," she concluded.

Provide much-needed relief to people in budget: Shazia Marri

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and MNA Shazia Marri has said don't facilitate the PPP in the budget but provide the much needed relief to the people.

Speaking in the National Assembly, she said there were hopes that the people would be provided relief. "We were not taken on-board in budget-making," she said.

The provinces were doing good and they should be allowed to discharge their duties, she added, saying issues would never be resolved if everyone would

be saying that all was good. She highlighted the opposition was silent on the incidents in Sargodha and Swat which was worrisome.

Marri stated the PPP had reservations on budget, especially on developmental projects. The MNA stated the finance minister should be corrected and the salaried class should not be removed.

"The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) should go after the non-taxpayers. Increasing petroleum levy is increasing burden on commoners," Marri concluded.

Amir Muqam says he will continue to represent his people at all levels

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam has said that he had always represented FATA, PATA/Malakand Division at the Center in 2016, 2018, 2023 and would continue to do so in the future. He said that he would continue to represent his people at all levels regardless of the results, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

In a meeting with the delegation of Malakand Traders Federation and Swat Chamber of Commerce, Amir Muqam reiterated that he would continue to raise awareness about the sacrifices of the people of FATA and PATA/Malakand Division in the Cabinet and Parliament.

He said that he was thankful to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the members of the Cabinet and especially

Rana Sanaulah, Advisor to the Prime Minister, for supporting his stand regarding FATA and PATA tax exemption. The members of the delegation thanked the minister for his efforts for tax exemption of FATA, PATA/Malakand Division.

The minister also discussed with the delegation the problems faced by the business community and assured to resolve the problems of the business community.

PTDC launches campaign to promote responsible tourism on mountains

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), in collaboration with Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan (STFP), has initiated a comprehensive public awareness campaign aimed at promoting responsible tourism in Pakistan's mountainous regions.

Director of PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana highlighted that the campaign seeks to raise awareness among tourists regarding eco-friendly practices when visiting Pakistan's breathtaking mountain areas, said a press release on Sunday.

He emphasised the detrimental impact of irresponsible tourist

behaviour, such as littering, which not only harms the natural environment but also jeopardizes the local cultural heritage and traditions.

"While tourism has brought economic benefits to local communities, it has also led to environmental pollution, resource depletion, and overcrowding," Rana noted.

"Our campaign, themed 'Let's Green our Summer Vacations', aims to educate tourists on the principles of Responsible Tourism. By adhering to our guidelines and code of conduct, tourists can minimize their footprint and ensure that socio-economic benefits reach residents", he said.

International Widows' Day observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Widows' Day was observed on Sunday to raise awareness of the problems and difficulties they face and to inspire the special assistance they require.

The United Nations observes 23 June as International Widows Day since 2011, to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they need.

International Widows' Day is an important occasion for acknowledging and resolving the struggles widows have globally.

Education ministry to promote public speaking skills among youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training will launch the "Empowering Voices, Shaping Futures" campaign to promote public speaking skills among Pakistani youth.

Led by the President of the Oxford Debating Union, Israr Khan, the campaign aims to empower youth with essential public speaking skills for personal and professional growth.

According to the edu-

Three killed, lonegang member arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): Out of four car lifter gang members, three were killed and a woman accomplice was apprehended in a police encounter on Sunday near Kashmir Chowk, Islamabad.

According to a private news channel, police received a tip about a car-lifting gang comprising three males and one female member who were entering Islamabad from Murree. Following the information, police set up a checkpoint and the gang members opened fire when they were stopped for checking.

GAMR provides top notch coverage for Hajj season

ISLAMABAD (APP): The General Authority of Media Regulation has demonstrated an important role in supporting high-quality media coverage of Hajj 1445 AH.

According to the authority, it helped international delegations from 35 countries clear customs for 2,137 devices.

A total of nine permits were granted for satellite uplink vehicles, television, and radio broadcasting vehicles and 12 satellite uplink vehicles and TV/radio cars, specifically 119 de-



ISLAMABAD: After heavy rain and hailstorm in the federal capital, tree falling accidents have occurred in most areas in which cars damaged.

Shezra Mansab urges all political parties to solve core issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member National Assembly (MNA) Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Dr Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal on Sunday said that all parties should sit together on core issues of the country. Talking to a private news channel, she conveyed her confidence and expressed her satisfaction at the recent all parties meeting, where members from all parties came together to voice their support for the second phase

of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. While commenting on the reservations of coalition partners, she expressed her viewpoint that the beauty of democracy was to form a coalition government and coalition partners always had demands and reservations. She hailed the role of the Prime Minister and said that most of the demands of the coalition partners had been accepted and committees had also been constituted to work out the ways to address

I'abad Police ensuring foolproof security at High Security Zone

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi introduced several reforms aimed at eradicating criminal elements in the federal capital, resulting in a noticeable decline in crime rates.

In addition, measures were taken to ensure city security, facilitate citizens, and improve the welfare of police officers, thereby enhancing police-public relations and boosting police morale.

Among these reforms, IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi ordered the operation of Police Khidmat Markaz 24/7 to provide comprehensive services to citizens. He launched a police mobile service van to offer all services at citizens' doorsteps and inaugurated a Traffic Police service and education van to facilitate senior citi-

zens and students, allowing them to obtain learner permits and other services conveniently at their residences and educational institutions.

To ensure the safety of tourists and local citizens visiting Islamabad's Margalla Hills and adjacent trails, a specialized Margalla Trails Patrol was launched to ensure the protection of lives and property and provide timely assistance.

IG Islamabad reorganized the Dolphin Squad Islamabad and deployed young police officers in the Dolphin Emergency Response Unit to control street crime and effectively arrest the accused. Moreover, departmental training for these officers was initiated at Police Lines to enhance patrolling efficiency.

To professionally curb crime and ensure the elimination of criminals, IG Islamabad appointed night patrolling officers in the

Kashmiri leaders, rights activists concerned over plight of women, children in IIOJK, Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a seminar on the occasion of the 56th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council demanded the forum for action amid expressing concerns over the plight of women and children in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine.

In a news release here received, an important

seminar was held in Geneva on the occasion of the 56th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, in which Ghazala Habib, the chairperson of Friends of Kashmir International US, specially in the seminar organised under the title of women and children affected by the conflict in Kashkar region, where Kashmiri leader Altaf Hussain Wani and others

also participated.

The speakers said that the lives of the Kashmiri and Palestinian people have been decimated, whereas the resolutions of the international organisations to protect rights have become meaningless as women and children were becoming the most victims of oppression.

The speakers demanded the International

Human Rights Council to take steps to release Kashmiri women in Indian jails, Kashmiri leaders Asia Andrabi, Naida Nasreen and Fahmida Sufi were not receiving medical treatment despite their illness.

"Due to the state terrorism of the occupying Indian army, Kashmiri children are deprived of education, their childhood has been taken away.

IG Islamabad 60 days of leadership Building trust, ensuring safety 60 days of unstoppable reforms

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, upon assuming office, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi introduced several reforms aimed at eradicating criminal elements in the federal capital, resulting in a noticeable decline in crime rates.

In addition, measures were taken to ensure city security, facilitate citizens, and improve the welfare of police officers, thereby enhancing police-public relations and boosting police morale.

Among these reforms, IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi ordered the operation of Police Khidmat Markaz 24/7 to provide comprehensive services to citizens. He launched a police mobile service van to offer all services at citizens' doorsteps and inaugurated a Traffic Police service and education van to facilitate senior citi-

zens and students, allowing them to obtain learner permits and other services conveniently at their residences and educational institutions.

To ensure the safety of tourists and local citizens visiting Islamabad's Margalla Hills and adjacent trails, a specialized Margalla Trails Patrol was launched to ensure the protection of lives and property and provide timely assistance.

IG Islamabad reorganized the Dolphin Squad Islamabad and deployed young police officers in the Dolphin Emergency Response Unit to control street crime and effectively arrest the accused. Moreover, departmental training for these officers was initiated at Police Lines to enhance patrolling efficiency.

To professionally curb crime and ensure the elimination of criminals, IG Islamabad appointed night patrolling officers in the

federal capital, alongside young police officers, to ensure the eradication of crime in the city. A

An online Virtual Women Police Station and

The helpline 1815 operates 24/7, ensuring help is always just a phone call away for those in distress.

For citizens facing vehicle or motorcycle break-

downs while traveling on Islamabad's roads, the ITP "Mechanic on Wheel" service was launched with a 24/7 helpline "1915" to assist with travel-related difficulties.

To bring innovation and ensure the use of new techniques in Islamabad Police, IGP Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi introduced an e-license system, allowing citi-

zens to apply online for e-licenses and easily obtain them from home.

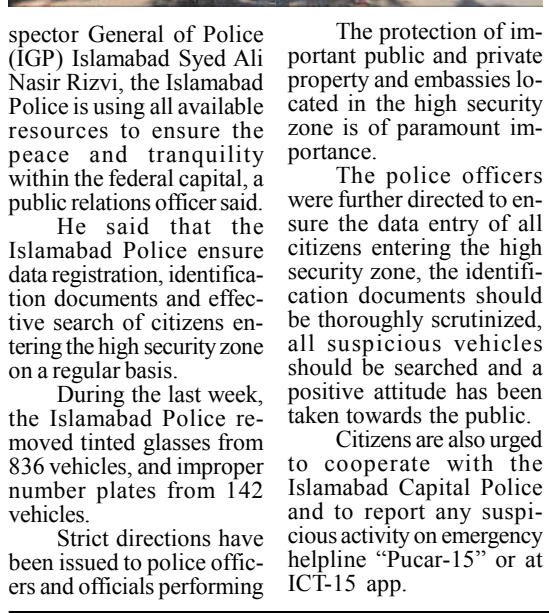
To promptly address citizens' issues and ensure their swift resolution, IG Islamabad organized an online Khuli Kachehri and directed all officers to hold Khuli Kachehri to promote friendly policing and reduce the gap between the police and the public. The IG Complaints Cell 1715 was further activated to ensure timely assistance for citizens. Additionally, to provide all possible facilities to the families of martyrs and ensure their welfare, all officers were made guardians of martyr families to address their issues promptly.

To ensure the welfare of police officers' families, the process of hiring children of deceased police officers and those who died during service was continued.

Moreover, IG Islamabad laid the foundation of a special society, "Mubeen Cottages," for the

families of Islamabad Police martyrs and handed over allotment documents to them during a dignified ceremony. To honor the bravery of police officers during service, they were awarded police Shuhjaat and Ghazi medals to boost their morale. Following this, IG Islamabad issued merit-based promotion orders for police officers and organized ceremonies to pin their ranks, inviting their families to the events.

A traffic theme park was specially designed and constructed to provide a peaceful and recreational space for families and children to spend beautiful moments together. To promote friendly policing and reduce the gap between the public and police, the "Friend of Police Internship Program" was launched, allowing students from various educational institutions to work in different divisions of Islamabad Police and be briefed on police work by officers.



Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Monday June 24, 2024

China's concerns

Rumours had been swirling that China was less than enthusiastic about forging ahead with new CPEC schemes, primarily due to concerns about the security of its people and assets in Pakistan. Some media reports had hinted that little of substance was achieved during the prime minister's tour of China earlier this month, particularly where the CPEC file was concerned, even if official statements from both sides reflected an air of normalcy.

Yet even in official handouts, China's security concerns were unambiguous. For example, in his meeting with Shehbaz Sharif, President Xi Jinping expressed the hope that Pakistan would "create a safe, stable and predictable business environment" that would "guarantee the safety of Chinese" personnel and projects. This same message was delivered to our civil and military elite on Friday in Islamabad by a Chinese official, though in an uncharacteristically direct manner. Liu Jianchao, who heads the International Department of the Communist Party of China, told a forum attended by representatives of Pakistan's mainstream parties that the security situation here was "shaking the confidence of Chinese investors". He also called for improving the business environment, reiterated the necessity for political stability, and stressed a "CPEC-friendly media environment".

Though the message may have been delivered by a relatively mid-level official, in the Chinese system where the Communist Party is the state, it is safe to assume that the contents of the statement were endorsed by the highest authorities in Beijing. Moreover, the fact that China chose a public forum to air its concerns speaks of the seriousness Beijing attaches to security.

China's concerns should not be taken lightly by Pakistan's ruling elite, especially at a time when the country needs all the foreign investment it can get. Regarding the official's observation about a "CPEC-friendly media environment", more transparency about the long-term plans for the project can clear the air. Both governments should let the media and the people know the facts about the economic corridor, as opacity will only fuel rumours.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has no option but to neutralise the militant threat to Chinese and all other foreign projects in the country. The prime minister hinted at this during Saturday's apex committee meeting. If foreign workers are killed in terrorist attacks, and multimillion-dollar projects targeted, no overseas party will want to invest in this country. Regarding Chinese concerns about a conducive business environment and political stability, again Pakistan has little choice but to improve its performance in both areas. Foreign investors need to be facilitated and bottlenecks have to be eliminated. Furthermore, all local stakeholders must pledge to honour commitments with foreign parties, and not derail them when governments change. It is only in Pakistan's interest to heed most of China's advice.

Muhammad Amir Rana

Pakistan is unable to follow the path of Saudi Arabia or Indonesia, which are progressing slowly and steadily with religious reforms. Both countries present contrasting visions of religious reform but are ultimately opening up their respective societies, enhancing governance, and improving their international image.

In both countries, the leadership promotes religious reforms. In Saudi Arabia, the reform process is slower than the one in Indonesia, primarily because Indonesian civil society supports the state's efforts in this direction. In contrast, the Pakistani leadership needs to be more aware of the importance of religious reforms in navigating a changing world. Instead, it aligns itself with extremist forces, gaining ideological and political power while empowering these groups to use violence against communal and sectarian minorities.

The nexus between the power or ruling elite and the establishment in

Pakistan is not new. It has been studied extensively by local and international scholars. However, what remains constant is the elite's appeasement of extremists and their inclination to use them for political purposes. While social factors have contributed to the extremist mindset in Pakistan, the power elite's actions are often criminal, eroding the societal fabric.

Incidents like the one in Madyan, Swat, lynchings in Punjab, and vandalism against the Ahmadi community during Eid indicate that extremism in society is reaching dangerous levels. Taking the law into one's own hands has become standard practice for charged mobs and activists of radical religious groups. The administration hardly attempts to restrain them, and simply registers cases against the suspects. People with clout then come forward and help the suspects and their families financially and with legal aid. Once they are released, they become heroes in their communities. This has become the norm after every blasphemy-related tragedy that involves lynchings and mob violence.

A majoritarian mindset is at play, with the state a mere spectator. In Punjab and urban Sindh, the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan is fanning the flames of extremism. Although other religiously motivated actors have acted in a similar fashion in the past, the TLP's rhetoric is now so powerful that they cannot compete.

The TLP has transformed itself into an extensive phenomenon, reflecting a mindset shared by perhaps most of society. This majority is religiously and politically disillusioned, falling into the trap of political populism and growing increasingly resentful of the power elites. Paradoxically, state institutions endorse this majority mindset and side with the extremists when issues of religious sentiment arise.

The common man cannot fully comprehend the dichotomy of the state, and his anger against the latter is increasing. However, the TLP and other religious parties have their constituencies in the semi-urban areas, and among low-income groups, while a significant portion of the middle class, too, exhibits the same

mindset. While the middle class tends to avoid direct involvement in violence, they fully support the actions of the fanatics. These radical religious groups draw their core strength from middle-class youth, who serve as keyboard warriors, developing political strategies and evolving organisational tactics.

The power elites do not feel much threat from the core leadership of extremist groups because they maintain open communication channels and often interact with them. They are more concerned about the keyboard warriors and seek to regulate virtual spaces. They have similar fears about social media activists from populist political parties and nationalist political parties in the peripheries.

The power elites believe that more control over social media, building firewalls, and tightening legal regulations will eliminate dissent in all forms. Social media is merely a medium, but despite re-creating its policies and practices vis-à-vis extremism and extremist parties, the establishment is more interested in controlling it.

Apart from controlling social media spaces, the state has taken cosmetic policy measures to deal with extremism. Until the power elites do not end their appeasement approach and address the core issue and encourage religious reforms as Saudi Arabia and Indonesia are doing, extremism will continue to shape an ugly majoritarian mindset.

The whole system seems paralysed once it encounters the challenge of religiously motivated mob violence. The federal and provincial governments avoid even commenting on such incidents and leave it to the establishment and local administrations to deal with such cases on their own. The governments are scared that their involvement in such cases would divert the public's anger towards them. This attitude encourages the extremists.

The police and lower judiciary deal with such cases carelessly and, in many cases, leave loopholes in their decisions that ultimately benefit the culprits. The higher judiciary has taken such issues more seriously, but its reviews and decisions have failed to trigger any major change in society. The state

institutions need to break the support system of the extremists. Apart from the power elites' appeasement policy and the system's flaws in dealing with the menace, two major sources of support are encouraging the people to take the law into their own hands.

First is the influential class. Mostly, they are local businessmen and lawyers who provide financial and legal aid to the criminals on behalf of the rest of the community. Second are the mosque imams, who are directly or indirectly affiliated with the extremist groups; once such incidents happen, they invite these groups for their help. The extremist groups take this as an opportunity to increase their influence and take command of matters ranging from negotiating with the administration to dealing with legal matters. The extremist groups have lawyers' wings, influencing the courts during the proceedings. In such a society, where the state and society nurture and protect an infrastructure of extremism, who can hope for change? Religious reforms in Pakistan will remain a dream for a long time. — Courtesy Dawn

Extremism gathering pace

Abbas Nasir

"Thank you, Mr Jinnah", said one social media user under a video clip post, which went viral. The clip showed a mob comprising Hindu extremists ransacking and looting a Muslim's shop in India, enraged because the shop owner shared a photo of his Eid qurbani on WhatsApp.

The obvious implication of the remark was that by creating Pakistan, Mr Jinnah created a safe haven for the Muslims of the subcontinent or they would have faced the same fate as the Indian Muslim shopkeeper, who was confronted for doing his religious duty.

Of course, the social media user did what many of us do. Become delusional and selective. Having read Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's speech: "You are free; you are free to go; you are free to go to your temples. You are free to go to your mosques or to any other places of worship in this State of Pakistan", on numerous occasions, I am sure he'd be enraged at what we have done to his

tolerant, equal opportunity vision/mission.

Just look at the state of the minorities in our blighted, albeit beloved, land. We have attacked, maimed, murdered/lynched Christians at will, often, as investigations show, on the flimsiest of pretexts, mostly fabricated, and torched their hearths and homes and bombed and burnt their churches.

We have witnessed unprovoked as one after another, young Hindu girls have been kidnapped and then forcibly converted and married to their abductor. We have seen the cries of the families and the victims themselves falling on deaf ears.

We have not been content with constitutionally declaring a particular community not part of our faith, and a minority, but continue to target its members. Assassinations of this community's members, destruction of its properties and a bar on its practice of its beliefs and rituals even within its own four walls are routine.

Let alone minorities, who have virtually no

rights in practical terms here, even numerically smaller Muslim sects have not been spared and continue to see their members murdered or locked up again on highly suspect charges.

The blasphemy law has been weaponised and is enforced by mobs and not police and/or the courts of law. An allegation is more than enough reason for mobs of a particular bent of mind to take the law into their own hands and act as judge, jury, and executioner.

The second part of the Quaid's speech said: "You may belong to any religion, caste or creed — that has nothing to do with the business of the State." But from the Objectives Resolution on, there are many examples of the state making faith its business.

When the state makes your faith and mine its business, groups representing vested interests take it upon themselves to decide the interpretation of the faith. Not just this, enforcement of their interpretation of the law (basically mob rule)

becomes the order of the day.

The state is culpable in more ways than one. Over the years, it has weaponised faith as a force multiplier to be used to meet external challenges — in other words, to fight wars which weren't of any benefit to us but brought riches and immense powers to those at the helm. For example, the establishment is often rightly cited for its role in fomenting extremism for its foreign policy goals, which it has also called 'national security imperatives'. It is for all to judge what national security has gained from these policies. The policies continue to draw the blood of our civilians and soldiers.

The heartache is indescribable. Former dictator Gen Ziaul Haq may have been the worst culprit in promoting extremism and intolerance for narrow personal gains but, tragically, he isn't the only one. Since he was killed 36 years ago, which military leader has tried to stem the rot in any meaningful manner? None, if I am honest.

You would be right in asking about the role of the civilian leaders. Well, the mention of 'national security' and any Pakistani will instinctively tell you that the civilian leadership is wholly marginal to decision-making in the area. We saw what Nawaz Sharif had to face when he raised the issue of militant surrogates with the establishment leaders.

Perhaps, having learnt a lesson from Mr Sharif's fate, his son-in-law is openly promoting intolerance and is involved in the beatification of a convicted murderer who was executed when his own father-in-law was in government. Oh yes, hypocrisy is an integral part of those who use faith for their political ends.

Pakistani authorities have failed repeatedly to implement the judgements of our own superior courts. One need only see two judgements. The first was authored by chief justice Tassaduq Husain Jilani in 2014 after the church bombing in Peshawar and the second by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah just two years ago.

You can google both and read the details but they quite categorically spell out the rights of the minorities and how to safeguard their freedoms from bigoted behaviour. Tragically, the fate of these two judgements, as has been repeatedly evidenced in our country, has been no different to the fate of the so-called National Action Plan.

The 20-point NAP, which was approved by the widest consensus possible as parliament and the military leader both signed off on it has been largely gathering dust somewhere, while the scourge of terrorism is once again exacting a heavy toll of life of our civilians and young soldiers.

We are a nuclear power and have often declared our desire to be among the leading economies of the region in the future. But let's not be delusional. Extremism is eating away at our very roots. If we remain helpless in tackling it head-on, our fate will be no different to that of other basket cases around the world.

