

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd XXV No. 325, Muharram 10, 1446 AH Wednesday July 17, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

## 10 security personnel, 5 civilians martyred, 13 terrorists killed in terror attacks in Bannu, DIK

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 Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while gallantly fighting and successfully eliminating a group of ten terrorists who attacked Bannu Cantonment on July 15th.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Tuesday, in early hours of

July 15th, a group of ten terrorists attacked Bannu Cantonment, whereas the attempt to enter the cantonment was effectively thwarted by the security forces personnel, which forced the terrorists to ram an explosive laden vehicle into perimeter wall of the cantonment.

The suicide blast led to collapse of portion of the

wall and damaged the adjoining infrastructure, resulting in shahadat of eight brave sons of soil that included Naib Subedar Muhammad Shehzad (age: 44 years, resident of District Poonch, AJK), Havildar Zil-e-Hussain (age: 39 years, resident of District Khushab), Havildar Shahzad Ahmed (age: 28 years, resident of

District Neelum, AJK), Sepoy Ashfaq Hussain Khan (age: 30 years, resident of District Muzaffarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (age: 22 years, resident of District Muzaffarabad, AJK), Sepoy Imtiaz Khan (age: 30 years, resident of District Karak), Sepoy Arsalan Aslam (age: 26 years, resident of District

Bahawalpur) of Pakistan Army and Lance Naik Sabz Ali (age: 34 years, resident 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



RAWALPINDI: Photos of security officials martyred during attacks in Bannu and DI Khan.



QUETTA: MPA Engr. Zamrak Khan Achakzai meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

### No decision yet to ban PTI, says Ishaq Dar

LAHORE (INP): Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said on Saturday that no decision has been made regarding the ban on the Pakistan 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 emphasized that the current economic challenges were not introduced by the incumbent government but were a consequence of previous administrations. "The economic downside began with the ousting of Nawaz Sharif, not during our tenure," Dar asserted. He criticized the PTI's

previous government for exacerbating the country's financial instability, alleging that PTI left the economy 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.

### Yum-e-Ashur to be observed today with solemnity

ISLAMABAD (INP): Yum-e-Ashur, the tenth of Muharram-ul-Haram, will be 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 companions 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 Karbala tragedy.

### CJ convenes judicial commission meeting to appoint ad hoc judges

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa, has convened the Judicial Commission 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 Court.

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 aims to reduce the burden of pending cases in the apex court.

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

Media reported that the CJ sent a summary 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 on cases pendency.

### Sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) & companions bright chapter: Best way to pay homage to martyrs of Karbala is to create spirit of sacrifice, tolerance among ourselves: CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the sacrifices rendered by Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), his family and companions for survival and upholding of Islam are the bright chapter of the religion.

He said that their sacrifices can never be forgotten and are the torch bearers for the whole Muslim ummah.

The Chief Minister said that the best way to pay homage to the martyrs of Karbala is that we may create spirit of sacrifice and tolerance among ourselves and prove to be best Muslims while promoting the spirit of brotherhood and unity by our actions and words.

The Chief Minister

said that Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) refused to surrender despite they were less in number and preferred to sacrifice their lives for the right cause instead.

He said that Islam was upheld following the sacrifices of Karbala martyrs and thus evil forces were defeated.

He said that the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) are the role model for the whole Muslim Ummah.

He said that the present time required from us to promote unity among all Muslims belonging to all schools of thought and maintain unity among our ranks against all terrorists and miscreants.

The Chief Minister stressed that our Ulemas have to guide the society in right direction.

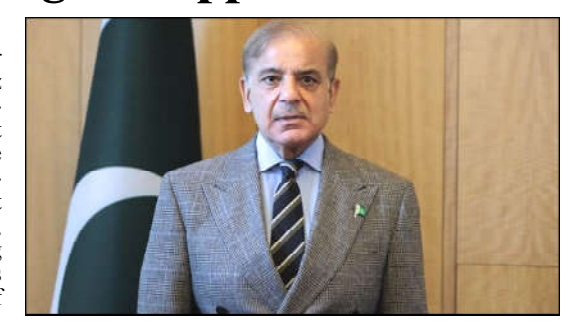
### Imam Hussain (RA)'s sacrifices inspire resistance against oppression: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif stated that the supreme sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) serve as a reminder, inspiring humanity to stand against falsehood and oppression, reaffirming the unwavering commitment to truth on this significant occasion of Yum-e-Ashur.

In his Yum-e-Ashur message, the prime minister highlighted its profound significance, noting that the grandson of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and his companions sacrificed their lives in a decisive battle between truth and falsehood at Karbala, illustrating the eternal strength of truth over falsehood through their martyrdom.

