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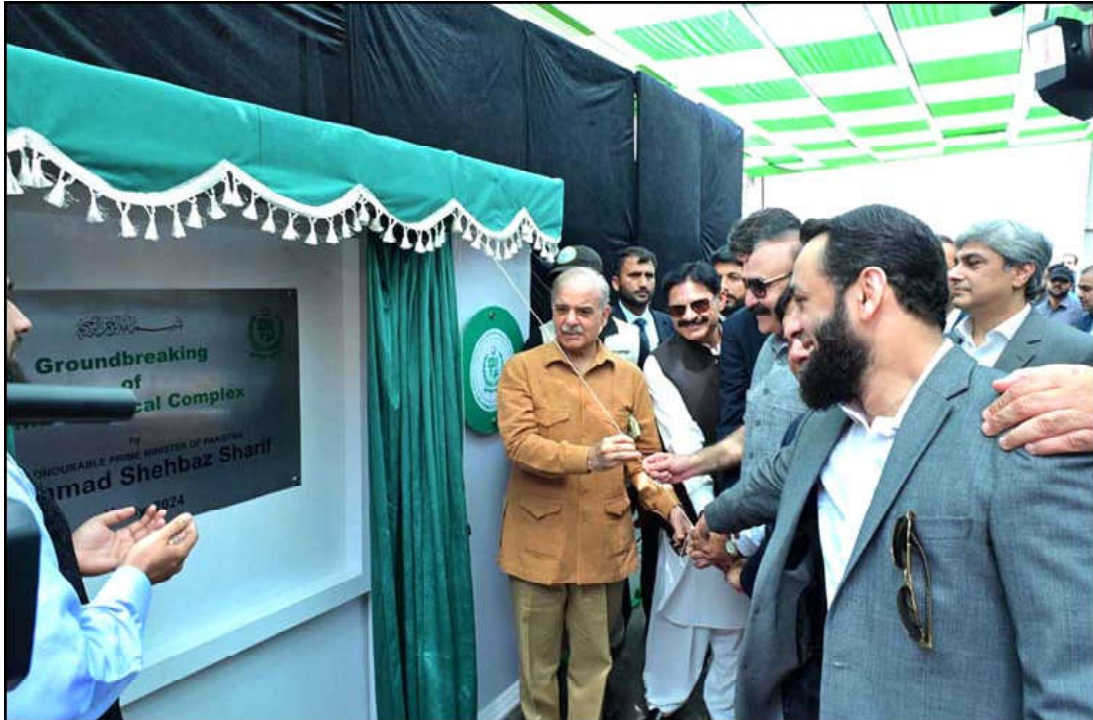
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Gwadar

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveiling a plaque during the groundbreaking of Jinnah Medical Complex.

Gov't determined to provide 100% free medical facilities to deserving patients: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said the government was determined to provide state of the art free healthcare facilities to the deserving patients across the country.

Addressing a groundbreaking ceremony of Jinnah Medical Complex here, the prime minister said the Complex was going to be the region's one of the best medical center where the deserving people would get 100% free medical treatment.

"This is the gift of the

coalition government not only for the residents of the Rawalpindi and Islamabad but for the people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan as well," PM Shehbaz Sharif said.

He said once completed, the medical complex would offer the world's best healthcare facilities with various sections of diseases related to heart, kidneys, lungs, cancer and others. Furthermore, he said a modern first aid emergency section would also be established at the hospital

with facility of air ambulance service for patients belonging to hard areas.

He said the nursing schools and laboratories would also be established in the hospital and the deserving patients would avail 100% lab tests facility.

The prime minister emphasized that this was the same model envisioned by PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to provide free medical facilities only to the poor and on-payment facilities to the well-off people at the same place.

PTI pursuing agenda to create uncertainty in Pakistan: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage on Sunday termed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) a "terrorist and chaotic" party which sought nothing but "dead bodies" to get people's sympathy for political mileage.

"Whenever there was a protest, they (PTI) always look for the dead bodies and tried to get their own people killed for putting the blame on the police, the government and the (local) administra-

tion," the minister said while addressing a news conference.

Their nefarious agenda began with 2014 sit-in which did not end with the May 9 mayhem as they

still resorted to hatch conspiracies to derail the system and decimate the economy, Tarar said citing the recent firing in Bannu peace rally arranged by the peaceful traders.



Major reshuffling in health dept. as 18 doctors transferred to Loralai from Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: Major reshuffling has been made in the Health Department, Balochistan as many as 18 doctors were transferred to Loralai from Quetta.

According to the official notifications issued here by the Provincial Health Department, the transfers of doctors including three Chief Medical Officers and four senior Medical Officers have been made from Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital and Bolan Medical Complex Hospital Quetta to Loralai.

Three senior Medical Officers and a Chief Medical Officer was transferred to District Headquarter Hospital Loralai from Quetta.

Similarly, the services of two Chief Medical Officers and a senior Medical Officer were handed over to DHQ Hospital Loralai.

Besides, 11 lady doc-

tors have also been transferred to Loralai, who otherwise were posted in different hospitals of Quetta.

They are included seven senior Lady Medical Officers and four Lady Medical Officers, the notification mentioned.

Among them, six lady doctors have been directed to report in the Teaching Hospital Loralai while services of five lady doctors have been handed over to the District Health Officer Loralai.

Meanwhile, according to another notification, medical officer of DHQ Duki, Dr. Fareed has been suspended with approval of the competent authority.

It may be mentioned here that the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti had expressed displeasure over performance of the hospitals operating in Loralai including the Teaching Hospital.

Ziaullah Langove leaves for Turkey on four-day's official visit

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove left for Turkey on four-day official visit, on Sunday.

According to an official hand out issued here, the Provincial Minister Home would perform official responsibilities during visit to Turkey.

He would also hold meetings with the officials in Turkey. The hand out mentioned that the important objective behind visit of the Provincial Minister to Turkey is initiatives for development of the province.

Provincial Minister Health visits Sukkur Barrage: Balochistan to be provided due share of water from Kirthar canal, assures Sindh Minister to Faisal Jamali

Sardarzada Faisal Jamali says zamindars of Balochistan facing hardships due to non-supply of water as per province's share from Kirthar canal

Independent Report
Sukkur Barrage, Mansoor Memon about the situation of water supply from the barrage.

Also present on the occasion were Sardar Muhammad Haroon Khan Jamali, Norez Khan Jamali, Mir Zulfiqar Khan Jamali, Mir Nadeem Khan Jamali, Salar Khan Jamali, Executive Engineer, Kirthar canal, Gul Hasan Khosa, Khair Bakhsh Lashari and representatives of Zamindars Association.

The Minister Health Balochistan pointed out that the zamindars of the province are facing hardships due to non-supply of water as per the province's share from Kirthar canal, and as such there is a need to prevent the situation.

He demanded to ensure supply of water to Balochistan from the Khanki area instead of Ghadak point.

He said that if Balochistan is provided its due share of water, then it can irrigate vast land of the province.

