

# Independent

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

## Pakistan summons German ambassador Afghan nationals attack Pakistani consulate in Germany

FO says German govt 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

## Govt 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. He specifically thanked Chairman HBL Sultan Ali Allana and Prince Rahim Agha Khan for providing technical

consultancy support free of cost for the project. He paid tribute the decades-long services of the Agha Khan Foundation for the country. He directed the authorities concerned to complete the project in one year. "Although one year is a challenging deadline for the huge project but with determination and hard work, it was quite possible. He also issued directives to continue work on the project round the clock to meet the deadline. He assured that there would be no funding problems from

the government side. PM Shehbaz Sharif also express his gratitude to the Islamabad Chief Commissioner Ali Randhawa for providing land for the project. He also thanked finance minister, finance secretary and planning minister for their support for the project. As regards compensation to the land affected people, the prime minister directed to provide one window facility to the affected people to resolve their problems without any delay.



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

## 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 President 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."



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif Chairing a meeting to finalise Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Mapping Plan.

## CM emphasises innovative training for economic growth

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has stressed the need for innovative technical training courses to spur economic growth and reduce unemployment. Chairing a meeting to finalise Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Mapping Plan here on Sunday, the CM said that advanced courses in the market-driven trades should be taught in TEVTA institutes. The CM emphasised that the new courses must include training in building, textiles, garments, tourism, hospitality, information communication technology, automobile assembly and repair, professional training in food processing, biomedical technology, light engineering, renewable

energy, and surgical instruments. She directed the authorities concerned to establish partnerships with leading industries to support internships, apprenticeships and job placement. She also directed them to introduce Korean, Japanese, German, Chinese and Arabic language courses in TEVTA institutions. She prayed for establishing a strong technical education system in Punjab. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif agreed to a proposal to establish Punjab Overseas Employment Promotion Authority for Skilled Jobs in the International Market, and directed to outsource 'Heavy Machinery Driving/Operator Course' in collaboration with Large Scale Construction Developers.

## Asif Kirmani parts ways with PML-N

ISLAMABAD (INP): Dr Syed Asif Kirmani, former political secretary of ex-prime minister Nawaz Sharif, announced quitting the PML-N on Saturday. Kirmani in a statement said he has distanced himself from the political affairs of the PML-N. He said people were dying due of inflated power bills and inflation owing to ineffective governance of the rulers, adding, "Nawaz Sharif Sahib! all is not well." However, he did not give a clue about joining another party. Kirmani added that he will soon issue a detailed statement about his decision to quit the party.

## '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.

## 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.



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

## 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) administration," 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 con-

spiracies to derail the system and decimate the economy, Tarar said citing the recent firing in Bannu peace rally arranged by the peaceful traders. He claimed that the PTI like other political parties became part of the peace rally and some of their members allegedly opened fire during the rally which caused stampede inflicting injuries to many. The minister rejected the inquiry commission formed by the PTI led government in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa accusing them of their involvement in the incident. "They hatched a conspiracy and tried to blame the security agencies for the incident. They are uploading pictures of children belonging to another country



on the social media and claiming that the people were martyred by direct firing of the security forces," he noted. A malicious campaign has been launched in this regard on the social media networking sites to portray a wrong and fabricated story in Bannu, he said, calling the PTI as "Tehreek-e-Taliban PTI" (TTPTI) which, he alleged,

in and day out to spread terror in the country to bring political instability and derail economy to default the country, he added. "This is their mission and manifesto and they have always demonstrated this through their actions," he said recalling its armed attack on the state institutions in 2014 sit-in which also saw unprecedented scenes of chaos and anarchy. He also recalled the May 9 incidents when the Corps Commander House Lahore was burnt and other state institutions came under attack along with defiling of memorials of the martyrs. Their plan was to pit the people of Pakistan against the Army and with

a death of 50 or 60 persons, they wanted to bring the whole system to a standstill, he said, adding such a political party should be declared as a "terrorist organization". He regretted that the PTI founder ensured safety of his family and left the workers, who were involved in the May 9, to face the law. "The Tehreek-e-Instishar did not provide legal or financial support to them who were actually sent there to die on May 9," he added. He lashed out at the PTI founder for resettling terrorists in the country to disrupt peace achieved through the sacrifices rendered by the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army.

## 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.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 Sham-i-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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

He highlighted that since the 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

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.