Past lives

Muna Khan

In the mid-1980s, our English teacher at school in Kuwait got us to read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. It's set in rural America in the 1960s and tells the story about two rival gangs, the Greasers and the Socs, and a murder that causes fissures in their town. It is told by a teenage boy who sees himself as an outsider, and although it is about a time none of us private school children had any connection to, nor were we familiar with the topics in the book — financial hardship, class divide, violence — the book had a significant impact on us. We all felt like outsiders in some way or the other; in between children and adults, not in charge of our lives, and most importantly, not understood.

And then our teacher showed us the movie. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola in 1983, the cast featured Tom Cruise, Patrick Swayze, Matt Dillon, Emilio Estevez, C. Thomas Howell, Ralph Macchio, Diane Lane and even Hinton in a cameo. This is before any of the aforementioned were household names. The film resonated just as much, and we would watch it, and a host of other movies by filmmakers like John Hughes — described by a film critic as "the philosopher of adolescence" — on VHS tapes, on repeat. It did not matter that the cast of *The Breakfast Club* or *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, for example, was white and set exclusively in the US but the stories they told resonated with teenagers around the world. I'd watch these films maybe a year or two after they were released but it was

a different time; we had no choice but to wait, there were no spoiler-style reviews, no social media posts, no influencers.

I was reminded of this while watching *Brats*, a documentary by actor Andrew McCarthy, a member of the *Brat Pack*, a term coined by a New York Magazine writer who reported on a new crop of Hollywood actors that were making films for a new teenage audience going to the cinema. However, the term would haunt this group who felt it impacted their careers as it portrayed them in a negative light. This is what McCarthy attempts to reconcile in this documentary, which proved a walk down memory lane. It was also a reminder of the age-old question: why does nostalgia hit so hard?

These films in the mid-1980s tapped into a new audience by portraying friendship in a way we hadn't seen before; usually relationships were about romance, falling in or out of love. *The Breakfast Club*, for example, portrayed high school stereotypes but made it about unexpected alliances. These films explored what it meant to be young, not understood by elders, and the complexities of adolescence, a phenomenon I experienced in Kuwait as did friends in other cities. In today's parlance, we felt 'seen' in these movies.

"When they see the 1980s films they're thinking of their own youth," McCarthy tells Rob Lowe in *Brats*. "And we are the avatars of that moment in their life and that is a beautiful thing."

Nostalgia is a beautiful thing. One study showed that inducing nostalgia in a group saw

positive feelings, "including higher self-esteem and an increase in the feeling of being loved and protected by others". Another study showed that nostalgia can counteract the effects of loneliness. Nostalgia could provide a link "between our past and present selves" — that "it may provide us with a positive view of the past and this could help to give us a greater sense of continuity and meaning to our lives".

But nostalgia, which is personal, ie, my response to a period of time, can prove dangerous when it is framed as a collective experience. The right-wing longs for good ole' times before immigrants caused all the problems they believe their country faces. Pakistanis, too, want to go back to the time of their favoured political/army leader when things were rosy. Pray tell when was that time? Our nostalgia for this mythical time has created more harm than good.

There is no going back because the world is different. These 1980s films can't be made today because audiences will not forgive racism, xenophobia, misogyny on screen. And that's a good thing. Every generation has a pack and I suspect that influencers play a bigger role than actors, but I don't think they command the staying power the *Brat Pack* does, 40 years on, warts and all.

The 1985 film *St Elmo's Fire* may still be able to speak to generations today because it tackles a subject that we can relate to: the challenge of navigating the real world — especially after college. And it is about friendship, about showing up for each other — something I hope endures the test of time. — Courtesy Dawn

War in Ukraine

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

The leaders of G7, a grouping of seven highly industrialised countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and US), met in Apulia, Italy, on June 13-15, 2024. It was the 50th session of the group, which has been meeting regularly since 1975, essentially to preserve the existing world order predicated on multilateralism, universal human rights, liberal democracy, and free trade.

At Apulia, too, the G7 leaders called for strengthening the rules-based international order. They also decided to provide \$50 billion to Ukraine, support the two-state solution for Israel-Palestine, and bolster ties with nations in Africa and the Indo-Pacific. The summit also discussed food security, climate resilience, irregular migration, financial stability, and AI's benefits and risks.

The G7's emphasis on maintaining the rules-based world order seems to be a desperate attempt to preserve the West's dominance. However, realities are changing. The existing world order is in disarray. New power centres have emerged, including several major economies in Asia, which would have to be accommodated in the evolving multipolar world order. A rising China, re-surgent Russia, and groupings like BRICS and SCO have changed the complexion of the West-dominated international order.

Several other challenges are also impacting our world. Firstly, a growing trend towards unilateralism has replaced the spirit of globalism and multilateralism in addressing issues of global concern. Ironically, it was US military action in Iraq in 2003, in disregard of the UN Security Council, that

initiated the weakening of the rules-based international order. This was followed by Russia's unilateral invasion of Crimea and Balakot. Secondly, the UN has been sidelined in major international conflicts. Thirdly, universal human rights have been politicised, and double standards are in full display.

China, the world's second largest economy, was not invited to the summit even though it has been at the forefront of defending the rules-based international order. The geopolitics of major power competition trumps the spirit of working together even as China repeatedly calls for reviving the spirit of globalism to address conflict and underdevelopment.

The G7 has often been criticised for trying to impose its will on the rest of the world. This concern was partly addressed by the formation of G20, a group of 19 leading economies, as well as the EU and African Union. However, the two groups have not only further marginalised the UN-led universally accepted multilateralism but also given rise to the trend towards multi-alignment.

The Apulia summit announced \$50bn for Ukraine by leveraging immobilised Russian sovereign assets. This was G7's response to President Vladimir Putin, who had recently set terms for starting peace talks: Ukraine to withdraw from the regions partially occupied by Russia (Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia) and give up its efforts to join Nato. Putin denounced the G7 decision to finance Russian assets to finance the Ukraine war, and remarked that "...they still theft and will not go unpunished".

In the Ukraine peace summit in Switzerland,

that followed the G7 meeting, several important countries including India, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and the UAE chose not to sign the joint communiqué. Most of them felt that peace in Ukraine required the presence of all stakeholders, especially Russia, for meaningful negotiations. South Africa noted with surprise that Israel, which has just been accused of war crimes by a UN-backed commission, had been invited to the summit. China did not attend, nor did Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the crisis in Ukraine remains stale-mated. Legally, Ukraine is right because its territorial integrity has been violated. Politically, Russia has a point that it was provoked by Nato's constant expansion eastwards, despite the assurances given to it earlier. What argument is more relevant for Pakistan and what consideration should guide its policy on Ukraine?

Indeed, Ukraine is a victim of foreign aggression and, therefore, deserves Pakistan's support. Pakistan should never accept such aggression, having itself faced it when India intervened militarily in East Pakistan.

It must uphold the principle of territorial integrity for Ukraine. However, global geopolitics has pushed Russia towards China, Pakistan's close friend. This places Pakistan in an awkward position: legally it must support Ukraine, whose territorial integrity was violated. Politically, it should stay neutral given that Russia was provoked by Nato, and is now leaning towards China, which itself is fighting strategic coercion by the US-led West.

As ever, it is principles versus geopolitics. — Courtesy Dawn

KP Governor underlines need of development of health sector on modern lines

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here on Sunday said that health was an important sector in the province and its development on modern lines was imperative to provide better facilities to the ailing people.

He was addressing a representative delegation of Peoples Doctors Forum that called on him here at Governor House. Matters pertaining to improvement in health sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and treatment facilities came under discussion.

The delegation informed the Governor about the problems and difficulties faced by doctors and medical staff in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Faisal Karim Kundi said that provision of best healthcare facilities was one of the top most and basic responsibilities of the government. He underscored the need for reforms in existing health system in hospitals of the

province. The Governor said that MTI system in health treatment process was not proved impressive in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He underlined the need for enforcement of Sindh province health model system in the entire country. Faisal Karim Kundi said that visible change in health sector could be witnessed by establishing hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the pattern of Sindh province.

He asked the medical experts to prepare paper work and suggestions for establishment of Medical Commission.

During the meeting, the delegation led by Dr Janbaz thanked the Governor for his suggestions and cooperation for improvement of health sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Problems could be solved through positive, responsible journalism: Governor KP: Governor

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi said that the problems of the country and the province could be solved in a better way through positive and responsible journalism. In a meeting with famous poet and columnist Mansoor Afaq at Governor House Peshawar on Sunday, the Governor said that the federal government had allocated money in the budget for two major projects of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Chashma Lift Canal and Chakdra Chitral Road and the work on these two projects would be started soon. The Governor said that fighting the case of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the federal government was one of our priorities.

The Governor said that journalists should point out the problems. A Jirga or task force of all political parties will be formed so that we can discuss the rights and issues of the province in a concrete way with the federation, he said.



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with the delegation of Peoples Doctor Forum at Governor House.

CM calls for joint efforts to empower widows

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the government and civil society have to work together to empower widows.

In her message on International Widows Day, the CM said it is difficult to raise children without the shadow of a father. It is a day to understand difficulties of women who are raising their children alone after the death of their husbands.

The CM said the

discriminatory social attitude towards widows is unfortunate, adding that Islam for the first time gave social status and respect to widows. "I pay tribute to the widows who are raising their children by working hard." Thanks Allah Almighty, For the first time in Punjab, widows and destitute women got the blessing of Hajj, she said.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her message on United Nations Public Service Day, said

that today is a day to reiterate the government's commitment to improve public service.

The CM said: "I salute the government employees who work with dedication and honesty to serve people." She highlighted that people who dedicate their lives to service with integrity and dedication are admirable. Without hard work and dedication, the dream of development of Punjab cannot be realized, she vowed.

Police conduct 278 raids on drug-dealers' hideouts

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said on Sunday that the crackdown on drug-dealers, traffickers, and smugglers had been intensified in all districts, including the provincial capital. In one day, 278 raids were conducted on drug dealers' hideouts across the province, resulting in the arrest of 152 accused and the registration of 150 cases. Police teams recovered 59 kilograms of charas, 2 kilograms of heroin, and 1,834 liters of liquor from the suspects' possession. A Punjab police

spokesman said that since the anti-narcotics operations began on February 26, police teams have conducted over 32,000 raids across the province, arresting 15,689 suspects involved in drug trafficking and registering over 15,000 cases. The police have seized over 9,000 kilograms of charas, 157 kilograms of heroin, 267 kilograms of opium, 44 kilograms of ice, and 1,671,389 liters of liquor from the suspects' possession. IG Punjab directed the RPOs and DPOs to personally supervise anti-narcotics operations.

PA meeting convened today

LAHORE (APP): A meeting of the Punjab Assembly has been convened for Monday, June 24, to discuss the post-budget 2024 issues.

The house would meet at 11am, which will be presided over by Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan.

The budget demands would be approved on June 25 and 26 in the meeting to be presided over by the Speaker.

It should be noted that the debate on the budget in the Punjab Assembly was started on June 20.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, in Karachi.