CM Balochistan arrives in Multan on short visit

MULTAN (APP): Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Khan Bugti arrived in city on short visit here Sunday, according to official sources, the chief minister was welcomed by additional Chief Secretary

Monsoon rains claim 10 lives in Balochistan

QUETTA (INP): Recent monsoon rains in Balochistan have resulted in 10 fatalities and 31 injuries across various incidents, according to a report by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

The PDMA's report details significant human and material losses in several districts of the province due to the ongoing monsoon season. Since June 7, the rains have caused numerous accidents, including roof and wall collapses, leading to 10 deaths and 31 injuries, with children



LAHORE: Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for release of PTI Founder Imran Khan, at Lahore press club.

Pakistan summons German ambassador Afghan nationals attack Pakistani consulate in Germany

FO says German gov't responsible to provide security; Demands German authorities take immediate measures to arrest and prosecute culprits

FANKFURT (INP): A group of Afghan nationals protested and tried to enter the Pakistani Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany.

Reports indicate that the Afghan nationals were allowed to hold a peaceful protest by German authorities but they turned violent and threw stones at the consulate building, leading to heightened tensions.

German police have detained two Afghan nationals and anticipate more arrests as they continue to identify additional protesters with the help of video

footage.

In response to the incident, Pakistani diplomatic officials have raised the matter with the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin. The German authorities have assured the Pakistani diplomats that a thorough investigation will be conducted.

The Pakistani Foreign Office is considering summoning German officials to lodge an official protest at the diplomatic level, reflecting the seriousness of the situation and the need for enhanced security mea-

asures to protect diplomatic missions.

The incident has sparked concerns over the safety of diplomatic premises and personnel, prompting calls for stricter security protocols and better cooperation between host countries and diplomatic missions to prevent such occurrences in the future.

APP adds: Pakistan on Sunday strongly condemned attack by a gang of extremists on its consulate in Frankfurt, Germany on Saturday (July 20) and the

failure of the German authorities to protect the sanctity and security of the premises of its consular Mission.

"Under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963 it is the responsibility of the host government to protect the sanctity of the consular premises and ensure the security of diplomats," a statement issued by the Foreign Office said.

It added that in yesterday's incident, the security of Pakistan's consulate in Frankfurt was



The picture shows Afghan nationals attacking Pakistan consulate in Frankfurt, Germany.

Holy Kaaba given bath with Zamzam and performed in revered ceremony

MAKKAH (INP): The sacred ceremony of bathing the Kaaba was conducted in Makkah, with the door of the Holy Kaaba opened to perform this revered ritual. This elaborate tradition occurs twice a year and involves washing the Kaaba with Zamzam and rose water.

The TV channel reported that after bathing, the Kaaba is perfumed with fine fragrances such as pure OOD, rose water, and incense. The interior of the Kaaba is washed using 45 litres of scented Zamzam water. Typically, the door is opened for the washing right after dawn prayers.

The inner walls of the Kaaba are three metres high, with the ceiling covered in green silken cloth.

The Maqame-e-Ibrahim, which bears the footprints of Prophet Ibrahim (RA), is also washed during the ceremony. Imams and officials from Haramain Sharifain administrative affairs were present at the event.

'Being treated like a terrorist in jail', claims Imran Khan

RAWALPINDI (INP) - Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan claimed that he is being denied basic human rights in jail.

In an interview to a foreign publication, the former prime minister alleged that he is being treated like a terrorist.

The rare interview was conducted through his lawyers from behind the bars.

The PTI founder is behind the bars for almost a year since his conviction in three cases - the Toshakhana reference, the cipher case, and the Iddat case. His spouse Bushra Bibi is also detained.

Imran Khan was later acquitted in all the cases before being rearrested again by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a fresh Toshakhana case, leaving his possible release from prison hanging in the balance. "I am confined in a 7ft by 8ft death cell, typically reserved for terrorists to ensure they have no contact with anyone," he said in the interview given to a

foreign publication.

"It is solitary confinement with barely any space to move," said Imran Khan while adding that he is under strict surveillance all the time.

He said in the interview that his party secured a significant majority of approximately 175 seats, not the 93 that were officially acknowledged after the Feb 8 elections.

According to Imran Khan, he spends most of the time in future planning as he will be back soon.

"Despite being caged, the entire country looks to me for hope and resilience. Most importantly, my prayers keep me steadfast, my belief in God assures me that justice will prevail over tyranny," he said.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar refuted the reports of PTI founder being kept in the death cell in jail.

"He is being kept in the presidential suite with lot of facilities including separate kitchen, exercise machine and a special gallery for walk," said Tarar.



QUETTA: Jahanzeb Jamaldini, Sajid Tareen Advocate, Akhtar Hussain Lango, Musa Baloch, Shakeel Naveed Dehwar, Ghulam Nabi Marri, Ahmed Nawaz Baloch and others sitting on stage during condolence reference in memory of Shuhada-e-Balochistan organized by Balochistan National Party (Mengal) and BSO District Quetta

Pakistan to urge Chinese power firms in country to shift to local coal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan this month will ask Chinese power plants operating in the country to shift to using coal from Pakistan's Thar region rather than imported coal, the power minister said on Sunday.

Islamabad may also begin talks on re-profiling Pakistan's energy sector debt during the visit to Beijing, Awais Leghari, head of the energy ministry's Power Division, told Reuters.

Leghari will be part of the delegation to discuss structural reforms to the power sector suggested by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which last week agreed on a \$7 billion bailout for the heavily indebted South Asian nation.

Neighbouring China has set up over \$20 billion worth of energy projects in Pakistan.

"One of the key purposes of going along is the conversion of our imported coal units to the local coal.

That would have a huge impact on the cost of energy, of power in the near future. So that is one of the biggest (items on the) agenda," Leghari said in an interview.

Such a transition would benefit the Chinese-owned plants in Pakistan by reducing pressure on Islamabad's foreign exchange reserves, he said, making it easier to repatriate dividends and offering a better return in dollar terms.

Shafqat Mahmood announces retirement from politics

LAHORE (INP): Senior PTI leader and former Federal Minister Shafqat Mahmood has announced his retirement from politics.

In a message shared on social media, Mahmood stated, "34 years ago, I resigned from my government job to step into politics. After much deliberation, I have now decided to retire from politics."

He expressed his desire to dedicate the remainder of his life to writing and teaching, emphasizing that this decision was made independently, without any external pressure or intention to join another political party. Mahmood clarified that his announcement solely concerns his departure from politics, driven by the demands of time and age.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Olympics contingent

From 10 in Tokyo the last time, it is now down to seven in Paris, and split across just three disciplines. When Pakistan's contingent marches out for the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics next week, it will be the country's smallest in the history of the Games — matching the seven athletes sent to Rio de Janeiro in 2016. The failure of the hockey team to qualify for three Olympics straight has contributed to the downsizing of the contingent, but it is also reflective of how Pakistan has fallen behind as a sporting nation.

Countries across the world, smaller in size and population, have used sports as a tool to promote a soft image. In Pakistan, however, there has been all talk and little action. Hardly any attention is paid to reforming a crumbling sports structure; policies for its revival remain stuck on the table and rarely take to the field. Despite all that, however, and relying purely on natural talent, Pakistan do have a genuine medal hope at the Olympics. Javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem not only qualified for the Games but also has a realistic chance of ending Pakistan's 32-year Olympic medal drought. Shooter Kishmala Talat, Pakistan's first marksman to qualify for the Games and who won bronze at the Asian Games last year, holds an outside chance. But that's about it.