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

## 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.

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.

## 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.

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.

## 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.

## 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.

He expressed these views as a chief guest at a degree-awarding ceremony held at Frontier Law College Peshawar.

The event was attended by the Controller of Examinations of University of Peshawar, Dr. Hizbullah Khan, College Principal Justice (Retd) Yahya Zahid Gillani, College founder Akhtar Ali Khan Nahqi, Coordinator Lubna Shamsad Khan, former Peshawar Mayor candidate Rizwan Bangash and a large number of students.

Addressing the ceremony, the provincial minister said we have to think and fulfill our duties and responsibilities with

## 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.

## 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.

## 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".

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 signaled 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.

## Soaring inflation hits country; prices of fruits, vegetables skyrocket

MULTAN (INP): The wave of inflation continues to sweep across Pakistan, pushing the prices of everyday essentials to unprecedented levels. As the cost of fruits and vegetables reaches alarming heights, the public is feeling the strain on their household budgets.

According to the latest reports, the price of fruits has surged to Rs 400 per kilogram, while vegetables have climbed to Rs 800 per kilogram. Additionally, the prices of staple commodities such as flour and sugar have also seen significant hikes. Flour prices have risen by Rs 20 per kilogram, and the cost of sugar has now reached Rs 165 per kilogram.

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. The price of tea has also seen a substantial increase, compounding the challenges faced by consumers.

The latest data from the Institute of Statistics paints a bleak picture. The inflation rate has increased for the third consecutive week following the implementation of the federal budget for the financial year 2024-25. The weekly inflation rate has risen by 0.76 percent, bringing the annual inflation rate to a staggering 24.36 percent.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam chairing Second Review Meeting of PM's Committee to establish mountaineering school in Gilgit-Baltistan held in the Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ministry.

## PM committed to promote environmentally sustainable mountaineering: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam on Sunday emphasised efforts have been launched on the PM's directives to set up mountaineering school in Gilgit-Baltistan having structured training and educational facilities specifically tailored to mountaineering, sherpa training and sustainable tourism practices in Pakistan's north to promote world-class environmental-friendly mountaineering, climbing and mountain tourism.

While chairing a second review meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee to Establish Mountaineering School in Gilgit-Baltistan held here in the climate change and environmental coordination ministry, Romina Khurshid Alam said, "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is very much instrumental for setting up the mountaineering school in Gilgit-Baltistan and other mountain regions of the country."

Establishing such facilities that would help equip aspirant mountaineers and mountain climbers

with the knowledge and confidence to enjoy the mountains safely while respecting the local environment, values and cultures of mountain communities and fellow climbers would prove an important initiative for promoting sustainable and environmental-friendly mountaineering and climbing in the country, the PM's climate aide said.

"A plan is being implemented in close coordination and support with the Gilgit-Baltistan government to set up first government-run mountaineering school of the world-class

standard in Skardu. It also aims to open new vistas of employment opportunities for the local mountain communities and help promote sustainable and environmental-friendly mountaineering and climbing," remarked the PM's aide.

Romina Khurshid said that the picturesque Gilgit-Baltistan has long been celebrated for its scenic towering peaks, including K2, the second highest mountain in the world. The region is rich in natural beauty and cultural heritage, attracting adventurers and explorers from around the globe.

## BISP starts registration for Sikh families

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a historic development, the internationally acclaimed Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has started the registration process for the Sikh community in Buner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The registration process has been commenced in pursuance of the directives of Chairperson of the BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid.

BISP field staff is actively conducting surveys of deserving Sikh families to include them in the program, reflecting the promise and commitment made by the chairperson to the Sikh community.

This initiative reflects Senator Rubina Khalid's firm commitment to ensure that all deserving families, regardless of their religious background, receive the

support and benefits of the BISP.

Sikh community has expressed their gratitude to Senator Rubina Khalid and appreciated her efforts towards their welfare through BISP.

During her recent visit to Buner, Senator Rubina Khalid met with members of the Sikh community at Pir Baba Gurdwara.

She guided the Sikh women through the BISP registration process and instructed the staff at the BISP office in Buner to facilitate the survey for deserving women from the Sikh community.

Senator Rubina Khalid also directed the staff to address the issues of all minority communities in Pakistan and to assist them in every aspect to ensure their registration and inclusion in the BISP family.

