

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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Information Minister says

## Govt decides to ban PTI, initiate treason case against Imran, Alvi, Suri

Attaullah Tarar says government will file a review petition against Supreme Court's reserved seats verdict; Cites May 9 riots, foreign funding for case against PTI; Blasts PTI for creating false narrative around cipher controversy.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Monday announced four major decisions of the federal government of banning Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, filing of review petition in reserved seats case, references against PTI founder and others for subverting the Constitution and strict legal action against handful of overseas Pakistanis for anti-state activities.

He announced the decision at a press conference which mainly highlighted the activities of the PTI and its leadership to weaken sovereignty of the country and harm its integrity at the international level.

The press conference also featured audio and video clips that allegedly showed involvement of the PTI and its leadership in the 'anti-state' activities.

The minister said: "This is a fact and on the record that the PTI has been involved in the anti-state activities and to this end, the government and its allies have decided to initiate legal proceedings to ban the PTI under Article 17 of the Constitution which empowers the federal government to ban any such a party."

Tarar justified the action of the government against the PTI which, he alleged, obtained foreign funding to attack the state institutions on May 9, default the economy by sabotaging Pakistan's negotiation with the International Monetary Fund, resettle the terrorists in the country and hire lobbying firms to get a resolution passed against the country in a foreign country's Parliament.

All these activities of the PTI were established, he said, adding "in view of the foreign funding case, May 9 riots, and the cipher episode as well as the resolution passed in the US, we believe that there is very credible evidence present to have the PTI banned."

He said a series of

events that set off in a form of chain, gave a clear understanding of the anti-state agenda of the PTI which first brought terrorist back into the country and then attacked on the state institution to undermine its sovereignty.

On the one hand, they were giving shelter and safe heavens to the terrorists and on the other hand they resorted to attack the army installations including the Corps Commander House in Lahore, he said asking the PTI's founder who gave him the authority to bring back disgruntled elements in settled areas. The minister said the party used the prohibited funding to hire lobbying firms that worked to damage the integrity of the country. The minister said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had given a verdict that the PTI had received prohibited funding, recalling how delaying tactics were used to prevent further proceeding in the case during the tenure of the PTI government.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar addressing a press conference.

He said it was on the record that how the PTI miserably failed to justify and defend the funding received from Israeli and Indian origin overseas persons.

He questioned the participation of the PTI leadership in a meeting and dinner which reportedly had a presence of an Israeli billionaire in London especially at a time when genocide of innocent Palestinians was being committed.

Recalling how the PTI misled the nation by orchestrating a cipher drama, he said it was on record that the PTI founder suggested his confidants to play with an official document. Even Ambassador Asad Majeed, the author of cipher, said there was no threat to the

country in the cipher, but the PTI leadership was hell bent upon damaging the diplomatic relations of Pakistan with the other country. He said PTI's former finance ministers Shaukat Tareen reportedly told the then provincial finance ministers to write a letter to sabotage a deal of the Government with the IMF.

### Imposing a ban is no child's play: PTI leaders lambast gov't decision

ISLAMABAD (INP): Leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have strongly condemned the proposal to ban their party, stating that such a move is not a child's play. The statement was made during a press conference by opposition leader Omar Ayub, PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan, and Shibli Faraz in Islamabad on Monday.

Khan addressed the media, saying, "Today, the government announced its intention to ban PTI, and we strongly condemn this statement. It is a clear contempt of the Supreme Court, which has granted us relief. The Supreme Court has affirmed PTI's right to exist."

He added, "The PDM government is making such statements to divert attention from our seats. Out of 60 million votes, PTI received 30 million. They plan to ban us over the foreign funding case and the cipher case, even though the PML-N spokesperson is unaware that the foreign funding case against us is no longer active."

Ayub stated, "The Supreme Court has declared PTI a legitimate party. Today's press conference reflects their desires. This 'Form 47 government' is a minority government. We demand that the PPP and MQM clearly state whether they support PML-N's statement. They must be explicit about their stance."

He also criticised the government for raising electricity rates and predicted an impending wave of inflation. "They are doing all this to distract the public from the real issues. They want to bring the judiciary under their control."



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of Tajikistan, Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir presenting his diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

### Envoys of seven nations present diplomatic credentials to President

ISLAMABAD (APP): The envoys of seven countries including Zimbabwe, Tajikistan, Rwanda, Argentina, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Botswana presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari during a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday.