IGP reaffirms commitment to improving public service delivery

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, in his special message on United Nations Public Service Day, said that the Punjab Police reaffirmed its commitment to further improving public service delivery, transparency, and accountability on this day.

He vowed that the Punjab police were improving public service delivery at police stations, Khidmat Centres, traffic police, and other offices to ensure that a maximum number of citizens could benefit from policing services. He highlighted that Punjab Police's flagship public service delivery project, the Police Khidmat Centres, ranked first in performance, with millions of citizens availing various services from the

offices every year.

According to details, in the last 24 hours, over 6,900 citizens across the province received various services from the Police Khidmat Centres. More than 2,400 citizens obtained police character certificates, 2,687 citizens conducted police verifications, over 300 citizens registered document lost reports and 400 registered tenancy agreements.

The IGP said that since the special campaign started on February 26, over 700,000 citizens had availed policing services from the Police Khidmat Centres.

More than 203,000 citizens obtained character certificates, 283,000 citizens conducted police verifications, over 23,000 registered document.

PPP following vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto: Makhdom Mahmood

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) President, South Punjab, Makhdom Mahmood Ahmed Mehmoosaid that his party had been following vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto in letter and spirit.

He expressed these words while talking to Deputy Information Secretary, PPP Bahawalpur Division, Rana Saleem here on Sunday.

Makhdom Mahmood said that PPP is still a largest political party of the country which was following vision of legend leader and former prime

minister, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

"Shaheed Bibi was a great and legend leader of the world who fought for the noble cause of smooth flow of democracy," he said.

He said that PPP had been playing remarkable role in strengthening democratic institutions in the country.

He paid rich tributes to President, Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman, PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for playing their role for protection of rights of downtrodden segments of the society.

Firing incident in Peshawar, two killed

PESHAWAR (APP): As many as two people were killed in a firing incident in the Badaber Police Station in the rural area, Police Control confirmed the incident of firing here Sunday.

According to Police Control Peshawar, the firing incident occurred in the Badhaber village, a rural area of provincial capital wherein some unknown gunmen opened indiscriminate firing, killing two persons on the spot and made their escape good.

Police control said that the incident of firing is an indication of personal enmity and the bodies were shifted to the hospital for post-mortem. After collecting evidence from the crime scene, further investigation has started, Police control said. Raids are being conducted to arrest the accused, the Police Control said.

19 children injured as swing breaks down

SARGODHA (APP): As many as 19 children were injured in swing-breaking incident here at a recreational park at Model Bazaar Jauharabad on Sunday.

Rescue 1122 Emergency Officer Khushab Hafiz Abdul Rasheed told that 19 children were enjoying swings at the park. All of sudden, a swing broke down and children fell on the ground. As a result, 19 children were injured.

The Rescue-1122 teams reached the spot and provided the first aid to five children, while others were shifted to a hospital for proper treatment.



LAHORE: Citizens spending their holiday at Dharmapura canal in the Provincial Capital.

50,000 school students to benefit from 'Digital School on Wheel' project

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has taken a principled decision to launch the 'Digital School on Wheel' project across the province. Punjab Education Department official sources told APP that in this connection three major stakeholders including Allied, Tech Valley and 'Google for Education' have shown their interest to accomplish the project. The government has further decided that in collaboration with the Australian organisation 'Allied', the assembly of 'Chromebooks' will be done in Punjab; 50,000 students of government schools of Punjab will be

provided with Google ID, free of charge, and 1000 teachers of government schools will receive free digital certification courses. These stakeholders will work on the possibilities of cooperation in digital education projects, smart classroom and digital educational ecosystem, the sources informed. In this connection 'Google for Education' will compile authentic data of out-of-school children. Digital certification courses will be conducted and Google for Education will support the free certification courses project for 15,000 university students.

4 women among 8 abducted from Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): Eight people including four women were abducted from different parts of Faisalabad during the past 12 hours.

A police spokesman said here on Sunday that 45-year-old Naveed Murtaza was abducted from Chak No. 70-RB while Nimra Bibi (22) was kidnapped from Chak No. 30-GB. Similarly, Kareem Bukhsh was abducted from Chak No. 55-GB, Sairan Parveen from Chak No. 228-GB, Fatima Ifkhar from Chak No. 233-RB, Shagufta from Millat Town, Kamran from Nishatabad and Umar Farooq was kidnapped from Chak No. 201-RB.

People's Bus Service to start in Nawabshah next week; Sharjeel Memon

NAWABSHAH (APP): Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport and Excise, Sharjeel Inam Memon has announced the commencement of Peoples Bus Service at Nawabshah from the coming week.

Talking to media here Sunday, the minister said that in order to provide better transport facilities for the people of Sindh, the

service of Peoples Bus Service was being started at Karachi, Larkana, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Shaheed Benazirabad (Nawabshah) from the next week, which would soon be inaugurated.

The people of Nawabshah has expressed their pleasure over the decision of the Sindh Government.

KP Minister assures solution of all basic problems of people

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Law and Finance Minister Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate took immediate notice of the scarcity of drinking water in the far-flung area of his constituency Ziarat Sheikh Allah Dad and rushed to the area along with the Chairman Tehsil Gambat Sajid Iqbal and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI's) local leader Ishtiaq Qureshi.

He inspected the Shadipur Water Supply Scheme in Ziarat Sheikh Allah Dad where the minister was told that the water requirement of the area is not being met by the Shadipur Water Supply Scheme as its water is not reachable to the entire area due to which the drinking

water problem is very serious.

The law minister on the spot approved the allocation of more funds for the said scheme at the request of the elders of the area. He assured drinking water would be delivered to every house in the area and drinking water scarcity problem of the people here would be solved permanently. He assured resolution of other basic problems in the area on a priority basis. Elders of the area thanked the minister for taking immediate notice of this key problem of the area and for his determination to solve it permanently. They assured their wholehearted support and cooperation to the minister for his keen interest in the area's development.



BALAKOT: Bikers travelling toward Northern areas, while crossing old wooden bridges.

Ensure safety of tourists Zahid directs to review pathways of all waterfalls in Jab Valley

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Tourism and Culture Zahid Khan Zaman Sunday has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic drowning of two young men at the Jab Valley waterfall in Hazara.

In a press statement, he extended heartfelt condolences to the affected families. He directed the Department of Tourism to work with the local administration to review the pathways to all waterfalls in Jab Valley and ensure the safety of deep spots in the associated small lakes.

The advisor also instructed the establishment of special and safe viewpoints for tourists at waterfalls across the province. He expressed satisfaction over the arrival of more than four hundred thousand tourists to scenic spots during Eid-ul-Azha and praised the efforts of the

Department of Tourism, rescue agencies and the divisional and local administration.

However, Zaman also expressed grief over the unfortunate incident in Madyan Sawat, where a traveller from another province was killed. He noted that this incident occurred despite the record number of tourist arrivals and their safe return with pleasant memories, suggesting that a conspiracy to defame tourist spots could not be ruled out.

Zahid Khan appealed to the people of the province to fully trust their elected government in any unpleasant situation rather than taking the law into their own hands. He assured them that the government would not disappoint them in national, religious, and public matters and would ensure immediate decisions and actions in line with public aspirations.



KARACHI: People selecting used books at Regal Chowk.

Adulterated foods pose severe risks to public health

LAHORE (APP): The deliberate addition or contamination of food products with non-food substances can pose severe health risks, ranging from mild discomfort to life-threatening conditions.

Food adulteration is a pervasive issue with serious health implications. The risks associated with adulterated food had far-reaching consequences from acute illnesses to chronic health conditions.

The authority concerned need to ensure round-the-clock vigilance in food markets and take stern action against the violators for playing havoc

with the public lives.

The experts said that food adulteration was an act of adding or mixing low-quality, non-nutritive, or harmful substances to food products for economic gains. This practice often compromises on the quality, safety, and nutritional value of the food, potentially leading to serious health risks.

Explaining food adulteration, Deputy Director Food Department Punjab Zahir Qaiser said that the first kind of food adulteration involves the deliberate addition of substances to increase product weight or volume. He said for example, adding

water to milk, starch to spices, or chalk powder to flour is an intentional adulteration. While sometimes due to negligence or lack of proper hygienic practices during the production, storage, and handling of food, the quality is compromised which is also called incidental adulteration, he added.

The Deputy Director said that contaminants such as pesticides, heavy metals, and environmental pollutants can inadvertently enter the food supply. He said that another kind of adulteration is metallic contamination caused

either during processing or packaging. The type of chemical adulteration is caused due to unauthorized or harmful chemicals for enhancing the appearance or shelf-life of food.

Dr Furqan Malik, a medicine specialist of the Mayo Hospital, sharing details about the impacts of the food adulteration on health said that consuming adulterated food can lead to immediate health issues such as food poisoning, gastrointestinal disorders, and allergic reactions. He said that contaminants like pesticides, heavy metals, and microbial pathogens can cause symptoms ranging from nausea,

vomiting, and diarrhea to severe abdominal pain and fever.

Zahir said that contamination of food with pathogenic microorganisms like bacteria, viruses, and fungi due to improper handling or storage conditions is called microbial adulteration. He said the primary driver of food adulteration is economic gains.

Producers may adulterate food to reduce production costs and increase profits. For instance, diluting milk with water or mixing low-quality grains with premium ones can significantly cut costs.



LAHORE: Syed Jafar Hussain, Syed Ajmal Hussain, Al-Haj Sheikh Abid Sheraz Hamdani and other believers cutting Eid-e-Ghadeer cake in the Imambargah Qaim-e-Ale Muhammad of the provincial capital.

Qaiser Sheikh says: Pakistan's economy experiencing significant growth, positioning as burgeoning land of opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Sunday said that Pakistan's economy was experiencing significant growth, positioning it as a burgeoning land of opportunities.

Addressing the National Assembly on an optimistic outlook of Pakistan's economic trajectory during the budget debate, the minister credited the incumbent government's prudent economic policies for a notable reduction in the inflation rate. He emphasized that these policies had fostered economic stability, contributing to a more favourable environment for both local and international

investors. Highlighting another economic triumph, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh pointed out the stabilization of Pakistani Rupee. This achievement, he said, is pivotal in bolstering economic confidence and reducing import costs, supporting broader economic growth.

Qaiser proposed enhanced support for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), advocating their critical role in fostering economic stability nationwide. He said SMEs are the backbone of economy, driving innovation, employment, and inclusive growth.

On national security, the federal minister stressed the necessity of a well-funded defence budget. "It is necessary to allocate a good portion of funds keeping in view the critical condition on the borders," he added.

Qaiser also shed light on the positive developments in the agriculture sector and said that the agricultural advancements were vital for food security, rural development and export potential, making this sector a cornerstone of economic policy.

In his concluding remarks, Qaiser urged the government to intensify its focus on information technology and agriculture as both sectors have great potential to meet the demands of modern-day life.

well-funded defence budget. "It is necessary to allocate a good portion of funds keeping in view the critical condition on the borders," he added.