For a country that once prided itself on its athletes, it is a sign of how fast matters have declined. It also indicates the lack of a proper national sports policy or framework. Federations for each sport run on their own, most claiming they are only answerable to their respective global bodies and not to the government. Athletes are complaining about the lack of funds and sporting events. It is a situation that must be urgently addressed. The government should work with the federations to formulate a national sports code to ensure greater participation and more medal chances.

75 years of Nato

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

At the Nato Summit in Washington this month, marking 75 years of the alliance's existence, the Russia-Ukraine war dominated discussions. The summit declaration condemned Russia for its "brutal war of aggression" against Ukraine, and its "irresponsible nuclear rhetoric and coercive nuclear signalling".

Expressing full solidarity with Ukraine, Nato's 32 members pledged long-term security assistance for Ukraine, including a new baseline funding of 40 billion euros within the next year. Nato has deployed combat-ready forces on its eastern flank; over 500,000 forces are in high readiness. The declaration also announced that "Ukraine's future is in Nato" and the alliance would take further steps to support Ukraine's "irreversible path to full Euro-Atlantic integration".

The Nato-Russia rivalry goes back to the time of the Cold War between the US and Soviet Union. Nato was born on April 4, 1949, when 12 countries from Western Europe and North America came together in Washington, D.C. to sign the North Atlantic Treaty. Under Article 5 of the treaty, the members committed to defend each other through political and military means and counter the threat posed by the Soviet-led communist world. President Harry S. Truman's historic address to the US Congress in March 1949 is noted as the start of the Cold War.

Moscow reacted by forming a political and military alliance between the Soviet Union and East European states — the Warsaw Pact of 1955. A bitter rivalry ensued, which ended only with the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Nato recalibrated its mandate

and began expanding eastwards, much to the discomfort of Russia, the Soviet Union's successor state. To pacify Russian concerns, a Nato-Russia Permanent Joint Council was formed in 1997, and Russia was admitted to G7, making it G8. However, Russia's leadership, particularly President Vladimir Putin, had concerns that Nato wasn't sensitive to Russian security needs and was violating its commitment not to move "an inch eastwards". Some Western scholars have argued that this commitment was only discussed but never agreed. However, Moscow's main concern, that lethal missiles should not be deployed in states bordering Russia, was never addressed.

When Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, Nato suspended cooperation with Russia and started deploying multinational battlegroups in the Baltic states and Poland. In February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. The Nato countries declared Russia "a direct threat to Euro-Atlantic security" and decided to lend full support to Ukraine's war effort. However, fearing global escalation, Nato chose not to deploy its own troops in Ukraine.

After the summit, the Nato secretary general announced that four additional battlegroups had been deployed in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. As if to provoke Russia further, Bosnia, Georgia and Ukraine were also recognised by Nato as "aspiring members". The summit declaration affirmed an "ironclad" commitment that every inch of allied territory would be defended as per Article 5 of the treaty.

A notable feature of the summit was a commitment by Nato members to strengthen partnerships in the Asia-Pacific. Four non-Nato countries (Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea) were invited to the summit as "Indo-Pacific partners". Will Nato expand its ambit to the Indo-Pacific region? The summit declared that "Indo-Pacific is important for Nato given that developments in that region directly affect Euro-Atlantic security".

While the summit declaration criticised China for being "a decisive enabler of Russia's war", it made no reference to India, even though India has maintained close economic and military ties with Russia and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Moscow coincided with the Nato summit. Some American analysts have argued that the Indo-Russia relationship serves as a "modest check" on a growing Russia-China partnership.

As for financing of Nato operations, the Wales summit in 2014 had decided that each member state would spend at least two per cent of its GDP on defence. However, nearly one-third of Nato members have still not met this commitment. US leaders, particularly Donald Trump, have often admonished Europeans for not paying enough for Europe's defence. As per Nato's website, the alliance seeks to promote democratic values, cooperate on defence and security-related issues, and undertake crisis management operations. This is a mandate broader than the one Nato had started out with. Nato appears to have become an instrument in the hands of the US-led West to assert its dominance over the world order. Since major centres of power have emerged in Asia, particularly China, Nato's further political and military involvement in Asia Pacific cannot be ruled out. -- Courtesy Dawn

Past the point

Muna Khan

Though not from a very religious family, I take the 9th and 10th of Muharram pretty seriously. It's a sombre time — and one that has been observed for generations, according to the stories the elders share. We had a relative who was famed for her recitation of nohas at majalis in our ancestral village in UP. Not all traditions have been maintained — we're not setting up sabeels, fasting on the 9th or 10th, wearing sober colours in the first 10 days, and we're not making and sharing haleem with neighbours.

Now we watch TV, which airs regular programmes, unlike when we were growing up. We still watch Shami-Ghariban and Aakhri Salaam transmissions, even though the orators are less skilled than Rasheed Turabi or Nasir Jahan. We certainly do not attend parties — which I was stunned to discover, occur. Two friends — one who is Shia — were separately invited to a large get-together because their hosts wanted to make the most of the break. This speaks to a lot of insensitivity that's crept in, more so in the last decade.

Also, when did we start wishing a happy new year on the first of Muharram? And being so vocal against cellular and traffic 'disruptions' on the 9th and 10th of the month? The anger is misdirected at a community that is vulnerable to violence. If taking a different route ends up saving lives, what is the big deal? Am I sounding like a grouch, lamenting the end of traditions that made this country so great?

Meanwhile, there are certain other traditions that should be sanctioned to the

dustbin of history because they are hurdles to progress. 'Yeh hamara culture hai' (this is our culture) has been used to force people into making decisions against their will. Almost all traditions related to women are just attempts to control her body and mind. Thankfully, attitudes towards marriage are changing here — the more women have access to education, the more they want financial independence and choose to marry, or not, whenever they want, or don't. Divorce is not the end of the world. They will speak about abuse and violence they faced. They will demand justice.

Of course, we have miles to go before we can root out the patriarchal values that keep us in the dark ages, but it's inspiring to see the brave young women and men challenging norms sold to us as 'yeh hamara culture hai'.

But these aren't the traditions I'm speaking of. I'm talking of a culture that lived with differences, be it caste and creed or opinion. Our parents/ grandparents often participated in celebrations during Diwali, Christmas, Nauroze and other festivals. Their homes were open during Eid. But the change has been sad to watch, especially because it's been replaced with ugliness.

When I was first taught one term at a private school in Karachi in 2001, all students from all backgrounds participated in the annual milad. When I returned to teach a term in 2014, a significant portion of students sat the milad out on religious grounds — which is their right. I only quote that example here to demonstrate the shift in practices.

A few years later, the same school

dropped plans for students to perform Imagine by John Lennon — a long-standing tradition — because a journalist at an Urdu newspaper tweeted his objection, saying the song encouraged atheism. Lennon imagined a world without hate in his song, but the talking heads on prime TV, who took the story up, said the school was encouraging secularism.

Every year that passes, I think of young folks having less of a connection to what we were like once; how we coexisted, shared in our happiness and grief as multicultural communities do.