The prime minister emphasized that the tragic events of Yum-e-Ashur resonate deeply within believers, serving as an endur-



ing reminder of the sacrifices for truth and justice. 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 with their Lord, receiving provision" (Surah Al-Imran, 3:169). This verse captures the essence of sacrifice demonstrated by Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions.

In the contemporary world, it is evident that the people of Palestine endure great hardships and make substantial sacrifices for a just cause. They continue to strive for their rights and freedom, especially to protect Jerusalem, the first Qibla. Likewise, the residents of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir suffer under oppressive forces.

The prime minister underscored that Pakistan was currently facing substantial economic challenges.

### Minister Home directs to ensure strict implementation on security plan for Ashura-e-Muharram

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove has stated that the strict security arrangements have been made on occasion of the Ashura-e-Muharram and directed to ensure implementation on the plan of security prepared in this regard at every cost.

The Minister also directed the law enforcement agencies to keep strict vigil on the miscreants while remaining fully active.

The Minister Home said that all out resources are being mobilized for maintaining law and order situation in the province.

He said that more than 10,000 security personnels

would remain deployed for monitoring of the processions of Ashura.

In his statement, Mir Ziaullah Langove also paid homage to the grandson of Holy prophet (SAW) and his companions saying that the Muslims are paying homage to them all over the world for the great sacrifices they rendered for upholding the religion.

He said that Muharramul Haram teaches us the lesson of sacrifice due to which we can face any big trial.

He said that the people are being mobilized with religious harmony as all the religious leaders promoted the spirit of love and respect.

### Imam Hussain (RA)'s sacrifice teaches great sacrifices needed for great causes: Tarar



LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister of Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar here on Tuesday said that the incident of Karbala had taught the lesson that great sacrifices were needed for the great causes.

"Lesson of the sacrifice

Continued on page 2

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 Tuesday.

In a statement, the Foreign Office spokesperson quoted the latest informa-

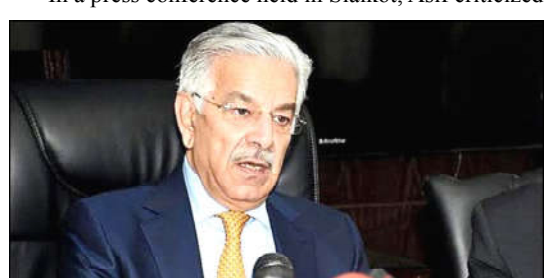
tion from Omani authorities, stating that the Pakistani Embassy in Oman was coordinating with local authorities to identify and repatriate the remains of Pakistani martyrs.

A helpline has been set up to assist the Pakistani community in Oman and Ambassador Imran Ali was visiting local hospitals to monitor the condition of injured Pakistani nationals.

### 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-Insaf (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 important thing," he added.

Asif also addressed the implications of Article 6, recalling personal experiences with political inquiries and asserting that accountability must be upheld, especially in light of past actions surrounding the no-confidence motion.

### Fazal criticizes use of force against political entities

PESHAWAR (INP): Maulana Fazlur Rehman, 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.

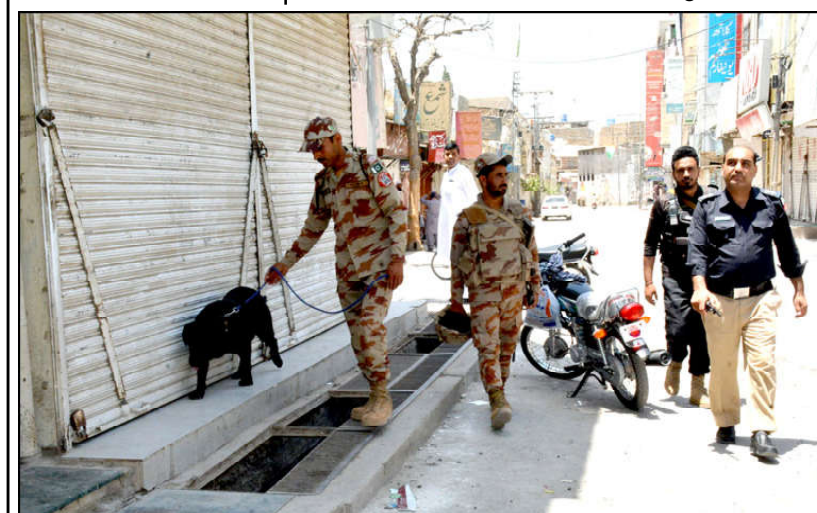
In a recent statement, Rehman urged authorities to acknowledge the failure of the current hybrid system.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to constitutional boundaries for all institutions, asserting that the country can recover only if the military withdraws from politics.

"The sooner the powerful 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.