## Farewell ceremony held in honour of retired police officers

ISLAMABAD: A farewell ceremony was held in honour of Inspector Omar

retirement is part of the service as the one who joins the service has to retire one day. He asked the serving



Khan and Inspector Gull Sher at Capital Police College Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that, DSP Capital Police College (CPC) Mehfooz Kiyani graced the ceremony as chief guest, while other police officers were also present on the occasion. The ceremony was held in recognition of the services of the retiring police officers.

Speaking at the occasion, DSP CPC said that re-

police officers to do their best to earn respect for the department. He was of the view that public service only could earn a good name for the officer and the department.

He recognized the services rendered by the two police officers and added that the department in return gave them respect and honour. He presented police shields and gifts to the retired police officers and also expressed best wishes for their future endeavors.

## 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 the Afghan government should take legal action against its extremist citizens involved in this incident.

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-Afghan relations.

## P'abad Police Assistant Shahid promoted to office Superintendent rank

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Islamabad Police Assistant Shahid Shabbir has been promoted to the position of Office Superintendent (Grade-17) rank, a public relations officer said.

The Departmental Promotion Committee recommended his promotion, which was approved by Inspector General of Police Islamabad Syed Ali Naseer Rizvi, who issued the formal notification.

AIG Establishment/Operations Abdul Haque Umrani handed over the promotion notification to him. Shahid Shabbir joined

Islamabad Police as an Assistant in December 2009 and served in various capacities at the Central Police Office.

During his service, he was awarded the "Cop of the Month" title three times for his outstanding performance. He has also been recognized with multiple commendatory certificates from the Minister of Interior and IG Islamabad for his exemplary work.

IG Islamabad Syed Ali Naseer Rizvi congratulated Assistant Superintendent Shahid Shabbir and directed him to continue performing his duties diligently in his new role.



ISLAMABAD: A group photo of Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmad with Pakistan Street Football Children team heading for Norway Cup.

## GRCP, CHF sign agreement to preserve Taxila's archeological heritage thru sustainable tourism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Gandhara Resource Centre, Pakistan (GRCP) and the Climate Hub Forum on Sunday signed an agreement to promote sustainable tourism, education, and research initiatives to develop eco-friendly tourism practices that honour Taxila's archeological heritage and enhance community engagement.

Climate Change and Environmental Education Training Program was held in Taxila, a city renowned for its Gandhara Civilization heritage jointly organized by the Climate Hub Forum and Odyssey, in collaboration with EYLAR (Early Years Learning and Research), the event took place at Sir Syed Innovative School Mohra Muradu,

Taxila, and hosted by the Gandhara Resource Centre, Pakistan, a news release said.

The event included sessions on climate change education, emphasizing the urgent impacts and strategies for environmental education, and heritage preservation, focusing on protecting Buddhist heritage sites. Additionally, sustainable tourism practices were discussed, highlighting their role in attracting tourists while preserving cultural legacies.

The speakers at the event included Amir Sadozai, CEO of the Climate Hub Forum; Erum Khan, Director of Odyssey; Batool Siddique, CEO of EYLAR; Riaz Ahmed, Coordinator of GRCP;

Ifthikhar ud din Siddique, Manager of PR and Community Outreach; Ifthikhar Ahmed, Member of the Core Committee GRCP; Sohail Ahmed, Manager of Media; Pervez Khan, a renowned painter; Salman Tahir, CEO of Taxila Baithak; Asif Fareed, Co-Founder of Taxila Baithak; Tahir Mehmood Sheikh, Ex-Serviceman; Professor Turab Haider Naqvi of UET; Mumtaz Hussain, Managing Director of Hunza Lounge Adventure; Muhammad Hamza, Producer/Lecturer at Media National Excellence Institute; and Waqas Ahmed, a social activist.

The agreement also emphasizes educational programs that raise awareness about the interconnectedness of cultural and natural resources.

## Strict action against smoke emitting vehicles expedited

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has intensified action against smoke emitting and pressure horns vehicles for the purpose of environmental protection, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police have intensified the crackdown against vehicles causing environmental pollution and using pressure horns.