I feel this way about the stories I hear of Karachi before my birth — of discos and dances and bands flying in to perform. I have only seen the city as violent and now decrepit. It's wild to see ads for cabaret performances in Karachi in the 1950s and 1960s printed in this paper. I doubt everyone liked these events, but there was a culture of live and let live.

Now it's about dictating how others should live. Is it any wonder that people want to leave?

I'm not naive to think that tolerance is a pill that'll fix us, but perhaps adopting a zero-tolerance attitude, if not policies, may be a good place to start. Refuse to tolerate misogyny, hate crimes, bullying by any one group that thinks its ideology is threatened and sanctions violence in the name of religion. We have lived side by side in the past and can find our way back and we know no leader is gutsy enough to lead us. So, it must be us, who record our stories, and lead by example. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pak exports seafood worth \$410.2 million in FY2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned \$410.268 million by exporting 200,709 metric tonnes of fish and fish preparations during the fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Wednesday.

As compared to the exports of \$496.565 million during fiscal year 2022-23, the fish exports during the FY2023-24 witnessed a decline of 17.38 percent, according to PBS data.

In terms of quantity, the exports of fish and fish preparations decreased by 6.45 percent during the year when compared to exports of 214,542 metric

tonnes during the last fiscal year.

On a year-on-year basis, the seafood exports decreased by 22.19 percent to \$31.044 million in June 2024 as compared to the exports of \$39.896 million in June 2023.

In terms of quantity, the exports witnessed a 16.99 percent decrease by going down from 18,901 metric tonnes last year to 15,689 metric tonnes during FY 2024.

On a month-on-month basis, the seafood exports declined by 16.26 percent when compared to the exports of \$37.070 million in May, according

to the PBS data.

In terms of quantity, fish exports decreased by 16.45 in June compared to the exports of 18,778 metric tonnes in May 2024.

The overall food group exports from Pakistan increased by 46.77 percent during the year as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Food exports during July-June (2023-24) were recorded at \$7,369.917 million as compared to the exports of \$5,021.290 million in July-June (2022-23), according to the latest PBS data.

Kisan Card awareness workshop held in Murree

RAWALPINDI (APP): Murree's Agriculture Department (Extension and Research) organized an awareness workshop for the farmers regarding membership of Kisan Card, Kisan Package and other agricultural procedures. The farmers were educated about the eligibility criterion and benefits of the Kisan card. According to the details, Director Agriculture (Extension) Shahid Ifikhar Bukhari and Deputy Director Dr Muhammad Ahmed visited Union Council Potha Sharif and Sahana village where the awareness workshop

was held. MNA Osama Ashfaq Sarwar was the chief guest at the session.

The Director of Agriculture apprised the farmers about Kisan Package, Kisan Card membership procedure and other schemes including Green Tractor Scheme and Development of Model Agriculture Centres. During the workshop an interactive session was also held in which different queries from the farmers were responded. The audience was informed about various initiatives being taken by the government in agriculture sector.

Consumers get Rs3 per unit power bills in AJK after protest

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): The Azad Kashmir government has issued electricity bills according to the new tariff, charging consumers Rs3 per unit.

As per details, the development came after violent protests and an agreement was signed between the government and the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC). The Azad Kashmir government has fulfilled its promise to provide affordable electricity to the public.



HYDERABAD: Laborers are busy in repairing works to generators to earn their livelihood for support their families, at their workplace in Hyderabad.

Livestock Dept to distribute bucks, rams among farmers to boost wool, meat production

MULTAN (APP): In a significant move to enhance livestock quality and bolster agricultural productivity, the Livestock Department has announced the distribution of 5,300 high-breed bucks and rams to cattle farmers.

This initiative, aimed at improving animal breeds and increasing milk, meat and wool production, will revolutionize the cattle farming, said Deputy Director Livestock Dr

Jamshaid while talking to APP, here on Sunday.

The distribution program, which will be free of cost, is designed to support farmers by supplying them with superior genetic stock. These bucks and rams, bred and prepared at the government's specialized farms, are expected to bring about a notable improvement in the livestock's productivity and overall health, he

maintained.

"One of the key criteria for eligibility in this program is that the recipient farmers must own at least 25 animals.

This requirement ensures that the provided high-breed bucks and rams are integrated into herds where their genetic advantages can be fully utilized and effectively contribute to breeding programs", said Deputy Director Dr Jamshaid.

FTO says: Excessive FBR tax demands fall under maladministration

LAHORE (APP): Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jah has categorically held that excessive or exaggerated tax demands from taxpayers by Federal Board of Revenue fall under the purview of maladministration. Talking to a delegation of businessmen community, led by Chaudhry Abdullah Bin Hasbiullah, here on Sunday, he said the FTO secretariat is exclusively aimed at to address the tax related genuine grievances of taxpayers. He said he had in a complaint categorical observed that such injustice and lapses on the part of FBR would never be tolerated. On the other

hand, he also categorically made it clear that lawfully admissible taxes must also be paid timely within stipulated period to run the affairs of the state.

Dr Asif Jah said he had barred the FBR from excessive tax deductions from the pays and wages of the low paid employees. He said any aggrieved taxpayer could contact nearest FTO regional offices either by person or in writing application through ordinary post or email or WhatsApp or telephone in case of emergency or submit application to him to help addressing their grievances with 60 days.



ISLAMABAD: People selecting and purchasing shoes from a makeshift stall at H-9 weekly bazaar.

Renewable Energy Resources: A quest for resilient energy landscape

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Pakistan strides towards a future defined by sustainable development and energy security, the spotlight turns to a diverse array of renewable energy (RE) sources, including hydropower, wind, solar, and bagasse.

These resources collectively emerge as pillars of hope in Pakistan's quest for a greener and more resilient energy landscape to curtail ever-increasing country's fuel import bill and materialize the dream of affordable energy.

As the present government buttress efforts to tap the potential of clean energy, particularly solar,

launching of its National Solar Energy Initiative, aims at tapping this rich potential to replace costly hydel energy with cheaper solar power.

"With its favorable geographical location and abundant natural resources, Pakistan has vast potential for renewable energy, boasting of over 64,000 MW hydel and up to 2.9 million MW of solar energy," remarked Managing Director Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB) Dr Shah Jahan Mirza.

"Then we have an inexhaustible supply of wind power reaching up to 132,000 MW potential and 175 billion-ton Thar Coal Reserve as a cost-effective

indigenous fuel option for base load power generation for decades," Mirza said.

He said the government is focusing on harnessing these resources to curb emission of greenhouse by 2030 with hopes that renewable energy contributes to affordable electricity nationwide and stabilizes energy prices in the long run.

It also aligns with the United Nations SDGs, particularly Goal 7 by promoting access to clean energy, alleviating poverty, addressing climate change and access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, Mirza explained.

PPIB is a policy

implementing agency of the government, focusing on clean and indigenous power generation and facilitates installation of private sector power plants in hydropower, solar, wind and Bagasse.

Dr Shah Jahan informed that pursuant to IGCEP 2022-31, the proposed share of renewable energy resources is 12,926 MW solar and 6,767 MW wind as the share of hydropower in national energy mix will be increased from 25% to 33%, from 10,847 MW to 22,701 MW. "This indicates that total share of clean and green energy in domestic installed capacity is targeted to be 62% by 2031."