The President received credentials from the Ambassador-designate of Zimbabwe, Titus Mhlanga, the Ambassador-designate of Tajikistan, Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir; the High Commissioner-designate of Rwanda, Ms. Harerimana Fatou; the Ambassador-designate of Argentina, Sebastian Sayus; the Ambassador-designate of Myanmar, Wunna Han; the

Ambassador-designate of Cambodia, Sok Chea; and the Ambassador-designate of Botswana, Dr. Batlang Comma Serema.

Later, the envoys also held separate meetings with the President.

Talking to the envoys, the President said that Pakistan had great investment opportunities and foreign countries should benefit from its investment-friendly environment. He highlighted that foreign investors should explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's agriculture, livestock, Information Technology, energy and mining sectors.

The President stated that Pakistan wanted to broaden cooperation with

all friendly countries in diverse fields, especially trade, investment, and culture.

He remarked that Pakistan attached great importance to expanding economic cooperation and further maximising trade volume with friendly countries to its fullest potential. He also called for increasing contacts among the business communities to boost economic and trade relations.

President Asif Ali Zardari congratulated the envoys on their appointment as ambassadors to Pakistan and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually beneficial cooperation.

### Gov't committed to invest in modern skills, professional education for youth: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the government was committed to investing in modern skills and professional education for the youth.

In his message in connection with the World Youth Skills Day, the prime minister said the greatest strength of Pakistan was its talented youth and equipping them with modern skills was the need of the hour to secure the future of the country.

He highlighted that the government was equipping its youth with modern education, equal development opportunities as well as modern professional training to compete with the world.

The prime minister reiterated the government's resolve to send 300,000 youth for vocational training in the field of information technology and 1000 for modern agriculture to China. In this context, he

said the government was prioritizing the women and the youth belonging to remote and backward areas of the country.

The prime minister said training programs in the field of information technology were also continued at the national level. "Millions of students are honing their skills in and outside Pakistan after completing their education under these programs."

He said the government had also started bringing reforms in the institutions under National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC).

He remarked that with NAVTC and its partner institutions, the government is ensuring the provision of marketable skills and professional training to thousands of youth. He said the government would ensure modern skills and professional training to the youth for their development and dignified employment in every field of life.

### Political parties unite against PTI ban, calling it an attack on democracy

JUI, BNP, APP, QWP and JI condemn government's decision

#### Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government's recent decision to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has ignited backlash from other political parties, who view the move as a serious affront to democracy. It should be noted that the federal government has decided to file a review appeal against the decision of the Supreme Court on reserved seats and ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Federal Information Minister Atta Tarar announced plans to file a review appeal with the Supreme Court concerning the ban on PTI and certain electoral seats. Maulana Fazlur Rahman, chief of Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI), has asserted that to address the ongoing political crisis, the establishment must distance itself from politics. He emphasized that using force against political entities will only exacerbate the existing turmoil.

Fazlur Rahman noted that if all institutions adhere to their constitutional boundaries, the country can begin to heal. He urged authorities to recognize that the current hybrid system has failed, insisting that the key to resolving the nation's issues lies in holding transparent elections.

Sardar Akhtar Mengal, chief of the Balochistan National Party (BNP), has expressed strong opposition to the government's decision to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He noted that banning political parties is not a new phenomenon, recalling that the National Awami Party was similarly banned in 1973. Mengal emphasized that such measures do not solve the underlying problems.

He criticised the government's apparent confusion following the Supreme Court's decision and argued that if there is to be a crackdown, it should apply to all political parties

equally. Mengal lamented that politicians have not learned from past mistakes, underscoring the need for more thoughtful approaches to political issues.

Liaquat Baloch, Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, condemned the government's decision during a press conference in Mansoorah, describing it as a "mockery of the constitution, democracy, and the parliamentary system."

He criticized the government for what he termed "negative politics," asserting that a controversial and unrepresentative government has no right to ban any political party.

Baloch emphasized that such undemocratic tactics pose a significant threat to both the constitution and democracy in Pakistan. He warned that the announcement would likely lead to increased instability and negative consequences for the country.

### Govt hikes petrol price by Rs9.99, HSD by Rs6.18

#### Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Monday hiked the petrol price by Rs9.99 per litre and that of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs6.18/ltr for the next fortnight.

A notification from the Finance Division said the new petrol price was Rs275.6/ltr and Rs283.63/ltr for HSD due to price variations in the international market. It said there would be no change in the applicable duties and taxes, adding that they would remain at the existing level.

Prices of the two petroleum products were expected to increase by more than Rs7.60 and Rs3.50 because of higher global oil prices.

Sources said the prices of petrol and HSD had increased in the international market by about \$4.4 and \$2 per barrel, respectively, in the last fortnight.

