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Pakistan summons German ambassador Afghan nationals attack Pakistani consulate in Germany

FO says German govt responsible to provide security; Demands German authorities take immediate measures to arrest and prosecute culprits

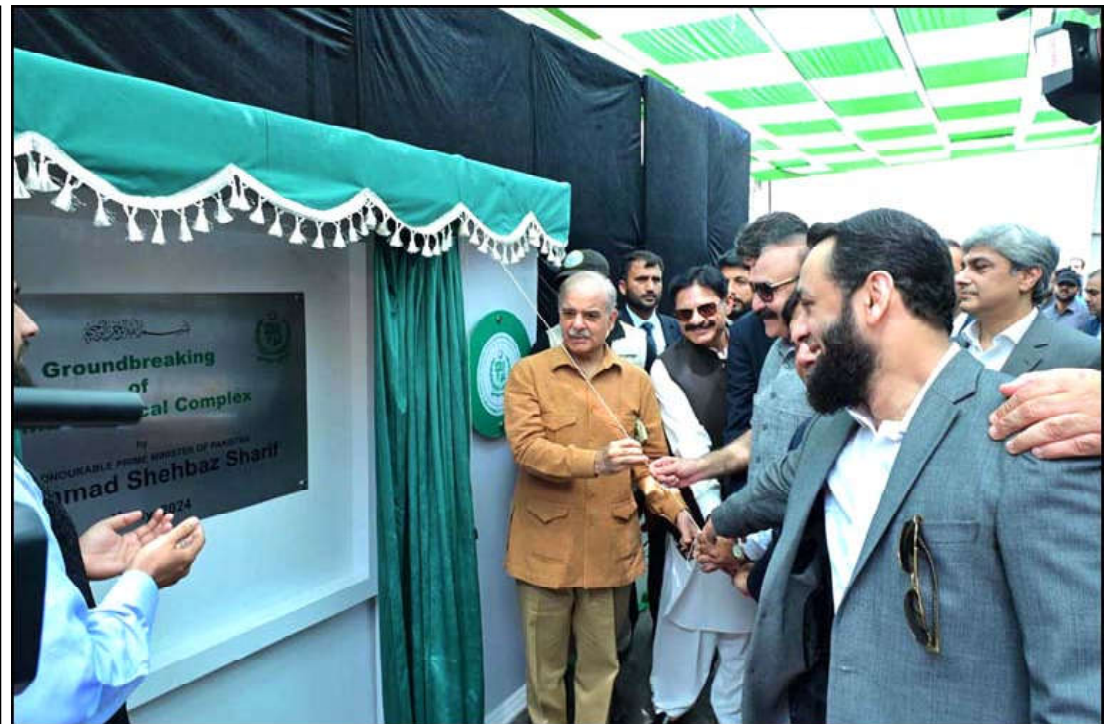
FANKFURT (INP): A group of Afghan nationals protested and tried to enter the Pakistani Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany. Reports indicate that the Afghan nationals were allowed to hold a peaceful protest by German authorities but they turned violent and threw stones at the consulate building, leading to heightened tensions. German police have detained two Afghan nationals and anticipate more arrests as they continue to identify additional protesters with the help of video

footage. In response to the incident, Pakistani diplomatic officials have raised the matter with the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin. The German authorities have assured the Pakistani diplomats that a thorough investigation will be conducted. The Pakistani Foreign Office is considering summoning German officials to lodge an official protest at the diplomatic level, reflecting the seriousness of the situation and the need for enhanced security mea-

asures to protect diplomatic missions. The incident has sparked concerns over the safety of diplomatic premises and personnel, prompting calls for stricter security protocols and better cooperation between host countries and diplomatic missions to prevent such occurrences in the future. APP adds: Pakistan on Sunday strongly condemned attack by a gang of extremists on its consulate in Frankfurt, Germany on Saturday (July 20) and the

failure of the German authorities to protect the sanctity and security of the premises of its consular Mission. "Under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963 it is the responsibility of the host government to protect the sanctity of the consular premises and ensure the security of diplomats," a statement issued by the Foreign Office said. It added that in yesterday's incident, the security of Pakistan's con-

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



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

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

RAWALPINDI (INP) - Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan claimed that he is being denied basic human rights in jail. In an interview to a foreign publication, the former prime minister alleged that he is being treated like a terrorist. The rare interview was conducted through his lawyers from behind the bars. The PTI founder is behind the bars for almost a year since his conviction in three cases - the Toshakhana reference, the cipher case, and the Iddat case. His spouse Bushra Bibi is also detained. Imran Khan was later acquitted in all the cases before being rearrested again by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a fresh Toshakhana case, leaving his possible release from prison hanging in the balance. "I am confined in a 7ft by 8ft death cell, typically reserved for terrorists to ensure they have no contact with anyone," he said in the interview given to a

foreign publication. "It is solitary confinement with barely any space to move," said Imran Khan while adding that he is under strict surveillance all the time. He said in the interview that his party secured a significant majority of approximately 175 seats, not the 93 that were officially acknowledged after the Feb 8 elections. According to Imran Khan, he spends most of the time in future planning as he will be back soon. "Despite being caged, the entire country looks to me for hope and resilience. Most importantly, my prayers keep me steadfast, my belief in God assures me that justice will prevail over tyranny," he said. Meanwhile, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar refuted the reports of PTI founder being kept in the death cell in jail. "He is being kept in the presidential suite with lot of facilities including separate kitchen, exercise machine and a special gallery for walk," said Tarar.

Joe Biden drops out of 2024 presidential race

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden ended his reelection campaign on Sunday after fellow Democrats lost faith in his mental acuity and ability to beat Donald Trump, leaving the presidential race in uncharted territory. The pressure from inside the Democratic party and the loyal voters was visible when the sitting US President Biden performed terribly in his debate with former President Trump. Biden, in a post on X, said he will remain in his role as president and commander-in-chief until his term ends in January 2025 and will address the nation this week. "It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term," Biden wrote.

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

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

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Irrigation Sindh, Jam Khan Shoro has assured that Balochistan province would be provided due share of water from Kirthar canal and it's monitoring would also be conducted through third party. He said that he fully realizes the hardships being faced by the zamindars of Balochistan due to shortage of water for agricultural purposes from Kirthar canal, as such the Sindh government would ensure best of best measures to resolve the matter keeping in view the hardships of the brothers of Balochistan. This assurance was made by the Sindh Irrigation Minister while speaking to the Provincial Minister for Health Balochistan, Sardarzada Faisal Jamali during the visit to Sukkur Barrage on Sunday.

The Provincial Minister for Health was briefed by the Chief Engineer, Sukkur Barrage, Mansoor Memon about the situation of water supply from the barrage. Also present on the occasion were Sardar Muhammad Haroon Khan Jamali, Norez Khan Jamali, Mir Zulfiqar Khan Jamali, Mir Nadeem Khan Jamali, Salar Khan Jamali, Executive Engineer, Kirthar canal, Gul Hasan Khosa, Khair Bakhsh Lashari and representatives of Zamindars Association. The Minister Health Balochistan pointed out that the zamindars of the province are facing hardships due to non-supply of water as per the province's share from Kirthar canal, and as such there is a need to prevent the situation. He demanded to ensure supply of water to Balochistan from the Khanki area instead of Ghadak point. He said that if Balochistan is provided its due share of water, then it can irrigate vast land of the province.

CM Balochistan arrives in Multan on short visit

MULTAN (APP): Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Khan Bugti arrived in city on short visit here Sunday, according to official sources, the chief minister was welcomed by additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Fuad Hashim Rabbani. Following his arrival, he left for Islamabad. Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan was also present on the occasion.

Monsoon rains claim 10 lives in Balochistan

QUETTA (INP): Recent monsoon rains in Balochistan have resulted in 10 fatalities and 31 injuries across various incidents, according to a report by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). The PDMA's report details significant human and material losses in several districts of the province due to the ongoing monsoon season. Since June 7, the rains have caused numerous accidents, including roof and wall collapses, leading to 10 deaths and 31 injuries, with children

among the casualties. The report further states that 89 houses were completely destroyed, and 170 suffered partial damage. Overall, 1,799 individuals have been affected by the rains. Additionally, 17 kilometers of roads and 310 acres of agricultural land have been damaged. Despite the heavy rains, the situation of dams in Balochistan remains normal. PDMA has assured that relief operations by PDMA and district administrations are actively ongoing in the affected areas.

Govt determined to provide 100% free medical facilities to deserving patients: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said the government was determined to provide state of the art free healthcare facilities to the deserving patients across the country. Addressing a groundbreaking ceremony of Jinnah Medical Complex here, the prime minister said the Complex was going to be the region's one of the best medical center where the deserving people would get 100% free medical treatment. "This is the gift of the

coalition government not only for the residents of the Rawalpindi and Islamabad but for the people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan as well," PM Shehbaz Sharif said. He said once completed, the medical complex would offer the world's best healthcare facilities with various sections of diseases related to heart, kidneys, lungs, cancer and others. Furthermore, he said a modern first aid emergency section would also be established at the hospital

with facility of air ambulance service for patients belonging to hard areas. He said the nursing schools and laboratories would also be established in the hospital and the deserving patients would avail 100% lab tests facility. The prime minister emphasized that this was the same model envisioned by PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to provide free medical facilities only to the poor and on-payment facilities to the section would also be established at the hospital

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PTI pursuing agenda to create uncertainty in Pakistan: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage on Sunday termed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) a "terrorist and chaotic" party which sought nothing but "dead bodies" to get people's sympathy for political mileage. "Whenever there was a protest, they (PTI) always look for the dead bodies and tried to get their own people killed for putting the blame on the police, the government and the (local) administration," the minis-

ter said while addressing a news conference. Their nefarious agenda began with 2014 sit-in which did not end with the May 9 mayhem as they still resorted to hatch con-

spiracies to derail the system and decimate the economy, Tarar said citing the recent firing in Bannu peace rally arranged by the

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

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove left for Turkey on four-day official visit, on Sunday. According to an official hand out issued here, the Provincial Minister Home would perform official responsibilities during visit to Turkey. He would also hold meetings with the officials in Turkey. The hand out mentioned that the important objective behind visit of the Provincial Minister to Turkey is initiatives for development of the province.