He said the Framework Guidelines for Fast-Track Solar PV Initiatives 2022 had already been launched to address the impact of high international oil and LNG prices on electricity tariffs and foreign exchange reserves. "These initiatives include, substitution of expensive imported fossil fuels with Solar PV Energy, Solar PV Generation on 11 kV Feeders and solarization of public buildings."

It is worth mentioning that to reduce high electricity tariffs and drain of precious foreign exchange, the Government approved Framework Guidelines for Fast-Track Solar PV Initiatives 2022.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling bananas to customers at his stall in weekly Sunday Bazaar in the Federal Capital.



ABBOTABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing Workers Convention at PPP Division Secretariat.

Governor Kundi raises alarming concerns over law and order in KP

MANSEHRA (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday raised serious concerns about the deteriorating law and order situation in the province, criticizing the provincial government for failing to meet its constitutional responsibilities.

Addressing a press conference in Mansehra, Governor Kundi emphasized that despite the ongoing severe lawlessness, the federal government respects the mandate given by the public to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to order the province, and rejects any notion of imposing governor rule.

He highlighted that since the 18th Amendment was approved in 2011, maintaining law and order has been the responsibility of the provincial government. Kundi lamented that even after the Bannu incident, the provincial government has not lived up to public expectations, failing to convene an in-camera session of the provincial assembly.

The Governor called for an urgent in-camera session of the assembly and cabinet to brief the members and ministers on the worsening law and order situation, noting the martyrdom of armed forces personnel and the kidnapping of judges in the southern districts.

Faisal Karim Kundi revealed that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur had served him with a defamation notice for 500 million rupees. However, Kundi advised Gandapur to first address the issue of corruption in job appointments and transfers, accusing him of setting rates for these transactions and making appointments based on bribes. Addressing the possibility of an alliance between PTI and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) against the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led federal government, Governor Kundi expressed skepticism.

Law Minister inaugurates projects costing Rs.55.5mn

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate along with senior party stalwart Abid ur Rahman Afridi on Sunday laid the foundation stone of reconstruction of the building of Government Girls Primary School Sunni Khel in Tehsil Dara Adam Khel of Kohat District which will be completed at a cost of Rs.25.5 Million. Similarly, the Minister along with the local party leadership and elders also inaugurated the Shadikhel-Mandakhel-Kamalkhel Road which has been completed at a cost of Rs.30 Million.

The Law Minister on this occasion said that developmental works are not a favor to anyone but it is the right of the people. He said that we are the custodians of the people's rights and we will leave no stone unturned to achieve this goal for which the people have voted him to power. The minister regretted that some rejected elements by are trying to shine their politics on our projects, but the people know very well that who completed this road which was remained damaged for the last many years. He assured, in the present tenure, not only incomplete projects will be completed but also new projects of public interest will be started with the mutual consultation.

CM takes notice of burning alive of youth

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken notice of burning alive of a youth by the opponents over the dispute of a shop in Pakpattan.

She expressed her heartfelt sympathies and condolences with the bereaved family. She also sought a report from the Inspector General of Police in this regard.

The CM ordered to take to task those responsible for committing the heart-rending crime.

IGP takes notice of boy killing over shop dispute

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has taken notice of an incident in Pakpattan where a youth was set on fire and killed over a shop ownership dispute near Hospital Road.

He has sought a report from RPO Sahiwal. He directed DPO Pakpattan to arrest the accused immediately. The IGP said that the accused did not deserve any leniency, strict legal action should be taken against him. Pakpattan police took immediate action following the death of Abbas, who died from burns in the City Pakpattan police station area. Based on the complaint, filed by the deceased's mother, a case was registered against three accused and two unidentified persons.

Youth needs provision of proper guidance: Minister

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi on Sunday said that youths were the precious assets of Pakistan that needed provision of proper guidance while their right utilization can put the country on track of development.

He said that the primary purpose of entering into politics was to bring about reforms in the society.

The minister said that to pull Pakistan out of its current crises, everyone must play a positive role. We have to play a key role for the solution of issues being faced by Pakistan.

Muqam visits residence of PIO, offers fateha for departed soul of his father

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday visited the residence of Principal Information Officer (PIO), Mubashir Hassan and offered fateha for the departed soul of his father, Ghulam Sabir who passed away due to protected illness on Saturday.

Engr Amir Muqam expressed his deep condolences over the sad demise of the father of PIO and prayed Allah Almighty to may rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

He also prayed patience and fortitude for the members of the bereaved family.

Senior bureaucrat Ahmad Hassan and officer of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Peshawar, Aftab Hassan, the sons of late Ghulam Sabir were also present.

Meanwhile, people from cross section of the society including officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, civil officers, journalists, media professionals, lawyers and civil society are coming to the residence of Mubashir Hassan and offering fateha for eternal peace of his father.

6 illegal arm holders booked in successful operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested six illegal arm holders and recovered arms, ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Sunday. According to police spokesman, Kallar Syedan police recovered 01 rifle 8mm, 01 rifle 12 bore and 01 pistol 9mm from Azhar, Waleed and Usama.

Similarly, Waris Khan police held Furqan and recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from his possession.

Police seize over 20 kg of drugs in major crackdown

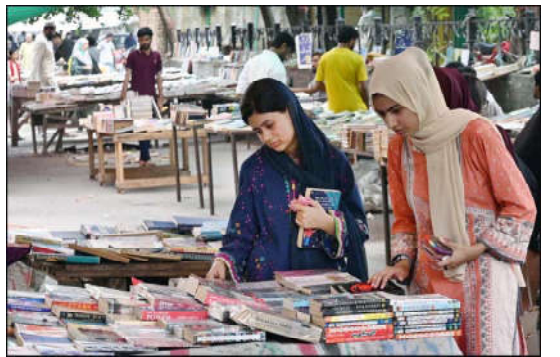
RAWALPINDI (APP): In a significant operation, Police have arrested 14 drug dealers and recovered over 20 kg of drugs from their possession here on Sunday. According to a police spokesman, the Pirwadi police conducted a raid and arrested two female drug dealers, Naseem.

Ramesh Singh visits Living Stones Church in Okara

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs and Human Rights Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora visited Living Stones Church in Okara on Saturday and praised arrangements at the church and commended the efficiency of the church administration. He said that according to vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, minorities are the crown of Pakistan. The Punjab government is taking extensive measures to

protect rights of minorities. The purpose of visiting churches in different districts is to listen to the issues of the Christian community and provide solutions, he said. He added that the budget for development and promotion of minorities affairs had been increased by 200 per cent by the Punjab government.

The minorities play crucial role in formation of society, and the Christian community should work hard for country's development.



LAHORE: Girls busy in selecting and purchasing old books from roadside stall at Mall Road in Provincial Capital.

Secretary Health inspects healthcare facilities, orders completion of projects

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Punjab, Ali Jan Khan made a surprise visit to Children Hospital Multan along with his team here on Sunday to check health facilities there. The Secretary was accompanied by Professor Dr. Muhammad Kashif Chishti, Dean of Children Complex, and MS Dr. Kamran Asif.