In this regard, Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad Muhammad Sarfarz Virk directed all Zonal DSPs to take stern action against vehicles involved in polluting the environment. Mobile squads of Islamabad Police have been formed to implement the campaign against the smoke-emitting vehicles. These squads patrol in various areas and important boulevards of the city and are directed to take legal action against those vehicles involved in noise and smoke pollution. Special squads had been constituted as per the directions of CTO Islamabad in order to conduct regular checking and issued fine tickets against vehicles involved in noise or other environmental pollution.

## 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 Rabi 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 Su-

preme 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.

The names include Ayesha Bhutta, Saadia

Ayub, Rubina Khan,

Rubina Rizwan, Rubina Jameel, and Ashma Shuja. These individuals have shown significant dedication and service to the party, positioning them as potential representatives in the provincial assembly.

Additionally, the name of Falak Javed, sister of Sanam Javed, has also been proposed for a reserved seat in the Punjab Assembly.

The final approval of this list rests with PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

Sources further said that the proposed names will be presented to PTI founder Imran Khan for approval.



Attallah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting offering fatha for the deceased father of Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mobashir Hassan in Peshawar.

## Information Minister condoles with PIO on his father's demise

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture, and National Heritage Attallah Tarar visited the residence of Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mobashir Hassan on Sunday to offer condolences on the demise of his father.

Senior leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), including Iqbal Zafar Jhagra and Akhtar Wali Khan, also accompanied him.

On this occasion, the minister sympathized with the PIO over the demise of

his father. He also prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed soul in the highest ranks of Jannah and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude.

Tarar said he shared the pain and grief of the bereaved family. The minister said a father is the greatest blessing of the Almighty, and the demise of a father is the biggest tragedy for a person. The void created by the demise of his father was hard to fill, he added.

## Court Islamabad will hear FIA's application against Sanam Javed on July 23

ISLAMABAD (Online): The hearing on FIA's application against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf worker Sanam Javed will be held in the District and Sessions Court Islamabad on July 23 this week. On the previous hearing, the court had issued notices to the parties for July 23 on the appeal against the decision to discharge Sanam Javed from the FIA case and sought their response. The appeal against the decision to discharge Sanam Javed from the FIA case was heard in the District and Sessions Court

Islamabad. District and Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka heard the FIA appeal, FIA Prosecutor Sheikh Amir appeared before the court.

The FIA prosecutor said that the duty judge did not have the authority to discharge the case, no record of the case was presented in the Islamabad High Court.

No record of FIA was summoned in the Islamabad High Court, none of our representatives appeared in the High Court, the court issued notices to the parties for July 23.

## Motorway police recovers lost bag contain Rs 2 lakh

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a heartwarming display of dedication and service, the Motorway Police successfully recovered a lost bag containing Rs 2 lakh in cash and handed it over to its owner.

The incident occurred when a car broke down near Paliyan on the Swat Expressway while traveling from Peshawar to Swat, according to Motorway Police spokesman.

After the vehicle was repaired and departed, the owner had left a bag containing Rs 2 lakh in cash and some clothes behind.

Upon remembering the forgotten bag, the driver promptly sought assistance from the Motorway Police patrolling team, who immediately sprang into action.

The team informed the nearest patrolling team, who launched a thorough search operation.



ISLAMABAD: A view of burned shops at H-9 Sunday Bazaar in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: People enjoying holiday at Rawal Dam in the Federal Capital.

## PMD advises public for safety measures during fresh monsoon spell

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Meteorologist of Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Sardar Sarfaraz on Sunday advised public to take all necessary precautions and health safety measures in anticipation of a fresh monsoon spell expected to commence from Monday (July 22).

Talking to a private news channel, he said the new rain spell is likely to bring heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, and strong winds, which may cause flash flooding, landslides, and other hazards.

"We already issued instructions to district administrations to prepare in advance for any unpleasant incidents due to dust storms, strong winds, or thunderstorms," he said.

The district administrations have also been directed to ensure the avail-

ability of small and large machinery to deal with any emergency in advance, he added.

Replying to a question, he said strong monsoon currents are likely to penetrate from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal in the upper parts from July 22.

To another question, he said in light of the risk of urban flooding, the administration of major cities has been instructed to remain vigilant and complete advance arrangements to mitigate potential impacts.

This includes ensuring that storm-water drainage systems are clear and functioning properly, conducting regular inspections of waterways and culverts, and identifying areas prone to flooding, he added.

Additionally, city officials are urged to develop emergency response plans.