Simultaneously, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), a government ally, has opposed the federal government's decision to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Sources within PPP revealed that senior leaders have advised the party's top leadership to publicly reject the government's move and have expressed surprise over claims of consensus. Senior PPP leader Farhatullah Babar criticized the notion of banning a political party or prosecuting a leader for treason, calling such measures "nonsense" that would lead to a severe political crisis. He warned that while American democracy could withstand its current turmoil, Pakistani democracy and the state might not survive a self-imposed crisis.



QUETTA: Security personnel checking routes of Muharramul Haram processions



## IIUI President ended nepotism, promoted merit: Spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) spokesperson Nasir Farid praised the university's President, Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, for transforming the institution into a merit-based hub of excellence over the past four years, saying that Dr. Alotaibi eliminated nepotism and ensuring decisions were made solely on merit.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Nasir Farid said that Dr. Alotaibi's principled decisions discouraged nepotism and made it possible for deserving individuals to access their rights.

He cited the frequent

holding of selection boards, where employees and teachers were promoted on merit.

He said that President IIUI's principled policy failed such elements whose agenda was personal interest.

He said that in the light of President IIUI's vision, the university achieved significant success in research, teaching quality and infrastructural development among other fields.

Mentioning the strategic plan introduced by Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, he said that President IIUI saved the university from a serious financial crisis, the most mentionable is the

support provided by Saudi Arabia due to his efforts amid tough financial circumstances.

Nasir Farid said that as a result of the tireless efforts of the President of University, the salaries of the last two months were managed from the Saudi fund.

The spokesperson said that the universities across the country are currently suffering from severe financial crisis and the same situation has also affected the IIUI, but it is the result of Dr. Hathal's hard work and vision that even now the university is very competitive compared to other universities in the country

and serving in better condition.

Speaking about a high-level meeting on admissions on Monday, the University spokesperson said that in this meeting, the Vice Presidents, Deans, Directors General and other senior officials of the University praised the leadership and vision of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi and said that in result of his hard work and vision, the university has achieved a prominent position in the global rankings.

They also praised saying that during his four-year tenure, along with the increase in faculty blocks, labs and infrastructure.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of mourners attending main procession on 9th of Muharramul Haram at G-6, Muharramul Haram 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).



ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, visiting main procession of 9th Muharram-ul-Haram to review the security arrangements.

### Visits 9th Muharram-ul-Haram processions IGP Islamabad directs foolproof security for Muharram processions

**Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, visited the main procession of 9th Muharram-ul-Haram to review the security arrangements. Over 3,400 police officers, including senior officers, have been deployed to ensure the safety of citizens and maintain law and order during the processions. IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, accompanied by senior police officers, inspected the security measures in place for the procession. He directed the senior officers to implement foolproof security protocols to safeguard the lives and property of citizens, emphasizing the importance of maintaining peace and harmony during the observance of Muharram. Speaking about the security arrangements, IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi stated that Islamabad Police and the district administration have made foolproof security arrangements for the 9th

Muharram-ul-Haram processions. In this regard, foolproof security has been provided for all processions from 1st Muharram onward.

He further emphasized that security has not been compromised at any point during the 9th Muharram-ul-Haram procession. A total of 2,137 officers from Islamabad Police and other law enforcement agencies are deployed in the first security cordon, with an additional 3,400 security officers deployed for extra security measures.

IGP Islamabad mentioned that thorough searches have been conducted within a five-kilometer radius from the main procession routes. Bomb disposal squads and special branch officers are present, alongside police officers, civil administration, Pakistan Rangers and military personnel, all ensuring security. Emergency forces also remain on high alert.

IGP Islamabad added that procession organizers and scouts are collaborating closely with police for

comprehensive security arrangements. Scout volunteers are stationed at key points and Islamabad Police have implemented foolproof measures for procession security. Mobile services have not been disrupted anywhere.

He further said that the central procession on the 9th of Muharram is very important for Islamabad and Rawalpindi. "We have a great responsibility which we are always ready to fulfill," he added.

Earlier, Islamabad Police ensured foolproof security arrangements for the main procession of 9th Muharram. Over 3,400 police officers and personnel from other law enforcement agencies were deployed. The procession routes were secured with barbed wire and canal barriers.

Furthermore, drone cameras and Safe City surveillance monitored the procession, and participants were allowed entry only through designated routes, undergoing searches with metal detectors.

### 'Emerging Technologies Centers' to be established at 350 schools soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to transform Pakistan into a global IT hub, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is all set to launch a landmark project aimed at equipping school children with cutting-edge skills in emerging technologies.

According to the Ministry of Education and Professional Training, the project will establish "Emerging Technology Centres" in 350 schools across Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

The initiative is part of the government's strategic planning to strengthen its initiative to make Pakistan a global IT destination.