The government has jacked up the maximum limit of petroleum development levy (PDL) to Rs70 per litre in the Finance Bill to collect Rs1.28 trillion in the current fiscal year against Rs960 billion collection during the previous year, almost Rs91bn higher than the Rs869bn budget target.

During the current fortnight, import premiums on both petrol and HSD have remained unchanged at \$9.60 and \$6.50 per barrel, respectively. On the other hand, the rupee depreciated by about 17 paise against the dollar during the fortnight.

### 20th CPC Central Committee starts third plenary session

BEIJING (INP): The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) started its third plenary session in Beijing on Monday morning.

President Xi Jinping, who is also the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivered a work report on behalf of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and expounded on a draft decision of the CPC Central Committee on further deepening reforms and advancing Chinese modernization, Chinese State media reported.

The document centers on "further comprehensively deepening reform and advancing Chinese-style modernization."

The four-day meeting is important because the Central Committee will issue an authoritative "decision" that will guide policymaking for years to come. With 205 full members and 171 alternate members, the Central Committee plays a pivotal role in shaping both party and governmental leadership in China.

Typically, the CPC holds seven plenary sessions over a five-year term, focusing on various strategic initiatives and policy formulations.



Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal held productive meeting with Mr. Zhao Chenxin, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in Beijing, China.

### PTI founder arrested in Jinnah House attack case

LAHORE (INP): The Investigation police have formally arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan, in connection with the Jinnah House attack case on May 9.

The police reached Adiala Jail to execute the formal arrest. According to the police, the PTI founder will be investigated under sections related to inciting against the state. The police stated that PTI founder Imran Khan has been arrested in 12 cases related to May 9 riots, including the Jinnah House attack. The police requested the Rawalpindi court to transfer the suspect to Lahore, but the court denied the transfer due to security concerns.

### Pak, China friendship to move forward with greater integration in world, regional markets: Ahsan

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal, stated that as China finalizes its roadmap for the future, the friendship between Pakistan and China will certainly advance.

He said that it will involve greater integration of Pakistan and China in the world and regional markets.

On what the world can learn from China's development experience, the minister, who is currently in Beijing for an official visit, told CGTN, "I think China's experience of development gives us four very valuable lessons."

There are four prerequisites that any country needs for development:

peace, political stability, continuity of economic policies, and continuous commitment to reform.

The minister said that China has shown all four principles to practice, and that is the reason that China has developed so fast, adding, that China has shown a great success story to the whole world by pulling 800 million people out of poverty in the shortest possible time. Prof Ahsan Iqbal said that China has shared its development, and has shared its experience of development with other countries through the Belt and Road Initiative and Global Development Initiative.

Pakistan and China enjoy a unique relationship. There are four prerequisites that any country needs for development:



ISLAMABAD: Motorcyclists crossing road from a green belt due to road closed at Islamabad Highway during Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) sit-in protest (Dharna) at Faizabad flyover.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Afghan challenge

The recently released UN monitoring team's report on Afghanistan captures the dilemma confronting the international community...

Though the Taliban regime is by no means a progressive pro-people entity, it has managed to bring a semblance of stability to Afghanistan after over four decades of war...

Perhaps it is because of these limited gains that there has been no mass opposition to the Taliban's obscurantist rule...

With regard to militancy, as the UN report highlights, the global community must keep its eyes and ears open. For example, the report says that the banned TTP has become the largest terrorist group in Afghanistan...

As per the UN, the TTP conducted over 1,200 attacks against Pakistan last year. But it is not anti-Pakistan militants alone that are using Afghanistan as a base...

The Taliban should be told that they need to take action against 'good' militants who support them (TTP, Al Qaeda), as well as 'bad' militants who oppose them (IS-K). On this, there can be no compromise...

Supreme injustice

Rida Hosain

In a way, some dissenting judgements reflect what could have been, and what can one day still be achieved. To quote Benjamin N. Cardozo...

Before the court, a woman had accused her brother's friend of rape. The trial court and the high court ruled in the woman's favour. At the Supreme Court, Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail found that the woman was a consenting party.

Judges can have genuine disagreements on whether evidentiary standards have been met — particularly in a criminal case where the liberty of an individual is involved. There can be different views on whether the evidence before the court is enough to uphold the conviction...

Since the man was unarmed, the majority held, "a female who is not a consenting party would offer very strong resistance in a case of attempt to commit rape with her" and "no mark of violence whatsoever was noted on the entire body"...