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

QUETTA: Major reshuffling has been made in the Health Department, Balochistan as many as 18 doctors were transferred to Loralai from Quetta. According to the official notifications issued here by the Provincial Health Department, the transfers of doctors including three Chief Medical Officers and four senior Medical Officers have been made from Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital and Bolan Medical Complex Hospital Quetta to Loralai. Three senior Medical Officers and a Chief Medical Officer was transferred to District Headquarter Hospital Loralai from Quetta. Similarly, the services of two Chief Medical Officers and a senior Medical Officer were handed over to DHQ Hospital Loralai. Besides, 11 lady doc-

tors have also been transferred to Loralai, who otherwise were posted in different hospitals of Quetta. They are included seven senior Lady Medical Officers and four Lady Medical Officers, the notification mentioned. Among them, six lady doctors have been directed to report in the Teaching Hospital Loralai while services of five lady doctors have been handed over to the District Health Officer Loralai. Meanwhile, according to another notification, medical officer of DHQ Duki, Dr. Fareed has been suspended with approval of the competent authority. It may be mentioned here that the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti had expressed displeasure over performance of the hospitals operating in Loralai including the Teaching Hospital.

Shafqat Mahmood announces retirement from politics

LAHORE (INP): Senior PTI leader and former Federal Minister Shafqat Mahmood has announced his retirement from politics. In a message shared on social media, Mahmood stated, "34 years ago, I resigned from my government job to step into politics. After much deliberation, I have now decided to retire from politics."

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



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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan this month will ask Chinese power plants operating in the country to shift to using coal from Pakistan's Thar region rather than imported coal, the power minister said on Sunday. Islamabad may also begin talks on re-profiling Pakistan's energy sector debt during the visit to Beijing, Awais Leghari, head of the energy ministry's Power Division, told Reuters.

Leghari will be part of the delegation to discuss structural reforms to the power sector suggested by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which last week agreed on a \$7 billion bailout for the heavily indebted South Asian nation. Neighbouring China has set up over \$20 billion worth of energy projects in Pakistan. "One of the key purposes of going along is the conversion of our imported coal units to the local coal.

That would have a huge impact on the cost of energy, of power in the near future. So that is one of the biggest (items on the) agenda," Leghari said in an interview. Such a transition would benefit the Chinese-owned plants in Pakistan by reducing pressure on Islamabad's foreign exchange reserves, he said, making it easier to repatriate dividends and offering a better return in dollar terms.



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

Pak children no less than Ronaldo, Messi, says Rana Mashhood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmad believes Pakistani children were no less than Football Greats Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi saying they have unlimited talent but just need opportunities.

Speaking to media here at the Pakistan Sports Complex as part of the Pakistan Street Football Children team preparations for the Norway Cup, he commended Muslim Hands International for doing significant work in sports, education and other fields.

If young children are given opportunities, they will win laurels for the country in every field. This is not a street child squad but Pakistan's team, he said.

He also praised Pakistani girls who won gold medals in powerlifting competitions. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is doing all out efforts to provide opportunities to the youth and is giving special attention in every sector including sports, he said.

Mashhood was of the view that according to the vision of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan is a country where everyone can rejoice. We all have to take the country forward and the government will patronize talented children. We will nurture talented youth through the Prime Minister's Youth Programme. A modern bio-mechanic

lab will also be built for the players, he said.

He said next year the South Asian Games are going to be held in Pakistan. We are also focusing on Youth Olympics as sports has become an industry in the world. We want teams to be selected on merit in every game, he said and added that he was hopeful that the street children team will win the trophy.

Talking about politics he said when PML-N Leader Nawaz Sharif came to power, terrorism ended and Pakistan developed economically. The friendly countries had invested in Pakistan in large numbers. The sit-ins and propaganda in the country, based on lies, destroyed the economy at that time. National institutions are working together for the stability of the country. When PML-N comes to power, prosperity comes to the country. Current challenges are temporary. There will be no IMF program next year and prosperity will surely come in the country. The government will complete its five years, he said.

In 2017, Nawaz Sharif was removed from power but the nation does not want to see any such thing again. We have to free the country from debt and every conspiracy against Pakistan will be countered. No one can stop Pakistan's development now and anti-Pakistan powers will be exposed in front of the whole world, he said.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives briefing regarding the construction of Jinnah Medical Complex in Islamabad.

Women's T20 Asia Cup: Pakistan triumphs over Nepal with convincing 9-wicket victory

Sports Desk

DAMBULLA: Pakistan's women's cricket team secured a convincing victory over Nepal by 9 wickets in their second match of the Women's T20 Asia Cup 2024, held in Dambulla, Sri Lanka on Sunday.

After a disappointing start with a loss against India, Pakistan bounced back impressively, dominating Nepal across all facets of the game.

Electing to field after winning the toss, captain Nida Dar's decision paid off as Pakistan restricted Nepal to a modest total of 108/6 in their allotted 20 overs.

Sadia Iqbal led the bowling attack with figures of 2 wickets for 19 runs, supported by Fatima Sana who claimed 1 wicket for 24 runs. Additionally, three Nepali batters were dismissed via run-outs.

In response, Pakistan

chased the target in just 11.5 overs, showcasing a dominant batting display.

Gull Feroza was the standout performer, smashing 57 runs off 35 deliveries, including 10 boundaries. Muneeba Ali contributed significantly with an unbeaten 46, guiding Pakistan to victory with ease.

Earlier in the tournament, Nepal had clinched their maiden Asia Cup win by defeating UAE.



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

Mangla Dam water level surges to 1196.95 feet

MIRPUR (INP): The water level in the Mangla Dam, Pakistan's second-largest reservoir, has risen to 1196.95 feet, just shy of its maximum conservation level of 1242 feet.

This significant increase is attributed to the melting of snow in the Himalayan region, which has led to a substantial influx of water into the Jhelum River and, subsequently, the Mangla Dam, the sources told APP on Sunday.

As on Sunday, the live storage capacity of the dam has reached 4.067 million acre feet (MAF), a marked improvement from previous levels. The minimum operating level of the dam is 1050 feet, and with the current level surpassing 1196 feet, it's a promising sign for the country's hy-

dropower generation and water management.

According to APP's correspondent, who was informed by the sources, the current water levels and storage capacities at various reservoirs and barrages in Pakistan are like this: in Tarbela Dam, 1516.72 feet (present level), 3.965 MAF (live storage); in Mangla Dam, 1196.95 feet (present level), 4.067 MAF (live storage); and in Chashma Dam, 644.50 feet (present level), 0.112 MAF (live storage).

According to the sources, the inflows and outflows of various rivers, including the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab, have also been recorded, indicating a healthy balance between water intake and distribution.

Consumers get Rs3 per unit power bills in AJK after protest

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

As per details, the development came after violent protests and an agreement was signed between the government and the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC).

The Azad Kashmir government has fulfilled its promise to provide affordable electricity to the public by issuing bills at the new rate, with no surcharge. The outstanding amounts will be collected in 12 installments.

Paris 2024: New chapter in sporting culture

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

What is most awaited about the Paris Olympics, drawing near from 26th July to 11th August, is not only the return of twenty-eight familiar disciplines but also the unveiling of four new entries. The upcoming games, which will be held after the Tokyo Summer Olympics that were postponed to 2021 due to the worldwide pandemic caused by the coronavirus, will offer a chance for sports climbing, skateboarding, surfing, and breaking. Modern sports have been embraced while tradition has been respected by adding some events in Olympic competitions. For example, breaking, a form of dance, will make its first appearance, creating an exciting new dimension at the world's greatest sporting festival. As Paris readies itself to welcome athletes and fans from around the world, it's time to celebrate athleticism, innovation, and competitive zeal.

These events are anticipated with great excitement as they are expected to produce moments of ecstasy beyond the playing field. Preparing to host the upcoming Olympic Games, French organizers are ambitiously aiming to embed and sustain a profound cultural transformation within the nation. This initiative not only emphasizes aspects such as security, hospitality, crowd control, and infrastructure but also holds potential lessons for businesses looking to achieve lasting organizational change. While the Paris 2024 Games are contributing to peace, they are changing cultural views. Everyone knows France for its great food, great art, and great fashion—but not great sports, at least not traditionally. In recent years, the French people have worked very hard to adapt their culture and way of life to be more conducive to a sports-friendly society. French teams and athletes have no shortage of global

success, winning the prestigious FIFA World Cup in 1998 and 2018, the women's Eurobasket in 2001 and 2009, and gold medals in handball at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. In 2023, France finished second in the Greatest Sporting Nation rankings for the year. The change was not immediate. A complete shocker took place after an Olympic crisis of unprecedented proportions in 1960 when France's feeble Rome Olympic debut, broadcast directly on television screens, garnered the not-so-stunning sum of five medals, none of them gold. It was a national humiliation that so incensed President Charles de Gaulle that he viewed it as an insult and a slight on the prestige of a now diminished France on the world stage. France itself was struggling then to emerge from the Cold War, decolonize, and meet the challenge of a youth bulge and waves of an immigrant population. Sport was considered something that might help lift national morale and bring these new inhabitants into the fold.