They inspected the Children's Emergency, Medical Ward, OPD department, and Old Block of the Hospital, reviewing ongoing construction work in detail. The Secretary

issued directions to senior officials of the Building department to expedite all pending tasks promptly. He also visited various wards in the Hospital, checked the admitted patients and inquired about the availability of medical facilities and medicines provided to the patients.

Later, the Secretary conducted a surprise visit to Rajanpur district where he inspected various healthcare facilities including Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Rojhan and Rural Health Centre Fazilpur.

International News

Over 30 Gazans killed as Israel steps up strikes

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli forces pounded several areas across the Gaza Strip on Saturday, killing 30 Palestinians, as tanks advanced deeper into western and northern parts of Rafah.

Among those killed on Saturday were journalist Mohammad Abu Jasser, his wife, and two children, in an Israeli strike on their house in the northern Gaza Strip.

Gaza's Hamas-run media office said Abu Jasser's death raised to 161 the number of Palestinian media personnel killed by Israeli fire since Oct 7.

Israeli military strikes across Gaza killed 37 Palestinians in the past 24 hours and destroyed several houses. In Al Nuseirat, a camp in central Gaza Strip, an air strike on a multi-floor building wounded several people, including two local journalists, rescue workers said.

In Rafah, where Israel said it aimed to dismantle the last battalions of

Hamas's armed wing, residents said tanks advanced deeper into northern areas of the city and took control of a hilltop in the west, amid fierce gun battles with Hamas.

The Israeli army said troops continued operations in Rafah, claiming that it had eliminated many Hamas members near Tel Al Sultan, on the western side of the city. In central Gaza, the military claimed, it conducted raids on infrastructure.

The Israeli military also said it "hit a structure" used by Palestinians in Deir Al Balah, central Gaza Strip, alleging that Hamas members were operating from a "humanitarian area".

A ceasefire effort led by Qatar and Egypt, and backed by the United States, has so far failed due to disputes between the combatants, who blame each other for the impasse.

Israel claimed earlier this week that it had eliminated half the leadership of

Hamas. Tel Aviv also claimed that 326 of its soldiers have been killed in Gaza since October last year.

On the other hand, Hezbollah and its ally Hamas said they launched rocket barrages at Israeli positions on Saturday to avenge a strike that injured civilians in south Lebanon.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said Syrian nationals, including children, had been injured after an "enemy drone targeted an empty four-wheel drive" near their tent, less than four kilometres from the border.

Dr Mouenes Kalakesh, who heads the Marjayoun government hospital, said a woman and her three children, two of them minors, had been admitted for shrapnel injuries after the strike outside Burj Al Muluk.

Among them was an 11-year-old boy in critical condition after he sustained shrapnel injuries and a head wound.



Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides with his wife Philippa Karsera Christodoulides and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and his wife Mareva Grabowski-Mitsotakis listen to Deputy Minister of Culture Vasiliki Kassianidou talking about the participatory artwork 'NEMATA' at the Presidential Palace in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Bangladesh top court scraps most job quotas that triggered deadly protests, media say

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Sunday scrapped most of the quotas on government jobs that have sparked student-led protests in which at least 114 people have been killed in the South Asian country, local media reported.

The court's Appellate Division dismissed a lower court order that had reinstated the quotas, directing that 93 per cent of government jobs will be open to candidates on merit, without quotas, the reports said. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government had scrapped the quota system in 2018, but the lower court reinstated it last month, sparking the protests and an ensuing government crackdown.

It was not immediately clear how the protesters would react to the decision.

The government had extended a curfew as authorities braced for the Supreme Court hearing on the job quotas. Soldiers were on patrol on the streets of the capital Dhaka, the centre of the demonstrations that spiralled into clashes between protesters and security forces.

Trump says he had 'very good call' with Zelensky, pledges to end war

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said in a post on Truth Social that he had a "very good call" on Friday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and pledged to end the war pitting Kyiv against Moscow through negotiations.

Zelensky also reported his conversation with Trump and expressed thanks for US military assistance.

Israeli strikes kill 3, injure 87 in Yemen: Houthis

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli fighter jets struck Houthi military targets near Yemen's Hodeidah port on Saturday, killing at least three people and wounding 87, a day after a drone launched by the Iranian-backed group hit Israeli economic hub Tel Aviv.

Most of the wounded suffered severe burns in air strikes that targeted oil facilities and a power station, Al-Masirah TV, the main television news outlet run by Yemen's Houthi movement, quoted the health ministry as saying. Hodeidah residents told Reuters by phone that explosions were heard throughout the city during an intensive bombardment, and Al-Masirah TV said civil defence forces and firefighters were trying to extinguish fires in the port's oil tanks. Israel's military spokesperson said the port

had been used by the Houthis to receive weapons shipments from Iran. The targets, more than 1,700 km (1,056 miles) from Israel, included dual-use sites such as energy infrastructure, he said.

Israel had informed allies before the strike, which the military said was carried out by Israeli F-15 fighters that all returned safely.

The Houthis' Supreme Political Council said there would be an "effective response" to the strikes. Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said the Houthis "will not hesitate to strike vital targets of the Israeli enemy."

The strike on Yemen, which Israeli officials said came after more than 200 Houthi attacks on Israel, underlined fears that the Gaza war, triggered by the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, could spiral into a regional conflict.

Blinken points to wider pledges to support Ukraine in case US backs away under Trump

Monitoring Desk
ASPEN: Ukraine is on its way to being able to "stand on its own feet" militarily, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday, noting that more than 20 other countries have pledged to maintain their own military and financial aid to the country even if the U.S. were to withdraw its support under a different president.

Blinken for the first time directly addressed the possibility that former President Donald Trump could win the November election and back away from commitments to Ukraine. The U.S., under President Joe Biden, has been the most important supporter of Ukraine's more than two-year battle against invading Russian forces.

Trump's public comments have varied between

criticizing U.S. backing for Ukraine's defense and supporting it, while his running mate, Sen. JD Vance, has been a leader of Republican efforts to block what have been billions in U.S. military and financial assistance to Ukraine since Russia invaded in 2022.

Concerns among Ukraine and its supporters that the country could lose vital U.S. support have increased as Trump's campaign surges and Biden's falters. Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky spoke on the phone Friday. "I noted the vital bipartisan and bicameral American support for protecting our nation's freedom and independence," Zelensky wrote on X, saying they agreed "to discuss at a personal meeting what steps can make peace fair and truly lasting."

Three cops injured in Dublin riot against migrants

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Three police officers were injured and one man was arrested on Friday in the latest anti-immigration protests at a site earmarked for housing asylum seekers in Dublin, authorities said.

It was the latest in a series of clashes at the site in a deprived northern suburb of the Irish capital over the past week. Police said a planned public gathering at the site on Friday initially "passed off peacefully" before turning into an "incident of public disorder".

A fire broke out at the building site, with police subjected to "both verbal and physical abuse including rocks, concrete bricks and other objects being thrown at them", they said in a statement.

VP Harris hits fundraising trail amid ongoing calls for Biden to quit race

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US Vice President Kamala Harris will headline a fundraiser in Massachusetts on Saturday as President Joe Biden faces continued pressure from fellow Democrats and big money donors to end his floundering campaign.