In sharp contrast, the dissent identifies studies by expert psychiatrists, which show that in cases of sexual violence, victims may have various different types of response — fight, flight or freeze. There is no fixed response in rape cases.

The New York Times magazine did a story, speaking to rape victims about the 'freezing' response. Some victims said they wanted to yell and push and resist, but their body simply would not respond.

Moreover, for fornication to be proved, it must be shown that sexual intercourse was consensual. The majority has imputed consent on behalf of the victim, whereas the dissent found that consent must be an unequivocal voluntary agreement.

The majority judgement then holds that there was a two-day delay in filing an FIR. This finding ignores precedent which clearly states that in cases of sexual assault, a lenient view should be taken on delayed reporting...

tion and honour, hence, some delay in reporting a crime of sexual offence is immaterial."

The reasoning of the majority has a striking similarity with the Mukhtaran Mai case. In both cases, the court completely disregards the extreme trauma associated with rape, and how this may result in slower reporting. In Mukhtaran Mai's memoir, she expresses how she felt suicidal after the incident.

The majority seem to have come up with a rulebook on how victims should react in order to get justice. The 'right' victim fights, the 'right' victim has marks of resistance, the 'right' victim reports immediately.

A few weeks ago, Justice Malik was speaking at a symposium on inclusive justice organised by the Federal Judicial Academy and UN Women. She explained that her reasoning may differ from her male colleagues...

The tragic reality in Pakistan is, since men dominate the judiciary, our jurisprudence is dictated by the male lived experience. There is little to no gender sensitisation training in the judicial system, and gender stereotypes remain deeply embedded.

Employment paths

Neda Mulji

Last month, the federal government reversed its decision to slash the HEC's budget but it seems to have been a case of 'too little, too late'.

Many of our higher education institutions churn out large numbers of graduates each year, but there are no systems in place to absorb them into the economic infrastructure...

With 58 per cent of our population under the age of 24, our higher education system has to step up to deliver the outcomes necessary for economic growth. Over two million Pakistanis are currently in higher education and only 60,000 get the opportunity to study in institutes abroad.

Any hope for building the economy must come from creating employment pathways for our young graduates, which implies that outdated curricula and traditional teaching cannot contribute to the change we need.

In most developed societies, the vision for growth has come from humanities education — philosophy, literature and culture. Sadly, we've deprioritised humanities.

Pakistan Vision 2025 by the planning ministry highlights some key areas demanding urgent focus. Among these is the need to create jobs. Unfortunately, while it highlights the pillars for improvement and change, it doesn't lay out the strategy that will address the urgent need for employment.

Employment pathways such as establishing recruitment programmes that are backed by agencies serving particular geographical communities may provide quick and easy access to match graduates with available jobs in their area.

Very few universities offer placement centres to help graduates find jobs, and fewer still have experimented with incubation centres to set up entrepreneurship opportunities for their students.

small and promising ventures may enable universities to create economic opportunities for their graduates, whilst earning themselves a sound reputation that will help attract and retain students, creating new revenue streams for the institution.

There is much to learn from developed societies. One study of the US economy from 1980 to 2005 found that the annual net employment growth in the US would have been negative without small businesses.

It also creates a pathway for development as the small businesses become training grounds for the young population who can then transition to the larger companies in due course.

Traditionally, developed societies have also created programmes that match small entrepreneurs with the more successful and established ones to create networking synergies within communities.

Commerce News

OGRA takes action against mixing of CO2 with LPG

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has taken serious note of the issue of mixing carbon dioxide (CO2) with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by illegal decanters.

aiming to safeguard precious lives and the properties of the general public. It is pertinent to mention that CO2 mixing with LPG has been reported in various locations of Sindh province, especially at Pano Aqil near Sukkur.

The Assistant Commissioner of Pano Aqil has raided four sites, discovered illegal decanting activities, sealed all the sites immediately, and lodged FIRs against the concerned individuals.

LPG is highly flammable, and the mixing of CO2 poses fatal risks, including adverse environmental impacts. CO2 has higher pressure than LPG which can cause serious safety concerns as equipment calibrated for LPG may not function properly.

OGRA's enforcement

team visited the LPG sites in Pano Aqil and observed that all the sites were being operated illegally and in unsafe conditions. LPG bowsers were being used for storage instead of proper LPG tanks, and substandard equipment was found.

In response to these findings, OGRA has decided to exhaust all legal options to eliminate this illegal activity. The authority has advised its legal counsel in Pano Aqil to pursue the case and represent OGRA's point of view for the safety of the general public.