The government realized that showing the competitive comebacks of the French could be incredibly helpful in reintroducing this nation. In order to boost this vision, considerable legislative measures were introduced. INSEP, the National Sports Institute, was established in 1975 by the monumental Mazaud Law for elite athletes to combine their education with training. This law marked sports' growth as an indispensable aspect of French culture and a responsibility of the state on a national level. It became even more evident with the 1984 Avic Law, which pronounced physical activity and sport to be integral components needed by every citizen to ensure personal welfare. One of the biggest reforms was investment in youth sports development. In the mid-1970s, the French Football Federation (FFF) and professional clubs established

a national program to identify and train promising young players. This program enabled talented youngsters to play at a high level while continuing their education. This approach began to pay off in the 1980s, leading to great success in football, culminating in winning the 1998 World Cup on home soil. Other sports, such as basketball, found international success in the late 1990s and early 2000s, shaping this youth development program. Since then, the "formation à la française" has made the "Made in France" brand synonymous with high performance in global sport, influencing practices around the world, including the NBA's youth academy network. As the 2024 Olympics approach, there is hope that this event will cement sports as a key aspect of French cultural identity. The ongoing efforts to build a sporting culture reflect the broader challenge of cultural integration, illustrating that substantial change requires both institutional support and grassroots enthusiasm. French organizers believe that the lessons learned from their journey—such as the importance of legislative support, investment in youth, and the need for a holistic approach—can provide valuable insights for leaders and managers in other fields looking to implement and sustain cultural change. As any leader knows, significant organizational change is difficult and slow, but France's experience shows it is possible with determination and strategic effort. The anticipation surrounding the upcoming Paris Olympics in 2024 extends far beyond the international sports competition. This prestigious global event not only promises to showcase the highest level of sporting excellence but also sets a standard for sustainable practices, technology integration, diversity, and long-term community benefits. As Pakistan deals

with its own set of challenges, including environmental issues, lack of participation in sports, and the need for improved athlete development programs, the Paris Olympics presents a unique opportunity for the country to gather valuable insights and emulate best practices. One of the most distinctive features of the Paris Olympics is its relentless focus on sustainability. The organizers have prioritized the integration of sustainable infrastructure, waste management, and renewable energy to make it the most environmentally conscious Games to date.

Pakistan can draw inspiration from these efforts as it faces major environmental problems and finds innovative solutions to meet its environmental challenges. In the age of technology, the Paris Olympic Games are set to embrace groundbreaking developments to enhance the event experience. From streamlined ticketing systems to sophisticated player performance analytics tools, technology is poised to play a vital role in improving overall match efficiency and participant experience. By looking at how technology is seamlessly integrated into sports, Pakistan can learn valuable lessons in implementing digital solutions to improve its sporting environment. Furthermore, the Paris Olympics are not only about sporting skills but also about supporting diversity and participation in sport. With a strong emphasis on gender equality and diverse representation, the event is a beacon of inclusion. Pakistan can take cues from these initiatives to reshape its sports ecosystem, provide equal opportunities for all athletes, and foster a more inclusive sports culture. Post-Olympics, the planners have delineated strategies to repurpose venues and infrastructure for community advantage, thereby establishing a paradigm for the evolution of sustainable sports infrastructure. Paki-

stan could investigate analogous methodologies to ensure that its investments in sports infrastructure render long-term positive dividends for the nation and its populace. Additionally, the Paris Olympics furnish an exceptional venue to advance the notion of healthy lifestyles and physical activity. By accentuating the significance of maintaining activity and adopting a healthy lifestyle, the event can catalyze nations like Pakistan to prioritize sports participation and wellness initiatives, particularly among the younger demographic. Capitalizing on the momentum engendered by the games, Pakistan can endeavor to embed a culture of physical fitness and well-being across its citizenry. Finally, with premier athletes from around the globe congregating in Paris for competition at the zenith of performance, Pakistan encounters an extraordinary circumstance to scrutinize efficacious sporting programs and training methodologies. By meticulously analyzing the output of top-tier athletes and discerning best practices, Pakistan can refine its athlete development programs and cultivate future sports luminaries equipped with the requisite skills and support to thrive on the global stage.

The Paris Olympics in 2024 present substantial potential to assimilate insights from global sports management practices, sustainable event design frameworks, and holistic approaches to sports engagement. The Paris 2024 Games encompass a significance surpassing merely that of a worldwide athletic event; they serve as an embodiment of a nation's capacity to emerge from adversity, undergo a process of self-reinvention, and endeavor to establish a persistent legacy intended for succeeding generations.

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PTI pursuing agenda to create...

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power as they, being in opposition, still worked day in and day out to spread terror in the country to bring political instability and derail economy to default the country, he added.

"This is their mission and manifesto and they have always demonstrated this through their actions," he said recalling its armed attack on the state institutions in 2014 sit-in which also saw unprecedented scenes of chaos and anarchy.

The minister refuted the story published by an international media outlet regarding the lifestyle of the PTI founder in the Adiala Jail.

"I would like to address Ms Christina Lamb who I respect greatly. She has lived in Pakistan and she is watching and observing the politics of Pakistan but, madam you are sadly mistaken; this convicted person, who is ex-chairman of the PTI, lives in a presidential suite. He has an exercise bicycle, a walking gallery and a kitchen at his disposal and he gives a proper lavish menu of what he wants to eat in his entire day," the minister said while dubbing the news story as a fake and fabricated.

He said the PTI founder held three meetings weekly with his lawyers, friends, family and political leaders in the presidential suite that has

been created for him in Adiala jail where he had a sitting area and an exercise time.

"We have never believed in political victimization and nor we did any," he said, describing his fabricated story as a tool to befool the outside community.

"Mr Khan himself incarcerated people and put them in death cell including women and he is responsible and he used to openly state that I will not let any medicine to get through them in the prison; I will not let them have home food, and I will not let them meet the people. He used to speak that openly and now he is having lavish lifestyle in jail," the minister said, while recalling the political victimization pursued during the tenure of the PTI government against the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) including its Quaid Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Rana Sanaullah who were actually sent to 7 feet by 8 feet death cells.

Tarar said that he could say on oath that the government had never passed any direction to treat him indifferently. "He gets everything whatever he desires and so far devoured food accounting to millions of rupee," he added.

He played some video clips during the press conference which depicted the brutalities inflicted by the PTI founder on the PML-N leadership during his tenure.

About the attack on the Pakistani consulate in Frankfurt, he said the Foreign Office had registered its protest in strongest terms with the host country demanding full proof security of Pakistani mission, action against those who were responsible for the security lapses and arrest of those who were involved in the incident.

"We have requested the NADRA to ascertain from the video whether any Pakistani was involved in this incident or the only one country's nationals were involved in defiling Pakistani flag," he said vowing strict action against them.

"It is unacceptable for us as our martyrs' bodies are wrapped up in this flag and it is our nation that never hesitates to pay sacrifices for keeping this flag high," he stressed.

"If any Pakistan is found involved in this incident then it is for sure that their Identification Card will be blocked and passport will be revoked," he noted.

To a query, he said the host country had assured the government of Pakistan of the action against those involved in the incident.



PESHAWAR: Engr. Amir Muqam, Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, AJK & GB Affairs offering Fateha for the deceased father of Mobashir Hasan, Principal Information Officer (PIO) in Peshawar

Policeman martyred in terrorist attack on police checkpoint in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (INP): Terrorists attacked a police checkpoint in Peshawar, resulting in the martyrdom of a police official due to their gunfire.

The terrorists fled the scene after the shooting at the police checkpoint on Sunday.

The local police had initiated a search operation in the area to find terrorists involved in the attack on the checkpoint.

Gov't determined to provide...

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well-off people at the same place. He specifically thanked Chairman HBL Sultan Ali Allana and Prince Rahim Agha Khan for providing technical consultancy support free of cost for the project. He paid tribute to the decades-long services of the Agha Khan Foundation for the country.

He directed the authorities concerned to complete the project in one year. "Although one year is a challenging deadline for the huge project but with determination and hard work, it was quite possible. He also issued directives to continue work on the project round the clock to meet the deadline. He assured that there would be no funding problems from the government side.

PM Shehbaz Sharif also expressed his gratitude to the Islamabad Chief Commissioner Ali Randhawa for providing land for the project.

He also thanked finance minister, finance secretary and planning minister for their support for the project.

As regards compensation to the land affected people, the prime minister directed to provide one window facility to the affected people to resolve their problems without any delay.

Health Coordinator Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, MNAs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Hanif Abbasi and Raja Khurram Nawaz also spoke on the occasion.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar was also present on the occasion.

Hazza Institute of Technology empowers 25,000 Youth with technical education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Managing Director Hazza Institute of Technology Islamabad Azhar Iqbal Sindhu Monday while stressing for soft skill training education for youth highlighted that his institute has successfully trained 25,000 youth in technical education, with an impressive 17,000 registrations for future programs.

"We are offering training programs to bridge the gap between education and employment, providing youth with practical skills and knowledge to enhance their career prospects, he said while talking to PTV news channel. With such initiatives, Hazza Institute of Technology with the supportive role of government is playing a vital role in shaping the future of Pakistan's youth and contributing to the country's socio-economic development, he added.

He said Hazza Institute of Technology stand as a beacon of excellence in IT and vocational training across Pakistan, adding, with a legacy of empowering individuals, we have been at the forefront of unleashing the potential of both traditional and cutting-

edge technologies since our inception.

He said we are attached with other 4 to 5 countries and arranging training programs, adding, the Hazza Institute of Technology's partnership with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) marks a significant milestone in the development of Pakistan's technical and vocational education sector.

The "TVET Uplifting across Pakistan" initiative aims to provide students with access to cutting-edge technical training in high-demand fields such as civil, mechanical, and electrical technologies, he added.

Through this collaboration, Hazza Institute of Technology is offering specialized training programs that cater to the needs of the modern industry, ensuring that students are equipped with the skills and knowledge required to excel in their chosen fields, he mentioned.

The programs is focusing on hands-on training, practical application, and industry-specific skills, preparing students for immediate employment upon graduation, he added.



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

PM committed to promote environmentally sustainable mountaineering: Romina

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

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

Establishing such facilities that would help equip aspirant mountaineers and mountain climbers with the knowledge and confidence to enjoy the mountains safely while respecting the local environment, values and cultures of mountain communities and fellow climbers would prove an important impetus for promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly mountaineering and climbing in the country, the PM's climate aide said.

"A plan is being implemented in close coordination and support with the Gilgit-Baltistan government to set up first government-run mountaineering school of the world-class standard in Skardu. It also aims to open new vistas of employment opportunities for the local mountain communities and help promote sustainable and environmental-friendly mountaineering and climbing," remarked the PM's aide.