Qaiser also shed light on the positive developments in the agriculture sector and said that the agricultural advancements were vital for food security, rural development and export potential, making this sector a cornerstone of economic policy.

In his concluding remarks, Qaiser urged the government to intensify its focus on information technology and agriculture as both sectors have great potential to meet the demands of modern-day life.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors selling vegetables at Sector G-10 Sunday Bazaar in the Federal Capital.

PFC demands strict action against timber mafia

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) has urged the government to take decisive action against the timber mafia to protect the wealth of country's forests.

Highlighting the rampant illegal cutting of trees and logging, the PFC Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq told media men here Sunday that the timber mafia is a threat to Pakistan's ecological balance and emphasised the urgent need for strict enforcement of forestry laws and the implementation of sustainable practices. He urged the government to strengthen the legal framework governing forestry and enhance the capacity of enforcement agencies to effectively combat illegal logging.

Pakistan earns \$2.593b from IT services' export in 10 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$2.593 billion by providing different Information Technology (IT) services to various countries during the first ten months of the current fiscal year 2023-24.

This shows a growth of 20.41 per cent as compared with the US \$2.135 billion earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

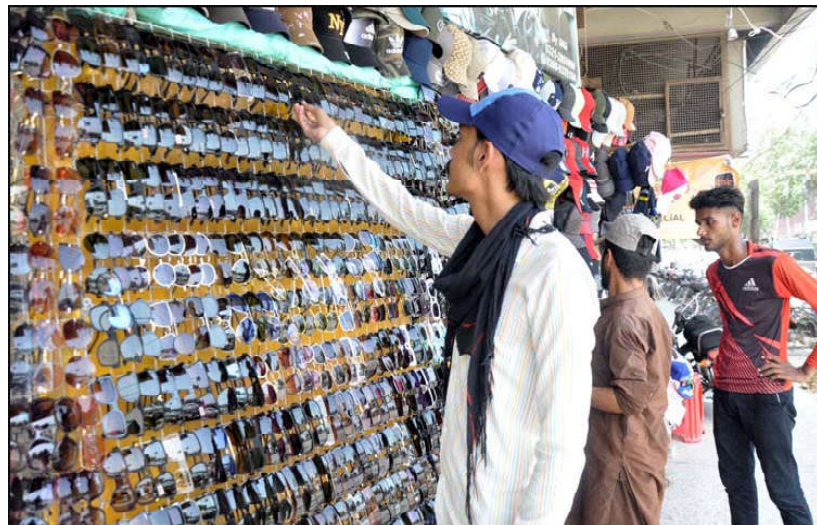
During the months under review, the export of computer services grew by 24.55 per cent as it surged from US \$1.729 billion last year to US \$2.153 billion during July-April 2023-24.

Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 10.80 per cent, from US\$ 633.107 million to US\$ 701.456 million this

year while the export of hardware consultancy services also surged by 19.24 per cent, from US\$ 4.793 million to US\$ 5.715 million. The export of repair and maintenance services however decreased by 45.69 per cent from US \$2.762 million to US \$1.500 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services surged by 6.77 per cent, from \$489.737 million to \$522.909 million.

Meanwhile, the export of information services during the months under review witnessed an increase of 105.90 per cent from US \$4.240 million to US \$8.730 million.

Among the information services, the exports of news agency services surged by 167.58 per cent, from US \$2.505 million to US \$6.730 million whereas the exports of other information-related services increased by 16.83 per cent.



HYDERABAD: People are busy in buying sunglasses to protect themselves from scorching sun during hot weather in city, at a shop in Hyderabad.

SCCI president Online payment introduced for membership renewal

SIALKOT (APP): The Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) president said that online payment had been introduced for chamber membership renewal.

Talking to APP, SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik said that now instead of visiting the Sialkot chamber for the renewal of their firms, members can renew their firms from home. He said that the chamber had always endeavored to ensure the provision of best services to its members and businessmen.

Malik said that he and his team had rendered valuable services to solve the problems of members. "Being the SCCI president, I would continue to play my role in the betterment of members and concrete steps are being taken in this regard," he added.

He assured SCCI members and the business community of Sialkot that other facilities of the chamber would also be digitized soon. He also expressed his determination for promotion of exports.

Punjab govt enacts new law to control inflation

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has launched the Price Control Council (PCC) to determine the prices of 49 commodities.

Official sources in City District government told APP that the government has enacted a new law to control the prices of essential commodities, whereas in this regard a Price Control Council has also been established under the 'Punjab Price Control Essential Commodities Act'.

Punjab Governor Saleem Haider signed the bill after the approval of the Punjab Assembly.



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Munam Zafar addresses during the protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding and high inflated electricity bills, at Mehmoodabad area in Karachi.

Malik for enhanced connectivity among SAARC countries

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former president Iftikhar Ali Malik said here Sunday that South Asia, a region of two billion people, has great potentials to emerge like the EU (European Union) and ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations).

He added that South Asia countries must also capitalise their proximity that would definitely gear up overall socio-economic development in the region. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of leading industrialists led by Engineer Mian Sultan Mahmood Arain, Secretary General of the Federation of Engineering Institutions

of South and Central Asia. Malik said Pakistan has much to offer, especially to smaller countries and even making inroads through the use of drone technology in agriculture. If Pak made footballs are used in World Cup matches then why not in South Asia, he argued and said that trade among SAARC countries can reduce abject poverty in the region. Setting aside mistrust, businesses need to be less cumbersome and transport and digital connectivity must be improved.

He cited that Pakistan has yet another advantage of CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) which can offer regional economic

connectivity to all South Asia with Central Asian countries via Pakistan. There is an emerging trend in parts of South Asia to forge ties without Pakistan and Afghanistan which must be averted in the larger interests of the region, he added.

The former SAARC-CCI president said, this region can progress and grow significantly if the policy of "non-interference and non-hegemonic" is strictly adhered to. He emphasized for regional connectivity and economic integration in South Asia as world becomes increasingly interconnected, fostering collaboration among neighboring nations.

Efforts underway to launch Seed balls experiment converts Khanpur forest into dense plantation

PESHAWAR (APP): The experiment of throwing seed balls in unattended reserve forests of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has helped in rehabilitation of forest in Khanpur area, converting the area into dense plantation.

"The seed balls were thrown in reserved forests of Khan Pure area at Haripure district in September 2023 and results are very encouraging," informed

Tariq Shah, a high ranking official of Forest department here Sunday.

The Forest Department had distributed around 500,000 seed balls in unattended hilly forests of Haripure out of which majority of seeds grew into plants and finally as trees, Tariq shared with APP.

He said this is for the first time seed balls experiment was undertaken by Forest Department.



ISLAMABAD: Labours busy cutting sugarcane at fruit market.

Kisan Card to be issued soon: Saho

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Secretary Agriculture, Government of Punjab, Iftikhar Ali Saho has said that the provincial government was going to issue Kisan Card soon to facilitate farmers.

According to a press release issued here, he said that Chief Minister Punjab, Mariam Nawaz had vowed to make farmers of Punjab province prosperous.

He said that a huge fund of Rs 150 billion had been allocated for issuance of Kisan Card across Punjab province.

"All is set to issue

Kisan Card after allocation of a huge sum of Rs 150 billion by the Punjab government," he said.

He said that under the scheme introduced by the Punjab government, 0.5 million farmers would get interest-free loans to purchase agricultural machinery and to use the money in agriculture field.

"A sum of Rs 30 billion had been earmarked for execution of the 'Green Tractor Scheme' as well as nine billion rupees for 'Agriculture Scheme', respectively," he said.

MEPCO nabs 109 electricity pilferers

MULTAN (APP): The Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) claimed to have nabbed 109 electricity pilferers during a special campaign on Sunday.

According to official sources, the MEPCO administration got 70 cases registered against the pilferers. Similarly, fine amounting Rs 7.1 million was also imposed on the pilferers. The official sources added that the raids were conducted in DG Khan, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Sahiwal, Vehari, Bahawalnagar.

Ailing soil calls for chemicals-free farming practices

MULTAN (APP): Excessive and disproportionate use of chemical pesticides in agriculture damages the soil fertility, causes deficiency in essential nutrients resulting in decreased crop productivity and consequently affecting human health.

Since our farmers started using fertilizers in place of organic matter and pesticides to kill worms, insects and other harmful creatures, massive use of these chemicals showed to have adverse effects on our land as well as our health.

South Punjab is one of important regions in this respect being a food basket for the country where the agriculturalists have warned of fast decreasing

land fertility due to excessive use of chemicals and pesticides; and lack of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, zinc and some other ingredients. Similarly, the use of organic matter is also than one percent. "Excessive use of pesticides is causing significant harm to soil fertility as pesticides reduce microbial diversity in the soil," stated Dr Muhammad Mubeen, Associate Professor of Biotechnology at COMSATS University Vehari. "The micro-organisms are of vital importance for nutrient cycle and decomposition of organic matter and its decline could affect soil's overall health."

The total cultivation land in Pakistan is about

79.61 million hectare, out of which 20.63 million hectare is in Punjab. But, in recent decades, the dilemma of housing societies and use of harmful ingredients has badly affected our agricultural land.

"Chemical residue in soil changes its pH value and excessive pesticides break down soil aggregates, lead to compaction and reduces aeration and water infiltration," informed Dr Alamgir Khan, Coordinator Faculty of Biosystem, Engineering and Technology at Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan.

"Nutrient imbalance caused by pesticide is another challenge for farmers as pesticides interfere with nutrient

SCO launches software technology parks in AJK

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): The Special Communication Organization (SCO), a telecom company working in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), is taking cutting edge initiatives in the region to facilitate people besides providing modern telecommunication facilities. Under the program, two software technology parks have been established at Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot while a freelaunch hub has been launched at Haveli district.

The initiative introduces cutting-edge technologies to local youth for development of niche skills and promotion of business enabling environment in IT domain. Major General Umar Ahmad Shah HI (M), DG SCO, officiated the opening, emphasizing SCO's resolve to transform region's IT landscape.

The newly established IT setup at Haveli joins six other

Freelancing Hubs in AJK, located in Kel, Kamhora Ghambir along the Line of Control (LoC), Hattian, Goharabad, Khairawal, and Koniyon. All these hubs aim at harnessing IT potential of youth and are connected with major / district level IT hubs for mutual sharing of expertise, skill development and mentoring.

During the inauguration on Sunday, Director General SCO Major General Umar Ahmad Shah remarked, "The launch of Freelancing Hub in Haveli demonstrates SCO's commitment to empower local youth. It provides state-of-the-art IT facilities in a very conducive environment, with an objective to unlock youth potential.

The purpose is to promote a digitally inclusive society. I anticipate that these facilities will contribute towards fostering IT skills and boosting local economy."