OGRA has also written letters to the Commissioner of Sukkur and the Custom Collectorate, urging them to ensure safety at the local level by curtailing the illegal sale of LPG in the area.



KARACHI: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi meets Managing Director Pakistan State Oil (PSO) Syed Muhammad Taha at PSO Head Office.

PSO must find new sites for further expansion in KP: Faisal Karim Kundi

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday visited Pakistan State Oil (PSO) head office and discussed foreign investment in oil refinery and other issues with Managing Director of PSO Syed Mohammed Taha.

They also discussed the transportation of oil, foreign investment in oil refinery, problems in this regard and their solutions.

Kundi said that the demand for petroleum products will increase after the completion of CPEC and plans should be chalked out to this effect.

He said that a large number of people associated with the transport business belonged to KP. He further said that PSO should find new sites for further expansion in KP.

The MD PSO said that PSO had a big market and they were also working on new sites in KP.

Zong celebrates Digital Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G Pakistan's leading mobile network operator, celebrated Digital Day 2024 in grand style.

The event served as more than just a celebration; it was a resounding endorsement of CEO Zong 4G's vision of positioning Zong 4G as an exemplary information service and technology innovation company.

While welcoming employees to the Digital Day celebrations CEO Zong 4G HuoJunli said "This day was yet another positive step taken towards building Zong as an information services provider and the displays are a testament to that. Today, we align ourselves to our vision of an excellent Information Services and Technology Innovation company in Pakistan.

news release.

"We had to adapt to the changing landscape of technology and the dynamic consumer demands. As we entered a new age of Zong, we also embodied our values of Integrity, Openness, Responsibility, and Excellence. In doing so, we were able to drive growth within and beyond the organization — growth that was crucial to the Sci-Tech transformation we wished to see in Zong" he added.

He further said, "I am delighted to see the product displays today, we have an attractive portfolio of digital products such as Zong Engage, Zong Road Assistance, and Banking as a Service (BaaS).

These innovations, available through the Zong App, are designed to simplify our customers' lives." MedIQ, a health services provider, offers convenient access to on-demand healthcare, both in-person and via a digital platform.

Training session on e-procurement held

LAHORE (APP): As per the direction of the Commissioner Punjab Social Security Nadia Saqib, a one-day training session was organized in collaboration with the Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) here on Monday.

The participants were briefed on procurement cycles and received step-by-step hands-on training to familiarize themselves with the e-procurement system.

World youth skills day: Investing in youth vital for sustainable economic development

PESHAWAR (APP): Like other parts of the country, world youth skills day was also observed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where public and private institutions and youth bodies organized functions and seminars highlighting significance of investment in technical education for sustainable economic development and prosperous future of the country.

The civil society and youth organizations also staged a rally in front of the press club in connection with the day, stressing the significance of youth's role in peace, development and economic progress of Pakistan.

Every year, the day is marked on July 15 aimed at promoting empowerment of young people worldwide by focusing on their education and skills development besides employment.

Designated by the United Nations General Assembly in November 2014, the day emphasized the significance of equipping youth with necessary skills to tackle unemployment and poverty besides achieving sustainable development goals.

The theme of the day was 'Youth skills for peace and development' which highlighted the role of youth in peace building and resolution of conflicts. "In an era of rapid technological advancements and evolving economic landscapes, the traditional approach of education is undergoing a profound transformation owing to mushroom growth of digitalization.

The three top trading companies were PIA Holding Company with

Drive on Railway safety, prohibited items in full swing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways awareness campaign was in full swing in order to raise public knowledge of the dangers of trespassing, crossing railroad tracks, and carrying forbidden objects like gas cylinders, guns without a license, cartridges, drugs, and daggers.

The campaign was launched on the directives of Secretary Syed Mazhar Ali Shah which will help the department to control accidents but also win the confidence of the passengers of the rail" an official told APP.

The official said, "Pakistan Railways will use all the social media platforms including print, electronic media, twitter, Facebook, poster and pamphlets to create an awareness among the citizens about a safe train journey."

He said the department has also asked all the divisional superintendents to ensure checking of luggage of passengers at entry points with scanners, metal detectors and walkthrough gates. The official said Pakistan Railways had always given importance to the safety of citizens and its passengers.

"It has been directed to discourage and stop those passengers who are carrying prohibited products. It is suggested to install emergency doors and auto-lock doors in coaches in case of any emergency," he added.

## Strict action will be taken on sharing hate material on social media: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Information Azma Bukhari said that Ashura would be observed under complete harmony and strict action would be taken on sharing hate material on social media.