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

Abdullah Gul says: Mumbai's nuclear material theft incident puts question marks India's nuclear command

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Tehreek e Jawaan Pakistan (TJP), Mohammad Abdullah Gul on Sunday said that the theft of nuclear arsenal, equipment and enriched uranium in Mumbai put a question mark on the security of the Indian weapons and its command and control system.

In his statement, about the theft of nuclear material and the equipment used in Mumbai, India, the TJP Chairman said that the theft of radioactive materials and equipment in India in recent days and the theft from the

Daba nuclear weapon system in Mumbai raised questions on calmness of International Atomic Energy Commission (IAEA) and western nations.

Gul said according to Indian media, five individuals were arrested on the charge of possessing the device. He said that the device was a radiography camera recovered from the house of former Income Tax Commissioner Suman.

He said that on the radiography camera seized from the flat of the Income Tax Commissioner, the board of radio isotope technology was written on it.

Gul said that according to the Indian media, a black box was also found from the spot, which showed the presence of radiation.

"If terrorism is being carried out in Pakistan with the help of these devices, then the responsibility lies with the Western countries and the International Atomic Energy Commission, which is not taking any action against India despite the fact that many radioactive devices have been stolen many times," he said.

BISP starts registration for Sikh families

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

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

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

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

support and benefits of the BISP.

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

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

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

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

Farewell ceremony held in honour of retired police officers

ISLAMABAD: A farewell ceremony was held in honour of Inspector Omar Khan and Inspector Gull Sher at Capital Police College Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that, DSP Capital Police College (CPC) Mehfooz Kiyani graced the ceremony as chief guest, while other police officers were also present on the occasion.



The ceremony was held in recognition of the services of the retiring police officers.

Speaking at the occasion, DSP CPC said that retirement is part of the service as the one who joins the service has to retire one day. He asked the serving police officers to do their best to earn respect for the department. He was of the view that public service only could earn a good name for the officer and the department.

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

Drive on Railway safety, prohibited items in full swing

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

"The campaign was launched on the directives of Secretary Syed Mazhar Ali Shah which will not help the department to control accidents but also win the confidence of the passengers of the rail" an official told APP.

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

He said the department has also asked all the divisional superintendents to ensure checking of luggage of passengers at entry points with scanners, metal detectors and walk through gates.

The official said Pakistan Railways had always given importance to the safety of citizens and its passengers.

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

I'abad Police Assistant Shahid promoted to office Superintendent rank

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

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

AIG Establishment/Operations Abdul Haque Umrani handed over the promotion notification to him. Shahid Shabbir joined Islamabad Police as an Assistant in December 2009 and served in various capacities at the Central Police Office.

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

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



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

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

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

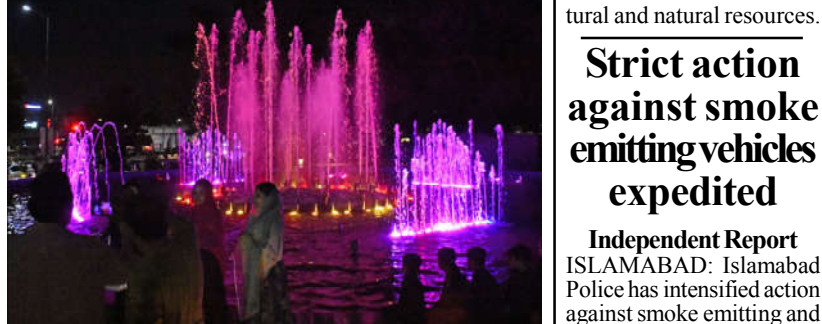
Climate Change and Environmental Education Training Program was held in Taxila, a city renowned for its Gandhara Civilization heritage jointly organized by the Climate Hub Forum and Odyssey, in collaboration with EYLAR (Early Years Learning and Research), the event took place at Sir Syed Innovative School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

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

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

The speakers at the event included Amir Sadozai, CEO of the Climate Hub Forum; Erum Khan, Director of Odyssey; Batool Siddique, CEO of EYLAR; Riaz Ahmed, Coordinator of GRCP; Iftikhar ud din Siddique, Manager of PR and Community Outreach; Iftikhar Ahmed, Member of the Core Committee GRCP; Sohail Ahmed, Manager of Media; Pervaiz Khan, a renowned painter; Salman Tahir, CEO of Taxila Baithak; Asif Fareed, Co-Founder of Taxila Baithak; Tahir Mahmood Sheikh, Ex-Serviceman; Professor Turab Haider Naqvi of UET; Mumtaz Hussain, Managing Director of Hunza Lounge Adventure; Muhammad Hamza, Producer/Lecturer at Media National Excellence Institute; and Waqas Ahmed, a social activist.

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



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

PMD advises public for safety measures during fresh monsoon spell

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

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

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

The district administrations have also been directed to ensure the availability of small and large machinery to deal with any emergency in advance, he added.

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

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

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

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



ISLAMABAD: People filling their pots with clean drinking water from filtration plant at F-6 in the Federal Capital.

UNICEF Pakistan launches social behavior change toolkit on MHH

ISLAMABAD (APP): UNICEF Pakistan has announced the launch of Social Behavior Change (SBC) toolkit focused on menstrual health and hygiene (MHH).

This groundbreaking initiative aims to transform societal attitudes and behaviors towards menstrual health, promoting a more supportive and informed environment for women and girls across the country.

The launch event, held in Islamabad, brought together a diverse group of experts and representatives from various implementing partners spanning all provinces. These stakeholders shared their insights and experiences, highlighting the toolkit's potential to drive impactful change in communities.

The SBC toolkit offers comprehensive resources and strategies designed to educate and empower individuals, families, and communities. It addresses common myths and misconceptions about menstruation, providing practical guidance for promoting healthy practices and supportive environments.

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

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

The appeal against the decision to discharge Sanam Javed from the FIA case was heard in the District and Sessions Court

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

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

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



ISLAMABAD: Labourers alongwith their tools sitting on roadside waiting for clients to be hired for work during morning time at Khanna Pul.

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Olympics contingent

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

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

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

Muhammad Amir Rana

Pakistan's power elites are grappling with a 'Jekyll and Hyde syndrome', showcasing starkly different behaviour in their attention and actions. Their purported focus on fixing the economy is contradicted by their actual measures, and the same applies to their efforts in addressing political and security issues in the country.

Recently, an interesting piece by Shahbaz Rana in an English daily talked of the experiences of a British economist dealing with the power elites in the country. According to the writer, Stefan Dercon "had impressed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif so much that he immediately hired him to help prepare a 'home-grown' economic plan. But while Stefan Dercon was holding meetings with Shehbaz Sharif, the premier's financial team ... was preparing a budget that would benefit those same elites and throw the country's marginalised classes under the bus".

According to the writer, Mr Dercon reached

the conclusion "that the motivations of Pakistani elites would not allow the economic growth and development of the country to be prioritised", and found "an underlying elite bargain for the status quo among powerful elite groups", which, he said, comprised leading figures in politics, business, civil society, the military, civil service, intellectuals and journalists.

The full- and half-page advertisements by the federal and Punjab governments highlighting their tall claims about their first 100 days of achievements may reflect their desire. However, their practice of crushing the middle and lower classes of the country while obliging the power elites are a reflection of the Jekyll and Hyde syndrome. The latter term has been inspired by R.L. Stevenson's famous tale of The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, in which the respectable scientist Dr Jekyll develops a potion which turns him into the evil Mr Hyde.

This concept is sometimes associated with certain clinical personality disorders associated with mood

swings.

The concept is also reflected in the dichotomous behaviour of our power elites. An excellent example is the Bollywood dark comedy Matru Ki Bijlee Ka Mandola. In this film, Pankaj Kapur portrays Harry Mandola, a shrewd businessman who wants to turn a village into a symbol of his success. He can only do so if the residents sell their land to the government at throwaway prices, so that it can be turned into a Special Economic Zone. Harry's alter ego emerges when he is seen as intoxicated. In this state, he advocates for equality and an improved life for the villagers.

Pakistan's power elites often act like Harry Mandola. Their primary objective is to maximise their benefits, but when faced with public anger, they pose as reformers and engage experts. This is evident in their economic policies, which favour the elite while claiming to be for the benefit of the entire nation.

In the article referred to earlier, Dercon finds that "growth and development [are not] core motivations for the dominant political

class or the military — and that economic policies are driven by a quest to retain power as part of a clientelist patronage-based state".

Meanwhile, political analyst Muhammad Waseem sees the strength of the power elite in a dynamic political conflict in Pakistan, where all political actors are in accord with 'establishmentarian democracy'. This concept refers to a system where the establishment, which includes the military and other powerful institutions, plays a significant role in shaping the political landscape. In his book, Political Conflict of Pakistan, Dr Waseem explains the conflict along four dimensions: the state's conflict within, ethnicity, religion, and subaltern (non-conflict).

The power elites are playing with these four layered conflicts and have defined the boundaries for insiders and outsiders. The insiders control power, while ethnic and sub-ethnic as well as religious minorities, including the Baloch, Ahmadis, Christians, Hindus as well as the Shia and Zikri sects are

outsiders, according to this concept.

But gradually, power elites are losing their touch. The elites always relied on the conventional notion of cohesion: religion could provide the bond. However, the religious card has been exploited so often that it has lost the power of glue, and even a commoner understands what the real motives of the recently concluded TLP sit-in Islamabad were.

The economic policies of the power elites have failed to impress even the average global economist. Their political manoeuvring has lost its strategic edge, and their security measures are instilling more insecurity in the minds of the masses, raising serious concerns about the state of affairs in Pakistan.

The power elites have already created a gulf between the masses and the state, and it may not surprise anyone that more and more people want to leave the country. Surveys suggest that most Pakistanis lack faith in the government and consider elections an exercise in futility.