The centres will serve as catalyst for introducing children to emerging technologies such as virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and data analytics, preparing them for the increasingly digital landscape they will encounter in their future endeavors.

The project is aimed at developing skills and capacity in the IT sector, preparing students for a digital future, enhancing Pakistan's export and capability in the IT sector, and making Pakistan a global IT destination.

The Emerging Technology Centres will be divided into two facilities - Class A and Class B. Class A facilities will provide state-of-the-art spaces for co-working and will also function as co-working spaces during off hours to address the challenges faced by freelancers and professionals locally.

Class B facilities will provide STEM, entrepreneurship, and computer science education to 40,000 students in 320 middle, and high schools.

The project is set to revolutionize Pakistan's IT landscape and pave the way for a brighter future for the nation's youth.

This project will be executed by highly trained 175 Tech fellows hired and trained by service providers hired through Open competitive process.

### AJK Police devises foolproof security plan during Muharram

ISLAMABAD (APP): An integrated security plan has been devised by AJK police to ensure maintaining complete peace and security during the sanctified month of Muharram ul Haram across Azad Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said.

"The plan involves the deployment of additional police forces in all major cities and towns, as well as at all seven entry and exit points of Azad Jammu and Kashmir facing neighboring Punjab and the KPK provinces, the sources told APP here on Tuesday.

"A SOP (standard operating procedure) for ensuring complete peace and order at the sensitive key installations across AJK has also been devised," the sources disclosed.

"Ahead of the sanctified day of Ashura, the 10th of Muharram ul Haram, being solemnized on Wednesday, July 17, tomorrow, security has been beefed up across Azad Jammu and Kashmir to deal with any eventuality," according to the official sources.

The sources continued that well-alerted police personnel have been posted before almost all 90 Imam Bargahs across AJK to maintain peace and order during the scheduled Majalis (religious meetings) to mark the sanctified month, right from the 1st day to the 10th of Muharram ul Haram, the Youm-e-Ashur, falling on Wednesday.

Besides the additional contingents of police and civil defense volunteers, they have also been put on alert to assist the local police and civil administration in maintaining peace and order.



ISLAMABAD: A view of blocked a pedestrian bridge for motorcycles at Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Road in the Federal Capital.

### How does cortisol affect the body?

ISLAMABAD (Online): Cortisol is commonly known as the body's stress hormone and has a range of effects on various functions within the body.

This glucocorticoid is a steroid hormone that is created from cholesterol and is released from the adrenal cortex within the zona fasciculata layer. The hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis works to regulate the production and secretion of cortisol.

Most glucocorticoids circulate the body in their inactive form, bound to either corticosteroid-binding globulin (CBG) or albumin.

The enzyme 11-beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase 1 (11-beta-HSD1) converts these inactive glucocorticoids to their active form in most tissues, while 11-beta-HSD2 converts the

### Interior minister condemns Bannu terrorist attack, pays tribute to martyred security forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday strongly condemned the cowardly terrorist attack on the Bannu Cantonment and paid tribute to the security forces for foiling the assault.

In a statement, the interior minister expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the eight security personnel who were martyred in the attack.

He described the brave men as the pride of the nation and said their

### 1 killed, three injured in truck, car collision near Balkasar

ISLAMABAD (APP): One woman was died and three others were critically injured in an accident between car and a truck near Balkasar Interchange on Tuesday.

According to the spokesperson of National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP), the passengers in the car were traveling from Lahore to Islamabad. The motorway police has reached the spot and started the rescue operation.

### 5th death anniversary of poet, writer Himayat Ali being observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Award in 1958.

His other collection of poetry includes Mitti Ka Qarz, Tashnagi Ka Safar and Haroon Ki Awaz. In 2007, he published collection of all his poetry as Kuliyaat-e-Shaer.

Himayat Ali Shair received the Pride of Performance Award in 2002 for his services for the promotion of art and was also given the Nigar Award for his contribution to films.

He died on 16 July 2019 in Toronto, Canada.



ISLAMABAD: Children served milk among the people from a Sabeel alongside a road at sector G-7 during a procession on the 9th day of Ashura in the Islamic month of Muharram, in the Federal Capital.

### 25 outlaws arrested; cache of drugs recovered

**Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, Islamabad Police has launched a special "Nasha Ab Nahi" movement to eradicate narcotics and keep the youngsters safe from the curse of drugs, a public relations officer said.

He said that, during the last 24 hours, the Islamabad Police apprehended 25 outlaws from different areas of the city and recovered heroin and ice from their possession.

Following these directions, the Golra police team arrested an accused namely Sarfraz involved in illegally selling petrol. The Industrial Area police team arrested an accused namely Salman and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession.

Likewise, the Shams Colony police team arrested an accused namely Allison and recovered 19 liters of liquor from his possession. The Khanna police team arrested an accused namely Muhammad Naveed and recovered 260 gram hashish from his possession. Similarly, the Korla police team arrested two accused namely Awaiz and Muhammad Ifthikhar and recovered two 30 bore pistols from their possession. Humak police team arrested an accused namely Yasir Mehmood and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession.

### IWMB releases 17 rehabilitated kites into wild after successful treatment

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as 17 Common Indian Kites have been released into wild who have healed up after rehabilitation under expert care and treatment at the Margalla Wildlife Rescue Centre of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) after they were found dehydrated during the peak heatwave season by volunteers and civil society.

The Margalla Wildlife Rescue Centre revealed that the animal rehab facility had received around 3-4 dehydrated Common Kites during heatwave season that were being rehabilitated successfully.

The general public mostly reported birds of prey including kites and others groggy during extreme hot season that were found unconscious or unsteady with sprawled wings as they fell at different places due to dehydration, Deputy Director Re-

search and Planning, IWMB, Sakhawat Ali told APP while explaining a crucial issue making rounds over social media as the mercury spiked up at extreme levels in the federal capital.

Sakhawat Ali said the Common Indian Kites were either affected from dehydration or injured mainly after getting broken or damaged wings due to entangling into kite string.

He said during dehydration of animals or wild birds was treated through intake of ORS water which was highly recommended due to its easy availability other than the re-hydration fluid fed under the supervision of expert and trained medical practitioners and vets. He mentioned that the general public was advised to keep dehydrated birds in shade and feed ORS water as first aid prior to relocating the affected bird to rehab and rescue clinic.

### NA Speaker flays Bannu Cantt attack; pays tribute to martyrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday strongly condemned the cowardly terrorist attack on Bannu Cantt, commending the security forces for their swift action, and honored the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in defense of the nation.

The Speaker, expressed grief over tragic loss of eight brave men including Naib Subdar Muhammad Shehzad and Havaldar Shehzad Ahmed who made the ultimate sacrifice thwarting the attack.

He reiterated that martyrs are the pride of the nation, and their sacrifices would be remembered for ever. "I extend my heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families of the martyrs," Speaker Ayaz Sadiq remarked solemnly, emphasizing his solidarity with them during this time of sorrow.



ISLAMABAD: Police personals searching body of Shiite Muslim mourners during 9th Muharram Ul Haram procession at Imam Bargah Asna Ashri, in the Federal Capital.

search and Planning, IWMB, Sakhawat Ali told APP while explaining a crucial issue making rounds over social media as the mercury spiked up at extreme levels in the federal capital.



## Peace vital for economic prosperity: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): 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 poet Dr 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 would be made.

The Governor said that people of Karachi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan Army, police and

children of Army Public School Peshawar had rendered great sacrifices for Pakistan that was unprecedented in the world history.

Governor was addressing a function at Al Ghazali university in Karachi.

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 welcome.

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

The Governor expressed pleasure to see such great institution in the country. He said Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali

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 rights that were protected under the constitution.

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 image.

Raes Al Rashid University and Chancellor Ghazali University welcomed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor and urged all stakeholders to shun differences and sit together 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.



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

## CM Sindh reaches Sukkur, briefed about processions, Ashura arrangements

SUKKUR (APP): The Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday visited Sukkur to review the security arrangements for the 9th Muharram and and Yaume-Ashoorah.

During a meeting, the chief minister was given a detailed briefing about the 9th and 10th processions of Muharram at Mayor House Sukkur here.

SSP Sukkur Amjad Ahmed Shaikh and Deputy Commissioner Sukkur Dr Raja MB Dharejo gave briefings to the CM.

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

Sheikh, DIG Sukkur Range Peer Muhammad Shah, Divisional Commissioner Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi and others were also present on the occasion.

In a briefing, the SSP Sukkur said that all arrangements had been finalized in the Sukkur district to observe 'Ashura' on Wednesday, amid tight security arrangements while over 2800 cops would be deployed.

He said that the district police had finalized all the security arrangements to provide a foolproof security cover to 145 mourning processions and 74 Imambargahs.

Divisional Commissioner Sukkur Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi in his briefing, informed that apart

from monitoring loudspeakers and social media, 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 zero-tolerance policy towards any violation of the code of conduct of Muharram, adding that the scheduled time and route of the procession should be followed strictly.

## KP CM approves free meal program in public sector primary schools

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 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 Iftiaz Hussain Shah and 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 meeting.

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.

It was further decided that a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the Social Welfare Department and the said private welfare organization for the implementation of the proposed program.

In the meeting, it was decided to form a committee consisting of the officials of the Department of Education and Social Welfare to make progress in the implementation of the program, which will finalize all the details in this regard and submit it to the provincial cabinet for final approval.



PESHAWAR: A large number of mourners attending the 9th Muharram Zuljinnah procession passing through Saadar Road.

## PPP never supports ban on any political party; Arslan

SUKKUR (APP): The spokesman Sindh Government and Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Islam Sheikh has said that all the arrangements related to Muharram, including lighting, cleaning, security had been completed, more than two thousand security personnel had been deployed to maintain the security.

Addressing a press conference at his residence here Tuesday, Arslan said that a coordination committee had been formed in this regard which was making arrangements from 1st of Muharram, while Ulama of all school of thoughts expressed their satisfaction over elaborate security arrangements across the province adding that all sensitive places were being monitored by CCTV cameras.

He further said that the Chief Minister (CM) Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah was personally monitoring the arrangements for Muharram across the province and even today, he was visiting Sukkur, Khairpur and Rohri along with Home Minister Sindh Ziaul Hasan Lanjhar.

The spokesman of Sindh Government said that Pakistan People's Party was a democratic party and PPP had never supported banning any political party including PTI

within the scope of the constitution and law of Pakistan.

He said that his party had always opposed and condemned terrorism as the PPP will always oppose terrorist political parties. There was no consultation with the Pakistan People's Party regarding the ban on PTI, he said and added that the Central Executive Council (CEC) of PPP would consider this matter in a meeting presided over by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he said.

Arslan further said that President Asif Ali Zardari had always played the role of reconciliation, sacrificed for the democracy and stayed in jails for a long time, even raised the slogan of "Pakistan Khatay" in difficult situations.

The spokesperson further said the restoration work of Sukkur barrage was started in 2018 with the support of the World Bank, when barrage's gate no. 47 was affected, the restoration work of Sukkur Barrage was going on. The restoration work was delayed due to Covid and 2022 floods, he maintained.

He further said that the international market was closed for two years due to Covid, adding that unbiased inquiry into Sukkur barrage gate issue underway.

## Home Minister, Mayor visit routes of mourning processions to review security

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Home, Law and Parliamentary 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 arrangements.

Additional IG Karachi and DIG East briefed them about the security measures.

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 on the occasion.

Ziaul Hasan Lanjar and Barrister Murtaza Wahab



RAWALPINDI: Vehicle driver taking rest under a container on Ganjmandi Road due to extreme heat in the city.



JACOBABAD: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah visits Control Room at Pir Bukhari point and get briefing on the 10th Muharram procession.

## 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 Zuljinnah' 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 flagellation 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 matchless sacrifices of martyrs of Karbala were a great source of strength and inspiration for all Muslims.

After offering 'zuhrain' prayer, the procession culminated back at the Imambargah Hussainia Hall at Peshawar Cantonment.

The 1122 Rescue Service 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, law enforcers and volunteers.

Walkthrough gates were installed for screening of participants, and surveillance of processions was carried out through video-recording and CCTV cameras fixed for this purpose.

Besides deployment of policemen and sniper shooters, the personnel of bomb disposal unit remained in high alert position and carried out security check of the routes through equipment.

The entire city was virtually sealed and no vehicle was allowed to enter the area designated for mourning processions.

## Punjab Governor message Martyrs of Karbala taught oppressed humanity not to bow down to falsehood

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 Karbala will always be remembered in history. He has said that the martyrs of Karbala taught the oppressed humanity not to bow down to falsehood and stand firm against oppression.

The Punjab Governor 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 reminds us of the great sacrifices of the martyrs of Karbala, it also teaches us

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

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).

## PRCS distributes 210 loader rickshaws among flood affected families

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistani 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 2022.

This initiative is a significant component of PRCS's Livelihood Assistance Program under the Flood Recovery Phase.

The loader rickshaws have been distributed 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 through multifaceted programs, including livelihood assistance, shelter construction, cash assistance,

## Security high alert in all five districts of Larkana

LARKANA (APP): Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Larkana Nisar Aftab Pathan issued orders on Tuesday for security high alert in all five districts of Larkana Division, including Larkana, Qamber, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and Kashmore and Kandhkot, on Ashura Day.

DIG Larkana Nasir Aftab said that the SSPs of the concerned districts have been issued instructions to continue checking the borders, highways and roads adjacent to the five districts of the Larkana range by tightening the security.

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 officials, while soldiers of Pak Army and Sindh Rangers are also on duty.



RAWALPINDI: A deserted view of the busiest Murree Road due to the official holiday of 9th and 10th Muharram in the city.



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

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: Israel struck the southern and central Gaza Strip on Monday and carried out raids that killed "a number of" militants, 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

army had shelled the Al-Mughraqa area and the northern outskirts of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. Paramedics from the Palestinian Red Crescent said they had retrieved the 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 southern-most 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" militants, as well as air strikes throughout the strip over the past day.

It also said its naval forces had been firing at targets in Gaza. The relentless bombardments came as prospects dwindled for a truce and hostage release deal being secured any time soon. Hamas, the Iran-backed 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 official told AFP that Deif was "well and directly overseeing" operations.



Palestinians, who fled the eastern part of Khan Younis after they were ordered 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 contest. 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 nominated to be the party's 2024 standard-bearer. "Fight! Fight! Fight!" the crowd chanted while pumping their fists, a reference 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 President Joe Biden.

## 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 drown on summer holidays in Mexico

**Monitoring Desk**  
MEXICO CITY (INP): Seven students drowned in eastern Mexico after their vehicle was dragged into a fast-flowing river as they tried to retrieve a boat from its waters, local government sources said Sunday. The victims, all between 21 and 23 years old, on Saturday were celebrating the end of the school year and summer holidays at a private residence on the banks of the river in the city of Coatzacoalcos. They were in a pickup truck that they were using to try to pull a boat from the Calzadas-Coatzacoalcos.

## President Joe Biden says it was a 'mistake' to say he wanted to put a 'bull's-eye' on Donald Trump

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden told NBC News on 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 institutions. The remark in question came during a private call with donors last week as Biden had been scrambling to shore up his imperiled candidacy with key party constituencies. During 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. The NBC interview — during which, at times, Biden grew defensive under questions about his fitness for office — came as the president and his reelection team prepared to resume full-throttle campaigning after a brief pause following the weekend assassination attempt on Trump.

## Heavy rains kill 35 in eastern Afghanistan

**Monitoring Desk**  
KABUL: At least 35 people were killed and 230 injured on Monday after heavy rain in eastern Afghanistan, a local official said. "On Monday evening, rain caused by thunderstorms 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, said. 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 hospital. Images shared by Badloon's department showed medical personnel

wearing white and blue uniforms 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 families. 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 dry winter.



People gather near the wreckage of vehicles destroyed at the scene of an explosion outside a restaurant where patrons were watching the final of the Euro 2024 football tournament on TV, in Bondhere district of Mogadishu, Somalia.

## Hasina's former servant sparks graft probe

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina says she is "taking measures" after a slew of corruption scandals — including one involving her former household servant who now travels by helicopter after amassing a staggering \$34 million fortune. Recent accusations dominating Bangladesh's normally pliant media have involved a former army chief, an ex-police chief, senior tax officers and state recruitment officials. "Corruption is a longstanding problem," Hasina told reporters late on Sunday. "These messes must be cleaned up... we have been taking measures." She said that included action against her household assistant—a

"peon", or low-level orderly — who Bangladesh media reported had previously been a water-bearer, in case she needed a drink at events. "The man who worked as a peon in my house — he now owns 4,000,000,000 million taka (\$34 million)," Hasina said. "He can't move without a helicopter. How has he earned so much money? I took action immediately after knowing this." It would take an average Bangladeshi more than 13,000 years to earn that amount. The average GDP per capita in the nation of around 170 million people is \$2,529, according to the World Bank. Hasina did not identify the servant, but several newspapers named him as Jahangir Alam, nicknamed "Pani" or "water", due to his old job.

## Israel allows UN to bring in more equipment amid Gaza lawlessness

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations said on Monday (July 15) that it will start bringing in more armoured vehicles and personal protection equipment for its humanitarian aid operations in the Gaza Strip after receiving approval from Israeli authorities. The approval was in response to a UN letter sent to Israel last month on safety and security in Gaza, said Scott Anderson, deputy humanitarian coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as the war between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas enters its tenth month and law and order has broken down.

## Delhi lawyers go on strike over criminal law overhaul

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW 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 18 — saying they are "victim-centric", modernise the system and "end the endless wait for justice". But lawyers' bodies, opposition parties and activists have called for a pause, saying the changes will give excessive powers to the police.



Anti-Quota protesters clash with students backing the ruling Awami League on Dhaka University campus.

## Somalia cafe attack kills nine during Euro final

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOGADISHU: The death toll from a car bombing at a cafe in Somalia's capital Mogadishu that was packed with football fans watching the Euro 2024 final has risen to nine, security sources said on Monday. Witnesses described scenes of panic and chaos after the powerful blast late on Sunday, with people scrambling for safety and the main entrance to the cafe destroyed by the blaze. Mohamed Yusuf, an official from the national security agency, said nine civilians were killed and 20 others wounded in the explosion, raising the official toll of five given by police. The popular Top Coffee restaurant, which is located near the presidential palace in the centre of the city, was thronged with young men watching the final that Spain won 2-1 against England.

## Georgian president files lawsuit against foreign agent law

**Monitoring Desk**  
TBILISI: Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili said on Monday she had filed a lawsuit in the Constitutional Court against a law requiring groups that receive funding from abroad to register as foreign agents, which sparked mass protests. Zourabichvili reposted comments on Facebook by her representative in parliament saying the law violated a clause in the Georgian constitution requiring the government to make all possible efforts to join the European Union and NATO.

## Spanish rescuers find remains thought to be of missing Briton Jay Slater

**Monitoring Desk**  
MADRID: A Spanish mountain rescue team in Tenerife found human remains in the area where British teenager Jay Slater went missing nearly a month ago, local police said on Monday, adding evidence strongly suggested the remains were his. The Guardia Civil police said in a statement that he may have died due to a fall in the difficult-to-access mountainous area, but that an autopsy would confirm whether it was an accident. A police spokesperson told Reuters by phone that the body was found on Monday morning by a Civil Guard mountain rescue group.

## 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 Republicans support Ukraine in its war with Russia. Zelenskyy said on Sunday he was "appalled" by the attempt to assassinate Trump and wished him 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 resumed in April, Ukraine 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, including at least four of the sophisticated and expensive Patriot systems.

ing 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 resumed in April, Ukraine 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, including at least four of the sophisticated and expensive Patriot systems.

## French prime minister is expected to formally resign, but stay at the head of a caretaker government

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron is widely expected to formally accept the prime minister's resignation on Tuesday while keeping him as the head of a caretaker government. Prime Minister Gabriel Attal offered his resignation last week after a chaotic election result left the government in limbo. Macron asked him to remain temporarily as the head of the government pending a further decision, with France about to be under an international spotlight as it hosts the Paris Olympics. French media said the prime minister's resignation is expected to be formally accepted by Macron by Tuesday evening. The move would allow Attal to take up his seat as a lawmaker in the National Assembly, France's

powerful lower house of government, and lead the group of Macron's centrist allies. It would also prevent him from being exposed to a potential no-confidence vote in parliament. The opening session of the National Assembly is scheduled on Thursday. The caretaker government led by Attal would focus only on handling day-to-day affairs. There is no firm timeline for when Macron, who held a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, must name a new prime minister. France has been at the brink of a governing paralysis since elections for the National Assembly earlier this month resulted in a split among three major political groupings: the New Popular Front leftist coalition, Macron's centrist allies and the far-right National Rally of Marine Le Pen.

## 100 injured as Bangladesh's student groups clash over quotas

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: Rival students in Bangladesh clashed on Monday leaving at least 100 people injured, as demonstrators opposing quotas for coveted government jobs 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 others threw petrol bombs, witnesses said. 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 "heroes" 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 blamed the ruling party students for the violence. "They attacked our peaceful procession with rods, sticks and rocks," Nahid Islam, the national coordinator of the anti-quota protests, said. "They beat our female protesters. At least 150 students were injured including 30 women, and conditions of 20 students are serious." Critics say the system benefits children of pro-government groups who back Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hasina, 76, won her fourth consecutive general election in January, in a vote without genuine opposition parties that saw a major crackdown against her political opponents, who boycotted the poll.

## Kenyan suspect confesses to murdering 42 women

**Monitoring Desk**  
NAIROBI: Kenyan police said they arrested on Monday a suspected serial killer who confessed to murdering 42 women, including his wife, and discarding their dismembered bodies in a Nairobi rubbish dump. Since Friday, nine butchered bodies trussed up in plastic bags have been hauled from the site of an abandoned quarry in the Mukuru slum, a gruesome discovery that has horrified the nation. Acting Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja said the 33-year-old suspect, named as Collins Jumaisi Khalusha, was arrested at around 3:00am (0000 GMT) near a Nairobi bar where he had been watching the Euro 2024 football final.

"We are dealing with a serial killer, a psychopathic serial killer who has no respect for human life," the head of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) Mohamed Amin told reporters. "We are dealing with a vampire, a psychopath." Amin said Khalusha claimed the murders took place between 2002 and July 11 this year. "The suspect confessed to have lured, killed and disposed of 42 female bodies at the dumping site," he added. "Unfortunately, and this is very sad, the suspect alleged that his first victim was his wife... who he strangled to death, before dismembering her body and disposing it at the same site."



Volunteers carry a body of an unknown person retrieved, with seven others, from a dumpsite in Mukuru slums, in Nairobi, Kenya.