Presiding over a meeting at DC Office here on Monday, she took a briefing about Muharram arrangements and said that the government was committed to facilitating the masses during Ashura days. In this connection, Sharbat Sabeel would be arranged on the routes of mourning processions in addition to ensuring tight security arrangements for processions and

participants in majalis, she added.

She said that CCTV cameras would be used for monitoring security arrangements. "Muharram is a sacred month for Muslims and the government would try its optimum best to observe Ashura in a most befitting manner under tight security arrangements," she added.

She said that activities of social media would also be monitored strictly especially during Ashura days and no one would be allowed to share hate material or promote sectarianism in the country.

He also directed police officers to verify

each information before taking any steps. In this connection, hot spots should be monitored strictly in addition to keeping a close liaison with religious scholars of all schools of thoughts and members of peace committees, she added.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdullah Nayar Sheikh briefed the minister about administrative and security arrangements in Faisalabad and said that 387 CCTV cameras were made functional across the district to monitor Muharram security in addition to keeping vigil eye on the movement of suspects.



**PESHAWAR: Journalists are holding protest to condemn the killing of senior journalist Malik Hassan Zaib, who was shot dead by two unknown assailants in the Akbar Pura village Nowshera district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), at Peshawar press club.**

## PPC, KHUJ stage strong protest against killing of senior journalist

PESHAWAR (APP): The members of Khyber Union of Journalists (KHUJ) and Peshawar Press Club (PPC) on Monday staged a strong protest against the killing of senior journalist and reporter of Aaj News, Malik Hassan Zeb. The protest demonstration, attended by a large number of journalists with placards in their hands, chanted slogans in front of the Peshawar Press Club, opposite Railways Station

here and demanded arrest of the killers. Senior Vice President Imran Yousafzai in his speech demanded of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to take notice of the incident and direct early arrest of the killers for an exemplary punishment. He said despite CCTV footage of the incident which showed clear faces of the killers of the journalist, police have so far failed to make any progress in the case.

## 2 workers die while cleaning sewerage

FAISALABAD (APP): Two workers, including an employee of the municipal corporation, died when they were cleaning sewerage in Chak Jhumra police limits.

A Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Monday that 40-year-old Shakeel Masih, an employee of Municipal Corporation Chak Jhumra, entered into a sewerage at Chiniot Road but he became unconscious due to some toxic gas. Later, his coworker, Sohail Masih, 35, entered the sewerage to save him but he also fainted.

## ANF recovers over 86 kg drugs in 5 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations managed to recover over 86 kg drugs and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 810 grams ice was recovered from a parcel booked for Bahrain at Karachi Airport.



**LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Chairman Cabinet Committee for Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique being briefed about security arrangements during Muharram ul Haram at Control Room of Home Ministry.**

## Minister directs early financial assistance to rain affectees

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering, Puthunyaar Khan on Monday directed for providing in time financial assistance to the people affected by the recent heavy rains. Following the directives, Secretary Relief KP, assured the minister that financial relief assistance will be provided to the affected people within the next few days. Former tehsil member, Masoom Wazir was also present on the

occasion.

Provincial Minister Pukhtunyaar Khan said the provincial government stands with the rain-affected people at this critical juncture.

The KP government will do its best to compensate for the losses of people incurred by the natural disasters.

He said no effort will be spared in reaching out to the affected people and the financial assistance will be provided to every affected family without any discrimination.

## PDWP approves development schemes worth Rs5.56b

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Development and Working Party Punjab (PDWP) in its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the current financial year, approved two development schemes of SH&C&M and Environment sectors at a cost of Rs 56.560 billion.

Preside over by P&D Board Chairman Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan here Monday, the meeting approved the following schemes:

Establishment of Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and

Centre at the cost of Rs 56 billion. Investigation of sources of particulate matter for informed decision making in Punjab at the cost of Rs 560 million. P&D Board Secretary Dr Asif Tufail, Secretary Environment Raja Jahangir Anwar, Secretary Health Ali Jan Khan, Chief Economist Dr Nasir Iqbal Malik, P&D Board members, heads and other senior representatives of the relevant provincial departments attended the meeting.

## Azma visits Allied Hospital-I, inspects facilities

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Information Minister Azma Bukhari Monday paid a surprise visit to Allied Hospital-I.

She inspected medical facilities available for patients in emergency and other wards, presence of doctors and paramedics.

She inquired after the patients in different wards. She also inquired from attendants about treatment, availability of medicines and other facilities.

She also checked the functioning of air-conditioners in wards and medicine stock in the hospital's store.