Secretary General of SAARC meets Secretary General of ACD

KATHMANDU (PR): His Excellency the Secretary General of SAARC Ambassador Md. Gohar Sarwar held a meeting today with the Secretary General of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) H.E. Dr. Pornchai

Organization was created with a vision of promoting the welfare of nearly two billion people in the region and improving their quality of life through collective actions and joint initiatives. South Asia being the most populous region in Asia



Danvithathana on the sidelines of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of Asia Cooperation Dialogue being held in Tehran, Iran. During the meeting, the Dignitaries exchanged views on enhancing cooperation and the collaboration between the two regional Organizations in the areas of mutual interests and priorities.

Sharing about the SAARC, the Secretary General stated that the

and in the world, any advancement in the living standard of the people there would contribute significantly to the success of larger global development initiatives, the Secretary General stated. He further added that since most of the SAARC Member States are also the ACD Members and the priorities areas of the two Organizations coincide, there is an ample scope for working together.

After wheat and flour, price of rice also drops

LAHORE (APP): After wheat and flour, the price of rice has also dropped by almost Rs60 per kg during the last two months.

The price are decreasing due to effective policies of the Punjab government.

Different types of rice have become cheaper by Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per kg. In the market, Super Kainat rice is selling for Rs 280 per kg with a decrease of Rs 60, while Super Basmati rice is selling for Rs 210 per kg, which is cheaper by Rs 50 per kg. Likewise, Super

Kernal rice is available for Rs 270 per kg with a decrease of Rs 50.

According to rice market sources, the price of rice has been decreasing continuously for the last two months, the artificial inflation in the market has been eliminated due to better rice harvest in the last season and effective government policies.

Market sources said that the price of rice in the market was likely to remain at the current level for the next few weeks.



MULTAN: Farmers are preparing land for the next crop using the old method.

availability and leads to deficiencies or toxicities," he said. "Water retention capacity and soil structure degradation due to chemicals usage are other major factors impacting plant growth."

Progressive Farmer Laique Shiekhnna of Nawabpur, a mangoes rich area, was also critical of using chemical pesticide. "Pesticides not only damage crops, soil health and environment but also affect lives of farmers."

Urging the government to limit use of chemical pesticides, he said, the world was shifting to organic farming by using bio-pesticides. "Therefore, we also need to promote bio-pesticides for killing harmful insects and pests as well as safeguarding our labor and land from harmful effects of poisonous insecticides and pesticides and cut farming expenses to benefit farmers economically."

Laiq said the farmers can themselves prepare bio-pesticides by soaking leaves of "neem tree, aak, Kortuma, tobacco and moringa" in five-liter water for 10 hours and then boil. After boiling, about 120-liter water should be mixed in the solution and then sprayed.

Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ateel has mentioned to efforts for improving organic farming in the region. "We are working on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) model for last three years and the department has achieved satisfactory results.

Israeli shelling kills dozens near ICRC office in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
GAZASTRIP: Israel's military pounded Gaza on Saturday, a day after the International Committee of the Red Cross said 22 people were killed in shelling that damaged its office in a southern town of the besieged Palestinian territory.

The ICRC said the 22 dead and 45 wounded people were taken to a field hospital after shelling with "heavy calibre projectiles" near its office in al-Mawasi, a coastal town in southern Gaza. "Firing so dangerously close to humanitarian structures puts the lives of civilians and humanitarian workers at risk," the ICRC said on X.

Meanwhile, 42 people were killed in Israeli attacks on districts of Gaza City, in the north of the Palestinian enclave, on Saturday.

One Israeli strike on houses in al-Shati, one of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, killed 24 people. Another 18 Palestinians were killed in a strike on houses in al-Tuffah neighbourhood.

TV footage showed Palestinians rushing out to search for victims amid destroyed houses. The footage showed wrecked homes, blasted walls, and debris and dust filling the street in Shati refugee camp. The Israeli military released a brief statement saying: "A short while ago, IDF (Israeli defence forces) fighter jets struck two Hamas military infrastructure sites in the area of Gaza City."

Hamas did not comment on the Israeli claim to have hit its "military infrastructure". It said the attacks targeted civilians and vowed in a statement "the occupation and its Nazi leaders will pay the price for their violations against our people".

Witnesses reported gun battles between Hamas and Israeli forces in Gaza City on Saturday. They also reported Israeli helicopters firing at fighters in the city's Zeitun neighbourhood.

Earlier, the Israeli military said troops had continued to carry out operations in central Gaza and that its jets had struck targets across the Palestinian territory.

The Israeli army said on June 16 it would implement a daily "tactical pause of military activity" in a southern corridor to facilitate aid delivery.



Families make their way through the rubble of buildings destroyed by Israeli strikes on al-Shati refugee camp.

Democrats wrestle with whether to attend Netanyahu's address to Congress as many plan to boycott

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The last time Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the U.S. Congress, nearly 60 Democrats skipped his speech nine years ago, calling it a slap in the face to then-President Barack Obama as he negotiated a nuclear deal with Iran.

With Netanyahu scheduled to address U.S. lawmakers on July 24 and his government now at war with Hamas in Gaza, the number of absences is likely to be far greater.

Congressional Democrats are wrestling with whether to attend. Many are torn between their long-standing support for Israel and their anguish about the way Israel has conducted military operations in Gaza. More than 37,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since the Hamas attack on Oct. 7 that triggered the war, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-run territory. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants in its figures.

While some Democrats are saying they will come out of respect for Israel, a larger and growing faction wants no part of it, creating an extraordinarily charged atmosphere at a gathering that normally amounts to a ceremonial, bipartisan show of support for an American ally.

Japanese Emperor Naruhito finally begins delayed UK state visit

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Emperor Naruhito and his wife began a week long trip to Britain on Saturday, during which they will visit Oxford University where they both studied and attend a banquet with King Charles, but no formal meeting with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is scheduled.

Naruhito and his wife, Empress Masako, had been due to make the visit in 2020 when Queen Elizabeth was still alive but it was postponed because of the COVID pandemic. Their first overseas trip together after Naruhito's enthronement was to Elizabeth's funeral in 2022. Ahead of this state visit the 64-year-old emperor spoke of the kindness the British royals showed him when he arrived in Britain to study in the early 1980s.

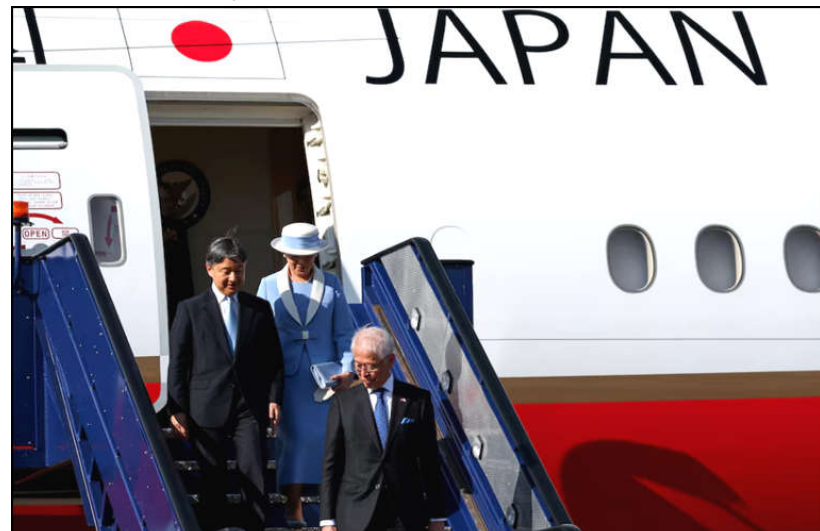
He recalled how the late queen had invited him to Buckingham Palace for tea, which she made herself.

"I have fond memories of the heartwarming hospitality I received from her majesty the queen and the royal family, making me feel like I was part of their family," he told a news conference in Tokyo.

Naruhito was greeted by officials on his arrival at London's Stansted airport on Saturday afternoon.

The emperor's trip is the third state visit of Charles' reign, and the first since it was revealed earlier this year that the British monarch had been diagnosed with cancer.

Ahead of the visit, Naruhito said he was grateful the king would host them despite his illness, and he also sent good wishes to Charles' daughter-in-law Kate, wife of heir Prince William, who is having preventative chemotherapy treatment for cancer.



Japanese ambassador to Britain Hajime Hayashi walks in front of Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako as they arrive on a state visit to Britain, at Stansted Airport near London, Britain.

Russia launches 'massive' attack on Ukraine's power network

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine on Saturday said Russia had launched a "massive" overnight attack on energy infrastructure in the west and south, adding that at least seven people died from Moscow strikes elsewhere.

Russia launched 16 cruise missiles from land, sea and air as well as 13 attack drones, aiming at energy infrastructure in several regions, Ukraine's military said. Air defences downed all but four of them, it added. Russia's defence ministry said that its troops "carried out a group strike with long-range high-precision weaponry from air and sea and also drones on Ukrainian energy facilities that power arms production". It said it also targeted warehouses containing munitions and "air-launched weapons provided to the Ukrainian military by Western countries". "All the set targets were hit," the ministry said, calling its latest attacks retaliation for Ukrainian attacks on its own energy network.

The Ukrainian energy ministry said this was Russia's "eighth massive, combined attack on energy infrastructure facilities" in the past three months, targeting the southern Zaporizhzhia region and Lviv in the west. "Equipment at (operator) Ukrenergo facilities in the Zaporizhzhia and Lviv regions was damaged," the ministry said. Ukrenergo said that two employees were wounded and hospitalised in Zaporizhzhia, where Europe's biggest nuclear plant is located. More than two years into the Russian invasion, targeted missile and drone attacks have crippled Ukraine's electricity generation capacity and forced Kyiv to impose blackouts and import supplies from the European Union.

Death toll rises to 54 in India liquor tragedy

Monitoring Desk
TAMIL NADU: The death toll has climbed to 54 from consumption of tainted liquor in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu, with more than 100 people still in hospital, a government official said on Saturday.

Nearly 200 people have been treated since Wednesday for vomiting, stomach aches and diarrhoea, after drinking liquor spiked with methanol in the district of Kallakurichi, about 250 kilometres from Chennai, the state capital.

Law enforcement officials investigating the incident have arrested seven people, said MS Prasanth, a senior district official, adding that follow-up action was being taken against liquor sellers and brewers in the district.

Deaths from illegally produced alcohol, often called country liquor, are a regular occurrence in India, where few can afford branded spirits, despite public demands for a crackdown on the vendors.

Marcos says Philippines won't be intimidated amid China row

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: President Ferdinand Marcos said on Sunday the Philippines "will not be intimidated" by anyone after a violent clash between the Filipino navy and the Chinese coast guard in the South China Sea.

The confrontation took place on Monday off Second Thomas Shoal as Chinese sailors foiled an attempt by Philippine forces to resupply marines stationed on a derelict warship that was deliberately grounded atop the disputed shoal in 1999 to assert Manila's territorial claims.

It was the latest and most serious incident in a series of escalating confrontations between Chinese and Philippine ships in recent months as Beijing steps up efforts to push its claims to nearly all of the strategically located waterway.

"We will never be intimidated or oppressed by anyone," Marcos said in a speech during a visit to the headquarters of the Philippines' South China Sea forces on Palawan island, the closest major landmass to the shoal.