Biden and top aides on Friday vowed to continue with the campaign, even as major donors signalled they were unwilling to open their checkbooks unless the 81-year-old president stepped aside.

The crisis-in-confidence in Biden's ability to win has placed a huge spotlight on Harris, widely believed to be the most likely replacement if he steps down. Her fundraising events, including the one on Saturday in Provincetown, Massachusetts are getting added interest from donors who want to signal they are willing to coalesce around her potential bid for the White House.

Bridge collapse in China leaves 12 dead, 30 missing

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: A bridge collapse caused by torrential rains in northern China killed 12 people and left more than 30 missing, state media said on Saturday.

Large parts of northern and central China have been battered in recent days by rains that have caused flooding and significant damage. The bridge in the northwestern Shaanxi province buckled "due to a sudden downpour and flash floods".

China and the Philippines reach deal in effort to stop clashes at fiercely disputed shoal

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: China and the Philippines reached a deal they hope will end confrontations at the most fiercely disputed shoal in the South China Sea, the Philippine government said Sunday.

The Philippines occupies Second Thomas Shoal but China also claims it, and increasingly hostile clashes at sea have sparked fears of larger conflicts that could involve the United States.

The crucial deal was reached on Sunday, after a series of meetings between Philippine and Chinese diplomats in Manila and exchanges of diplomatic notes that aimed to establish a mutually acceptable arrangement at the shoal without conceding either side's territorial claims.

Two Philippine officials, who have knowledge of the negotiations, confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on condition of ano-

nymity and the government later issued a brief statement announcing the deal without providing details.

"Both sides continue to recognize the need to deescalate the situation in the South China Sea and manage differences through dialogue and consultation and agree that the agreement will not prejudice each other's positions in the South China Sea," the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said. Japan and the Philippines sign a defense pact in the face of shared alarm over China. Neither side has yet released the text of the agreement. China has disputes with several governments over land and sea borders, many of them in the South China Sea, and the rare deal with the Philippines could spark hope that similar arrangements could be forged by Beijing with other rival countries to avoid clashes while thorny territorial.

Conference on WEFE Nexus for the Security of OIC Countries" today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus is a conceptual framework that emphasizes the interconnectedness and interdependence between water, energy, food, and ecosystems.

The conference will be jointly inaugurated by Senator Sherry Rehman and the Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani at PAS.

According to an official of PAS, dignitaries and notables including President of IAS, President PAS and Chairman HEC will attend the conference.

The IAS enjoys the patronage of Jordan and Pakistan namely; Prince El-Hassan bin Talal of Jordan and Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

From the IAS side, the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Jordan is also coordinating in the organization of this event.

Presently, many developing and underdeveloped countries are confronting issues related to WEFE nexus. Among these, the OIC member states are confronting distinctive challenges, including mushrooming populations, climate change impacts, and resource scarcities, necessitating integrated and innovative approaches to ensure sustainable resource management and security.



Attullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting offering fataha for the deceased father of Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mobashir Hasan in Peshawar.

Mirwaiz warns of catastrophic consequences in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has sounded the alarm on the catastrophic consequences of India's unrelenting military occupation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Talking to a Private news channel, the Mirwaiz's plea comes amidst a worsening situation in IIOJK, where the Indian government's brutalities and military siege have had devastating impacts on the daily lives of Kashmiris.

"As the valley boils with unrest, Mirwaiz's warning is a stark reminder that immediate action is needed to prevent a massive humanitarian disaster."

The people of IIOJK have been subjected to decades of military occupation, human rights abuses, and political disenfranchisement, he mentioned.

The implementation of UNSC resolutions would

be a crucial step towards rectifying these historical injustices and allowing the Kashmiri people to shape their own political future, he added.

The international community has a moral obligation to support the Kashmiris' quest for self-determination and pressurize India to abide by its international commitments.

"The plight of political detainees in Kashmir serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing human rights debacle, as countless individuals remain incarcerated without charge or trial, subjected to inhumane treatment, and denied their fundamental rights," he added.

The protracted detention of political leaders, activists, and civilians under draconian laws has become a hallmark of the Indian government's strategy to suppress dissent and maintain its grip on the region, he said.



QUETTA: Terminated Police Constable, Jamil Ahmed and others addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.

Hearing on review petition regarding reserved seats verdict after summer vacation

ISLAMABAD (Online): The hearing of the review appeal filed by 3 women members of the (N) League on the decision of the Supreme Court on the reserved seats will also be held after the summer vacation.

The Supreme Court's three-member judges' committee also gave a two-to-one decision to set the appeal of the PMLN for hearing after the summer vacation.

Chief Justice Qazi Faiz also wrote a dissenting note on this.

The review appeal was filed by Huma Akhtar

Chaghatai, Mahjabeen Abbasi and Syeda Amina Batool on behalf of the (N) League in the Supreme Court. In the revision appeal, the Sunni Ittehad Council and the Election Commission have been made parties.

It was said in the petition that it is a recognized fact that the entire case was related to reserved seats of the Sunni Ittehad Council.

Giving 15 days to the 41 members who voluntarily joined the Sunni Ittehad Council to switch parties is tantamount to rewriting the constitution.



NASEERABAD: Director General PDMA Jahanzeb Khan and Deputy Commissioner Batool Asadi presiding over a meeting of officers

PPAF to hold series of events for socio-economic uplift of youth and women in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) is set to host a series of events celebrating milestones in their ongoing projects aimed at fostering social entrepreneurship, educational advancements, and socio-economic development in Balochistan.

Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, will grace these ceremonies as the chief guest, underscoring the government's commitment to empowering marginalized communities and promoting inclusive growth.

Provincial Minister of Education Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Provincial Minister of Finance, Mines and Mineral Development Mir Shoaib Noshervani, Ad-hoc Member of the Shariat Appellate Bench of the Supreme Court Dr. Qibla Ayaz, CEO of PPAF Nadir Gul Barech, and Advisor to the National Heritage and Cultural Division Kashif Irshad will also be the guests of honor.

The first event will be held at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) featuring the signing ceremony of the second phase of the project "Making Social Entrepreneurship Accessible to the Emerging Youth of Balochistan."

In recognition of their best performance, PPAF will award certificates and shields to the outstanding students enrolled under the "Balochistan Chamalang Education Scholarship Project."

Furthermore, under the Prime Minister's Interest-Free Loan Programme, eligible individuals from

marginalized segments of society, including women, will receive cheques of substantial amounts to enable them to initiate small businesses and earn their livelihoods diligently. Additionally, a certificate distribution ceremony will be organized for Madrasah students who have qualified for skill development training in various vocational trades.

This series of events in Quetta demonstrates PPAF's commitment to uplifting the socio-economic conditions of marginalized communities, particularly the youth and women of Balochistan. The joint venture of PPAF and the provincial government, through the Prime Minister's Youth Program, aims to bring tangible changes in the lives of deprived segments by empowering them economically.



QUETTA: People are buying clothes from a stall, at a weekly bazar in Quetta.

NA speaker rejects new cars demand by Standing Committees chairmen

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq rejected the chairman's Standing Committees' demand for new vehicles. National Assembly Secretariat sources.