## Health minister visits field hospital, inspects facilities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Provincial Health Minister Khwaja Salman Rafique Monday paid a surprise visit to the field hospital, established in Union Council-143, Fatehgarh.

The minister inquired about the medical facilities provided to people in the hospital. He also inquired from the attendants about treatment, availability of medicines and other facilities. Khwaja Salman Rafique said that the field hospital project was the flagship programme of the

Punjab government. Thousands of people had been provided with best medical facilities at their doorstep across the province, he added. He said providing best medical facilities to people was the first priority, adding that facilities of lady doctor, free examination and medicine were also being provided in field hospitals.

Hafiz Mohammad Aleem, Chudhry Sarwar, Mehar Mudassar, Mian Rashid and Malik Saif ur Rahman were present.



**SIALKOT: DSPCIA crime organizer Rana Mahmood ul Hasan is handing over the money recovered from the accused of robbery Rs. 18 lakh to owner Haji Imran at SCCL.**

## Departments lauded for Muharram arrangements

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Higher Education Meena Khan Afridi has lauded the relevant departments for making effective arrangements for Muharram. He said that Capital Metropolitan, District Administration, Rescue 1122, Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP), and other relevant departments had made elaborate arrangements and that their efforts will play a crucial role in maintaining peace and order during Muharram.

He expressed these views while visiting various Imambargahs, command posts, and the

Supreme Command Post in Peshawar.

On this occasion, the Director General of Capital Metropolitan, Waheed Rehman, ADC Peshawar, AC Peshawar, AACs, WSSP, and other officials also accompanied him.

The provincial minister inspected various Imambargahs in the Qissa Khwani area and reviewed the facilities provided by the government. He met with the heads of the Imambargahs and was briefed on their issues.

He also visited the command post at Khan Raziq Khwani station in Qissa Khwani and the Supreme Command Post in Kohati.

# International News

## Gaza civil defence says 15 killed in Israel strike on Gaza school

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA STRIP: The civil defence agency in Hamas-run Gaza said Sunday that 15 people were killed in a strike on a school sheltering war displaced where the Israeli military said it had targeted "terrorists".

The strike on the UN-run Abu Araban site in central Gaza's Nuseirat camp was the fifth on a school-turned-shelter in eight days.

The Abu Araban school was housing "thousands of displaced people," civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP, adding that most of the dead were women and children.

Schools in Nuseirat were the target for two of the earlier school strikes as Israel keeps up its offensive against Hamas Palestinian militants who triggered the war with their October 7 attack on Israel.

The Israeli military said its air force "struck a number of terrorists who were operating in the area of UNRWA's Abu Araban school building in Nuseirat".

It said the building had "served as a hideout" and base for "attacks" on Israeli troops.

AFP TV images showed the three-storey complex standing, with clothes and bedding airing out over its railings. A wall bearing the UN logo had been blown out, and rooms inside were damaged.

On July 6, Israeli aircraft hit Al-Jawni school, also run by the United Nations relief agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), in Nuseirat. UNRWA said about 2,000 people were sheltering there at the time.

The following day, four people died in a strike



**US President Joe Biden delivers a statement a day after Republican challenger Donald Trump was shot at a campaign rally, during brief remarks at the White House in Washington, US.**

## After assassination attempt, Trump and Biden seek calm, unity

**Monitoring Desk**  
MILWAUKEE: Donald Trump arrived on Sunday in Milwaukee, where he will be formally nominated as the Republican presidential candidate later this week after surviving an assassination attempt that has aggravated an already bitter US political divide.

President Joe Biden, a Democrat, ordered a review of how a 20-year-old man with an AR-15-style rifle got close enough to shoot at Trump from a rooftop on Saturday. Trump, as a former president, has lifetime protection by the US Secret Service.

Trump, 78, was holding a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania - a key state in the Nov. 5 election - when shots rang out, hitting his right ear and leaving his face streaked with blood. His campaign said he was doing well.

"That reality is just setting in," Trump told the Washington Examiner on Sunday. "I rarely look away from the crowd. Had I not done that in that moment, well, we would not be talking today, would we?"

One person in the crowd was killed and two others wounded before Secret Service agents fatally shot the suspect.

Both Trump and Biden on Sunday sought calm and unity.

Trump is due to accept his party's formal nomination at the Republican National Convention with a speech on Thursday. He pumped his fist in the air several times as he descended the stairs from his plane after arriving in Milwaukee. "This is a chance to bring the whole country, even the whole world, together. The speech will be a lot different, a lot different than it would've been two days ago," Trump told the Washington Examiner. Biden delivered a televised address from the Oval Office in the White House on Sunday.