Egyptian haj death toll rises to 672

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: The toll of Egyptians who died taking part in the haj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, amid extreme heat, has risen to 672 while another 25 are missing, security and medical sources told Reuters on Sunday.

A crisis unit tasked with investigating the situation said in a statement on Saturday it has suspended licenses of 16 tourism companies and referred them to the public prosecutor, accusing them of being responsible for deaths it said were mainly among pilgrims not registered under the official system.

Trump courts Black voters in Philadelphia, asks Christians to back him one last time

Monitoring Desk
PHILADELPHIA: Donald Trump made two speeches on Saturday, urging Christian supporters to go to the polls for him one last time and courting Black voters in Philadelphia by promising to fix a city "ravaged by bloodshed" even as data shows a decline in violent crime.

If elected in November, the Republican presidential candidate told a rally of several thousand at Philadelphia's Temple University, he would give police "immunity" to do their jobs and "surge" federal resources to cities battling violence.

Trump dismissed as "fake" FBI statistics that showed a continued drop in levels of violent crime and murder across the country in the first three months of 2024, and accused Democratic President Joe Biden of lying about the data.

"Under crooked Joe Biden the City of Brotherly Love is being ravaged by bloodshed and crime," Trump said in an arena in a historically Black neighborhood, addressing an audience more diverse than a typical rally, but still largely white.

"Under the Trump administration we are going to bring law and order and safety back to our streets." The promise to fight crime was part of a larger pitch to Black and Hispanic people, who form more than half the city's population. The Trump campaign has been encouraged by some opinion polls showing he may be gaining ground with these voters this election cycle.

As he often does, Trump portrayed migrants in the country illegally as dangerous and burdensome. He claimed, without citing evidence, that they were taking jobs from Black and Hispanic workers.

"Joe Biden's open border has also been a disaster for our great African-American and Hispanic-American populations," Trump said.

Trump has little chance of winning Philadelphia, which Biden won easily in 2020.

China, France launch satellite to better understand universe

Monitoring Desk
XICHANG: A French-Chinese satellite blasted off on Saturday on a hunt for the mightiest explosions in the universe, in a notable example of cooperation between a Western power and the Asian giant. Developed by engineers from both countries, the Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM) will seek out gamma-ray bursts, the light from which has travelled billions of light years to reach Earth. The 930-kilogram satellite carrying four instruments — two French, two Chinese — took off around 3:00pm local time aboard a Chinese Long March 2-C rocket from a space base in Xichang, in the southwestern province of Sichuan, journalists witnessed.

Gamma-ray bursts generally occur after the explosion of huge stars — those more than 20 times as big as the sun — or the fusion of compact stars. The extremely bright cosmic beams can give off a blast of energy equivalent to over a billion billion suns.

Observing them is like "looking back in time, as the light from these objects takes a long time to reach us", Ore Gottlieb, an astrophysicist at the Flatiron Institute's Center for Astrophysics in New York, said. The rays carry traces of the gas clouds and galaxies they pass through on their journey through space — valuable data for better understanding the history and evolution of the universe.

Fireworks launched from yacht set off forest fire in Greece

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: Fireworks launched from a yacht set off a new wildfire on an island near Athens as the country confronts a new season of deadly summer fires, authorities said.

The mayor of the island of Hydra expressed "outrage" after the fire was started late on Friday and vowed legal action against those responsible. Dozens of wildfires this week have left at least one dead already.

The latest blaze was "caused by fireworks launched from a boat and burned the only pine forest on the island in a place that is difficult to access and has no road."



Relatives mourn near the deceased who had consumed toxic alcohol in Kallakurichi district of India's Tamil Nadu.

Outrage in UK as Nigel Farage accuses West of provoking Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Nigel Farage, leader of Britain's anti-immigration Reform UK party, faced strong criticism on Saturday after saying that the West provoked Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In an interview with the BBC on Friday, Farage said "We've provoked this war", while adding that "of course" it was Russian president Vladimir Putin's "fault".

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak told reporters that Farage's claim was "completely wrong and only plays into Putin's hands", likening the comments to "appeasement".

Labour leader Keir Starmer, who looks set to take Sunak's job after an election next month, said Farage's comments were "disgraceful". "Anyone who is standing for parliament ought to be really clear that Russia is the aggressor", he told reporters on the campaign trail.

Farage — a former European Union parliamentarian who has tried and failed to run for the UK parliament seven times — is seeking a seat from Clacton in east England in a general election next month.

France's far right National Rally still leading ahead of election, poll shows

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: France's far right National Rally (RN) party and its allies are seen leading the first round of the country's parliamentary elections with 35.5% of the vote, according to a poll published Sunday. The Ipsos survey — conducted for Le Parisien newspaper and Radio France on June 19-20 — showed the left-wing New Popular Front (NPF) alliance in second place with 29.5% of the vote. President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance was seen in third place, winning 19.5% of votes. The turnout rate is seen at between 60 and 64%, which would be much higher than the 47.5% seen at the last general election in June.

US Supreme Court upholds federal domestic-violence gun ban

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court on Friday upheld a federal law that makes it a crime for people under domestic violence restraining orders to have guns, handing a victory to President Joe Biden's administration as the justices opted not to further widen firearms rights after a major expansion in 2022.

The 8-1 ruling, authored by conservative Chief Justice John Roberts, overturned a lower court's decision striking down the 1994 law as a violation of the US Constitution's Second Amendment right to "keep and bear arms." The law was challenged by a Texas man who was subject to a restraining order for assaulting his girlfriend in a parking lot and later threatening to shoot her.

The New Orleans-based 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals had concluded that the measure failed the Supreme Court's stringent test set in 2022 that required gun laws to be "consistent with the nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation" to comply with the Second Amendment.

Vietnam govt says PM to pay working visit to China from June 24-27

Monitoring Desk
HANOI: Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh will pay a working visit to China from June 24 to 27, and will attend a meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) during his trip, the government said on Saturday. The WEF meeting will be held in China's Dalian City, Liaoning Province, the government said in a statement. China is Vietnam's largest trading partner.

Yemen's Houthis claim attack on four ships at Israel's Haifa port

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Yemen's Houthis said early on Sunday that they had conducted a joint military operation with the Islamic Resistance in Iraq militant group, targeting four ships at Israel's northern Haifa port.

The Houthi military spokesperson, Yahya Saree, said in a televised statement that the two groups launched a drone attack on two cement tankers and two cargo ships at the Haifa port on Saturday. He said the ships belonged to companies that "violated the ban on entering the ports of occupied Palestine".

The Israeli military did not immediately comment, though it had previously denied a similar claim by the Houthis early this month.

Saree also said the Houthis had attacked the Shorthorn Express in the Mediterranean using drones as part of the group's campaign to disrupt shipping in key waterways, which they say is an act of solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza war.

"The two operations successfully achieved their objectives, and the strikes were precise and direct," Saree said.

There was no independent confirmation of strikes, and Reuters could not verify the claims.

The Iran-aligned Houthi first launched drone and missile strikes in shipping lanes in November.

In dozens of attacks, they have sunk two vessels, seized another and killed at least three seafarers.

Greece battles wildfires fanned by gale-force winds

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: Hundreds of firefighters struggled on Saturday to contain wildfires fanned by gale force winds on two Greek islands and in other parts of Greece, as authorities warned many regions face a high risk of new blazes.

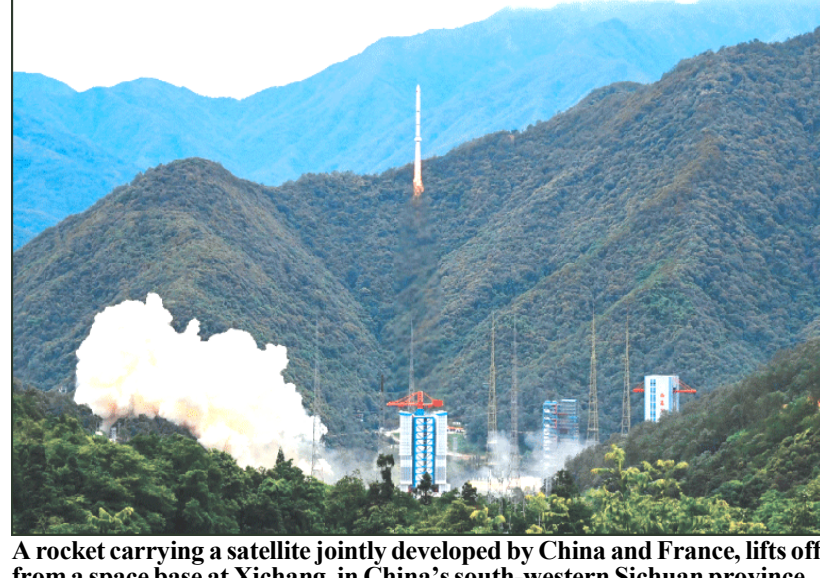
More than 30 firefighters backed by two aircraft and five helicopters were battling a wildfire burning on the island of Andros in the Aegean, away from tourist resorts, where four communities were evacuated as a precaution.

"More firefighters (are) expected on the island later in the day," a fire services official told Reuters, adding there were no reports of damage or injuries.

Wildfires are common in Greece but they have become more devastating in recent years amid hotter and drier summers that scientists link to climate change. A wildfire near Athens last week forced dozens to flee their homes, which authorities said they believed was the result of arson as well as the hot, dry conditions.

Meteorologists say the latest fires are the first time that the country has experienced "hot-dry-windy" conditions so early in the summer.

"I can't remember another year facing such conditions so early, in early and mid-June," meteorologist Thodoris Giannaros told state TV. On Friday, a 55-year-old man died in hospital after being injured in a blaze in the region of Iliia on Greece's Peloponnese peninsula, as several fires burned on Greece's southern tip. Several hundred firefighters have been deployed to battle more than 70 forest fires across the country since Friday. High winds and hot temperatures will extend the risk into Sunday, the fire service said. Earlier on Saturday, firefighters tamed a forest fire on the island of Salamina, in the Saronic Gulf west of Athens.



A rocket carrying a satellite jointly developed by China and France, lifts off from a space base at Xichang, in China's south-western Sichuan province.

PM's recent visit to China highly significant in Pak-China friendly relationship: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal said that the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China was termed highly significant in the context of Pak-China friendly relationship.

He expressed these words while talking in a programme aired on a private news channel the other day. He said he had been participated along with the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in all meetings there in China. He said that Chinese leadership was very enthusiastic and committed to help Pakistan in different ventures.

He said that it was Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif's wish to enhance industrial-level contacts with China to promote industrialization between the two states. Minister said that we had focused on enhancing business-to-business relationships to promote the industries.

He said that China's leading telecom company, Huawei, would become a strategic partner of Pakistan in the transformation of the Pakistani economy to a digital economy.

He was also optimistic that the company would provide IT training to 0.3 million Pakistani youth.

While talking about the gains in the larger context of CPEC he said China was committed to starting five corridors in the up-

graded version of CPEC in Pakistan.

He said that the first corridor would be a 'corridor of growth' bringing rapid economic growth to Pakistan, and the second corridor would be a 'corridor of livelihood' under which socioeconomic programs would be developed, poverty would be eradicated, and jobs would be created. Speaking about the third corridor, which he called the "corridor of innovation, we had a special focus on artificial intelligence (AI) and as everyone knows that the world was far away in this sector and China was also competing with the world, we would take advantage from Chinese's experts and make



QUETTA: View of city gives desert look due to hot weather of summer season, in Quetta.



LAHORE: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

HEC signs contract to automate Pak universities with TMC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) via its Higher Education Development Programme in Pakistan (HEDP) held a contract signing ceremony where key personnel and leadership of HEC and Tally Marks Consulting (TMC) were present.

The signing ceremony represents a significant milestone for Pakistan's higher education sector, said a press release.

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) receiving state-of-the-art Student Lifecycle Systems (SLC) and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) will completely digitise their admin-

istrative, accounting, operations, and end-to-end student lifecycle processes from admission to degree completion.

All the leading universities of the world have already adopted these systems and this activity marks HEC's commitment as well as investment to implement the same in Pakistani HEIs. The systems enhance efficiency, and transparency and promptly provide key higher education data for decision making.

At the signing ceremony Chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, Executive Director HEC Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum, MD TMC Abdul Haseeb, and Partner Direc-

Govt to arrange in-camera briefing for lawmakers: Minister for Law

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar on Sunday informed the National Assembly that the government would arrange an in-camera briefing in the parliament for the lawmakers.

Speaking on the floor of the House, referring to the leadership of the Sunni Ittehad Council, he said, "Your Prime Minister has not attended the in-camera briefing on security issues in the parliament, but my Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, along with the cabinet, will attend the in-camera briefing."

The minister said that

the government will call an in-camera session to take all the political parties into confidence on the country's security issues. He said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the entire cabinet will also participate in the in-camera briefing. Azam Nazeer Tarar said that in the past the prime minister was refusing to sit with the opposition, but Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif wants to take all the political parties into confidence and work together on the issue. He said that the resolution and legalisation presented in the Parliament are significant for national security and defence which

is not only an issue of the government.

The minister said that the sanctity of the house is very important which all the stakeholders want to take care of, and the government wants to take all the political parties along with it.

On this occasion, MQM MNA, Khawaja Izhurul Hassan urged the house to run according to the constitution and said that the opposition must show responsibility.

Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that the Parliament is the supreme institution and no one can supersede the Parliament.

Ashrafi condemns Swat incident, calls for speedy trial of similar cases

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has called for joint efforts to eliminate extremism from the country and to educate society. Addressing a press conference at Lahore Press Club here on Sunday, he strongly condemned the tragic incident of Swat, emphasising that neither Islamic laws nor the Constitution and laws of Pakistan permit the killing or immolation any human being. Ashrafi expressed his deep regret over the increasing frequency of such incidents, highlighting that the measures taken against the perpetrators have been insufficient. It is responsibility of the state and judi-

ciary to administer punishment to an accused of blasphemy acts or desecration of the holy book, he said. He also condemned the on-going trend of individuals taking the law into their own hands, acting as judge, jury, and executioner, as wholly unacceptable. He stressed that cases of blasphemy, religious disrespect, and holy books' desecration should be resolved within three months, calling on the chief justice to prioritise these cases over political and other matters.

In a passionate call for unity and mutual cooperation, he urged local religious and political leaders and authorities to have an effective collaboration and liaison to usher in positive changes.

Pakistani internet influencer showcases talent at 'Chinese Bridge Competition'

BEIJING (APP): In a global showcase of linguistic prowess and cultural understanding, Usman, a Pakistani internet influencer and a student at Beijing Language and Culture University, participated in the Chinese Bridge - Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreigners Around the Globe - Storytelling Contest, held in Zhangjiajie, Hunan province.

The contest, which gathered 49 contestants from 37 countries last week, provided a platform for participants to showcase their proficiency in the Chinese language and share their unique stories of connections with China, local media reported.

Kurram IED blast martyrs laid to rest with full military honours

RAWALPINDI (APP): The martyrs of Kurram District improvised explosive device (IED) blast occurred on June 21st were laid to rest with full military honours in their native towns on Sunday.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, "Five brave soldiers of the motherland, Havaldar Aqeel Ahmed Shaheed (Age: 33 years, District Okara), Lance Naik Muhammad Tafeer Shaheed (Age: 30 years, District Poonch), Sepoy Anush Rafoon Shaheed (Age: 24 years, District Attock), Sepoy Muhammad Azam Khan Shaheed (Age: 26 years, District Haripur) and Sepoy Haroon William Shaheed (Age: 29 years, Islamabad) who embraced martyrdom on June 21, 2024, in the explosion of a landmine planted by terrorists in Kurram district were buried with full military honours in their native areas." A large number of senior serving officers and soldiers, families of martyrs and local people participated in the funeral prayer and burial.



QUETTA: Lango Tribal Leaders, Mir Attaullah Lango Advocate, Tikri Agha Muhammad Lango and others addressing a press conference.

1st human milk bank suspended after Dar-ul-Uloom fatwa

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan's pioneering Human Milk Bank, established at the Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology (SICHN), has been suspended following a new fatwa issued by Dar-ul-Uloom Karachi. The suspension comes after the institute sought further guidance from the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) regarding the project.

The milk bank, which was launched with an initial fatwa from Darul Uloom Karachi, was designed to

provide breast milk to premature infants who lacked sufficient maternal nutrition. However, a revised fatwa dated June 16, 2024, has led to the suspension of the initiative. SICHN, in a statement, cited recent religious decrees from prominent scholars and Madaris as the reason for the suspension, stating their commitment to respecting religious and cultural sensitivities. Dr. Jamal Raza, head of SICHN, emphasized the critical need for the milk bank.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council, Allama Tahir Ashrafi is addressing a press conference at the Press Club.

GoB releases Rs861 mln in FY 2023-24 to expedite Mangi Dam construction

QUETTA (APP): The incumbent Balochistan government has released Rs861 million in the current financial year 2023-24 to expedite the construction work on Mangi Dam to provide clean water to the residents of Quetta. The provincial government soon after taking the charge has released the funds for the construction of Mangi Dam to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to the masses of Quetta city.

Mangi Dam being constructed with the cost of Rs 19 billion would provide 80 million gallons of water daily to Quetta city and surrounding areas, an official of Balochistan government said. He said Mangi Dam would be completed soon as per the schedule as the develop-

ment work on Mangi Dam had been accelerated.

He said that the construction of the Mangi Dam would help overcome the shortfall of water in the area where rain water is the only source of filling the dams. With the completion of Mangi Dam the water shortage issue would be resolved in the provincial capital, he added. He said resolving water issue was the top priority of the incumbent government. He added that steps were being taken to achieve the target and to ensure availability of safe drinking water to the people of the province. The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti lead government has also released Rs351 million to shift 493 water supply schemes to solar energy in different districts.



QUETTA: Tokhi Foundation Chairman, Haji Sharif Khan Khilji addresses during the ceremony on the occasion of 7th foundation day, in Quetta

اظہار تشکر

اشرف ترین (ر) چیف انجینئر کنیسکو کی شہادت پر جن عزیز اوقارب دوست احباب، گورنرز، وزرائے، سپریم کورٹ اور ہائی کورٹ کے چیف جسٹس، میجرز، وکلاء، ڈاکٹرز، انجینئرز، پروفیسرز، سیاسی اور قبائلی عمائدین، ارکان اسمبلی اور علما کرام جو خود بخود تشریف لائے اور جنہوں نے بذریعہ ٹیلی فون متاثرہ خاندان سے اظہار ہمدردی کی ان سے متاثرہ خاندان اظہار تشکر کرتے ہیں۔

منجانب

پروفیسر ڈاکٹر اقبال ترین، اسحاق ترین، انجینئر رشید ترین، ڈاکٹر اویس ترین، امیر ترین، ڈاکٹر اقبال، نواز زہدہ خیام جوگیزئی، نواز زہدہ خطاب جوگیزئی، ظہور ترین، ہمایوں ترین، ڈاکٹر ماک ترین اور انجینئر آصف ترین و عزیز واقارب۔

GoB allocates Rs 35 billion for LG in budget 2024-25

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has enhanced the grant of local government and allocated Rs 35 billion for local government in the budget for the year 2024-25 to strengthen the local government system in the province.

The incumbent government has increased the grant of local government by 108 percent from Rs 16.8 billion allocated in previous year to Rs 35 billion in the next fiscal year 2024-25 which will make the Local Council Finance Com-

mission more powerful and stable.

Talking to APP, an official of Balochistan government said a strong and empowered local government system would contribute to work on ground level. He assured government's full support for providing the basic framework which was pre-requisite for the success of local governments.

He said that the government was committed to further strengthening the local bodies which will transform the development

landscape in Balochistan. He added that the role of local bodies is vital in resolving the basic problems of the people.

In order to strengthen the local government system, the provincial government has committed to formalize effective implementation and transformation of the real power at grassroots level.

The incumbent government in the current financial year 2023-24 has released Rs 4.7 billion to resolve the financial crisis of the local councils.

All victims of laptop burst incident die, death toll rises to 9

FAISALABAD (APP): The death toll of laptop burst incident has risen to 9 with the expiry of all victims while receiving treatment at Burns Unit of Allied Hospital-1.

According to police, some children were using laptop in a house situated at Satiana Road Mohallah Sharifpura, Batala Colony police precincts, when it reportedly caught fire all of sudden on Wednesday, June 19.

The fire engulfed the entire surroundings and caused death of two children including 9-year-old Talha, son of Muhammad Ahmad, and his sister Dua Fatima, six-year-old, on-the-spot.

Swat lynching: Police arrest 23, JIT formed to unearth truth

SWAT / PESHAWAR (INP): Police have arrested 23 persons and shifted them to some undisclosed location for interrogation over the charges of setting a person on fire and torching a police station over the blasphemy accusations, just days after the gruesome murder shocked entire country. The police say raids are being conducted to arrest the other accused involved in the incident which occurred in Madyan - a picturesque town and tehsil headquarter in Swat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

It is located 50 kilometres north of Mingora - the main city of Swat, which is the third largest in the province.

The local police have registered two FIRs in connection with the episode: one covers those who attacked the Madyan Police Station and murdered the person who is nominated, in the second one over the blasphemy charges.

The government has notified formation of joint investigation team (JIT) to unearth the facts related to the incident. It comprises nine-member and is headed by the SP investigation.

On Saturday, a report prepared by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) which had described shifting the accused to the police station as the biggest mistake after his arrest from a local hotel where he was staying. It added that the area SHO neither sought guidance from the local top officials nor ensured the safety of the accused by transporting him to some undisclosed place.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Senior politician and former Senator Nawabzada Haji Mir Lashkari Khan Raisani, Mir Humayun Aziz Kurd condoling with Senator Nawabzada Umar Farooq Kasi on sad demise of Nawab Abdul Zahir Kasi