Several chairmen complained that the vehicles provided were old and inefficient, to which Ayaz Sadiq replied, the vehicles provided to them were from 2017 and 2019 models. "The vehicle I am using is also of 2015 model," Speaker Ayaz Sadiq replied as per sources.

"There are not enough funds to buy new vehicles and the Prime minister has also banned the purchase of new vehicles," he said. Sources further claimed that the finance ministry had also refused to provide funds for the new vehicles. Speaker's order to repair only old vehicles.

The price of open milk has increased to Rs 240 per liter, further adding to the financial burden on households. This increase comes despite assurances from the federal and Punjab governments, led by the

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), that inflation rates were under control.

Detailed reports from various media sources reveal a worrying trend in the market. Potatoes are being sold at Rs 200 per kilogram, onions at Rs 120, and okra has jumped to Rs 250 per kilogram. Ginger and garlic are priced at Rs 800 and Rs 600 per kilogram, respectively. Other vegetables such as peas and capsicum are being sold at Rs 400 and Rs 250 per kilogram.

Fruits have not been spared from the inflationary pressures. Grapes are now priced at Rs 400 per kilogram, while dried plums and pomegranates are selling for Rs 300 per kilogram. The rising costs are not limited to fresh produce. The prices of flour and sugar have surged, with government-fixed prices for official flour set at Rs 90 per kilogram now being available only at Rs 110.

Azerbaijan's President lauds Pak media for supportive stance

SHUSHA (Azerbaijan) (APP): President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan has praised Pakistan's media for its supportive stance, paving the way for a joint media initiative to foster greater cooperation and counter misinformation.

President Ilham Aliyev has expressed these views while addressing media at opening ceremony of "2nd Shusha Global Media Forum" gratitude for the consistent support from Pakistan's media, describing it as "brotherly" and "friendly".

He proposed establishing a joint media working group to promote mutual understanding and counter misleading narratives. This collaboration aims to leverage access to international media outlets, enhancing the reputation and perception of both nations.

President's remarks followed a successful state visit to Pakistan, where he was warmly received by the Prime Minister and Presi-

dent of Pakistan. The trip resulted in the signing of 17 agreements, with a focus on investment opportunities, bilateral trade, defense industry cooperation, and uniting the potential of both countries. With a strong foundation laid, Azerbaijan and Pakistan are poised to strengthen their partnership in the years to come.

The president Ilham Aliyev answered the media participant's question and also informed forum about the preparations carried out regarding the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29), the fight against the impacts of climate change at the country level, as well as the sustainable approach in the restoration and reconstruction works implemented in the liberated territories, which is going to be held in Baku in November this year.

The forum will feature four panel sessions on "Impact assessment: scoping disinformation," "Policies and initiatives to build a more resilient society against disinformation," The impact of artificial intelligence on reality, media and disinformation: Promoting media literacy," and "Climate movement and media."

At the panel sessions, officials from various countries, media and civil society representatives, state and business representatives, representatives of international organizations, and media experts will exchange detailed ideas and experiences.

The Forum, attended by over 150 foreign guests from around 50 countries, including news agencies of 30 countries, three international organizations, and 82 media entities, provides a platform for joint discussions and actions among participants.

The first Shusha Global Media Forum themed "New Media in the Era of the 4th Industrial Revolution" was held on July 21-23, 2023.



HUB: Residents of Allahabad Town are blocked road as they are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity and sui gas load shedding in their area, at Main RCD road in Hub.

Fawad says: 2018 elections were not rigged but 'managed'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry has claimed that 2018 elections, wherein Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emerged victorious, were not rigged but managed.

In an interview, the former federal minister also castigated Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Raja Sultan and alleged that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) 'installed' the latter through former director-general (DG) Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Faiz Hamid.

Fawad Chaudhry also claimed that former Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Qamar Javed Bajwa sought an extension from PTI and wanted to get another extension from PML-N. He said 2018 elections were not rigged but 'managed'.

Pak first air ambulance transfers patient

LAHORE (INP): A rescue air ambulance, an initiative undertaken by the Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, successfully transferred a patient for the first time in Pakistan.

The patient, identified as Halima Bibi - a 40-year-old woman from Mianwali, suffered paralysis after falling from a roof two days ago. She was initially treated at Mianwali's District Headquarters Hospital, where surgeons referred her to Rawalpindi for further treatment.

Following CM Maryam Nawaz's directive, Halima Bibi was shifted from Mianwali to Rawalpindi within the critical "golden hour" in an air ambulance. The patient's family expressed gratitude to Maryam Nawaz, calling her an "angel" for facilitating the transfer.

Peshawar-Karachi Khyber Mail narrowly escapes train crash

KARACHI (INP): Khyber Mail reaching Karachi from Peshawar narrowly escaped from a major accident on Sunday as a truck carrying cement and sand sunk into the ground near the railway line.

The driver of Khyber Mail saved the train from colliding with the truck by applying emergency brakes.

"While trying to pull out the truck, the truck hit the engine of Khyber Mail. The truck hit the engine causing minor damage to the engine. The railway police let the truck driver off after giving a warning," sources said.

Muqam condemns attack by 'gang of extremists' on Pak consulate in Frankfurt

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for SAFRON, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam on Sunday strongly condemned the attack by Afghan nationals on the Pakistani consulate in Frankfurt, Germany.

"The desecration of the Pakistani flag by extremists is intolerable. The German government must take action against these extremists," said the minister.

He said that after this incident, we will review our policy regarding Afghan migrants.

The Afghan migrants who spent 44 years here in Pakistan giving this award, he questioned.

Amir Muqam further said that it is the responsibility of a country to protect its consulate. The German government should take action according to international law.

He said that those engaging in condemnable actions abroad against Pakistan for political gains are conspiring against Pakistan-Afghanistan relations.

DG Levies dismisses QRF Havildar from service on willful absence from duty

QUETTA: The Director General Levies Force Balochistan, Naseebullah Kakar has dismissed the Levies Havildar of Quick Response Force (QRF) Maqbool Ahmed from service on the charges of remaining absent from duty and proceeding for abroad (Qatar) without intimation to the authorities.

According to an official handout issued here on Sunday, the concerned Levies personnel was also issued show cause notices twice, but he preferred not to respond.

As a result of which, he has been dismissed from service by the Director General Levies taking action under disciplinary act.

The Director General Levels warned that action would be taken against the absentee personnel and officials.

New rift in PTI: Leaders and workers express reservations over nominees for reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and workers have expressed reservations regarding certain nominations for reserved seats in the Punjab Assembly.

Concerns were raised over the nominations of Falak Javed Khan and Rabia Bajwa for the Punjab Assembly.

According to the sources, these reservations have been communicated to the senior leadership of the party.

It is worth mentioning here that the PTI had prepared an initial list of candidates for the reserved seats in the Punjab and national assemblies following the Supreme Court's verdict.

The apex gave its verdict on the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) appeals, declaring the Imran Khan-founded party eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities.

Dr Yasmin Rashid, Sanam Javed, and Alia Hamza have been proposed for the national assembly.

These figures are well-known and have been instrumental in various capacities, making them strong contenders for these roles.

Additionally, several candidates are under consideration for the Punjab Assembly.

GWADAR: MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman addressing participants of Gwadar Educational Conference