## Judge dismisses Donald Trump's classified documents case

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: A Florida judge appointed by Donald Trump has dismissed the criminal case against the former president on charges of mishandling top secret documents, ruling that Special Counsel Jack Smith was unlawfully appointed.

The decision is a major victory for Republican presidential candidate Trump, who had been accused of endangering national security after leaving the White House.

The decision comes days after an assassin's bullets flew by him during a campaign rally, streaking the Republican presidential candidate's blood across his face and prompting his security agents to swarm him, before he emerged and pumped his fist in the air, mouthing the

words "Fight! Fight! Fight!"

Hours after the incident, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said it had identified the shooter in the assassination attempt as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Pennsylvania, US media reported early on Sunday.

Federal Judge Aileen Cannon made her ruling after lawyers for the 78-year-old argued for a partial stay of proceedings to allow for an assessment of a Supreme Court ruling that a former president has broad immunity from prosecution.

"Former president Trump's motion to dismiss indictment based on the unlawful appointment and funding of Special Counsel Jack Smith is granted," Aileen wrote in her order.

## King Charles III to visit Australia and Samoa as he recovers from cancer

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: King Charles III is preparing to visit Australia and Samoa in October, an itinerary that will span 12 time zones and test the monarch's stamina as he recovers from cancer treatment.

The trip, announced on Sunday by Buckingham Palace, marks a watershed moment for the 75-year-old king, who has been slowly returning to public duties after taking a break following his cancer diagnosis in early February. The decision to undertake such a long journey will be seen as a sign of Charles' recovery, even though the program in Australia will be "limited."

## China, Russia start joint naval drills, days after NATO allies called Beijing a Ukraine war enabler

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China and Russia's naval forces on Sunday kicked off a joint exercise at a military port in southern China on Sunday, official news agency Xinhua reported, days after NATO allies called Beijing a "decisive enabler" of the war in Ukraine.

The Chinese defense ministry said in a brief statement that the exercise, sea strikes and air defense. Xinhua News Agency reported the Chinese and Russian naval forces carried out on-map military simulation and tactical coordination exercises.

## Dubai crown prince appointed UAE defence minister

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: The crown prince of Dubai has been appointed as minister of defence for the United Arab Emirates as part of a broader cabinet shuffle. Dubai ruler and UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum posted on X.

The 41-year-old Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, who has served as Dubai's crown prince since 2008, was also named as one of the UAE's deputy prime ministers.

## Italian tax police free 33 Indian workers from 'slave-like' conditions on farms

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: Italy's tax police said Saturday they had freed 33 Indian farm workers from "slave-like working conditions" in the northern province of Verona, while seizing almost half a million euros from the two alleged gangmasters. Police said the two alleged abusers, also Indian, persuaded their fellow nationals to come to Italy, paying €17,000 each to obtain seasonal working

## Seven students drown on summer holidays in Mexico

**Monitoring Desk**  
MEXICO CITY (INP): Seven students drowned in eastern Mexico after their vehicle was dragged into a fast-flowing river as they tried to retrieve a boat from its waters, local government sources said Sunday.

The victims, all between 21 and 23 years old, on Saturday were celebrating the end of the school year and summer holidays at a private residence on the banks of the river in the city of Coatzacoalcos.

## Syrians vote for their next parliament, which may pave the way for Assad to extend his rule

**Monitoring Desk**  
DAMASCUS: Syrians were voting for members of a new parliament in an election Monday that was expected to hold few surprises but could pave the way for a constitutional amendment to extend the term of President Bashar Assad.

The vote is the fourth in Syria since mass anti-government protests in 2011 and a brutal crackdown by security forces spiraled into an ongoing civil war and comes as an economic crisis grips the country, fueling demonstrations in the south.

Syria's 2024 parliamentary election excludes rebel-held northwest Syria and the country's northeast under U.S.-backed, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces. The number of eligible voters hasn't been announced either, and

unlike presidential elections, the millions of diaspora Syrians - whose numbers have ballooned since the civil war - are not qualified to vote for the legislators.

Western countries and Assad's critics say the polling in government-held areas in Syria is neither free nor fair.

This year, 1,516 government-approved candidates are running for the 250-seat People's Assembly. Some 8,151 polling stations were set up in 15 voting districts in government-held areas, with results expected to be announced Monday night or the following day. In the last round of elections in 2020, the outcome was delayed for days due to technical issues, according to officials. Assad's Baath Party won 166 seats, in addition to 17 others from allied parties.