Political analysts constantly discuss the country's weakening social contract, but power elites have not changed the rules of the game and are using the same tactics to fix politics and the economy. Their actions have brought the country into a state of decline, but they have no empathy. They are solely focused on their personal benefits and are not ready to give up an inch of what has already been acquired. This stark reality may disillusion many about the current state of Pakistani politics.

In the final chapter of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Dr Jekyll explains his experiments as an attempt to separate the good and evil aspects of his personality. He initially enjoys the freedom of becoming Mr Hyde, but soon loses control over the transformations, which begin "occurring spontaneously". Unfortunately, it is the evil nature of Mr Hyde that becomes more dominant and harder to repress. -- Courtesy Dawn

Armageddon beckons?**Abbas Nasir**

If someone were to say we have moved a step closer to the abyss, one can be certain there'll be many critics who would accuse that person of indulging in the art of the understatement, because they believe the country has already taken a freefall into a bottomless pit. But has it?

In a nation of nearly a quarter of a billion people wracked by poverty and all the issues that flow from it, it is easy to become a prophet of doom and gloom and lose all hope and perspective. That Pakistan is polarised, each one of us can see; but few of us can see a way out of this quagmire.

One can focus on the dire, fragile state of the economy, look at the dismal state of governance, assess the ramifications of the confrontation between the various potent players of the state, each of whom wants a greater chunk of power for themselves — no matter how worthy

the terms in which they couch their efforts — and one can only cover in fear at the deteriorating security situation/terror attacks.

Despite these factors, this columnist remains an optimist. Being an optimist is far better than being a pessimist, eternally waiting for the next disaster, for Armageddon. However, there is a fine line between seeing a silver lining in every cloud and being utterly delusional.

More directly, it means that Pakistan's key institutions and players are set on a collision course and, over the coming days and weeks, it is going to become abundantly clear whether any one of them is willing to take a step back, take stock and realign their positions — if they don't, a total breakdown is inevitable.

So far, the signs have not been encouraging. The biggest sign came in the vocal outburst of the PML-N leader and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, who called on the

Supreme Court judges to rethink their "rehabilitation" of Imran Khan and others in his party who, in her view, had badly damaged the country and were 'mujrim' (criminals).

In an address to a live audience in Punjab, Ms Nawaz used language such as 'we will resist', to 'I am requesting' the Supreme Court, to saying those who don't mend their ways will be dealt with an iron hand. This statement spoke of her desperation and fear.

Desperation because she is locked in a zero-sum game. Any ground gained by her opponent, namely Imran Khan, is at her expense. I suspect the PML-N feels that the direction in which things are headed on the legal-constitutional front could eventually lead to an annulment of the February election and an order of fresh polls.

This is the position or fear of some senior PML-N leaders, I must stress. They privately say their fears are based

on the rapid-fire verdicts coming from the judiciary, which have granted relief to Imran Khan and the PTI. In their opinion, the verdicts are not based on the merits of the cases.

PML-N insiders cite the reserved seats ruling, the acquittal of the former prime minister in a number of cases, and the Lahore High Court's new chief justice's decision to stick with her predecessor's ruling on the right of the court to decide on the number of electoral tribunals and who will run these instead of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

If their fears are well founded, it would be safe to assume that the PML-N's days are numbered. However, in the Islamic Republic, things are never that uncomplicated and simple. PML-N is now aligned with the establishment and we would be safe in assuming that the words Maryam Nawaz spoke were not hers alone.

Apart from the Punjab chief minister's

publicly aired concerns, there are other signs of pushback too. While stating that it will implement the Supreme Court ruling on the reserved seats, the devil in the detail of the ECP statement suggests a number of caveats.

One is reminded of the fate of the Supreme Court verdict on the conduct of general elections within a stipulated time frame. The election eventually happened well after this deadline and there wasn't much anyone could do about it. Pakistan and Pakistanis live with a certain amount of anarchy in their lives. But imagine a scenario where the Supreme Court delivers a verdict and those charged with implementing it in the executive start dragging their feet. If a government, backed by the establishment, were to appear unwilling to help, wouldn't it create a constitutional breakdown?

I know I'll come in for flak for spelling out things as I see them and will be accused of not standing on the right

side; ie, on the side of the Constitution and the rule of law. To me, it is far more important to warn of the dangers rather than say things that meet with general approval.

It can't be stressed enough that the well-being of vast swathes of the poor and the middle class in the country is inextricably tied to political stability, as the economy can only have a chance of growing and flourishing in such an environment. Will all our good and mighty protagonists put off their power grabs for another day and agree on some sort of truce for now, at least, for the sake of the dozens of millions who live below the poverty threshold; for the sake of our country and its future? If we continue down this path, the only guaranteed destination is disaster. The one optimistic twist one can put on that is: perhaps we will rise, Phoenix-like, from the ashes and find a workable new social contract. But as a nation, the price for getting there may be just way too high and bloody.

75 years of Nato**Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A notable feature of the summit was a commitment by Nato members to strengthen partnerships in the Asia-Pacific. Four non-Nato countries (Australia,

Japan, New Zealand and South Korea) were invited to the summit as "Indo-Pacific partners". Will Nato expand its ambit to the Indo-Pacific region? The summit declared that "Indo-Pacific is important for Nato given that developments in that region directly affect Euro-Atlantic security".

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

As for financing of Nato operations, the Wales summit in 2014 had decided that each member state would spend at least two per cent of its GDP on defence. However, nearly one-third of Nato members have still not met this commitment. US leaders, particularly Donald Trump, have often admonished Europeans for not paying enough for Europe's defence.

As per Nato's website, the alliance seeks to promote democratic values, cooperate on defence and security-related issues, and undertake crisis management operations. This is a mandate broader than the one Nato had started out with. Nato appears to have become an instrument in the hands of the US-led West to assert its dominance over the world order. Since major centres of power have emerged in Asia, particularly China, Nato's further political and military involvement in Asia Pacific cannot be ruled out. -- Courtesy Dawn

Past the point**Muna Khan**

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

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

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

Meanwhile, there

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Governor Kundi raises alarming concerns over law and order in KP

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

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

He highlighted that since the 18th Amendment was approved in 2011, maintaining law and order has been the responsibility of the provincial government. Kundi lamented that even after the

Bannu incident, the provincial government has not lived up to public expectations, failing to convene an in-camera session of the provincial assembly.

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

Faisal Karim Kundi revealed that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur had served him with a defamation notice for 500 million rupees. However, Kundi advised Gandapur to first address the issue of corruption in job appointments and transfers, accusing him of setting rates for these transactions and making appointments based on

bribes. Addressing the possibility of an alliance between PTI and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) against the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led federal government, Governor Kundi expressed skepticism. He argued that such an alliance was almost impossible as Maulana Fazlur Rehman was seeking retribution, having labeled Imran Khan's party as foreign agents.

In a separate address at a Pakistan People's Party (PPP) workers' convention, Governor Kundi announced the reorganization of his party in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He also criticized the provincial government for failing to appoint full-time vice-chancellors in 26 out of 36 universities of the province, highlighting another area of governance that needs urgent attention.



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

Law Minister inaugurates projects costing Rs.55.5mn

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Aftab Alam Afridi inaugurated along with senior party stalwart Abid ur Rahman Afridi on Sunday laid the foundation stone of reconstruction of the building of Government Girls Primary School Sunni Khel in Tehsil Dara Adam Khel of Kohat District which will be completed at a cost of Rs.25.5 Million.

Similarly, the Minister along with the local party leadership and elders also inaugurated the Shadikhel-Mandakhel-Kamalkhel Road which has been completed at a cost of Rs.30 Million.

The Law Minister on this occasion said that developmental works are not a favor to anyone but it is the right of the people. He said that we are the custodians of the people's rights and we will leave no stone unturned to achieve this goal for which the

CM emphasises innovative training for economic growth

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has stressed the need for innovative technical training courses to spur economic growth and reduce unemployment.

Chairing a meeting to finalise Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Mapping Plan here on Sunday, the CM said that advanced courses in the market-driven trades should be taught in TEVTA institutes.

The CM emphasised that the new courses must include training in building, textiles, garments, tourism, hospitality, information technology, automobile assembly and repair, professional training in food processing,

biomedical technology, light engineering, renewable energy, and surgical instruments. She directed the authorities concerned to establish partnerships with leading industries to support internships, apprenticeships and job placement. She also directed them to introduce Korean, Japanese, German, Chinese and Arabic language courses in TEVTA institutes. She prayed for establishing a strong technical education system in Punjab.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif agreed to a proposal to establish Punjab Overseas Employment Promotion Authority for Skilled Jobs in the International Market, and directed to outsource

'Heavy Machinery Driving/Operator Course' in collaboration with Large Scale Construction Developers.

The CM approved the construction of 45 welding workshops in 45 cities, besides the construction of state-of-the-art welding and construction course labs in Gujranwala, Sahiwal, Bahawalpur, Multan, Attock, Taxila, Layyah and Mianwali. She also agreed to a proposal to recruit 1,000 employees to overcome shortage of human resource in TEVTA, and directed to increase monthly budget for the purchase of training material for practical training @ Rs 2,000 per student per month.



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

Youth needs provision of proper guidance: Minister

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

Gillani, College founder Akhtar Ali Khan Nahqi, Coordinator Lubna Shamshad Khan, former Peshawar Mayor candidate Rizwan Bangash and a large number of students.

Addressing the ceremony, the provincial minister said we have to think and fulfill our duties and responsibilities with enthusiasm adding that no one would come from abroad to solve our issues.

"Pakistan's biggest asset is its youth. If we make sure the use of young people properly and provide them with better platforms, Pakistan can progress significantly", he said.

Youth can play an important role in the development of a country, the minister said.

He added that Pakistan cannot progress until the supremacy of law and constitution was established in the country. "You are entering into your practical life with many responsibilities. Your education should not be limited.

He has sought a report from RPO Sahiwal. He directed DPO Pakpattan to arrest the accused immediately. The IGP said that the accused did not deserve any leniency, strict legal action should be taken against him.

