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## China to support Pakistan securing approval from IMF Board

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb Sunday said that the Chinese Government has commended Pakistan's negotiation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and assured to play its role in securing approval from the Fund's board.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that he along with the Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari had visited China and held constructive meetings with the Chinese authorities including the Finance Minister of China and the President Bank of China.

The minister further informed that he also visited China along with the energy minister at the start of last month (June) and held discussions on differ-

ent aspects of bilateral trade and economic cooperation including local energy requirements and launching of Panda bonds in the Chinese markets.

During the recent visit to China re-profiling of energy sector loans was also discussed, he said adding that the conversion of energy plants into coal and other aspects for affordable energy generation were also discussed during different high-level meetings.

He said that the Chinese authorities acknowledged and ensured that our issues are registered with the right forum adding that the process has to be followed to take them forward. He said they also wanted to help the country in terms of re-profiling.

He added that this would be done through the

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb addressing media persons at PTV Headquarters.

## Pakistan urges resolving Kashmir dispute under UN resolutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi led the Pakistan delegation at the 31st ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial meeting where he highlighted Pakistan's perspective on the situation prevailing in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as well as Gaza.

In the meeting held on Saturday in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the foreign secretary underscored Pakistan's firm commitment to regional peace, security and cooperation and the importance attached by Pakistan to its relations with ASEAN and its member states, according to a Foreign Office press release.

He appreciated the positive role played by ASEAN in regional integration and prosperity.

The foreign secretary shared Pakistan's perspective on regional conflicts in the Asia-Pacific region, stressing the need for dialogue and inclusiveness instead of bloc politics.

He highlighted the plight of the people of IIOJK and called for the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. He also presented Pakistan's perspective on the regional hotspots including the situation in Gaza and Afghanistan.



QUETTA: Deputy Chairman Senate Saydal Khan Nassar meeting with Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani

## Maulana Hidayat parts ways with Balochistan government

QUETTA (APP): Member Balochistan Assembly Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman on Sunday announced to set in opposition benches in the house.

Addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club, he said he had chosen the government benches with a hope to resolve the issues of Gwadar and not to make assets and get benefits from the government.

He expressed dismay over the non-seriousness of the government towards

resolving the issues of the province.

Maulana urged the government to ensure the right of the citizens to hold a peaceful demonstration.

He said that the holding a peaceful protest is the right of every one and the government should also facilitate the protest if it held peacefully. Hidayat ur Rehman emphasized the government to play a positive role in the current situation and resolve the reservations of the local people.

## Two cops killed as robbers attack checkpoint in Ghotki

SUKKUR (APP): Two policemen embraced martyrdom when a police checkpoint came under fire from robbers.

According to SSP Sameer Noor Channa on Sunday, the robbers attacked a checkpoint situated at Andar Sandrani Protective Wall, as a result of the firing, two policemen were martyred.

On receiving information, police reached the area and started a chase for the arrest of the fleeing bandits. According to law enforcers, during the chase police opened fire and injured a robber, but he could be captured.



RAWALPINDI: A view of meeting with Government team and Jamaat-e-Islami delegation

## There's no backdoor communication with PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP): Powers that be denied that the establishment has started backdoor communication with the former ruling party the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

It reported on media that some circles in the PTI have been spreading rumours that the establishment wants engagement with the party. It has contacted the

PTI leadership through backdoors and dialogues have started. Sources strongly deny such "baseless" assertions. "There is no truth in it," they told.

"This impression is being created on behalf of the PTI to cause anxiety and develop mistrust in the ranks of government so that some personalities in the ranks of ruling PML-N react against the establishment" they added.

## Hockey Ground designated as place for any gathering and procession

QUETTA: The Quetta district administration has designated the Hockey Ground located on Zarghoon road as place for any gathering and procession being done by any party and organization.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad on Sunday.

According to the notification, this would be subject to the provision of NOC through proper channel with immediate effect till further orders.

## 'Fake news': FO denies report of Germany handing over suspects involved in consulate attack

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Foreign Office (FO) on Sunday denied authenticity in the report circulating on social media about Germany handing over of those involved in the attack on Pakistani consulate in Frankfurt.

When asked whether the suspects involved in the vandalism were handed over to Pakistan, as being claimed in a report on social media, FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch termed the report "fake news".

Dozens of miscreants had attacked the Pakistani consulate during a protest in Frankfurt on July 20. Following which, the German police had arrested two suspects.

Reports indicated that German authorities had allowed Afghan nationals to hold a peaceful protest. However, the demonstration's participants turned violent, lobbed stones at the consulate building, and removed the country's flag, leading to heightened tensions.

After arresting two Afghan nationals, German police had anticipated more arrests as they continued to identify additional protesters with the help of video footage.

## Govt forms technical committee to resolve issues after positive first meet with JI

Information Minister says Technical team to comprise on officials of ministries, FBR; Government making all-out efforts to provide relief to the people and in this regard, it was making earnest efforts to attract foreign investment which would help generate employment; Govt. ordered release of 35 JI workers

RAWALPINDI (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture, Attaullah Tarar here on Sunday said that the demands of Jamaat-e-Islami would be discussed with the technical committee.

Talking to media persons after talks with Jamaat-e-Islami delegation at Commissioner Office, the information minister said that the government was making all-out efforts to provide relief to the people and in this regard, it was making earnest efforts to attract foreign investment which would help generate employment.

"The government is trying to convince the foreign investors that cost of production is very low in Pakistan, so factories should be established here which would help end unemployment," he said.

"Fluctuations in exchange rates were controlled and stabilized. We succeeded in bringing the country out of economic default situation," he said adding that the government's solid steps would help enhance exports and control the inflation. The government was focusing on improving the investment climate, he said and added, if petroleum prices remain stable in in-

ternational market then we would be able to provide relief to the people in the rates of petroleum products.

Regarding the sit-in by Jamaat e Islami in Rawalpindi, he said the location of Liaquat Bagh was fixed, adding that the people were facing difficulties due to road closure. The minister informed that a technical committee comprising Minister of Power, Secretary Power, FBR and Finance Ministry representatives, had been formed which would hold next round of talks with the representatives of Jamaat-e-

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QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Durrani presiding over review meeting regarding ongoing scheme of 2023-24 of Ziarat and Harnai

## PTI to hold nationwide protest on August 5

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former ruling party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) top leadership on Sunday announced to hold a nationwide protest against the government on August 5.

During a press conference, Omar Ayub stated that the behaviour towards their parliamentarians has been unacceptable, pointing out that their MNAs are being picked up by agencies and presented before anti-corruption bodies.

He mentioned five intelligence agencies, explaining the uncertainty over which agency is responsible for these actions. Ayub emphasized that all their associates have been subjected to legal cases, which he attributes to the affidavits they submitted when joining PTI.

Recalling Imran Khan's warning, Ayub noted that the current regime aims to create conflict between the army and PTI. He accused PML-N of attempting to pit the largest party against the army and stressed that

immediate elections are the only solution to the political turmoil.

Ayub further announced a meeting the next day where decisions regarding a sit-in at D-Chowk would be made. Asad Qaiser condemned the severe crackdown on their supporters, questioning the dignity of parliament if parliamentarians are humiliated in this manner. He urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu notice of the forced resignations of 41 MNAs and called on his lawyers to approach the SC, questioning the governance of the country under such conditions.

Qaiser announced that decisions regarding protests would be made in their meeting, with plans for large demonstrations across the country on August 5. He highlighted that this date would mark one year of the PTI founder's imprisonment and urged the public to protest against inflation and the illegal arrest of the PTI founder.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta and Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Division Hamza Shafiqat is speaking during the seminar organized by Tehreek Ittehad Bin Al Sadat Pakistan, held at local hotel in Quetta.

## New visa policy to boost tourism, trade activities: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said the government had introduced significant visa reforms to facilitate foreign investors, business community and tourists.

He said the step would help promoting tourism, boost foreign investment and increase trade activities in the country.

In a statement, the prime minister, terming the initiative a highly positive development, said the government had approved visa-free entry for businessmen from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which will increase investment and business opportunities from these countries.

The businessmen, investors and tourists of 126 countries will be issued visas within 24 hours through an online system, he said. Additionally, he said the traders and tourists

from these countries will be exempted from visa fees.

The visa policy reforms will make Pakistan an attractive destination for foreign individuals in terms of business and tourism.

The prime minister highlighted that special arrangements had also been made for Sikh pilgrims having passports of a third county to obtain visas on arrival.

Electronic gates will be installed at Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad airports to facilitate travelers, he said and added that a dashboard would be established at the Ministry of Interior to monitor the implementation of the new visa regime, including visa-free entry, business visa list and tourist visa on arrival.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif commended the performance of the Ministry of Interior, relevant ministries and institutions in implementing the new visa regime.

## Commonwealth Secretary-General arrives in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland has arrived in Islamabad on a five-day visit.

She was welcomed by Additional Foreign Secretary



Europe Ambassador Shafquat Ali Khan at the airport. The Secretary-General will meet with Pakistan's leadership, members of the Cabinet, youth leaders, civil society representatives and other stakeholders.

During Patricia Scotland's visit, the two sides would also discuss avenues to enhance cooperation between Pakistan and the Commonwealth in areas of mutual interest.

## President emphasises mass awareness, screening for a hepatitis-free Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday called for carrying out awareness and large-scale screening for timely diagnosis of hepatitis to reduce the burden on the healthcare system and rid the country of the disease.

The president, in a message to the nation on World Hepatitis Day, annually observed on July 28,

said hepatitis, being a silent killer, was a great challenge for the world because the lack of symptoms increased the risk of its spread, thus leading to a huge number of deaths globally. He noted that Pakistan's public health sector faced serious threats from the disease as a huge number of patients put a serious burden on the healthcare system.



QUETTA: Central Senior Vice President of Balochistan National Party, Sajid Tareen along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, held at Quetta press club.

## BNP announces to participate in protest public meeting and demonstrations of BYC

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan National Party (BNP) leadership has announced to participate in the protest public meeting and demonstrations being staged by Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) in Gwadar and other parts of the province.

While addressing a press conference at the Quetta Press Club along with other senior party leaders, the senior Vice President of BNP, Sajid Tareen Advocate said that the party has decided to participate in the protest demonstrations and public meeting of the BYC in Gwadar.

He asked the party

leaders and workers to participate in the protest demonstrations, rallies and Gwadar's public meeting.

He condemned to stop those proceeding for Gwadar jalsa forcibly by the administration saying that it is condemnable to stop the people from proceeding for Gwadar and incident of firing on them in Mastung.

He said that those going for Gwadar jalsa were armless and peaceful. He said that the videos showing that the firing was reported on the people riding on their vehicles.

He said that we condemn the government for turning the peaceful public meeting violent.

## BA's session resumes today

Independent Report QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to resume at 03:00 PM today (Monday).

According to the Provincial Assembly's secretariat, the agenda of today's sitting has been issued.

According to the agenda, the Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani would table different audit reports. Besides, the motions would also be tabled on different matters would also be tabled in the today's session of assembly.

## Pakistan wins three Bronze medals in International Physics Olympiad 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan team won three Bronze medals in 54th International Physics Olympiad (IPHO), held in Isfahan, Iran July 21-28, 2024.

Pakistani students Talha Ashraf (Nixor College, Karachi), Huzafa Altamash (Lahore Grammar School, Senior Boys Campus, Johar Town, Lahore) and Muhammad Salman Tarar (The Science School, H-9/1, Islamabad) won Bronze Medals while Muhammad Saad Bilal (Siddiq Public School and College, Rawalpindi) received an Honorable Mention for Pakistan, said a news release.

The Pakistan team participated in the Physics Olympiad under the sponsorship of the STEM Careers program, which is a

joint venture of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Science (PIEAS). The Physics team was trained at PIEAS, Islamabad by Dr. Muhammad Irfan and Prof. Dr. Aman-ur-Rehman and was led in the competition by Prof. Dr. Najeeb-ur-Rehman, COMSATS, Islamabad and Dr. Rahmat Ullah COMSATS, Islamabad. This is the first time that all four team members trained at PIEAS got medals and certificates. PIEAS working under the auspices of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) conducts a National Science Talent Contest (NSTC) in four subjects Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics each year.

NSTC is an extension of the National Physics Talent Contest (NPTC), which was initiated by PIEAS in 1995 and it has been a regular annual event since 2003. It strives to vitalize science education at the intermediate level (in 9th, 10th, O level, FSc (Part-I), A Level (Part-I)), a crucial stage for professional career choices. Under the umbrella of the STEM careers program, the students selected under NSTC, which is conducted in 19 cities across Pakistan, are further trained for participation in the International Science Olympiads (ISOs) at four Home Institutes (HI). The top 50 students from the screening test are initially invited to residential training camps at the Home Institutes (HIs) for

each subject. Through a series of training camps, this number is gradually reduced to the 4-6 best students in each subject who will participate in the ISOs. The STEM Careers program office in HEC manages the activities of these training camps and their subsequent traveling to ISOs. NIBGE-C (PIEAS) serves as the HI for Biology, the HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry at the University of Karachi for Chemistry, COMSATS-Lahore for Mathematics, and PIEAS for Physics. Pakistan has been participating in the International Physics Olympiad since 2001, the Mathematics Olympiad since 2005, and the Biology and Chemistry Olympiads since 2006.



LAHORE: Leaders and members of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) are holding protest demonstration against the Supreme Court Pakistan, nearby Lahore press club.



RAWALPINDI: Ameer JI Hafiz Naeemur Rehman addressing participants of sit-in at Marri Road.

## Experts emphasizes safe practices, awareness on 'World Hepatitis Day'

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the world marks World Hepatitis Day today, health experts are emphasizing the importance of safe practices and awareness in preventing the spread of hepatitis, a silent killer disease that claims thousands of lives every year.

Talking to PTV news channel, Executive Director and spokesperson Dr Abdul Jabbar Bhutto in Polyclinic explained that

World Hepatitis Day aims to focus on taking concrete steps towards eliminating this silent killer.

On World Hepatitis Day, we are reminded that hepatitis is a preventable and treatable disease. By raising awareness, improving access to testing and treatment, and supporting those affected, we can break the cycle of suffering.

Let us unite to combat this silent killer, prioritize liver health, and create a world where no one dies from hepatitis-related illnesses, he added.

The theme for this year's campaign is "It's Time for Action," emphasizing the need for immediate and collective efforts to combat hepatitis, he added.

### Govt forms technical committee...

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Islami. "We will make efforts to resolve the issue amicably tomorrow," he informed.

Giving details of steps being taken by the government regarding solarization, the minister said that the Prime Minister had already launched the Solar Tube Wells project under which 38,000 solar tube wells were being installed in Balochistan. Steps are being taken to shift the tube wells on solar energy through bank financing mechanism in collaboration with the governments of Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he added.

The information minister said that the government was taking all possible measures to reduce the electricity tariff by generating economic and quality electricity.

He said that Rs. 50 billion subsidy was already given to electricity consumers using up to 200 units. "The government is also starting various solar projects replacing fuel powered plants" he said and added that installation of solar tube wells would reduce electricity consumption.

Tarar said that no change had been made in the government's negotiation team. He informed that the Minister for Power, Awais Leghari was in China. The government's team will sit and hold talks with the leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami which had some issues particularly related to electricity. "We talked to the delegation of Jamaat-e-Islami in a pleasant atmosphere, we all want that the inflation can be controlled so that the issue of unemployment

is observed annually on July 28 to raise awareness about hepatitis, including the infectious diseases hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E, adding, people should avoid sharing needles, using new, sterile needles for injections. It prevents transmission of blood-borne hepatitis viruses (B and C).

He said every person should ensure screening of blood to patients, do not share razors, toothbrushes, or nail clippers as personal items can carry blood. It prevents transmission through small amounts of blood.

Dr Ikram Tirmizi - Gastroenterologist at Polyclinic added that more awareness drives for public can help in informing the public about hepatitis and how it spreads, adding, this encourages behavior changes that reduce the risk of transmission.

WHO also continues to support countries in monitoring their progress and validating hepatitis elimination through the newly established Regional Validation Advisories, he added.

Individuals with chronic liver disease or liver conditions can have existing liver disease or condi-

tion can be addressed, electricity can be provided at a cheaper rates," he said and informed that the technical committee would discuss the issues with the Jamaat-e-Islami and try to address them.

"We are moving towards green renewable energy," he said. The minister highlighted that people had been given relief in electricity bills by cutting the development budget.

Tarar said that the government had ordered the release of a list of 35 prisoners provided by JI.

"The government has given orders for their immediate release and told them that none of their political workers will be arrested," Tarar said, adding the orders had been issued in this regard.

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Maqam who was accompanying the information minister during talks with Jamaat-e-Islami said, "We want to reduce the price of electricity to give relief to the people. We respect Jamaat-e-Islami's desire to provide relief to the people".

PML-N leader Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on the occasion, said that PM's personal and heartfelt desire was to provide relief to the people. Murree Road is the main artery of Rawalpindi and Islamabad which have a population of more than 10 million. The citizens are facing difficulties due to the road closure, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said and expressed the hope that things would improve in the next round of negotiations with Jamaat-e-Islami.

tions, getting tested for hepatitis is crucial to manage your overall liver health effectively.

Regular testing and monitoring enable healthcare professionals to assess liver function, track any changes, and make informed decisions regarding further interventions or treatments.

Early detection and monitoring of hepatitis can significantly impact treatment outcomes, quality of life, and long-term liver health, he added.

In remote areas, limited access to healthcare and education makes communities more vulnerable to hepatitis. By expanding awareness and promoting healthy habits, we can control this disease, he added.

By working together, we can bring hepatitis awareness and prevention efforts to remote areas, saving lives and building healthier communities, he further mentioned.

We need to promote healthy eating habits, proper food handling, and hygiene practices to prevent hepatitis A and E, he added.

Encouraging safe drinking habits, proper waste disposal, and improved sanitation infrastructure to prevent hepatitis A and E, he said.

In addition, Pakistan's healthcare system faces challenges in providing adequate testing and treatment for hepatitis, said Dr Enshal Ikram at Polyclinic that many people cannot afford the high costs of treatment, and healthcare facilities in rural areas often lack the necessary resources and expertise.

By supporting healthcare initiatives and advocating for policy changes, we can improve access to care and treatment for those affected by hepatitis, she added.

Furthermore, stigma and discrimination against people living with hepatitis are common in Pakistani society. This can lead to social isolation, depression, and delayed seeking of medical care. By promoting awareness and understanding, we can reduce stigma and encourage those affected to seek help and support, she mentioned.

## Ad-hoc judges to take oath today

ISLAMABAD (INP): Retired Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Retired Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhel are set to take the oath as ad-hoc judges tomorrow (Monday).

CHIEF Justice of Supreme Court Qazi Faez Isa will administer the oath to the ad-hoc judges.

As per the report, the oath-taking ceremony of ad-hoc judges will take place in the Judges Block Committee Room at 11 am.

The federal law ministry has issued a notification confirming the appointment of two ad hoc judges to the Supreme Court (SC) for a one-year term.

The notification comes a day after President Asif Ali Zardari approved the appointment of two former Supreme Court judges, Justice @ Tariq Masood and Justice @ Mazhar Alam Mian Khel, as ad hoc judges for a period of one year.

This decision, made under Article 182 of the Con-

stitution, is aimed at enhancing the court's capacity to deliver justice efficiently.

Justice Tariq Masood and Justice Mazhar Alam Mian Khel, both with extensive experience from their previous tenures in the Supreme Court, are expected to significantly bolster the court's ability to manage its caseload.

Both have had distinguished careers in the judiciary, with Justice Masood known for his extensive work in constitutional and civil law, and Justice Mian Khel recognized for his contributions to criminal law and human rights.

The ad-hoc appointment of judges is a mechanism provided for in the Constitution of Pakistan, allowing for the temporary addition of judges to the Supreme Court to manage caseloads effectively.

The strength of the SC is now 19, with 17 permanent and 2 ad hoc judges.

## Bilawal voices concerns over deaths in Khurram

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed his concern over the deaths in an armed clash between two tribes in Kurram Agency of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa here on Sunday.

He also expressed his grief over the loss of precious lives in the armed conflict, according to a communication issued by Bilawal House.

The PPP Chairman said that no one could be allowed to take the law into

their hands. He appealed to both the tribes to abide by the law.

He said that ensuring law and order was the primary responsibility of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government.

Heavy weapons including rocket launchers were being used during the conflict, he said adding that tribal disputes were a reminder of the age of ignorance. He said that Pakistan had to become a progressive society based on equality.

## August 5 another mourning, black day for IIOJK people: APHC

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has said that August 5 is another exploitation, mourning and a black day for the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir which has now turned into a big open-air prison.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the Modi regime, in gross violation of the United Nations resolutions and international law, repealed the special status of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and imposed an unprecedented military siege in the territory on August 5, 2019.

APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement in Srinagar said the BJP/RSS Indian government has usurped political, social and religious rights of the Kashmiris and 5th August 2019 action was a direct attack on Kashmir's unique identity, culture, employment, demography and basic fundamental rights.

He said the 5th Au-

gust is one of the most tragic, painful and catastrophic days in the modern history of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He appealed to the oppressed Kashmiri people to observe a complete strike and mark August 05 as Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir and Black Day.

On the completion of five years of Indian siege in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he said that it was the day when Hindutva forces in flagrant violation of the international law and United Nations resolutions scrapped special status of IIOJK and deprived its people of all political, social, cultural, economic and religious rights.

Terming the 5th August as 'Day of Mourning' for Kashmiris, he said that the tragedy of scrapping of special status was the worst dacoity, biggest robbery and attack on the identity, culture and basic rights of the Kashmiris. He appealed to the people to observe strikes in all regions of IIOJK.

## Athapaththu, Harshitha stun India as Sri Lanka win their first Women's Asia Cup title

### Sports Desk

DAMBULLA: Sri Lanka created history on Sunday, dethroning India to clinch their maiden Women's T20 Asia Cup. Openers Chamari Athapaththu and Harshitha Samarawickrama's fighting half-centuries and Kavisha Dilhari's all-round heroics stood out as Sri Lanka cruised to an eight-wicket victory in front of a packed crowd in Dambulla.

Samarawickrama and Dilhari's valuable contributions in the final once again highlighted a crucial point that Sri Lanka are not just dependent on their captain to deliver. They have now won 14 of the 17 T20Is this year and go into the T20 World Cup slated in October with massive confidence and pride from their performances.

Smriti Mandhana's 60 and quickfire knocks from Richa Ghosh and Jemimah Rodrigues helped India post a competitive total of 165 for 6 but in the end, it proved inadequate.

Athapaththu vs left-arm spin. Things were quiet until the fifth over. Then, with Sri Lanka on 28 for 1,

Athapaththu targeted the inexperienced left-arm spinner Tanuja Kanwar. After lofting a short ball to deep square leg for six, she punished two full length deliveries for a four and a six to score 16 runs off the over and end the powerplay on 44 for 1. Radha Yadav, another left-arm spinner, bowled the next over and conceded nine runs with six coming off Athapaththu's bat. With only Deepti Sharma as the specialist off-spinner, Harmanpreet had to use Radha and Kanwar against the two left-handers Athapaththu and Samarawickrama. In the end, 29 of the Sri Lanka captain's 61 runs came against left-arm spinners, at a strike rate of 170.58.

Samarawickrama, Dilhari step up. Samarawickrama has been playing at the international level for six years now and her most important knock came in Dambulla. She had hit only four half-centuries in 61 matches prior and her career strike rate in T20Is is less than 100. But on Sunday, Sri Lanka needed her to stay as long as possible and not think about those numbers.

When Deepti bowled Athapaththu in the 12th over, the crowd was stunned to silence. Sri Lanka needed 72 runs from 48 balls and there was a chance of an Indian comeback. After getting set, scoring 29 off her first 27 balls, it was on Samarawickrama to take her side through and she did it in style. She brought out her game with pull shots and slog sweeps to eventually top-score for Sri Lanka with an unbeaten 69. When 25 was required from the last three overs, Radha's 17-run 18th over - where Samarawickrama smashed two fours and a six - blunted India.

Dilhari, a strong bottom-handed player, chipped in with an unbeaten 30 off 16 and sealed the victory with a six in the penultimate over. The duo shared a match-changing unbeaten 73 off 40 balls for the third wicket. Meanwhile, India endured misfields and two dropped catches and were also tactically tested as the game slipped away. This included a fumble from Harmanpreet when she dropped a simple catch in the 15th over when Samarawickrama was on 45.



KARACHI: Central leader of Awam Pakistan, Dr. Miftah Ismail, addressing the participants of the protest against load shedding and over-billing of electricity outside the K Electric head office in the Provincial Capital.

## China to support Pakistan...

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context of a memorandum of understandings or various working groups which would be formed to take the matters forward during the days to come.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said that China is ranked among the world's biggest capital markets and Pakistan plans to issue these bonds to diversify its funding sources and strengthen its foreign exchange reserves by attracting Chinese investors.

He said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had also discussed the local energy requirements with the Chinese top leadership urging them to evolve a mechanism for extending their support to overcome power supply needs for the socio-economic development of the country.

Regarding the IMF programme, the finance minister further informed that the discussion with the Fund had remained positive and constructive, adding that all the set benchmarks were achieved.

He said that China, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates have always extended their supports for Pakistan for its economic growth and development.

Meanwhile, the minister said that the incumbent government was also taking several measures in do-

mestic front for turning around the local economy, adding that special emphasis was paid on the taxation side by bringing the non-taxed sectors into the tax net for broadening the tax base.

He said that to realize the 13 percent tax to GDP ratio, it was prerequisite to take measures for the simplification of tax returns and facilitating the tax pairs to achieve full compliance, adding that the government has launched Tajir Dost Scheme for voluntary tax compliance that offers benefits to unregistered businesses.

He said that the government was determined to introduce the same facilities for other sectors to simplify the tax return process.

He said that the expansion of the tax to other sectors like retailers, real estate, builders and developers and agriculture would help to create a space to provide relief and reduce the burden from the existing tax pairs, adding that the government was fully determined to bring the untaxed and under-taxed sectors into the tax net.

He said that the Prime Minister himself was monitoring the tax sector reforms and digitization of the tax collecting system to plug the leakages as well as identifying the under-taxed or un-taxed to enhance revenue collection in the country.

Through digital data analytics, the Federal Board of Revenue has identified about 4.9 million income tax non-filers, adding that those were pointed out on the basis of basic data regarding traveling abroad, a number of vehicles and others, he added.

The minister said that the government was also focusing on right-sizing the different ministries and divisions to minimize its expenditure and create more fiscal space for social sector development, adding that in the first phase work on the right-sizing of five ministries was in progress.

He said that as soon as the progress would be made on the right sizing of these institutions, it would be implemented as well and shared with the media.

The finance minister admitted the fact that inflation went up after the GST measures were introduced in the Federal Budget for the Fiscal Year 2-24-25, however, he said that some elements were taking undue benefit and artificially sparking the prices of essential commodities. The minister warned that such elements would be dealt with iron hands and directed the provincial government to enhance their vigilance through the price monitoring committees and ensure the fair prices of these commodities across the country to facilitate the common man in the country.



DAMBULLA: Sri Lankan women cricket team celebrating after beating India in Final of Asia Cup final

## Building sustainable cities: Pakistan's push for urban transformation, Islamabad takes lead

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is rapidly urbanizing, with projections indicating that nearly half of its population will live in cities by 2025. Urban growth comes with significant challenges cities face issues like poor planning, inadequate municipal services, insufficient housing, and substandard infrastructure and these problems hinder economic progress and environmental sustainability.

To address these challenges, the United Nations Habitat Programme (UN-Habitat) is supporting Pakistani cities to improve sustainability and resilience, focusing on Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG-11), said a press release. In collaboration with Islamabad's Capital Development Authority (CDA), UN-Habitat recently conducted a two-day training program centered on SDG-11 and the 2030 Agenda. The training aimed to equip urban planners, engineers, and policymakers with the skills needed to integrate SDG-11 principles into city planning and development. It also focused on improving the monitoring and reporting of SDG-11 in line with the New Urban Agenda and developing Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).

The training, held at the Jinnah Convention Center and CDA Training Center, began with a welcome address by Habitat Program Manager, UN-Habitat, Jawed Ali Khan. He emphasized the significance of the training for Islamabad, marking a critical step toward integrating sustainable development goals into urban planning.

Acting UN Resident Coordinator, Mio Sato highlighted the importance of localizing SDG-11 for Pakistan's urban future, ensuring cities like Islamabad achieve inclusive and sustainable growth. Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP, Ammara Durrani stressed the need to include secondary cities in these capacity-building efforts, affirming UNDP's commitment to collaborate with UN-Habitat under the One UN framework.

Director General of Trainings at CDA, Dr. Zafar Ali Zafar reinforced CDA's dedication to align-

ing city planning with SDG-11 goals, ensuring Islamabad's development is both sustainable and resilient. Senior government representatives and 50 officers from CDA and ICT participated in the inaugural session.

Experts like Martino Miraglia and Riccardo Maroso from UN-Habitat presented on SDG localization and VLRs. They noted the growing global movement of VLRs, with cities worldwide using them to track and report on SDG progress. UN-Habitat views VLRs as crucial accelerators for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, offering opportunities for peer learning, capacity building, and international engagement. The training highlighted the joint efforts of UN-Habitat and CDA to equip Pakistani cities, starting with Islamabad, with the tools and knowledge necessary to achieve sustainable urban development. CDA, responsible for implementing the Islamabad Master Plan, has committed to aligning all its projects with SDG-11 by 2030.



ISLAMABAD: A plantation drive titled 'Throw and Grow' initiative started by CDA and PTC to enhance greenery in Islamabad's renowned Margalla Hills. The entrance points of Trail 3 and Trail 5, stalls offering seedballs made from native species like Sukcham, Pine, and others in the Federal Capital.

## PIMS incinerator continues spewing health hazardous dark smoke

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital incinerator established to get away with hazardous hospital waste through incineration and safe management of its remains has become a nuisance for the residents of F-8, G-7 and G-8 sectors facing dark smoke with an increased ratio of pollutants being spewed since last quarter of the year.

An incinerator is a highly capital-intensive infrastructure developed to convert solid or liquid waste of both hazardous and non-hazardous nature

into gas or ash, reducing to less bulky, less toxic or less harmful material. The major products of incineration of waste, are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), water, and ash, whereas the items of serious concern are compounds containing sulfur, nitrogen, and halogens that are highly detrimental to health and the environment.

The incinerator is operated at a high temperature ranging from 850°C to 1200°C that helps convert waste into flue gas CO<sub>2</sub> and water as end products. When contacted, by the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-

EPA), the official informed that the matter was already in the notice of the Agency and the matter was being taken as per the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997.

Suleman Bilal, a local area resident told APP that it is a usual practice during morning and evening durations when the incinerator starts working and emits thick dark smoke, making the air unbreathable for all. "The incinerator is next to the hospital where the Paeds ward, burn centre, and cafeteria are in its closest proximity where massive visitors are present.

## Lighting of Prophet's Mosque represents Islamic architectural art

ISLAMABAD (APP): The lighting of the Prophet's Mosque constitutes a form of beauty and Islamic architecture, a prominent landmark and a unique art that forms part of the mosque's identity. According to Saudi Press Agency (SPA), it is expressed through light units, chandeliers, and lanterns bearing the name of Allah and inscriptions in Arabic calligraphy inspired by Islamic architectural art, which enhances the place's beauty and uniqueness to the point that it appears as a magnificent art masterpiece.

The Prophet's Mosque contains more than 30 types of lighting units, with a total number exceeding 138,000 units. The most notable are the 300 chandeliers of various sizes and more than 10,000 lighting units bearing the name of Allah, placed in the upper corners of the architectural arches inside the mosque and its corridors.

These various lighting units in different shapes, sizes, and electrical capacities throughout the Prophet's Mosque, its courtyards, and affiliated facilities.

The General Authority for the Care of the Prophet's Mosque seeks to apply globally approved lighting specifications, stemming from the commitment of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud's government, to improving the services provided by the Prophet's Mosque.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people visiting famous Faisal Masjid to spend their holiday during cloudy weather in Federal Capital.

## NHMP urges motorists to adopt precautionary steps travelling during rains

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) on Sunday called upon road users to follow safety precautions while driving on rainy roads.

NHMP North Zone spokesman, Muhammad Saqib said that due to heavy rainfall on Saturday late night slippery road conditions were prevailing on M-1 from Islamabad to

## MOFA to start apostille attestation service for Peshawar

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to facilitate applicants seeking apostille attestation in Peshawar and surrounding areas, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) liaison office in Peshawar will provide facility of document attestation received through courier companies from July 29 (Monday).

As part of this initiative, designated courier companies will collect documents from applicants, which will then be attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The courier companies authorized to collect documents for apostille attestation in Peshawar include TCS, M&P, Gerry's, Leopard, and ECS. According to a Foreign Office statement, the courier companies are authorized to accept all documents.

"By involving community in shaping our parking policies, we can better address their concerns and create a more sustainable urban parking environment for them," stated CDA's spokesperson. "As Islamabad continues to evolve into a modern metropolis, the commitment of authorities for resolving parking issues is of paramount importance."

The spokesperson said, the city planners are also focusing on public transportation, cycling infrastructure and more parking spaces. "As many as 30 electric buses have started operating on NUST to PIMS and from PIMS to Bari Imam.

## Hanif Abbasi's clarion call to respect the 'National Flag'

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi Sunday made a fervent appeal to the nation and all political parties to come together in reverence for the national flag and stressed that this call to unity is a timely reminder of the importance of honoring the flag, which represents Pakistan's sovereignty, identity, and freedom.

Talking to a private news channel, Abbasi said that this call to action is part of the 'Hurmat-e-Parcham' campaign, which aims to promote national unity and patriotism.

The campaign encourages Pakistanis to raise the national flag in their homes, schools, and workplaces throughout the month of August, he added.

"By respecting our national flag, we are not only showing love and loyalty for our country, but also reaffirming our commitment to its progress and prosperity,"



ISLAMABAD: Metro bus service has been partially reopened after three days in the Federal Capital.

## Kashmiris will observe 5th August as Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmiris on the call of All Parties Hurriyat Conference will observe the 5th August as Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir to register their protest and defiance against Narendra Modi-led Hindutva Indian government's illegal and fraudulent action taken on this day in 2019.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, said the Modi regime, in gross violation of the United Nations resolutions and international law, repealed the special status of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and imposed an unprecedented

Abbasi added. "I appeal to all Pakistanis, particularly the youth, to join hands in this noble cause and make our country proud," he stressed.

The 'Hurmat-e-Parcham' campaign has already gained momentum on social media, with many Pakistanis sharing pictures of themselves with the national flag.

Abbasi's initiative has been praised by many, who see it as a much-needed effort to promote national unity and patriotism in these challenging times.

Replying to a question, PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi stressed that loving one's country and showing unity is crucial to discouraging both internal and external enemies.

"When we stand united under the banner of our national flag, we send a strong message to those who seek to harm our country," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Youth line up for registration to participate in the race on Jinnah Avenue for recruitment in Islamabad Police.

## New study examines educational disruptions for children

ISLAMABAD (Online): Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) often face significant disruptions in their education due to extended hospitalizations. A recent study published online in Disability and Rehabilitation on July 1, 2024, by a multidisciplinary team of Kessler Foundation and Children Specialized Hospital researchers, highlights critical areas needing attention to ensure smoother school re-entries for CSHCN, ensuring they receive the necessary educational support post-hospitalization.

Involving parents, former patients, and rehabilitation professionals, the study underscores the need for better coordination and communication to facilitate seamless transitions back to

school for CSHCN. Titled 'Experiences of patients, parents, and healthcare professionals in the process of transitioning from hospital to community after inpatient pediatric rehabilitation among children with special health care needs' (<https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2024.2362951>), the article offers insights into the challenges and solutions for improving school re-entry for CSHCN.

Foundation authors are Yu-Lun Chen, PhD, OTR/L; Stephanie Jimenez; Alexa Bartalotta; John O'Neill, PhD; and Amanda L. Botticello, PhD, MPH. Claire M. Marchetta, MPH, is from Children's Specialized Hospital.

## Youngsters unite to restore 'Takht Pari Forest' with Monsoon tree planting drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a heartwarming display of environmental stewardship, a group of passionate youngsters Sunday ask every citizen to come together and join hands with the Punjab government's monsoon tree planting campaign, aiming to restore the degraded Takht Pari Forest to its former lush glory.

Talking to PTV news channel a group of youngsters said that this collective effort, driven by the conviction that small actions can spark significant change, seeks to rally individuals from all walks of life to join forces and make a tangible impact on the fragile ecosystem.

As the monsoon season sets in, this dedicated band of young change-makers is ready to get their hands dirty, and they are inviting the nation to join them on this green journey.

The Takht Pari forest, renowned for its natural beauty and ecological significance, has suffered environmental challenges over the years, necessitating concerted restoration efforts, a Youngster Dr Amina explained.



ISLAMABAD: Children enjoying at playing area at the famous picnic spot Daman-e-Koh.

## Capital Parking – Coping with a challenging issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the vibrant heart of federal capital where pulse of daily life beats against backdrop of bustling streets and evolving cityscapes, a transformative effort is underway to tackle one of urban living's most pressing challenges; the parking space.

For years, Islamabad has been grappling with dual pressures of rapid population growth and increasing vehicle numbers, straining the city's infrastructure, particularly its parking facilities.

As the number of vehicles registered with Islamabad Excise Department already surpasses one million, the vehicles registered with other cities plying in capital, further add to traffic load and capital roads and parking areas feeling like shrinking rapidly.

Due to lukewarm response of previous regimes towards this emerging challenge, the situation continued worsening with capital

roads and markets seen stuffed with vehicles and thousands of them parked on main arteries of the city.

"Finding parking space at capital markets has become a challenge," said Asadullah Khan, a local businessman. "Daily rising vehicles number is further aggravating the situation. If timely measures are not taken travelling and parking at capital markets would become impossible."

As the space is shrinking with every passing day, Asadullah emphasized underground or multi-story parking plazas and mass transit to address this issue.

Many residents believe that at a time when the civic authorities needed to focus such issues, they have been in other businesses and development of housing societies, for reasons best known to them.

their nose," said Rashid Mahmood, another capital resident.

However, recognizing the urgency of situation, the present municipal authorities have embarked on a series of measures aimed at alleviating congestion and ensuring smoother traffic flow across the city.

Central to Islamabad's parking reform strategy is the development of multi-story parking Plaza in Blue Area. This plaza would be completed soon and not only accommodate large number of vehicles at a busy business center but also offer convenient and accessible parking options. "Ensuring convenient and accessible parking is crucial for reducing traffic congestion and enhancing overall quality of life in Islamabad," remarked Azam Khan Lodhi, a traffic consultant at Capital Development Authority (CDA).

For enhancing efficiency and convenience, he

stressed to integrate advanced technological solutions into parking management systems. "Introduction of smart parking meters and mobile applications can facilitate residents and visitors to locate available parking spaces, minimizing the time spent in search of parking and optimizing use of existing infrastructure. Such innovations would also help control vehicular emissions related environmental pollution."

Some recent measures like running metro buses on different routes as well as introduction of electric buses are also seen as a positive step towards addressing this issue.

"Recent intra-city electric buses have been a game-changer. They save much of time and hassle, especially during peak hours. I'm glad Islamabad is embracing technology to improve urban mobility," said Sarah Ahmed, a frequent commuter.

Beyond technological

advancement, community engagement also lies at the heart of Islamabad's parking management initiatives. Regular public consultations and feedback mechanisms enable authorities to tailor solutions that resonate with the diverse needs of city residents.

"By involving community in shaping our parking policies, we can better address their concerns and create a more sustainable urban parking environment for them," stated CDA's spokesperson. "As Islamabad continues to evolve into a modern metropolis, the commitment of authorities for resolving parking issues is of paramount importance."

The spokesperson said, the city planners are also focusing on public transportation, cycling infrastructure and more parking spaces. "As many as 30 electric buses have started operating on NUST to PIMS and from PIMS to Bari Imam.

military siege in the territory on August 5, 2019. It said the observance of Youm-e-Istehsal aims at conveying a message to the world that Kashmiris do not accept India's illegal occupation over IIOJK and reject Indian illegal moves of 5 Aug 2019. It said 5th August 2019 is one of the most tragic, painful, and darkest days in the history of the occupied territory. Modi's 5th August 2019 move was an attack on IIOJK's Muslim identity, it deplored. The report said that Modi removed the barrier for non-locals to settle in IIOJK by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A.

## FGEHA to auction commercial plots in G-13

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) is all set to auction its three mixed-use commercial plots in G-13 on August 7, as not only to generate more revenues but also to attract investors.

"The Authority has already advertised the auction of the plots in different leading newspapers and urged the interested persons to obtain brochures from FGEHA office," an official in the Ministry of Housing and Works told

APP on Sunday. The official said that the prime location of these plots made them suitable for a range of purposes, including multi-use businesses, shopping centers, corporate offices and banks. He said the plots have an ideal location positioned along the Main Srinagar Highway, adjacent to Metro Stations, GT Road and N-5, which is an eight-minute drive from Motorway M-1 and M-2 while 12-minute distance from the New Islamabad International Airport.

## Ministry all set to amend government accommodation allotment rules

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Housing and Works is all set to modify government accommodation allocation rules to facilitate federal government employees. "A proposed amendment to modify the Allocation Rules, 2002 is under consideration which will be implemented as soon as possible, sources in the ministry told APP.

They mentioned that the ministry plans to eliminate Rule 20 of Government House Allotment. This rule currently allows a government house allocated to a retired federal employee to be assigned to

their employed son or daughter. The sources said the waiting list employees are of the view that the rule is based on injustice to transfer the government house from father to child on retirement as it deprives the right of senior employees who have been waiting for a long time.

They said the officers and employees get their son or daughter recruited before retirement and the house is allotted to them, adding that the affected employees are demanding that the allotment of houses should be done only on the principle of seniority.



ISLAMABAD: Youth participating in the race on Jinnah Avenue for recruitment in Islamabad Police.

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**Modi's jingoism**

Any hopes of a thaw in Pakistan-India relations should swiftly be put to rest after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's problematic comments in the disputed Ladakh region.

Addressing an event to mark the anniversary of the Kargil war on Friday, Mr Modi used the occasion to lambast Pakistan, trotting out the tired old trope of 'terrorism' in an attempt to burnish his nationalistic credentials. If such words had been used on the campaign trail, it would have been unfortunate yet understandable.

But the Indian leader's eagerness to indulge in Pakistan-bashing so early into his third term can only be construed as the ruling BJP's aversion to the idea of establishing better ties with this country. The Indian prime minister accused Pakistan of trying to stay relevant through "terrorism" and "proxy war". He said that Pakistan had "not learnt any lessons" from the past, while adding boasts and threats aimed at this country.

Perhaps the direct trigger for Mr Modi's undiplomatic and highly inflammatory outburst is the situation in occupied Kashmir, where there have been a number of recent attacks targeting Indian forces. According to one tally, at least 12 Indian soldiers have been killed in the occupied region this year so far.

However, India has no one to blame but itself for unrest in the disputed territory. India has claimed that its controversial step of stripping held Kashmir of its special constitutional status five years ago has brought peace and development to the region. If that is the case, why does India maintain over 100,000 troops in this geographically small region? The fact is that, instead of carrying forward the tripartite dialogue involving Pakistan and the Kashmiris to peacefully resolve the Kashmir question, the Modi dispensation has sought to unilaterally change 'facts on the ground', even though the region continues to be seen as a disputed territory as per international consensus.

Responding to India's tirade, the Foreign Office has said that while Pakistan is ready to defend itself, "it remains committed to promoting peace" in the region. Practically, this means that the deep freeze in relations that took hold in August 2019 will continue until India decides to approach Pakistan with respect and the desire to make peace. Sabre-rattling aside, India should avoid any misadventures, as Pakistan can and will defend itself. When New Delhi feels that it is ready for peace, it is welcome to call Islamabad.

The blueprint for peace already exists, whether in the shape of confidence-building measures, or the Musharraf-era scheme for a resolution to the Kashmir dispute. All these measures can be discussed and fine-tuned, leading to a just resolution. But first, Delhi must stop demonising Pakistan, and show a willingness for peace.

**Tariq Khosa**

A few recent developments provide some examples of how the deep state systematically encroaches upon the citizens' constitutional freedoms and fundamental rights. The government, through an SRO, recently allowed personnel of the premier intelligence agency to intercept and trace the communications of any citizen "in the interest of national security". Obviously, this was done in response to the strictures passed and observations made by some conscientious judges against the widespread practice of illegal technical surveillance.

Separately, in a statement made before the Sindh High Court, the interior ministry justified the ban on X, claiming that the social media platform was a "threat to peace and national security". It further said that "hostile elements operating on X have nefarious intentions to create an environment of chaos and instability, with the ultimate goal of destabilising the country and plunging it into some form of anarchy". This paper correctly

noted that "silencing social media is no solution to the actual problem of growing public discontent". Why is the state bent on 'suppressing a restless public and blocking dissent'? This is the question to ask. Can democracy thrive without debate and dissent? How does it survive the draconian measures and series of follies committed by state institutions in the recent past?

"Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold," wrote William Butler Yeats in a different era of fear and violence. Yeats refers "not to some kind of moderate political middle, but rather to the moral centre of civilisation. When the moral centre gives way, nations fall." David French asserts in a recent piece for the New York Times.

The most important post-elections development has indeed been the stunning reversal of fortunes for the beleaguered PTI, which was being treated as a defunct political party by the Election Commission following the chief justice-led Supreme Court bench's controversial Jan 13 verdict in the 'bat' symbol case. In a clear ma-

majority verdict, eight judges of the 13-member full court bench not only recognised the PTI as a lawful political party but also ruled against the blatant misuse of authority by the ECP in wrongly distributing its share of reserved seats for minorities and women among the ruling coalition parties.

While the judicial structure comprises various tiers of the courts of law, it is the Supreme Court that is recognised by the Constitution as a court of both law and justice. Indeed, injustice was undone by it in the reserved seats verdict. The decision was hailed as a verdict against the establishment's machinations to deny a mandate to the real winners of the Feb 8 national elections.

A significant milestone of restorative justice was achieved by the highest court when the majority of the judges ruled against "the series of wrongs that had been caused by the ECP's reprehensible decisions" based on the earlier, patently unjust, 'bat' verdict. The decision also exposed the political engineers who colluded to defy the will of

the people.

The response of the PML-N-led coalition government reflected desperation. Announcing a ban on the PTI was a knee-jerk reaction, an ill-advised, hasty move. "Like grains of sand, power slips quicker from the hand the tighter the fist is clenched," said this paper. In the corridors of power, the resurrection of the PTI was seen as an insurrection. It seemed that 11 judges of the apex court, including the chief justice, recognising "the PTI's bona fides as a political party" came as a rude shock to the power brokers who had built their political castle on the false sands of realpolitik.

If it were carried out, the decision to ban the largest and most popular political party would be extremely ill-advised. The devastating potential consequences have clearly not been thought through. It would entail the dismissal of a government formed with an overwhelming mandate in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, led by a political party that has won three previous elections, held in 2013, 2018 and 2024, in the province.

Sacking the KP government may trigger violent protests against the federation by a people already reeling under the ravages of terrorism and bloodshed. A grassroots rebellion could unravel the state; why, then, was such a reckless move even conceived? Have the power brokers lost all sense and reason?

Separately, the government has also sought a review of the Supreme Court ruling in the reserved seats case, knowing well that the same 13-member full court will hear the petition and the decision is unlikely to be reversed. The move amounts to defying the verdict of the people of Pakistan, who defeated the state's designs in the Feb 8 elections with a vote in favour of an incarcerated leader who seems to have become something of a symbol of defiance. The result was simply a vote against the establishment and an answer to the perpetrators of persecution, who had unleashed a reign of terror through a blatantly bellicose democratic process.

The way forward suggested recently by this paper through an editorial is a

sensible option for the government: that it should "form a parliamentary Committee of the Whole comprising all current lawmakers". All contentious issues pertaining to political instability, economic and fiscal pressures, insecurity, violence and blatant violations of human rights and due process of law should be debated freely within parliament. The current polarised political environment requires a pause in order to facilitate "constructive engagement between the rival factions". Meanwhile, the PTI should shun a "rigid approach" and participate in the debate with an open mindset that is conducive to finding solutions instead of laying down "impossible preconditions" that could scuttle dialogue. Politics is the art of the possible and requires flexibility through a give-and-take approach. Only constructive, mature and serious deliberations within parliament can give a clear message and warning to unelected institutions. Our salvation lies in pursuing the democratic path to resolving the contentious issues facing the nation. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Bellicose democracy****Painful signs of a UK in decay**

any cover because they can't afford it.

Despite the growing footprint of the private, profit-driven, companies by stealth in the UK, the Tories continued to harp on about a system that was 'free at the point of delivery'. That it may be so but gross underfunding of the NHS has created an existential crisis for it. And many on the right see a quick fix in an ever-great private sector role.

All opinion surveys show a majority of Britons prefer it over any alternative. Equally, the surveys demonstrate they are also unhappy with the state of affairs. That is not surprising. Underfunding has meant acute shortages of staff from doctors and nurses to technicians.

Our friends visiting us from the UK last week were shocked to see that in a relatively much less prosperous European country, Spain, we could get a doctor's appointment literally for the next day, whereas they had to wait weeks if they needed to see their GP.

And the GP is the gateway for all diagnos-

tic tests to referrals to specialists in case of need. The list of those needing elective (non-emergency) surgery in the UK has swollen to nearly eight million people. The NHS constitution mandates no more than 18 weeks waiting time for such procedures; the reality is that in many cases more than half the patients have to wait more than 52 weeks.

One could argue that non-emergency surgery can wait. But if you are suffering from cataract and have seriously impaired vision or need a hip or knee replacement because of acute arthritis you are dysfunctional and can't live a normal life. Ergo, the waiting times are atrocious.

Shortages of GPs and non-availability of appointments mean that people who are ill end up in Hospital Accident and Emergency departments which themselves are short-staffed. Waiting times run into 18-24 hours at A&Es for ailments classified as non-life-threatening.

A friend's mother in her late 80s who suffers from dementia had to

wait 30 hours before she was attended to. Because of her particular predicament, it created a very trying situation for her family members who'd taken her to hospital.

The patients are not the only ones on the receiving end. My elder daughter who is a doctor in the NHS has routinely spoken of feeling burnt out while working in A&E because of the long working hours and the stress of not being able to treat all patients within a reasonable time frame.

Two of her colleagues have said adieu to the profession after investing so much time and effort in becoming doctors because the stress became unbearable and they feared it impacted their decision-making ability adversely. They quit rather than take risks with patient safety.

There have been many signs of the decay in the UK under the Tories. One that affects me personally whenever I travel there is how poorly and callously under-resourced the facilities for the disabled are. I use a wheelchair as an

injury has eaten into my ability to walk long distances in short periods of time, as I used to, despite having had polio as a child.

If you need a wheelchair, the UK must be at the bottom of the pile. Yes, we groan and moan endlessly and, I'd say, rightly about the lack of facilities and empathy for those needing extra help in Pakistan but at least at airports I have never experienced any issues getting a wheelchair.

Even with its free market, capitalist ethos, the US has legislation safeguarding the rights of the disabled/ differently abled. Over the years, whenever I have arrived at a US airport I have never had to wait for a wheelchair.

It is waiting at the door and the cabin crew ensure I am first off the aircraft.

Spain is no different. In fact, those tasked with facilitating people with special needs always seem to take pride and pleasure in doing their jobs. They are forever smiling. My recent experience at Munich airport was identical.

I shudder at the thought of arriving at London Heathrow or Gatwick airport, for that matter, because the waiting times for a wheelchair and the attitude of most of the special handling staff makes me feel as if I am not wanted, as if my disability is a nuisance to bother those presumably paid to assist me.

The family has to go one way and I another. More than once they have gone through immigration, picked up our luggage, exited the arrivals area and waited up to 45 minutes for me outside. A lovely South African-origin Swiss staff member who assisted me at Zurich airport just this last month said they never separated families from passengers with special needs, as it created avoidable anxiety.

When I groaned about how awful things were in the UK, he had the perfect explanation:

"Sir, they colonised us, looted and plundered our resources. That wealth seems to be running out now. And that's the reason everything is falling apart."

**Beat the rich****Muna Khan**

A small part of me agrees with actor Noman Ijaz who took to Instagram to slam critics of Anant Ambani's wedding. The family spent their own money so they should be allowed to enjoy it as they wish, he wrote. I thought this at first, as I eye-rolled my way through images of the pre-wedding in March but then cringed at the pure spectacle on display last month. I disagree with Ijaz when he said "you should pray you have that kind of money for that kind of wedding".

Err... I think going beyond one's means when planning a wedding continues to be a cause of so many problems in the subcontinent. The poor go into debt; the rich go berserk.

I think the word 'shaadi' meaning both wedding and marriage is another problem because they are not the same thing. There is an entire industry in Pakistan propped up to prepare the rich and the wannabe rich for a wedding — choreographers, make-up artists for the bride and groom's parties, photographers, video filmmakers who then release slickly edited films on social media. The focus has become on getting the right shot(s) for Instagram, and now includes invitations telling guests what colours to wear for which events.

Ijaz was not commenting on this part of the industry. He was responding to actor Arsalan Naseer who poked fun at how relationships do not last as long as this Ambani wedding. This was one of the kinder comments about an event, which by the way, is still going on. After an engagement party in January, a pre-wedding celebration in March where Rihanna

performed for \$5 million, a European cruise in Italy in May, a masquerade ball also in May in France, then back to Italy for an evening event where Andrea Bocelli performed, and the actual wedding in Mumbai, there's something happening in London, probably now.

It is Ambani's choice to put up a rather gross display of wealth but let's not forget how he got here — reportedly getting contracts, resources and protected land for a pittance and by cosying up to politicians to get loans waived off. He has exploited the system but people in power love that he makes India look good because he brings the big bucks.

This wedding was less a celebration of love and more a show of power and clout. I understand a shaadi is about two families more than the individuals. It's probably why we call it an arranged marriage, compared to love marriage which translates to families getting no benefits.

Everyone knows Ambani spent \$600m at this wedding but I'm curious to hear what he — and India plus its billionaires — will earn as a result of this wedding.

If the Jamnagar airport was declared an international one in March to accommodate guests like Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates, think of what else will open up for tycoons.

An Oxfam report last year said India's richest one per cent owned 40pc of the country's wealth. I was horrified to read an article in Time magazine which reported "that the gap between India's rich and poor is now so wide that by some measures, there was more equality in India under British colonial rule than today", and dubbed it a "Billionaire

Raj". Indians spent \$75 billion last year in the luxury wedding market, according to LiveMint which estimated it could grow between 7pc to 8pc annually. The message is clear: spend big, reap big — whether it's financial or social capital or pushing forward how great India is.

Let's get ahead of ourselves and think 'this is not us' let me add: I have seen a video of a bride making a grand entrance in a crane. Then there's a groom who arrived on top of a caged lion in 2017. A quick search on 'Pakistan's most expensive weddings' tells a story about the marriage of political and business interests and features destination weddings, lots of bling, and a groom's arrival in a helicopter.

The real story is about the widening economic inequality. The number of Indians living below the poverty line amounted to 10.2pc of the population in 2023 according to the World Bank, whereas the figure for Pakistan was 37.2pc. There is a boiling undercurrent of rage that no one is addressing beyond political sloganeering. Power (read: wealth) remains in the hands of a very small circle and their children are bartered in marriage to maintain that structure.

There is never any talk about the redistribution of wealth. How can there be in an oligarchy? Instead, we're all fixated on 'this new level of rich people watching' as Leanne Delap wrote in Toronto Star but I assure you it's not harmless fun. It is a reminder that such weddings are a symptom of our rotten system begging for an overhaul. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Pakistan of 2047****Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry**

What will Pakistan look like in 2047, a century after it achieved independence? Given its unstable politics, weak economy and fragile law and order, and the rapidly evolving global and regional geopolitics, it is not easy to predict Pakistan's future. Therefore, projections must be based mainly on proposed reforms the country should legislate on and earnestly implement to reconstruct the economic trajectory it had once embarked upon during the 1950s and early 1960s.

Central to the proposed reforms is a clearly articulated vision and a detailed long-term economic plan. An overview of the recent past reveals that we failed to achieve results even when the planning was sound on paper. In 1990, