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10 security personnel, 5 civilians martyred, 13 terrorists killed in terror attacks in Bannu, DI Khan

President vows to root out menace of terrorism; Entire nation stands with security forces in war against terrorism: PM Shahbaz

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as eight soldiers of to collapse of portion of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while gallantly fighting and successfully eliminating a group of ten brave sons of soil that in- Army and Lance Naik Sabz terrorists who attacked Bannu Cantonment on July

According to the Inter trict Poonch, AJK),
Services Public Relations Havildar Zil-e-Hussain (ISPR) news release on Tuesday, in early hours of July 15th, a group of ten terrorists attacked Bannu (age: 28 years, resident of: (age: 28 years, resident Cantonment, whereas the District Neelum, AJK), attempt to enter the cantonment was effectively thwarted by the security forces personnel, which forced the terrorists to ram an explosive laden vehicle

The suicide blast led wall and damaged the adjoining infrastructure, re-44 years, resident of: Dis-(age: 39 years, resident of:

years, resident of: District Karak), Sepoy Arsalan Aslam (age: 26 years, resident of: sulting in shahadat of eight Bahawalpur) of Pakistan cluded Naib Subedar Ali (age: 34 years, resident Muhammad Shehzad (age: of: Lakki Marwat) of Frontier Constabulary.

In the ensuing operation, the Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists as a result of which all ten terrorists were killed.

"This timely and effective response by the se-Sepoy Ashfaq Hussain Khan (age: 30 years, resimajor catastrophe, saving dent of: District Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 22 years, resident of: District Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 22 years, resident of: District Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 24 years, resident of: District Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 25 years, resident of: District Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 26 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 27 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 27 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 27 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 27 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 27 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 27 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 27 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 28 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 28 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 28 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 28 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK, Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 28 years), resident of: Muzzafarabad, AJK, Sepoy Sobhan Muzzafa into perimeter wall of the cantonment.

trict Muzzafarabad, AJK), solve in fight against terror-sentonment.

Sepoy Imtiaz Khan (age: 30 ism," the ISPR said.



Room at Pir Bukhari point and get briefing on the 10th Moharram procession.

No consultation before PTI ban decision: PPP

Shazia Marri and Sherry Rehman voice concerns, reiterating that coalition partner was not taken into confidence

Central Secretary Information of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Shazia Marri, reacted to the decision to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI), stating that PPP was not taken into confidence regarding this decision, adding that the party will discuss the government's decision in-

The decision came after Information Minister Ataullah Tarar revealed the government's decision to file a case in the Supreme PTI considers itself a po-Home Minister, Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh

Home, Law and Parliamen-

tary Affairs Minister Ziaul

Hasan Lanjar along with

Mayor Karachi Barrister

Murtaza Wahab visited the

mourning procession routes of 9 and 10 Muharram to

review security arrange-

PTI, asserting that there is clear evidence and citing the Constitution's provision that allows the government to prohibit any party inties. Ataullah further de-Article 6 will be initiated against former President Imran Khan, and Deputy

government's decision, Marri emphasized that if

Speaker Qasim Suri.

visit routes of mourning

processions to review security

Court to impose the ban on litical party, it must adopt a political demeanour.

Senior Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Sherry Rehman also voiced surprise over volved in anti-state activithe government's decision, stating that the PPP clared that cases under had no prior indication of such a move.

against former President
Arif Alvi, PTI founder
that the PPP had already expressed its concerns during the budget dis-Responding to the cussions, advising ernment's decision, against unilateral decisions that could strain the coalition

Four Pakistanis martyred, 30 hospitalized in Muscat Imambargah attack: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Home Minister said that security should be made foolproof on the routes of mourning proces-

Additional IG Karachi and DIG East briefed them about the security mea-

They informed that procession routes had been completely sealed and had been made foolproof. SSP East, SSP South.

SSP City, and other police officers were also present

Ziaul Hasan Linjar and Barrister Murtaza Wahab also visited Nishtar Park, Tibet Centre Iraniyan Hosseinian Kharadar.

He directed that snipers be posted on the buildings along the procession

The security of Majalis, mourning processions and other such gatherings should be made foolproof, he directed adding that there should be no negligence in security

Four Pakistanis were martyred and thirty others were hospitalized with gunshot wounds after a terrorist attack targeted the Imambargah, Ali bin Abi Talib, in Muscat's Wadi Kabeer area, said Foreign Office spokesperson on

> In a statement, the Foreign Office spokesperson quoted the latest information from Omani authorities, stating that the Pakistan Embassy in Oman was coordinating with local authorities to identify and repatriate the remains of Paistani martyrs.

Tuesday.



SUKKUR: A large number of mourners attending the procession of 9th Muharramul Harram at Karbala Rohri.



RAWALPINDI: Photos of security officials martyred during attacks in Bannu

CM reaches Sukkur, briefed about processions, Ashura arrangements

Provincial govt takes all-out efforts to ensure security during Ashura: CM Sindh

Tuesday visited Sukkur missioner to review the security arrangements for the 9th ers were also present on Muharram and and the occasion. Yaum-e-Ashoora.

a detailed briefing about the 9th and 10th processions of Muharram at Mayor House Sukkur here. SSP Sukkur Amjad Ahmed Shaikh and Denuty Commissioner. Deputy Commissioner
Sukkur Dr Raja MB
Dharejo gave briefings to the CM.

Would be deployed.

He said that the district police had finalized all the security arrangements to provide a fool-

Home Minister Sindh Zia Lunjar, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah Spokesperson to Sindh Government Barrister Arslan Sheikh, MNA Noman

Fayyaz

In a briefing, the SSP During a meeting, the Sukkur said that all archief minister was given rangements had been fi-

> proof security cover to 145 mourning processions and Imambargahs.

Divisional Commissioner Sukkur Fayyaz Islamuddin Hussain Abbasi in his lowed strictly.

SUKKUR (APP): The Chief Minister Sindh, Range Peer Muhammad Syed Murad Ali Shah on Shah, Divisional Commedia, the audio and video recordings of Majalis and processions were being compiled.

He said that the procession routes were cleaned, patchwork and road repair work was carried out, and hanging electric wires were fixed.

Apart from this, he said coordination with scholars of all schools of thought had also been ensured. The chief minister directed the authorities concerned to adopt zerotolerance policy towards any violation of the code of conduct of Muharram, adding that the scheduled time and route of the pro-cession should be fol-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visiting main procession of the 9th of Muharram and personally reviewed the security ar rangements put in place to protect mourners.

Interior minister reviews security for 9th Muharram procession in Islamabad

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi here on Monday visited the main procession of the 9th of Muharram and personally reviewed the security arrangements put in place to

protect mourners. The interior minister inspected the procession route, met with organizers to inquire about arrangements and gave instructions to IG Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi and CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa regarding secu-

rity protocols. He also conducted an aerial inspection of the en-

ISLAMABAD (APP): tire procession route, ensuring that all necessary measures were in place.

The minister emphasized the importance of maintaining a high level of security throughout the mourning period, instructing the security personnel to remain on duty until the procession's conclusion.

He also issued directives for the implementation of a special security plan across all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir, ensuring strict adherence to the plan. The use of drones in processions and gatherings has been banned nationwide.

Imam Hussain's (R.A) sacrifice teaches great sacrifices needed for great causes: Tarar

Minister of Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar here on Tuesday said that the inident of Karbala had taught the lesson that great sacrifices were needed for

the great causes.
"Lesson of the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (R.A) was that no tyrant and oppressor should be allowed to play with the truth" he said during his visit to Imambargah Kashan Abbas to review the security arrangements

The minister said that the incident of Karbala was the difference between truth and falsehood until

LAHORE (APP): Federal the Day of Resurrection. The courage, patience, independence and prudence of all the companions of Imam Hussain are the beacon of light for us," he maintained.

Tarar said that the battle between the forces of truth and falsehood continued even in this era. He said that today, the need to promote the spirit of self-sacrifice was needed more than ever.

The information minister inspected the route of the procession while also reviewing the security arrangements during the Majalis. He also met the organizers, mourners present in the Imambargaĥ.

Police, Rangers deployed to provide foolproof security to 9th Muharram

processions

KARACHI (APP): Police, Rangers, and other Law Enforcement Agencies have been deployed to provide foolproof security to the mourning processions of 9th Muharram ul Haram here on Tuesday. The Police and Rangers cops provide foolproof security on the routes of the processions and differ ent parts of the metropolis

The snipers have also been deployed to properly ensure the security of the processions and majalis.

The Sindh government has also directed the Police to monitor security from Command and Control Centres set up in CPO and Civic Centre.

Youm-e-Ashur to be observed today with solemnity

ISLAMABAD (INP) Youm-e-Ashur, the tenth of Muharram-ul-Haram, will observed today (Wednesday) across the country with due solemnity to pay homage to the supreme sacrifice rendered by Hazrat Imam Hussain Razi Allah ho Ta'ala Anho and his devoted compan ions in Karbala.

Mourning processions will be taken out in all cities and towns of the country. Ulema and Zakireen will highlight the bright and candid teachings of Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A) and various aspects of Karbla tragedy

Imam Hussain's sacrifices inspire resistance against oppression: PM

Prime Muhammad Sharif stated that the suas a reminder, inspiring humanity to stand against falsehood and oppression, reaffirming the unwavering commitment to truth on this significant occasion of

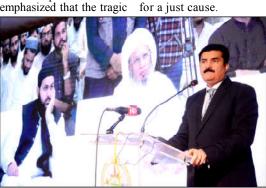
Youm-e-Ashur. In his Youm-e-Ashur message, the prime minister highlighted its profound Prophet (peace be upon him) and his companions sacrificed their lives in a truth and falsehood at his companions. Karbala, illustrating the eternal strength of truth over falsehood through their martyrdom.

ISLAMABAD (APP): events of Youm-e-Ashur Minister resonate deeply within be-Shehbaz lievers, serving as an enduring reminder of the sacripreme sacrifices of Hazrat fices for truth and justice. İmam Hussain (RA) serve He highlighted Imam Hussain's (RA) courageous stand against Yazid's oppressive rule in Karbala, illustrating his unwavering

perseverance.

The Holy Qur'an states, "Do not think of those who have been killed in the way of Allah as dead. They are alive significance, noting that the grandson of the Holy provision" (Surah Alprovision" (Surah Al-Imran, 3:169). This verse captures the essence of sacrifice demonstrated by decisive battle between Imam Hussain (RA) and

In the contemporary world, it is evident that the people of Palestine endure great hardships and The prime minister make substantial sacrifices



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim addressing a function at Al-Ghazali University

Bilawal emphasized timeless message of Imam Hussain against tyranny and injustice

ISLAMABAD (APP): spire us to continue our Chairman Pakistan Peoples fight for justice, equality, Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has emphaman rights. sized the timeless message of Hazrat Imam Hussain for unity among the Mustyranny and injustice with unparalleled courage and unwavering faith.

'This day serves as a reminder for all of us to uphold the principles of truth. justice, and righteousness, even in the face of adversity," he said in a message

on the Youm-e-Ashura. He said that the sacrifices made by Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions are a beacon of light for all of humanity, adding that their struggle against oppression and their commitment to uphold the values of Islam in-

Bilawal Bhutto called (RA), who stood against lim Ummah and urged all communities to promote peace and harmony

He stressed the importance of rejecting violence and extremism, and instead, embracing the true spirit of Islam which teaches love, tolerance and brotherhood. Bilawal Bhutto prayed for the peace, stability and prosperity of Pakistan. He expressed hope that the lessons of Karbala will guide us in creating a just and equitable society, where the principles of Imam Hussain (RA) are upheld and cherished.



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

No decision yet to ban PTI, says Ishaq Dar

Any decision in this regard will only be taken after consultation with coalition partners, says deputy PM

LAHORE (INP): Deputy that PTI left the economy said on Saturday that no decision has been made regarding the ban on the Pa-kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, stating that any decision will only be taken after consultation with coalition partners.

Speaking to media at Lahore's Data Darbar, Dar emphasised that the current economic challenges were not introduced by the incumbent government but were a consequence of previous administrations. The economic downslide began with the ousting of Nawaz Sharif, not during our tenure," Dar asserted.

He criticised the PTI's previous government for exacerbating the country's financial instability, alleging

Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on the brink of default within six to seven months of their rule and accused them of rigging the 2018 elections to place their leader in power.

Further detailing the

economic impact, Dar pointed out that during the PTI's tenure, Pakistan's economic ranking plummeted from 24th to 47th. "Had the PML-N not stepped in, Pakistan would have defaulted," he claimed, praising Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his team for averting a financial crisis.

On the topic of PTI's alleged foreign funding. Dar stated that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) possesses concrete evidence that PTI is a foreign-funded party.

Daily doice of Masse Independent

Banning PTI

It is dangerous for a government to appear so desperate. Like grains of sand, power slips quicker from the hand the tighter the fist is clenched. In their obsession with countering the resurgent PTI, the ruling parties are, wittingly or unwittingly pushing the country towards even more chaos and anarchy instead of accepting ground realities and working around them.

Though 11 judges of the Supreme Court, including the chief justice, only last week recognised the PTI's bona fides as a political party, the coalition government is now seeking a complete ban on the party itself.

The shock proclamation came on Monday afternoon, along with announcements that the government had decided to seek a review of the Supreme Court's ruling in the reserved seats case as well as proceedings under Article 6 against former president Arif Alvi, former prime minister Imran Khan, and former deputy speaker of the National Assembly, Qasim Suri.

Was this the government's best response to losing its two-thirds majority, which, in any case, had only been secured thanks to a series of unconstitutional and unlawful decisions taken by the Election Commission? Was the prospect of the largest party in parliament being restored to its rightful status so alarming that the ruling parties, in the tradition of military dictators, would seek to ban it on dubious charges?

If the government thought it was projecting power through Information Minister Atta Tarar's Monday press conference, it was gravely mistaken. It only managed to appear desperate and intimidated, clutching at straws while the tide rises around it. One can only hope that it was merely testing the waters for what the reaction may be to such a move. Nevertheless, it was a shock that the stalwarts in its ranks had not shot down the proposal before a minister went public with it.

It appears that the government and its backers within the establishment have still not realised that they are in uncharted territory. Previous regimes that ruled through political coercion and fear tactics had strong economies backing them. The conditions right now appear to be far from conducive for the type of brinkmanship and adventurism being displayed by the current regime. If the idea is to precipitate a collapse of the democratic political order, then, by all means, the authorities should

However, if social and economic stability is what is sought, they would be well-advised to undertake a hard course correction. At the same time, the PTI also needs to display some flexibility and greater maturity. It appears that it has gained enough leverage to be able to achieve its political objectives without the country having to travel further down the path of political violence and social instability. Victory in politics is rarely absolute. It must open itself to negotiations.

Lessons not learnt

Naseer Memon

The tumult generated Sindh subsided after the irrigation department brought the situation in-depth technical study under control by constructing a cofferdam. This was made possible by dextrously dumping over 3,000 sand-filled, one-tonne sacks amid a flow of over 100,000 cusecs. Department engineers and local fishermen worked round the zontal surfaces of the clock to contain the crisis. A 9-by-18-metre sandbag platform was created to block the flow of water, thus enabling the fixing of a caisson in place of the collapsed gate. The authorities heaved a sigh of relief as water supply to the canals was restored par-

Moreover, work to replace Gate 47 has commenced before the scheduled date. Local growers' media, organisations and civil society forums are abuzz with all manner of speculation and apprehensenior officials who rage have been re-

moved. Lowering the pond downstream revealed more gates with cracks. Gates 46, 48, 52, 53 and 54 showed structural fatigue, which points to a lack of regular inspection and maintenance. It underscores the need for an urgent inspection of all gates to ensure water showers falling on structural safety before the upper girder of most the monsoons trigger of the gates. Extensive massive river flows. A crack in a gate or the masonry structure of the barrage is not something to be shrugged off, as it could result in accumulation of waste devastating consequences if not adressed at an early

stage.

21, 2018, staff at the However, in 1966, the Sukkur Barrage noticed by the collapse of Gate 47 of Sukkur Barrage in flange of the upper mately half a metre to girder of Gate 39 during a routine inspection. An level. New gates were was conducted by Atkins, ACE & NDC Joint Venture in July 2018. The report revealed that the web plate of the girder creased in height by showed high corrosion in almost all parts. The epoxy coating of horicomponents of the structure had either tions of the gates. An inspection of been totally eroded or badly damaged. This

Most of the bolts connecting the different components were badly rusted. The two horizontal stiffeners welded at the skin plates showed deterioration due to algae. Only 17 bolts were fixed in the two cover plates of the back flange, against a total of 24 holes availsion. Meanwhile, four able in the two plates. Two bolts were faswere posted at the bar- tened without washers; while 15 washers were of different sizes.

was on account of a

leaking water jet that

was directly impacting

these horizontal sur-

Similar deterioralevel by draining water tion was noted in Gate 38, though the damage was less severe. The report also mentioned that Gates 15 to 23 had wooden plank extensions to raise the pond level. The tail channel gates were found to be leaking heavily, with accumulation of waste material was observed upstream in a few gates. Gate 39 especially had been exposed to a large material extending to about 6m to 7m.

sluice gates of the bar- ous situation. The au-An incident from rage were 5.6m in thorities must not delay June 2018 should have height so that a pond matters on this count. served as a lesson for level of around 60m - Courtesy Dawn

the authorities. On June could be achieved. height of the gates was achieve a higher pond installed during 1988-92 after the collapse of a gate in 1982. However, to further increase the pond level, these gates were inhalf a metre in 2008-10, with the use of wooden planks. Leakage from these planks caused rusting in different sec-

> the Sukkur Barrage gates was assigned to NED University in January 2019 under the Sindh Barrages Impro-vement Project. A team of experts inspected 20 gates. The report revealed that while the upper sections of the gates were in stable condition, the lower sections of most of the gates had been severely Fourteen corroded. gates showed a reduction in thickness in the lower portion. The reduction was estimated to be less than 10 per cent in the vertical girder flanges, the web plates and main skin plates of these gates. On the other hand, seven gates showed a reduction in thickness of below 20pc. The report recommended either repairing the lower sections of the gates or replacing them along with girders. Subsequently six gates were replaced.

> A technical investigation into the damage done to Gate 39 in 2018 and the rupture of a gate in 1982 provides suffi-cient evidence of structural fatigue.

Increased surveillance and regular maintenance of the barrage gates is absolutely es-The original river sential to avert a danger-

Sindh Labour Code

Parvez Rahim

labour commissions were formed to consolidate and simplify labour laws. However, the suggestions they made and the draft legislation they proposed were not even considered for putting up before parliament. There are some 190

labour enactments and rules made thereunder, with different definitions of 'worker', 'employer' and 'establishment'. Besides, the laws and rules lectual, clerical, profeshave outdated provisions. For instance, there is the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, and three Rules of 1937, 1938 and 1960. Then there are the Minimum Wages Ordinance, 1961, the Rules of 1962 and the West Pakistan Minimum Wages for Unskilled Workers Ordi-

nance, 1969. Labour laws should be simple, especially for those ensuring compliance with statutory requirements. The Sindh government, in collaboration with the ILO, has prepared and circulated the Sindh Labour Code. 2024, among employers and workers' bodies. The SLC is purported to have consolidated 20 labour laws, inclusive of legislation such as the Industrial & Commercial Employment (Standing considered as 'workers' Orders) Ordinance; Factories Act; Industrial Relations Act; Shops & Establishments Act, etc.

Separate meetings organised by the Employers' Federation of Pakistan and the National Trade Union Federation were held on June 8, 2024, to discuss the tained in the 318-page SLC. In the EFP meeting, participants were of the view that consolidation should have been based on existing laws, making their enforcement simple by removing obsolete provisions and making

cades or so, at least three very complicated and sub-v-e-rsive to disciconfusing. For inst-ance, 'worker' is defined as an employee, but 'employee' has been defined separa-tely. Besides, it is ducts. A worker accused mentioned that "a person exercising the au- allowed two weeks to thority, duties or responsibilities of an employer" is a worker.

It is mentioned that a person is a worker irrespective of the nature of work, which includes 'skilled, unskilled, intelsional, managerial, administrative and any other kind of work" The Industrial &

Commercial Employ-ment (Standing Orders) Ordinance, 1968, defines 'workman' as any person employed to do any skilled or unskilled, manual or clerical work for hire or reward. Based on this definition, progressive organisations workforce into two catand non-management. They have been managing employee relations successfully with this structure over more than five decades. Now that this struc-

ture is being dismantled through the SLC and all the employees of an organisation are to be except for the 'occupier'. it is difficult to comprehend how businesses will be operated and discipline maintained without the well-established lavers of management hierarchy. Various provisions of the SLC are so complicated and confusing that even experienced draft legislation con- practitioners of industrial relations are at a loss to understand them.

In the realm of disciplinary procedure, various acts of omission and commission by a worker. including misconduct, have been unnecessarily labelled them relevant to existing misco-n-duct'. The most ficult. -- Courtesy Dawn

frequently committed Over the last four delegislation of the SLC is
nation, actions pline and habitually sho-wing up late for work, have been dele-ted from the list of misconof misconduct has been submit his explanation, instead of the decadesold practice of three

At present, the role

of an inquiry officer conducting a domestic inquiry into the charge of misconduct is confined to recording statements of the accused, prosecution and defence witnesses, and their cross examination. Besides, he has to ensure that the accused is not put under any pressure by the management and that the inquiry proceedings are fair. Under the SLC, the officer will again communicate the charges to the accused employee and have divided their ask him to submit a written defence within seven egories: management days. The system of hiring third-party workers has been there since the inception of industry in Pakistan. rationalisation by SLC has been opposed by

labour federations, who say the Code should have been formalised through prior consultation with a tripartite commission. Consolidation and

simplification should be based on the contents and scope of existing labour laws. Nevertheless, provisions which have become redundant should be deleted and the maintenance of registers record keeping should be automated. The key labour laws have evolved since the British era. Their sudden replacement with differently intended and worded laws will not only jeopardise industrial functioning but also make implementation dif-

Commerce News

Iftikhar Malik says:

Pakistan can earn billions by tapping mineral wealth

LAHORE (APP): SAARC can attract both domestic Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President, Iftikhar Ali Malik has said Pakistan can comfortably fetch billions of dollars foreign exchange by fully exploiting its minerals wealth estimated at \$6 trillions

of industrialists led by Taimoor Ali,here on Tuesday, he said this immense wealth, if effectively harnessed, has the potential to transform the country's economic landscape. Currently, Pakistan's mining sector is underdeveloped, contributing only a small fraction to the national GDP. To unlock this potential, several strategic measures need to be imple-

He said investment in geological surveys and exploration activities was crucial. Comprehensive mapping of mineral resources veloping this infrastructure.

Furniture Council (PFC)

Ashfaq has said that tech-

nology for development

was an urgent need for Pa-

kistan to address its multifaceted challenges and pave

the way for sustainable

growth. Talking to overseas

Pakistanis investors delega-

tion led by Sheheryar Khan

Investment Consular to

Milano Italy, here on Tues-

day, he said Pakistan faces

significant hurdles in

education,healthcare,agriculture

sectors and governance.

Leveraging technology can

these

transform

Officer, Mian

Technology crucial for

Pakistan's sustainable

growth: PFC CEO

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan ensure a sustainable and

uncil (PFC) environmentally friendly energy supply. He said the

and international investors. Pakistan can benefit from collaborations with counmate, the government can Talking to delegation encourage multinational exploration and extraction

of minerals, he added. He said developing infrastructure was vital for the mining sector's growth. Efficient transportation networks, including roads to transport minerals from remote mining sites to processing facilities and export hubs. Investing in power generation and distribution infrastructure was also crucial, as mining operations are energy-intensive. Public-private partnerships can play a significant role in de-

building a skilled workforce was essential. Establishing training centers and vocatries that have advanced tional institutes focused on mining technologies and ex- mining-related skills can pertise, such as Australia equip the local population and Canada. By creating a with the necessary favorable investment cli- expertise. This not only creates job opportunities but also reduces dependency on companies to invest in the foreign labor. He said the government must ensure that the benefits of mining are equitably distributed.

Revenue generated from mining should be reinvested in local communiimproving and railways, are necessary healthcare, education and overall living standards.By adopting these strategies, Pakistan can fully exploit its mineral wealth, driving economic growth and improving the livelihoods of its citizens. Leader of the delegation Taimoor Malik was of the view that regulatory reforms

are essential. **Overseas Pak** can import vehicle after two years

LAHORE (APP): Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr Asif Mahmood Jah in his verdict declared that overseas Pakistanis are entitled to import vehicles under personnel baggage scheme transfer of residence and giff scheme who have not imported, gifted or received a vehicle during the last two years under Import Policy Order (IPO), 2022.

The FTO Advisor Dr Waqar Ch Arain disclosed this to the business community while addressing an awareness session here Sunday.

He added that the FTO has instructed the Director, Directorate of Reforms & Automation Karachi, to develop and deploy e-CRF sent by the Collectorate of Customs, Appraisement (West) Karachi, enabling the assessing officer to ensure that no goods declaration (GD) is filed on a new passport by the same importer.



Pakistani universities join Intl alliance for agricultural technology development

BEIJING (APP): In a significant move towards adecretion Forum held in vancing agricultural technology through international collaboration, four Pakistani universities including Quaid-i-Azam University, Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Sindh Agriculture University, and Ayub Agricultural Research Institute have joined the Silk Road Agricultural Education and Research Innovation Alliance at the 9th Silk Road Agricultural Edu-

Tashkent, Uzbekistan from July 9-12. This collaboration aims to foster cooperation between leading institutions in China and Pakistan, focusing on the exchange and joint development of new food crops, vegetable varieties, and medicinal crops. Abdul Ghaffar Shar, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Northwest A&F University in China, a founding institution of the alliance.

Traders denounce hike in POL prices

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajiran (Central Organisation of Traders) on Tuesday denounced another hike in the prices of petroleum (POL) products. According to details, traders' leader Kashif Chaudhry said: The country will witness the tsunami of inflation with the increase in the price of the POL products." "It has already become challenging to continue the business activities due to the current prices of power and gas."

Dow ends at record as luxury share weakness hits European bourses NEW YORK (AFP/APP): ear but not seriously in-

The Dow finished at a record Monday as markets weighed the impact of the failed assassination attempt on Donald Trump, while European bourses came under pressure from weakness in the luxury sector and disappointing Chinese eco-

The blue-chip index piled on 0.5 percent to finish at 40,211.72, notching its first record since mid-

Major US indices were in positive territory the entire session amid talk that the assassination at-

tempt boosted Trump's prospects in the election.

jured in a gun attack during a campaign event on Saturday in Pennsylvania ahead of the Republican National Convention in Wisconsin.

The former president announced Monday that Ohio Senator J.D. Vance will be his vice presidential

"The connection for the market is that former President Trump is seen by many to be a more marketfriendly candidate due in part to his push for deregulation and a lower corporate tax rate," O'Hare said.

"Still, others worry that his push to increase tariffs could also lead to higher inflation."



ISLAMABAD: A street vendor displaying dates on his handcart at roadside setup to attract customers at Lehtrar Road.

Handicraft industry preserving centuries old asset sess a timeless quality and

table destination of domestic and foreign artisans

ditional and cultural values this city boast of a tapestry of different dynasties and civilizations, most vibrant among them the handicrafts introduced by local and foreign artisans of pre-Greek, Mughals and

colonial era. Aptly named as "Pesha War" or "the City of Artisans," Peshawar still carries the legacy of craftsmanship passed down generation after generation with city bazaars like Misgran, dens and the legendary Qissa Khawani Bazaar, still echoing past glory of arti-

"Walking through these markets is like stepping back in time. The air is filled with metal clinking, the scent of wood and steel shavings and curving and sight of meticulously crafted items," said a Senior Research Officer, Archeology and Museums Depart-Khyber ment Pakhtunkhwa, Bakhtzada

Khan. "The shops brimming with wood and metal cutlery capture the attention of visitors as despite rapid technological advancements, these ancient bazaars maintain a steadfast appeal, especially among rural people of KP and Punjab provinces," he

stated

Bakhtzada said the discovery of human remains in Soan Valley in Punjab was evidence of stone-made cutlery and bone tools used anciently. "It was found that people started making clay and stone pots, crockery and other related utensils during the Neolithic period commonly known as new Stone Age dating back some 8,000 years back.'

The wooden cutlery shops in Peshawar bazaars, in particular, are a visual feast, displaying an array of handmade items—wooden spoons, blenders, kneading plates, curd mixers and bowls—showcasing artisans' dedication and hard work. These products, though presenting an old-fashioned look, also posunique designs. 'Wooden cutlery is

still alive in Peshawar. We have valuable customers for whom we specially produce these items," said Qaiser Khan, a shopkeeper in main Dabgari Bazaar. "Majority of our customers belong to KPK and Punjab while our cutlery is also preferred in Afghanistan, Middle East and Central Asians Republics due to its durability and unique designs." However, he complained of the lukewarm response of urban population who consider these products as obsolete and outdated and shifted to stainless steel cutlery and porcelain crockery.

Faraz Ali, another shopkeeper at Misgarn bazaar said use of wooden cutlery had declined in re-

cent decades and the KPK government should take steps to preserve this asset. "Wooden utensils are mostly cheaper than stainless steel or aluminum. Moreover, many people think that meals cooked in clay pottery with the help of a wooden spoon are bet-

If seen in the hygiene perspective, the wood cutlery and clay pots are not that harmful as those prepared by using certain chemical components.

ter in taste.'

"Wood products are not harmful for using domestically. However, mixing of some chemical ingredients in preparation of utensils from different metals can affect human health," said Dr Riaz Khan, Principal Medical Officer, Pabbi hospital.

sectors, enhancing efficiency, accessibility and quality of services. He said the integration of renewable energy technologies can also address Pakistan's chronic energy shortages and reduce its refossil on

fuels. Investment in solar,

wind, and hydropower can

Kashif urgent need for technology in Pakistan spans various sectors, offering solutions to pressing issues and opportunities development.By embracing technological advancements, Pakistan can drive economic growth, improve the quality of life for its citizens, and secure a sustain-

able future. He said governance and public service delivery can also be significantly improved through technology. E-governance initiatives can increase transparency, reduce corruption, and streamline administrative processes. Digital platforms for citizen engagement can foster a more inclusive and participatory governance model. Mian Kashif Ashfaq said agriculture, a backbone

of Pakistan's economy, can

benefit immensely from

PESHAWAR (APP): In the heart of South Asia lies Peshawar, a city with stories spanning over past 2,500 years and an inimi-

bringing in marvelous and eye-catching crafts designs. Rich in different tra-

Ratti bazaar, Dabgari Gar-

Peace vital for economic prosperity: Governor

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said that establishment of law and order was imperative for peace and economic development of Pakistan.

He said that law and order was a major problem, and that the heights of economic progress and prosperity could be achieved by making Pakistan as per vision of father of the nation Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and national Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was passing through difficult time. The important problem is of the law and order and all other problems are linked to it. If the condition of law and order is better then economic situation would be improved and progress ing. would be made.

The Governor said that people of Karachi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pa-kistan Army, police and Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor

Punjab, Sardar Saleem

Haider Khan said in his

message on the occasion of

Ashura Day that courage,

bravery and eternal sacrifice

of Hazrat Imam Hussain

(peace be upon him) and

the martyrs of Karbla will

always be remembered in

history. He has said that the

martyrs of Karbala taught

the oppressed humanity

not to bow down to false-

hood and stand firm against

said that the incident of

Karbala is a testament to the

unparalleled determination

and courage of Hazrat

Imam Hussain (RA) and his

companions. Governor

Punjab said that Ashura re-

minds us of the great sacri-

The Punjab Governor

oppression.

Punjab Governor message

Martyrs of Karbala taught

oppressed humanity not to

bow down to falsehood

fices of the martyrs of its security agencies in the

Karbala, it also teaches us war against terrorism.

School Peshawar had rendered great sacrifices for Pakistan that was unprecedented in the world his-

Governor was ad-Ghazali university in under the constitution.

Earlier, the Governor reached at Jamia Al Rashid where he met with Raes Al Rashid University and Chancellor Al Ghazali University Mufti Abdul Raheem, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Sohrabgot Lal Raheem and was accorded warm w

He went around different sections of Al Rashid University and received briefing about the organization. Later, he attended a fuction at Al Ghazali University and received brief-

The Governor expressed pleasure to see such great institution in the

to show patience and per

severance in hour of trial

He said that we should

awaken within ourselves

the same spirit of sacrifice

and solidarity which was

demonstrated by Imam

Hussain (RA) and his com-

panions in the field of

Karbala. Besides, Punjab

Governor, Sardar Saleem

Haider Khan strongly con-

demned the terrorist attack

on Bannu Cantonment. He

saluted the military person-

nel who thwarted the terror-

ist attack. Governor Punjab

paid tribute to the martyred

soldiers. He said that the en-

tire nation is indebted to the

sacrifices of the security

forces. Governor Punjab said

that the sacrifices of those

who laid down their lives can

never be forgotten. He said

that the nation stands with

children of Army Public Bhutto had assembled leaders of Muslims Ummah and laid foundation of Atomic power, saying no one can defeat us if we got united. The Governor stressed for keeping care of minorities dressing a function at Al rights that were protected

Kundi invited students of Al Ghazali to visit Peshawar saying the doors of Governor House Peshawar were now open for people and stressed on students that they would perform role like the country's Ambassador to highlight Pakistan soft im-

Raees Al Rashid University and Chancellor Ghazali University welcomed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor and urged all stakeholders to shun differences and sit togather for progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

They said such organizations should be in all cities of Pakistan and vowed to extend its services in Peshawar.

KP Governor condoles with families of eight martyred troops in Bannu attack

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here on Tuesday condoled with the families of eight martyrs of security forces during a suicide attack at Bannu and prayed for the eternal peace of all the martyred

troops.

The Governor expressed sympathy with the families of the martyred troops and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi paid rich tributes to the security forces for foiling the attack and lauded their gallantry and bravery in the fight against terrorism.

He said the entire nation stands with security forces in fight against terrorism.



MULTAN: Security Official standing high alert outside the Imambargah Mumtazabad to avoid any untoward incident during the procession on 9th Muharram. Muharram Ul Haram is known as the first month of the Islamic calendar and the mourning month in remembrance of the martyrdom (Shahadat) of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), the grandson of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (SAWW).

9th Muharram processions peacefully end in KP amid glowing tributes to martyrs

PESHAWAR (APP): The 'Alm and Zuljinnah' mourning processions of the 9th Muharram was peacefully concluded in all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Peshawar amid tight security arrangements by police and law enforcement agencies on Tuesday.

In Peshawar, the main Alm and Zuljinah' procession appeared in the morning from Imambargah Hussainia Hall on main Saddar Road and later was joined by many other processions in parts of the provincial capital amid flagel-

Punjab government has taken all the strict secu-

rity measures for the 9th

and 10th Muharram pro-

cessions and gatherings in

Provincial Minister for

Construction and Com-

munications Malik Sohaib

Ahmed Bharth while talk-

ing to media-men on

Tuesday. He said a total

of 567 majalis (mourning

This was stated by

Sargodha division.

lation and chest beating. The mourners passed through the prescribed routes comprising Saddar Road, Kalabari and Fawwara Chowk where the organizers arranged water, milk and drinks for the Azadars. The religious scholars

delivered special sermons on the importance of 9th Muharram. Ashura Moharram and supreme sacrifice offered by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and other martyrs of Karbala for supremacy of Islam. They said the match-

cluding 24 A-category

majlis while 222 mourn-

ing processions would be

Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali

and Bhakkar collectively

and 26 of A-category

processions originating

from different locations.

Bharth said a total of

7,683 police officers and

personnel were perform-

ing duties for the security

Malik Sohaib Ahmed

of Karballa were a great source of strength and inspiration for all Muslims. After offering

less sacrifices of martyres

'zuhrain' prayer, the procession culminated back at the Imambargah Hussainia Hall at Peshawar Canton-The 1122 Rescue Ser-

vice had set up a medical camp to provide timely treatment to the mourners in case of any emergency. The participants were allowed only after body search by the police, lav

enforcers and volunteers. 2 killed, 3 injured in bus,

car collision

in Faisalabad ISLAMABAD (APP) Mother and son were died whereas 3 others including father and daughter were injured when a high-speed bus collided with a car coming in front of it while overtaking in Tehsil Samundri of Faisalabad.

According to the details, the accident happened near Chak No. 228 GB in Tehsil Samundri of Faisalabad, private news channel and rescue 1122 reported on Tuesday.

KP CM approves free meal program in public sector primary schools

Government, as an important welfare initiative, has decided in principle to start free meal program (Schools Khana Program) in public sector primary schools under which free meals will be provided to children in primary schools in urban areas of all divisional headquarters of the province. This decision was

taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. Provincial Minister

for Primary and Secondary Education Faisal Khan Tarakai, Advisor to the Chief Minister on Finance Muzamil Aslam, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Syed

PESHAWAR (INP): The Imtiaz Hussain Shah and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa other senior officials of the concerned departments, besides the Chief Executive Officer of the private welfare organization Allahwale Trust, Shahid Lone and other staff attended the

It was decided in the meeting that initially, the initiative will be started on pilot basis in Abbottabad and Swat which will later be extended to other divisional headquarters of the province.

Under the proposed program, around 70,000 children will be provided with free and quality food daily. The program has been estimated at Rs 50 crore annually which will be borne by the provincial government.



ing the 9th Muharram Zuljinah procession passes through Saadar Road.

PRCS distributes 210 loader rickshaws among flood affected families

kistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), in collaboration with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), here on Tuesday distributed 210 loader rickshaws among the communities affected by the monsoon floods of

This initiative is a sig-PRCS's Livelihood Assistance Program under the

Flood Recovery Phase. The loader rickshaws have been distributed tiatives.

PESHAWAR (APP): Pa- among the deserving families in five districts of Sindh, one district of Baluchistan, one district of Punjab and one district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, says a press release issued here on Tuesday.

PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari emphasized PRCS's firm commitment to restoring normalcy nificant component of through multifaceted programs, including livelihood assistance, shelter construction, cash assistance, and health and hygiene ini-

International News

gatherings) was going to of the majlis and procesbe held in the four dissions.

Pb govt takes strict

security measures for

Muharram: Minister

SARGODHA (APP): The tricts of the division, in-

Israel hits Gaza from land, sea and air as Hamas pulls out of truce talks

GAZA: Israel struck the southern and central Gaza Strip on Monday and carried out raids that killed "a number of" militants, the Israeli military said, as hopes faded for a truce and hostage release deal being secured any time soon. Hamas announced on Sunday it was pulling out of truce talks after an Israeli strike targeting the head of the group's military wing, Mohammed Deif, killed scores of Palestinians.

Israel hammered the Gaza Strip from the air, sea and land Monday as the war in the Palestinian territory showed no sign of abating, with Hamas saying it was pulling out of truce talks.

Shells rained down on the neighbourhoods of Tal Al-Hawa, Sheikh Ajlin and Al-Sabra in Gaza City, AFP correspondents reported, while eyewitnesses said the Israeli the past day.

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Rival students in

Bangladesh clashed on

Monday leaving at least 100

people injured, as demon-

strators opposing quotas for

coveted government jobs

northern outskirts of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza.

Palestinian Red Crescent bodies of five people, including three children, after Israeli air strikes in the Al-Maghazi camp, also in the central Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses reported Israeli gunship fire east of Khan Younis, in southern Gaza, and shelling and Apache helicopter attacks in western areas of the southernmost city of Rafah.

The Israeli military said in a statement that it was continuing its activity throughout the coastal territory, and said it had conducted raids in Rafah and central Gaza that killed "a number of" milithroughout the strip over 100 injured as

army had shelled the Al-Mughraqa area and the forces had been firing at

targets in Gaza The relentless bombardments came as pros-Paramedics from the pects dwindled for a truce and hostage release deal besaid they had retrieved the ing secured any time soon.

Hamas, the Iranbacked Islamist group that Israel has been fighting in Gaza for over nine months, said on Sunday it was withdrawing from ceasefire talks.

The decision followed an Israeli strike targeting the head of Hamas's military wing, Mohammed Deif, which the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said killed 92 people.

Deif's fate remains unknown, with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu saying there was "no certainty" he was dead while a senior Hamas tants, as well as air strikes official told AFP that Deif was "well and directly overseeing" operations.

Palestinians, who fled the eastern part of Khan Younis after they were or-

dered by Israeli army to evacuate their neighborhoods, ride on a vehicle loaded with belongings, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Trump steps into Republican convention spotlight after surviving shooting

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Donald

Trump made a triumphant entrance to cap the first day of the Republican National Convention, receiving a raucous ovation from the party faithful days after surviving an assassination attempt that has reshaped the US presidential confest.

The former president walked into the Fiserv Forum in downtown Milwaukee to an uproarious response, his ear heavily bandaged from having been grazed by a bullet, hours after he was officially nomi-

2024 standard-bearer. "Fight! Fight! Fight!" the crowd chanted while pumping their fists, a refer-

ence to Trump's response in the moments after he was shot. Uncharacteristically subdued, Trump waved from a box where he sat alongside his newly anointed running mate, US Senator JD Vance. The attack at a Trump rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday which killed a supporter, underscored the nation's deeply fractured political landscape ahead of the November 5 election between Trump and Democratic

nated to be the party's President Joe Biden. President Joe Biden says it was a drown on 'mistake' to say he wanted to put a 'bull's-eye' on Donald Trump

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden told NBC News in an interview Monday that it was a "mistake" to say he wanted to put a "bull's-

eye" on Republican nominee Donald Trump, but argued that the rhetoric from his opponent was more incendiary while warning that Trump remained a threat to democratic insti-

The remark in question came during a pri-

vate call with donors last week as Biden had been scrambling to shore up his imperiled candidacy with key party constituencies.

During that conversation, Biden declared he was "done" talking about his poor debate performance and said it was 'time to put Trump in the bull's-eye," saying Trump has gotten far too little scrutiny on his stances, rhetoric and lack of campaigning.

No surprises expected as Syrians vote in parliamentary poll

Monitoring Desk DAMASCUS: Syrians in government-held areas were voting Monday in their fourth parliamentary election since civil war erupted in 2011, a poll expected to keep President Bashar al-Assad's ruling Baath party in power. The election came amid overtures from Ankara towards Damascus, after ties were severed following the start of Syria's war in 2011, with Assad saying he was open to meeting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan depending on the encounter's "content".

Seven students summer holidays in Mexico

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.

eastern Afghanistan wearing white and blue uni-**Monitoring Desk**

Heavy rains kill 35 in

KABUL: At least 35 people were killed and 230 injured on Monday after heavy rain in eastern Afghanistan, a local official

"On Monday evening, rain caused by thunder-storms killed 35 people and injured 230 others in Jalalabad and certain districts of Nangarhar" province, Quraishi Badloon, head of the department of information and culture,

The casualties were caused by heavy storms and rains that collapsed trees, walls and roofs of people's houses, Badloon said. "There is a possibility that casualties might rise," he went on, adding that the wounded as well as victims' bodies were brought to Nangarhar regional hospital and Fatimatul-Zahra ĥospital.

Images shared by Badloon's department showed medical personnel

forms giving treatment to the wounded. "We share the grief of the families of the victims," said Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban government.

'The relevant institutions of the Islamic Emirate have been directed to go to the affected areas as soon as possible," Mujahid wrote on X, adding they would provide shelter, food and medicine to displaced

The tragedy comes after flash floods killed hundreds of people in Afghanistan in May and swamped agricultural lands in the country, where 80 per cent of the population depends on farming to survive.

Among the poorest countries in the world, Afghanistan is particularly exposed to the effects of climate change. This year, it saw an unusually wet spring after an extremely

Ukraine needs 25 Patriot air defense systems and more F-16 warplanes, President Zelenskyy says

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukraine needs 25 Patriot air defense systems

to fully defend its airspace and protect the entire country from Russian missile attacks, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday, adding that he also wants Western partners to send more F-16 warplanes than those already pledged. In his first news conference since returning from a trip to the United States, Zelenskyy said he is ready to work with Donald Trump if he wins November's election. "I am not afraid" of that prospect, Zelenskyy said, adding he is convinced that most Re-

in its war with Russia. Zelenskyy said on Sunday he was "appalled" by the attempt to assassinate Trump and wished him

publicans support Ukraine

a speedy recovery. Western support is crucial for Ukraine as it tries to beat back Russia's bigger

and better-equipped invading army. Zelenskyy has proved talented at persuading friendly countries to provide ever more support, even if he doesn't always get what he wants immediately. A six-month delay in military assistance from the U.S., the biggest single contributor to Ukraine, meant that Kyiv's forces "lost the initiative" on the front line, Zelenskyy said. Since the U.S. aid re-

has been scrambling to block a Russian offensive in eastern areas. Zelenskyy didn't say how many Patriot systems Ukraine currently possesses, though it is far fewer than the 25 he says his country needs as Russia has battered the national power grid. The U.S. and other NATO allies promised last week to provide Ukraine with dozens of air defense systems in the

coming months.

sumed in April, Ukraine

battled counter-protesters loyal to the ruling party, police said. Police and witnesses said hundreds of anti-quota protesters and students backing the ruling Awami League party battled for hours on Dhaka University campus, hurling rocks, fighting with sticks and beating each other with iron rods. Some carried machetes while

The quota system reserves more than half of well-paid civil service posts totalling hundreds of thousands of government jobs for specific groups, including children of "he-

roes" from the country's 1971 liberation war. "They clashed with sticks and threw rocks at each other, local police station chief Mostajirur Rahman said.

Masud Mia, a police inspector, said "around 100 students including women" were injured, and had been taken to hospital. "More people are coming", Mia added. Students launched protests earlier this month demanding a merit-based system. They have continued despite Bangladesh's top court suspending the quota scheme. Anti-quota protesters

others threw petrol bombs, blamed the ruling party stuwitnesses said dents for the violence. 'They attacked our peaceful procession with rods, sticks and rocks," Nahid Islam, the national coordinator of the anti-quota protests, said

Bangladesh's student

groups clash over quotas

Delhi lawyers go on strike over criminal law overhaul **Monitoring Desk**

IEW DELHI: Thousands

of lawyers in India's capital protested on Monday against an overhaul in criminal legislation by staying away from work and boycotting court hearings, as opposition mounted to the changes. Many have been angered by new laws that came in on July 1 expanding police powers to keep people in pre-trial detention and requiring judges to issue written rulings within 45 days of the end of a trial.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has defended the changes - which also include the death sentence for gang rape of women under — saying they are "victim-centric", modernise the system and "end the endless wait for justice".

the solemn occasion of Ashura Day, Speaker of the

National Assembly Sardar

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the

significance of Muharram-

e-Haram's message, urging

scholars and religious lead-

ers to promote peace, self-

sacrifice, tolerance, and

Muslim Ummah can over-

come its current challenges

by embracing the spirit of

self-sacrifice exemplified

by the martyrs of Karbala.

described the incident of

Karbala as an enduring tes-

tament to faith, bravery,

and martyrdom, values up-

lim Ummah to foster unity,

stressing that only through

solidarity and brotherhood

can the community address

and Palestine, Sadiq con-

demned the severe state ter-

Referring to the ongo-

its pressing issues.

He called on the Mus-

held in the Holy Quran.

In his message, Sadiq

He highlighted that the

Ayaz calls for unity on Ashura

Day, condemns aggressions

IMF programme to boost Pakistan external financing: Moody's

NEW YORK (INP): fective and sustained imple- prices further in country Moody's – one of the top international rating agencies has said the new deal reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will improve the chances of obtaining finances for Pakistan while providing reliable sources for the purpose both friendly nations and international financial institu-

In a latest report on Pakistan's economy, Moody's at the same time has feared that persistent Pakistan inflation may lead to social unrest and tensions. Higher taxes and future energy tariff adjustments could hamper economic reforms in the country, it added.

On the other hand, Moody's is also of the view that lack of electoral mandate is also a threat to ef- thus propelling the food making and execution.

led by PML-N's Shehbaz ing crisis.

Weak governance and social tensions could impact the government's ability to go ahead with economic reforms, Moody's

Moody's report coincides with the latest increase in fuel prices anconditions for approving external financing. a bailout package.

Earlier, the govern-

ISLAMABAD: Security personals using a Mechanical Robot Unit during 9th Muharram Ul Haram procession at Imam Bargah Asna Ashri, in the

He further said that the

ince and even today, he was

visiting Sukkur, Khairpur

and Rohri along with Home

that Pakistan People's

supported banning any

political party including PTI within the scope of

the constitution and law of

He said that his party

Addressing a press Sindh Government said the truth.

Pakistan

Minister Sindh Ziaul Hasan

The spokesman of

PPP never supports

ban on any political

party: Arslan

spokesman Sindh Govern-ment and Mayor Sukkur Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah

Barrister Arslan Islam was personally monitoring

Sheikh has said that all the the arrangements for

arrangements related to Muharram across the prov-

here Tuesday, Arslan said that a coordination commit-party and PPP had never

SUKKUR (APP): The

Muharram, including light-

ing, cleaning, security had

been completed, more than

two thousand security per-

sonnel had been deployed

conference at his residence

tee had been formed in this

regard which was making arrangements from 1st of

Muharram, while Ulama of

all school of thoughts ex-

pressed their satisfaction

tored by CCTV cameras.

to maintain the security.

mentation of economic re- where an overwhelming forms – a clear reference to majority is dealing with an the coalition government unprecedented cost of liv-

The latest comments came after Islamabad secured a staff-level agreement for a \$7 billion deal covering a 37-month period, which is subjected to final approval by the IMF Executive Board.

About foreign reserves, it says the current nounced on Monday after \$9.4bn level isn't enough the government went for to meet the needs, as Paelectricity basic tariff hike kistan requires around to please the IMF by \$21bn in 2024-25 and meeting one of the basic \$23bn in 2025-26 through

Hence, Moody's says Pakistan is an ment presented a budget alarming position with which saw a massive hike reference to external income tax for salaried debt and the next three classes and imposition of to five years would be GST on items like milk, very tough for policy

Ashura teaches

great sacrifices

for big causes:

Aleem Khan

SLAMABAD (APP)

ederal Minister for

Privatisation, Abdul Aleem

Khan has said that the mar-

tyrdom of Shahuda-e-Imam

Hussain (RA) is a great and

universal lesson for the

Ashura, he said Hazrat

Imam Hussain (R.A) stops

us to bow before falsehood

and gives courage to speak

said that the grandson of the

Prophet (PBUH) created

the history of courage and

bravery in Karbala which

humanity will always be

proud of because he is a

torchbearer for everyone.

teaches us that great sacri-

fices have to be made for

great purposes and we have

to pledge mutual unity, in-

terfaith, harmony and

Security high

alert in all five

districts of

Larkana

Deputy Inspector General

of Police (DIG) Larkana

Nisar Aftab Pathan issued

orders on Tuesday for se-

curity high alert in all five

districts of Larkana Divi-

sion, including Larkana,

Qamber Shahdadkot,

Shikarpure, Jacobabad and

Kashmore Kandhkot. on

Aftab said that the SSPs of

the concerned districts

have been issued instruc-

tions to continue checking

the borders, highways and

roads adjacent to the five

districts of the Larkana

range by tightening the se-

curity.

He said that on the

occasion of Ashura Day,

1148 mourning processions

and 1854 gatherings of

Majalis from five districts

of Larkana are being strictly

managed by 15582 police

officers, personnel and of-

ficials, while soldiers of Pak

Army and Sindh Rangers

DIG Larkana Nasir

LARKANA

Ashura Day.

brotherhood on this day.

He said Ashura

In his message on

Abdul Aleem Khan

Muslim Ummah.



Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola in a group photo during national conference of Aurat Foundation.

CJ convenes judicial commission meeting to appoint ad hoc judges

ISLAMABAD: (Online): aims to reduce the burden stan, Qazi Faez Isa, has convened the Judicial Com-

mission meeting on July 19. The purpose of this meeting is to determine the names of four judges who will be appointed as ad hoc judges in the Supreme

Sources said that the Chief Justice has nominated Justice (Retired) Mushir Alam and Justice (Retired) Maqbool Baqar, while Justice (Retired) Mazhar Alam Khan, and Justice (Retired) Sardar Tariq Masood are also in the race.

They said that appointment of ad hoc judges on cases pendency

The Chief Justice of Paki- of pending cases in the apex

A retired judge can be appointed as an ad hoc judge for a period of three

According to the constitution of Pakistan, a panel of 17 judges in the Supreme Court is required for the appointment of ad

hoc judges.

Media reported that the CJP sent a summery to all members of the commission stating that despite the best efforts, the cases continue to accumulate, as seen from the Registrar's note and the reviewed statistics

US expresses concern over Pakistan govt's decision to seek ban on PTI

WASHINGTON (INP): restrictions on political par-The United States has expressed concern over the Pakistan government's decision to seek a ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for anti-State activities. Speaking at his daily news briefing in Washington, US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller responded to questions regarding the "possible restrictions on PTI".

Miller stated that the US has observed government statements imposing restrictions on political parties, which raises concerns that such actions could mark the beginning of a political crackdown. He said that the US will closely monitor these internal developments and decisions.

ties are worrisome because they contradict human rights, freedom of expression, constitutional, and democratic principles. He emphasised that the

United States has always supported actions promoting justice, including adherence to democratic practices and broader principles and laws. Miller further said that the Pakistani government's decision to ban the PTI was a complex political process but added that it would be concerned if a political party were banned. "Our understanding is this is the beginning of what would be a complete complex political process, but certainly banning of a political party is something that would be a great con-



LAHORE: A view of road closed at Islam pura during a religious procession on the ninth day of the Islamic month of Muharram, in the Provincial Capital.

Shabana Mahmood makes history as UK's first Muslim woman Lord Chancellor



Monitoring Desk

ONDON: Shabana Mahmood, a British-Pakistani of Kashmiri origin and a Member of Parliament (MP) from Birmingham has been officially sworn in as the United Kingdom's new Lord Chancellor.

The ceremony took place at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on Monday. Justice Secretary

Mahmood, as reported by the media, pledged her com-

international rule of law and upholding human rights." The 43-year-old Labour Party member shared her appointment on

mitment to "defending the

social media platform X, expressing her honour at taking on the role. She emphasized her commitment to protecting the judiciary from external pressures, stating, "I will be a champion of the Rule of Law. 900 years into this ancient role, it is more vital than ever

Hailing from Small hth, Birmingham, Heath, Mahmood has made history as the first Muslim woman to hold the position. She took her oath of allegiance to the Holy Quran and proudly noted that she lor to speak Urdu.

is "the first Lord Chancel-LARKANA (APP): The Meteorological Office of

optimal security had been put in place for Yom-eup in the offices of Commissioner, DC and SSP.

day checked security and

He apprised that the control rooms had been set

Meanwhile, the DC and SSP Farrukh Ali Lanjar visited the historical mourning event in Tando Jahania near Civil Lines where the people walk on fire to mourn the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his com-

PML-N to consult with allies regarding PTI

ban issue: Asif

SIALKOT (INP):- Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has announced that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) will consult its parliamentary allies regarding the potential ban on Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI), emphasizing the importance of collaboration in legislative matters.

In a press conference held in Sialkot, Asif criticized PTI's political motives, stating, "The only aim of PTI is power."

He referred to comments made by a female PTI member, asserting that their principle of politics revolves around the idea that without Imran Khan, there is no Pakistan. "For me, Pakistan is the most impor tant thing," he added.

Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi interrogated by NAB in new Toshakhana case

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and wife, Bushra Bibi were interrogated for four hours at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a recently filed case related to the sale of state gifts (Toshakhana).

A team non Rawalpindi's accountability watchdog, led by Deputy Mohsin Haroon, Director Mohsin Haroon, interrogated the PTI founder and his wife, the couple was recently acquitted in the Iddat case by a sessions court. Judge Afzal Majoka's short order stated to release Imran and Bushra Bibi unless they were wanted in other cases the couple was technically free until the government charged them with a nev NAB case. According to iail sources, the NAB team questioned the couple about the gifts and their sale related to the Toshakhana.

Police arrest suspects in prayer leader house robbery

KARACHI (INP):Two suspects involved in the robbery of an prayer leader (Imam Masjid's) house in Baldia Town have been arrested, and the looted property has been recovered.

In Etihad Town, the investigation police appre-hended Ahmed Raza, son of Usman, and Ihtsham, son of Arshad, for their involvement in the robbery. The stolen mobile phone and other belongings were recovered from their posses-

According to SS Investigation District Kemari, Lieutenant ® Azhar Javed the suspects, along with their accomplices, committed the robbery at the Imam Masjid's residence near Nawarani Masjid on July 8. The case was registered under charge number 403 2024, under sections 392/ 397/34. Authorities are currently obtaining the previous criminal records of the arrested individuals.

Hot, dry weather likely to persist in Larkana division; local **Met Office**

Larkana and Mohenjo Daro on Tuesday predicted that due to the current heat wave prevailing in the region, Larkana division might face temperatures of 45 to 46 °C and will feel till Thursday.

Very hot and dry weather will continue to prevail across the division for the next 48 hours, it

The maximum temperature of 45 °C was recorded during the last 24

Very hot and dry weather has also been forein Kashmir and Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): On cent civilians. He noted that over the past nine months, more than 40,000 Palestinians, including children, women, and the elderly, have been martyred due to Israeli ac-

> Similarly, he highlighted the dire situation in Kashmir, where residents face relentless oppression.

> He urged Muslim countries to unite and voice strong opposition against these human rights violations. Sadiq reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support for the establishment of independent states of Palestine and Kashmir in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

> He pledged that Pakistan will continue to provide political, diplomatic, and moral support until these goals are achieved.

Deputy Speaker Syed Mir Ghulam Mustafa Shah ing aggressions in Kashmir echoed Sadiq's sentiments, reminding the nation of the unparalleled sacrifices of the martyrs of Karbala



KHAIRPUR: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah offers condolences over the death of PPP leader Nazir Dhoki at Pir Jo Goth.

Ahsan Iqbal says: Third Plenary Session to contribute more Chinese experience to world

BEIJING (APP): On the terview with China Daily occasion of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal said that China's suc-

The Third Plenary Session of the Central Com- that this is not only a good mittee of the Communist thing for the Chinese Party of China is being held, people, but and he believes that it will nese friends. China's basic socialist mod-

cess is an unprecedented

innovation in human his-

ernization in 2035.

said that the world is in the stage of the fourth industrial revolution, and new technologies are changing the basic mode of develop-

China's economy is changing from labor-intensive to technology-driven and making remarkable

The minister believes people, but also for Chi-

the Third Plenary Session to contribute more Chinese Ahsan Iqbal in an in- experience to the world.

Fazl criticizes use of force against political entities

leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam F, has strongly condemned the use of force against political entities, warning that such actions will only escalate political

unrest. In a recent statement, Rehman urged authorities to acknowledge the failure of the current hybrid system. He emphasized the constitutional boundaries for all institutions, asserting that the country can recover only if the military withdraws from politics. 'The sooner the pow-

importance of adhering to

erful circles understand this reality, the better it will be for the country and themselves," he cautioned, adding that continued interference would only exacerbate the situation



coals during a procession on the 9th day of Holy Month of Muharramul Harram at Tando Jahnia on late Monday night. Muharram is the mourning month in remembrance of the martyrdom (Shahadat) of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), the grandson of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Thousands participate in Rohri procession SUKKUR (APP): Thou-resumed its journey

sands of mourners from all over Sindh participated in a mourning procession in Rohri on late night of Monday to pay homage to the martyrs of Karbala.

Strict security measures were adopted throughout the route of the procession to prevent any untoward incident. Thousands of mourn-

ers from different parts of Sindh had reached Rohri on 8th Muharram, where they remained busy in mourning throughout the night between 8th and 9th Muharram.

In the early morning of Muharram, the mourning procession emerged from Masjid Shah-i-Iraq in the Karbala ground. The procession after reaching Mando Khabar stayed there till afternoon. Then it

through Shahi Bazaar, Dhak Road, Wichoro Chowk and Haider Shah Haqani Muhalla and ended at Karbala ground. Strict security mea-

sures were adopted throughout the town to prevent any untoward incident. Walk-through gates were installed on the route of the procession and the mourners were allowed to join the procession after passing through the gates. On Tuesday, a big

mourning procession will be taken out in Sukkur. According to SSP

Sukkur, Amjad Ahmed Shaikh, measures had been taken for the security of mourners. He said that besides police, Rangers would also patrol the route of the mourning procession

Indonesian diplomat shows interest in Sindh grown fruits

over elaborate security arrangements across the province adding that all sensitive PPP will always op-

tive places were being moni- pose terrorist political

The Indonesian Consul General Dr June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, along with other diplomatic staff, progressive farmers, and agricultural experts, visited M.H. Panhwar Agricultural Farm near tendees, Dr Hadiningrat Khisano Mori, Tando expressed his happiness

Jam, here on Tuesday. The spokesman of Sindh Agriculture University informed that the CG praised the farm's exemplary efforts in the cultivation of jackfruit, strawber-

ries, lychee and mangoes. He also expressed Indonesia's interest in new mango varieties and their export potential.

delegation visited the various fruits, including fields of various fruit varieties cultivated at the farm, including mangoes, lychee, jackfruit, bananas,

The farm's head Ghulam Sarwar Panhwar, co-chairman of MH Panhwer Farms and a pro-

gressive farmer, welcomed the delegation while the CG was presented with books authored by M.H. Panhwar on agriculture, irrigation and

In his conversation with the media and atexpressed his happiness at seeing the advanced ag-

ricultural practices in

He noted that the modern practices at M.H. Panhwar Farms indicate significant agricultural development in the region, particularly in the cultivation of new mango va-

He highlighted the During the visit, the farm's technical efforts on jackfruit, lychee, bananas moringa, lemons, and strawberries, and their fo-

cus on export. Dr Hadiningrat said Indonesia was interested in importing rice, mangoes and other agricultural prod-

ucts from Pakistan are also on duty

MULTAN: Volunteers are distributing food and water among the mourners attending procession on 9th Muharram ul Harram at Mumtazabad.

Commissioner, DC review arrangements for Muharram security

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Hyderabad Division Bilal Ahmed Memon accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Zainul Abedin Memon visited various Imambargahs here on Tues-

other arrangements. They also interacted with the organizers of mourning processions and majalis and sought their feedback about the arrangements. The Commissioner assured the organizers that

panions in Karbala.