Pakpattan police took immediate action following the death of Abbas, who died from burns in the City Pakpattan police station area. Based on the complaint, filed by the deceased's mother, a case was registered against three accused and two unidentified persons.

The City Pakpattan police have arrested the three named suspects. DPO Pakpattan Tariq Wilayat said the parties involved had a dispute over shop ownership. Police are investigating all aspects to determine whether Abbas's death was a murder or suicide. The case will be resolved on merit, based on the actual facts and the postmortem report.

CM takes notice of burning alive of youth

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

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

IGP takes notice of boy killing over shop dispute

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, people from cross section of the society including officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, civil officers, journalists, media professionals, lawyers and civil society are coming to the residence of Mubashir Hassan and offering fateha for eternal peace of his father. Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsud, District Police Officer Mardsn Zahoor Afridi and General Manager PTV Asad Naqvi besides others also offered Fateha.

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

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

Senior bureaucrat



KARACHI: Tehreek-e-Insaf Sindh President, Haleem Adil Sheikh along with Advocate Intezar Hussain Panjota, Focal Person for PTI Founding Chairman Imran Khan addressing a press conference, at Insaf House in Karachi.

Expert suggests precautionary measures to refrain from brain eating amoeba

MULTAN (APP): Naegleria Fowleri, also known as Brain-eating amoeba can enter only through one passage to one's brain that is nose and people who do ablation five times a day for offering prayers should take special care to refrain from deadly spores to save their lives.

In a video message on Sunday ex-Principal Nishtar Medical College, Dr Iftikhar Hussain Khan advised the people not to suck water up-to soft bone of nose during ablation as the amoeba penetrates to brain via clibriform plate, a portion of ethmoid bone located at base of the skull.

He informed that

once it enters the brain, it starts eating it adding that severe headache, vomiting, flu and restlessness are mainly its symptoms. This free living microorganism primarily feeds on bacteria but can turn pathogenic in humans causing an extremely rare, sudden and usually fatal brain infection known as naegleriasis, Dr Iftikhar informed. The known thoracic surgeon explained that the first patient with amoeba was diagnosed in 2008 first time in Pakistan and as many as 150 had died of it so far and added that 148 of them had a history of ablation while only two had swimming history.



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

Secretary Health inspects healthcare facilities, orders completion of projects

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

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

The Secretary issued directions to senior officials

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

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

He inspected the OPD Block, Cardiac Center, Labour Ward, X-Ray room and laboratory at the Hospital.

Police seize over 20 kg of drugs in major crackdown

RAWALPINDI (APP): In a significant operation, Police have arrested 14 drug dealers and recovered over 20 kg of drugs from their possession here on Sunday.

Ramesh Singh visits Living Stones Church in Okara

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs and Human Rights Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora visited Living Stones Church in Okara on Saturday and praised arrangements at the church and commended the efficiency of the church administration.

He said that according to vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, minorities are the crown of Pakistan. The Punjab government is taking extensive measures to protect rights of minorities. The purpose of visiting churches is to

listen to the issues of the Christian community and provide solutions, he said. He added that the budget for development and promotion of minorities affairs had been increased by 200 per cent by the Punjab government.

The minorities play crucial role in formation of society, and the Christian community should work hard for country's development. Assistant Commissioner Ziaullah, Pastor Samuel Waqas, other pastors, church administration, media representatives, and the Christian community were also present.

According to a police spokesman, the Pirwadi police conducted a raid and arrested two female drug dealers, Naseem, who had 1.7 kg of drugs, and Nazia, with 1.3 kg. Saqib was found with 1.7 kg, Majid with 1.6 kg, and Sajjad with 1.5 kg of drugs.

In a similar operation, Rata Amral police arrested Suleman with 2.6 kg of drugs, Aliyan with 2.5 kg, Aamir with 1.5 kg, Iqar with 1.3 kg.



KARACHI: Members of National Democratic Movement are holding protest demonstration against Bannu incident, at Karachi press club.

6 illegal arm holders booked in successful operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested six illegal arm holders and recovered arms, ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Sunday.

According to police spokesman, Kallar Syedan police recovered 01 rifle 8mm, 01 rifle 12 bore and 01 pistol 9mm from Azhar, Waleed and Usama.

Similarly, Waris Khan police held Furqan and recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from his possession. Following operation, Race Course police apprehended Hassan and recovered 1 pistol 9mm from his custody. Additionally, Airport police arrested

11 killed, 1,280 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): Eleven people were killed and 1,280 others injured in 1,158 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 567 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 713 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 696 drivers, 44 underage drivers, 117 pedestrians, and 478 passengers were among the victims of road crashes.

The statistics showed that 220 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 234 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 101 accidents and 114 victims, and at third Multan with 66 accidents and 77 victims.

According to the data, 1,045 motorbikes, 69 auto-rickshaws, 95 motorcars, 28 vans, five passenger buses, 22 truck and 84 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

Rain brings much needed relief to heat wave hit Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Several areas of the city received medium or light rainfall on Sunday afternoon.

Karachi's Scheme-33, Safoora Chowrangi, Korangi, Landhi, Shah Faisal Colony, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Gulshan-e-Iqbal and Quaidabad received heavy rainfall.

Shara-e-Faisal, Airport, Malir, Baldia Town, Shershah, Hub River Road and Old City area SITE Area, Metroville, Manghopir and adjoining areas also received rainfall.

Contingency plan saves lives, minimize impact of Emergencies: Abid Lashari

NAWABSHAH (APP): National Disability & Development Forum (NDF) with the collaboration of Korea SHE Foundation conducted training workshop on Contingency planning during flood response. During the workshop guest speakers, Abid Lashari President NDF, Akram Khaskheli, President Hari Welfare Association, Advocate Lal Chand, Tariq Hussain Channar, Asma Munir & others said that in preparation for potential disasters, the contingency plans are prepared to

mitigate risks and protect communities. This proactive measure underscores our commitment to safeguarding lives and minimizing the impact of emergencies. As we continue to face the challenges posed by natural disasters and emergencies, NDF Pakistan reaffirms its dedication to implementing robust contingency measures that prioritize safety, resilience, and community well-being. We urge all stakeholders to remain vigilant and prepared during times of potential crisis.



KARACHI: Children cool off in a swimming pool during hot weather in the Provincial Capital.

Pak exports seafood worth \$410.2 million in FY2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

This initiative, aimed at improving animal breeds and increasing milk, meat and wool production, will revolutionize the cattle farming, said Deputy Director Livestock Dr Jamshaid while talking to APP, here on Sunday.

The distribution program, which will be free of cost, is designed to support farmers by supplying them with superior genetic stock.

These bucks and rams, bred and prepared at the government's specialized farms, are expected to bring about a notable improvement in the livestock's productivity and overall health, he maintained.

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

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

Director Dr Jamshaid.

By targeting farmers with herds, the department aims to maximize the impact of this initiative on milk, meat and wool production across the region.

Dr Jamshaid also remarked, the scheme comes as part of the Livestock Department's broader strategy to modernize and enhance agricultural practices.

By providing farmers with access to superior breeding stock, the department aimed to address some of the key challenges faced by the livestock sector, including low productivity and poor animal health.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor arranging and displaying artificial flower to attract the customers outside weekly Sunday Bazaar setup in H-9 Sector.

Political stability vital for economic boom, to attract more investors: Shakila

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N senior leader Shakila Luqman Sunday emphasized that a stable political environment is essential for creating an investor-friendly climate, which is critical for stimulating economic activity and driving growth.

Talking to PTV news channel, she said political stability is one of the most important elements in attracting investments, as it gives clarity about the political economy direction and a sign of clear commitment.

She said to achieve sustainable economic growth, it is imperative that all stakeholders, including politicians, businessmen, and bureaucracy are on the same page and committed to carrying out structural and deep-rooted reforms.

By putting aside their vested interests and working together, we can create a conducive

environment that fosters investment, promotes industry, and drives economic growth, she added.

The government is also focused on implementing structural reforms to improve the business environment, increase economic efficiency, and promote private sector growth, she added.

"Our goal is to create an enabling environment that fosters entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation," she emphasized.

In addition, the government is committed to strengthening social protection programs to protect the vulnerable segments of society from economic shocks, she added.

This includes enhancing safety nets, improving access to education and healthcare, and promoting financial inclusion, she highlighted.

Cleaning of railway stations, yards, coaches ordered

LAHORE (APP): Amir Baloch, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Pakistan Railways, has issued a nationwide directive to clean all railway station yards across the country.

The Railway sources said on Sunday that following an article's publication in a newspaper, the CEO mandated an immediate clean-up operation, including at the prominent Karachi Cantt station.

Acting swiftly on these instructions, Director Agriculture (Extension) Karachi Iftikhar Bukhari supervised the cleaning of the Karachi yard.

Aamir Baloch further instructed the Divisional Superintendents (DS) of all railway divisions to ensure cleaning of railway coaches and yards within a week.

The CEO emphasized that all coaches would be sanitised and cleared of pollutants, including bedbugs, to provide passengers with a comfortable journey. He asserted that any presence of dirt and filth in railway stations and trains would not be tolerated, warning that strict action would be taken against those responsible for neglecting these standards.

Five gas connections disconnected over violation

MULTAN (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) Task Force continued its daily operation and disconnected five more connections on various violations.

The metres of two consumers were disconnected over non billing and recommended further departmental action.

One consumer's meter was found suspicious due to tampered seal, leading to disconnection.

Two users who had relocated their meters away from the service point also faced disconnection.

Six users who had extended gas connections to more than one house had their extensions removed.

Kisan Card awareness workshop held in Murree

RAWALPINDI (APP): Murree's Agriculture Department (Extension and Research) organized an awareness workshop for the farmers regarding membership of Kisan Card, Kisan Package and other agricultural procedures. The farmers were educated about the eligibility criterion and benefits of the Kisan card.

According to the details, Director Agriculture (Extension) Shahid Iftikhar Bukhari and Deputy Director Dr Muhammad Ahmed visited Union Council Potha Sharif and Sahana village where the awareness workshop

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

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

FESCO electrifies 75 villages in June 2024

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has electrified 75 villages in its region during the month of June 2024 with an estimated cost of Rs.145.643 million while Rs.132.006 million spent on the completion of 5 High Tension (HT) and Rs.72.774 on 55 Low Tension proposals.

FESCO Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Sunday that one special

directive of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO Engr. Muhammad Amir and under the supervision of Project Director (PD) Construction FESCO Muhammad Iqbal, the Project Directorate spent Rs.350.423 million on electrification of 75 villages and completion of 55 LT proposals and 5 HT proposals during June 2024.



GUJRANWALA: Farmer is busy in plucking tomatoes at a field to earn his livelihood for support of family, in Gujranwala. Farmers adopt pick and choose of their tomato crop and then to pack them in wooden cartons for the market to get better prices of their produce and attract the buyers.

Renewable Energy Resources: A quest for resilient energy landscape

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PPIB is a policy

FTO says: Excessive FBR tax demands fall under maladministration

LAHORE (APP): Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jah has categorically held that excessive or exaggerated tax demands from taxpayers by Federal Board of Revenue fall under the purview of maladministration.

Talking to a delegation of businessmen community, led by Chaudhry Abdullah Bin Hasbiullah, here on Sunday, he said the FTO secretariat is exclusively aimed at to address the tax related genuine grievances of taxpayers. He said he had in a complaint categorical observed that such injustice and lapses on the part of FBR would never be tolerated. On the other hand, he also

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

Dr Asif Jah said he had barred the FBR from excessive tax deductions from the pays and wages of the low paid employees. He said any aggrieved taxpayer could contact nearest FTO regional offices either by person or in writing application through ordinary post or email or WhatsApp or related genuine grievances of taxpayers. He said he had in a complaint categorical observed that such injustice and lapses on the part of FBR would never be tolerated. On the other hand, he also

Dr Waqar Ch Arain Advisor to FTO was also present on the occasion.



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

Students delegation meets SAARC chamber ex-president

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former president Iftikhar Ali Malik has said success is a multifaceted achievement that is deeply rooted in character, commitment, continuity, consistency, connectivity, creativity, courage, and caliber to achieve accomplishments in life.

Speaking to a delegation of students, led by Ms. Sana Abdullah Arain, here on Sunday, the South Asian trade leader related his success story to the delegation members. He emphasized that he practised essential elements in trade politics throughout his career, highlighting their crucial role not only in achieving success but also in sustaining it over time.

He said creativity brings innovation and new perspectives, driving progress and keeping one ahead of the competition. It involves thinking outside the box and finding unique solutions to challenges. Courage complements creativity, as it takes bravery to take risks and venture into uncharted territories. Without courage, even the most creative ideas might never see the light of day, he added.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said connectivity and consistency are the twin pillars that ensure sustained success which involves the persistent effort and long-term focus necessary to achieve lasting results. Consistency.



MULTAN: A woman vendor selling sunglasses at her roadside setup to earn livelihood.

Agri Deptt suggests steps for proper care of cotton during rainy season

MULTAN (APP): The Agriculture Department has urged the farmers to make special arrangements for proper care of their cotton crops during the rainy season.

The official sources stated on Sunday that normal rainfall was beneficial for the cotton crop as it used to promote growth and positively impacted the flowering. However, excessive rainfall that causes waterlogging in the fields can be extremely harmful. If rainwater remains in the fields for more than 24 hours, it can lead to significant damage.

The nutrients in the soil may move deeper, beyond the reach of the plant roots, causing a deficiency in essential nutrients and slowing down the process of photosynthesis, the sources stated.

In case of heavy rains, farmers should dig a deep trench along the edges of the fields to allow excess water to drain out. This water can later be directed to a larger channel to irrigate paddy or sugarcane fields. If it is not possible to drain water from the fields, deep pits should be dug on both sides of the field to collect the excess rainwater.



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

Over 30 Gazans killed as Israel steps up strikes

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli forces pounded several areas across the Gaza Strip on Saturday, killing 30 Palestinians, as tanks advanced deeper into western and northern parts of Rafah. Among those killed on Saturday were journalist Mohammad Abu Jasser, his wife, and two children, in an Israeli strike on their house in the northern Gaza Strip. Gaza's Hamas-run media office said Abu Jasser's death raised to 161 the number of Palestinian media personnel killed by Israeli fire since Oct 7. Israeli military strikes across Gaza killed 37 Palestinians in the past 24 hours and destroyed several houses. In Al Nuseirat, a camp in central Gaza Strip, an air strike on a multi-floor building wounded several people, including two local journalists, rescue workers said. In Rafah, where Israel said it aimed to dismantle the last battalions of Hamas's armed wing, residents said tanks advanced deeper into northern areas of the city and took control of a hilltop in the west, amid fierce gun battles with Hamas. The Israeli army said troops continued operations in Rafah, claiming that it had eliminated many Hamas members near Tel Al Sultan, on the western side of the city. In central Gaza, the military claimed, it conducted raids on infrastructure. The Israeli military also said it "hit a structure" used by Palestinians in Deir Al Balah, central Gaza Strip, alleging that Hamas members were operating from a "humanitarian area". A ceasefire effort led by Qatar and Egypt, and backed by the United States, has so far failed due to disputes between the combatants, who blame each other for the impasse. Israel claimed earlier this week that it had eliminated half the leadership of Hamas. Tel Aviv also claimed that 326 of its soldiers have been killed in Gaza since October last year. On the other hand, Hezbollah and its ally Hamas said they launched rocket barrages at Israeli positions on Saturday to avenge a strike that injured civilians in south Lebanon. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said Syrian nationals, including children, had been injured after an "enemy drone targeted an empty four-wheel drive" near their tent, less than four kilometres from the border. Dr Mouenes Kalakesh, who heads the Marjayoun government hospital, said a woman and her three children, two of them minors, had been admitted for shrapnel injuries after the strike outside Burj Al Muluk. Among them was an 11-year-old boy in critical condition after he sustained shrapnel injuries and a head wound.



Palestinian relatives grieve over the body of 20-year-old Ibrahim Hamza Zaqqq, the day after he was hit by a bullet during an incursion by the Israeli army into the village of Beit Ummar in the occupied West Bank.

Trump mocks Democrats, insults Pelosi, in first campaign rally since assassination attempt

Monitoring Desk
MICHIGAN: Donald Trump held his first campaign rally on Saturday since he narrowly escaped an assassination attempt one week ago, mocking Democrats and comparing former Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to a "dog". After briefly calling for national unity earlier this week, Trump has since returned to his usual campaign tactics — using insulting and sometimes offensive language to attack his opponents, and repeating a string of false claims about immigration, the economy and election fraud, major elements of his speech on Saturday. Trump frequently mocked Democratic President Joe Biden as feeble. He derided senior Democrats,

Tunisian President Saïed announces re-election bid

Monitoring Desk
TUNIS: Tunisian President Kais Saïed said he will run for another presidential term in Oct 6 elections. The candidacy aims "to continue the national liberation struggle," Saïed said in a video on the presidency's Facebook page. Opposition parties, many of whose leaders are in prison, have accused Saïed's government of exerting pressure on the judiciary to crack down on his rivals in the 2024 elections and pave the way for him to win a second term. The re-election bid was announced the same day a court jailed opposition leader Lotfi Mraïhi, a potential presidential election candidate.

China, Canada should work toward strategic partnership, China's Wang says

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China and Canada should promote normalising relations and get back on track toward establishing a strategic partnership, Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Canadian counterpart, according to his ministry. "China-Canada relations have experienced difficulties and twists and turns over the years, which is not something China would like to see," Wang told Foreign Minister Melanie Joly in Beijing, the ministry said in a statement late on Friday. Joly's three-day visit through Saturday, at Wang's invitation, is the first by a Canadian foreign minister in seven years. Bilateral relations, established in 1970, turned icy in 2018 after

Three cops injured in Dublin riot against migrants

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Three police officers were injured and one man was arrested on Friday in the latest anti-immigration protests at a site earmarked for housing asylum seekers in Dublin, authorities said. It was the latest in a series of clashes at the site in a deprived northern suburb of the Irish capital over the past week. Police said a planned public gathering at the site on Friday initially "passed off peacefully" before turning into an "incident of public disorder". A fire broke out at the building site, with police subjected to "both verbal and physical abuse including rocks, concrete bricks and other objects being thrown at them", they said in a statement. The Garda — Ireland's national police force — said officers used pepper spray and batons to "defend themselves".



People watch a military parade to mark the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus in response to a short-lived Greek-inspired coup, in the Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus, in the divided city of Nicosia.



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

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

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Sunday scrapped most of the quotas on government jobs that have sparked student-led protests in which at least 114 people have been killed in the South Asian country, local media reported. The court's Appellate Division dismissed a lower court order that had reinstated the quotas, directing that 93 per cent of government jobs will be open to candidates on merit, without quotas, the reports said. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government had scrapped the quota system in 2018, but the lower court reinstated it last month, sparking the protests and an ensuing government crackdown. It was not immediately clear how the protesters would react to the decision. The government had extended a curfew as authorities braced for the Supreme Court hearing on the job quotas. Soldiers were on patrol on the streets of the capital Dhaka, the centre of the demonstrations that spiralled into clashes between protesters and security forces.

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

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US Vice President Kamala Harris will headline a fundraiser in Massachusetts on Saturday as President Joe Biden faces continued pressure from fellow Democrats and big money donors to end his floundering campaign. Biden and top aides on Friday vowed to continue with the campaign, even as major donors signalled they were unwilling to open their checkbooks unless the 81-year-old president stepped aside. The crisis-in-confidence in Biden's ability to win has placed a huge spotlight on Harris, widely believed to be the most likely replacement if he steps down. Her fundraising events, including the one on Saturday in Provincetown, Massachusetts are getting added interest from donors who want to signal they are willing to coalesce around her potential bid for the White House, according to three Democratic fundraisers.

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

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

Bridge collapse in China leaves 12 dead, 30 missing

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: A bridge collapse caused by torrential rains in northern China killed 12 people and left more than 30 missing, state media said on Saturday. Large parts of northern and central China have been battered in recent days by rains that have caused flooding and significant damage. The bridge in the northwestern Shaanxi province buckled "due to a sudden downpour and flash floods" on Friday night, according to state news agency Xinhua.



Vice President Kamala Harris smiles as she attends the opening of a pop-up ice cream shop "Smize & Dream" owned by Tyra Banks, in Washington, U.S.

3 killed, 6 wounded in 'exchange of gunfire' in gathering in Philadelphia; no arrests

Monitoring Desk
PHILADELPHIA: Three men were killed and at least six other people wounded in an early morning shooting at a gathering in west Philadelphia, authorities said. Police said more than 100 people were present in the Carroll Park neighborhood when gunfire broke out just after 2 a.m. Sunday. Police said their preliminary information indicated "an exchange of gunfire between multiple parties" and shell casings of more than one caliber were recovered. A 33-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene and two other men aged 23 and 29 were pronounced dead later at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, police said in a statement. Their names weren't immediately released. A 26-year-old woman and five men ranging in age between 27 and 30 were listed in stable condition, police said.

Vietnam to hold state funeral for late communist party leader Trong next week

Monitoring Desk
HANOI: Vietnam will hold a state funeral next week for Nguyen Phu Trong, the leader of its ruling Communist Party who died on Friday, the government said on Saturday. There will be two days of national mourning on July 25-26, a government statement said, with the state funeral on the second day. During the mourning period there will be no public entertainment, and flags at offices and other public places will fly at half-mast, it said. Trong died at the age of 80 after holding Vietnam's most powerful position for 13 years, overseeing fast economic growth, a years-long anti-graft crackdown and a pragmatic foreign policy. His duties have been temporarily assigned to President To Lam, a rising star within the party who could further consolidate his powers if he is allowed to keep the two roles. The government statement called Trong's death a huge loss to the party, the state, the Vietnamese people and his family. "After nearly 60 years of work, Trong has made many great and especially outstanding contributions to the glorious revolutionary cause of the Party and the nation," it added.

Panama to start deporting migrants from Darien Gap within months

Monitoring Desk
PANAMA CITY: Panama's government expects to start deportation flights for migrants who crossed the country's dangerous Darien jungle in two to three months, the country's chief of migration Roger Mojica said. The flights will be paid by the United States under a recent agreement that the two countries closed earlier this month. "We are establishing the needs, equipment and requirements that Panama has to face in order to start the program."

Exhausted migrants arrive on beach in Spain's Canaries

Monitoring Desk
SPAIN: Dozens of exhausted migrants arrived in a wooden boat on a beach in Spain's Canary Islands amid a sharp rise in perilous crossings from Africa, with emergency personnel and a few stunned beachgoers rushing to help. The boat carrying 64 people made it to the Las Burras beach on the island of Gran Canaria by its own means, authorities said. Eleven migrants were taken to hospitals, some by helicopter as four were in critical condition. The number of migrants arriving irregularly by sea to the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

Israeli strikes kill 3, injure 87 in Yemen: Houthis

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli fighter jets struck Houthi military targets near Yemen's Hodeidah port on Saturday, killing at least three people and wounding 87, a day after a drone launched by the Iranian-backed group hit Israeli economic hub Tel Aviv. Most of the wounded suffered severe burns in air strikes that targeted oil facilities and a power station, Al-Masirah TV, the main television news outlet run by Yemen's Houthi movement, quoted the health ministry as saying. Hodeidah residents told Reuters by phone that explosions were heard throughout the city during an intensive bombardment, and Al-Masirah TV said civil defence forces and firefighters were trying to extinguish fires in the port's oil tanks. Israel's military spokesperson said the port had been used by the Houthis to receive weapons shipments from Iran. The targets, more than 1,700 km (1,056 miles) from Israel, included dual-use sites such as energy infrastructure, he said. Israel had informed allies before the strike, which the military said was carried out by Israeli F-15 fighters that all returned safely. The Houthis' Supreme Political Council said there would be an "effective response" to the strikes. Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said the Houthis "will not hesitate to strike vital targets of the Israeli enemy." The strike on Yemen, which Israeli officials said came after more than 200 Houthi attacks on Israel, underlined fears that the Gaza war, triggered by the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, could spiral into a regional conflict.

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

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: China and the Philippines reached a deal they hope will end confrontations at the most fiercely disputed shoal in the South China Sea, the Philippines government said Sunday. The Philippines occupies Second Thomas Shoal but China also claims it, and increasingly hostile clashes at sea have sparked fears of larger conflicts that could involve the United States. The crucial deal was reached on Sunday, after a series of meetings between Philippine and Chinese diplomats in Manila and exchanges of diplomatic notes that aimed to establish a mutually acceptable arrangement at the shoal without conceding either side's territorial claims. Two Philippine officials, who have knowledge of the negotiations, confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity and the government later issued a brief statement announcing the deal without providing details. "Both sides continue to recognize the need to deescalate the situation in the South China Sea and manage differences through dialogue and consultation and agree that the agreement will not prejudice each other's positions in the South China Sea," the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said. Japan and the Philippines sign a defense pact in the face of shared alarm over China. Neither side has yet released the text of the agreement. China has disputes with several governments over land and sea borders, many of them in the South China Sea, and the rare deal with the Philippines could spark hope that similar arrangements could be forged by Beijing with other rival countries to avoid clashes while thorny territorial issues remain unresolved.

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

Monitoring Desk
ASPEN: Ukraine is on its way to being able to "stand on its own feet" militarily, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday, noting that more than 20 other countries have pledged to maintain their own military and financial aid to the country even if the U.S. were to withdraw its support under a different president. Blinken for the first time directly addressed the possibility that former President Donald Trump could win the November election and back away from commitments to Ukraine. The U.S., under President Joe Biden, has been the most important supporter of Ukraine's more than two-year battle against invading Russian forces. Trump's public comments have varied between criticizing U.S. backing for Ukraine's defense and supporting it, while his running mate, Sen. JD Vance, has been a leader of Republican efforts to block what have been billions in U.S. military and financial assistance to Ukraine since Russia invaded in 2022. Concerns among Ukraine and its supporters that the country could lose vital U.S. support have increased as Trump's campaign surges and Biden's falters. Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky spoke on the phone Friday. "I noted the vital bipartisan and bicameral American support for protecting our nation's freedom and independence," Zelensky wrote on X, saying they agreed "to discuss at a personal meeting what steps can make peace fair and truly lasting."

Wildfires in Canada's Alberta, British Columbia prompt evacuation orders

Monitoring Desk
OTTAWA: Wildfires raging through the northern part of Canada's Alberta have forced evacuations of three communities, a provincial body said on Saturday, as the oil-rich province continues to fight five different "wildfires of note" in separate areas. A wildfire of note is often considered to be of significant threat to public safety, communities and critical infrastructure. The evacuation orders have been issued across Spain: Dozens of exhausted migrants arrived in a wooden boat on a beach in Spain's Canary Islands amid a sharp rise in perilous crossings from Africa, with emergency personnel and a few stunned beachgoers rushing to help. The boat carrying 64 people made it to the Las Burras beach on the island of Gran Canaria by its own means, authorities said. Eleven migrants were taken to hospitals, some by helicopter as four were in critical condition. The number of migrants arriving irregularly by sea to the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean. "Fire activity is increasing today in southern B.C. due to the thunderstorms across the interior and into central parts of the province," it said, and added that close to a thousand BC Wildfire Service firefighters are on the ground.

Azerbaijan's President lauds Pak media for supportive stance

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

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

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

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

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

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

The forum will feature four panel sessions on "Impact assessment: scoping disinformation,"

"Policies and initiatives to build a more resilient society against disinformation," "The impact of artificial intelligence on reality, media and disinformation: Promoting media literacy," and "Climate movement and media."

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Provincial Minister of Education Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Provincial Minister of Finance, Mines and Mineral Development Mir Shoaib Noshervani, Ad-hoc Member of the Shariat Appellate Bench of the Supreme Court Dr.

Qibla Ayaz, CEO of PPAF Nadir Gul Barech, and Advisor to the National Heritage and Cultural Division Kashif Irshad will also be the guests of honor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) in collaboration with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) will hold its 25th IAS Conference in Islamabad from July 22-24 on "Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus for the Security of OIC Countries".

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

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

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

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

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

It acknowledges that decisions and corresponding actions in one sector can have significant impacts on the others, creating a complex web of relationships that must be managed holistically to achieve sustainable development goals.

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

In this backdrop, this 3-day event will focus on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus for the Security of the OIC countries.



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

Mirwaiz warns of catastrophic consequences in IIOJK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The implementation of UNSC resolutions would



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Information Minister condoles with PIO on his father's demise

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

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

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

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

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

Asif Kirmani parts ways with PML-N

ISLAMABAD (INP): Dr Syed Asif Kirmani, former political secretary of ex-prime minister Nawaz Sharif, announced quitting the PML-N on Saturday.

Kirmani in a statement said he has distanced himself from the political affairs of the PML-N. He said people were dying due of inflated power bills and inflation owing to ineffective governance of the rulers, adding, "Nawaz Sharif Sahib! all is not well." However, he did not give a clue about joining another party. Kirmani added that he will soon issue a detailed statement about his decision to quit the party.

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

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

According to an official handout issued here on

Sunday, the concerned Levies personnel was also issued show cause notices twice, but he preferred not to respond.

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

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

Pak first air ambulance transfers patient

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

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

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



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

Soaring Inflation hits country; prices of fruits, vegetables skyrocket

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

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

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

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

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

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

NA speaker rejects new cars demand by Standing Committees chairmen

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

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

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



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

Hearing on review petition regarding reserved seats verdict after summer vacation

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

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

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

The review appeal was filed by Huma Akhtar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the Supreme Court's verdict.

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

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

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

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

Peshawar-Karachi Khyber Mail narrowly escapes train crash

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

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

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



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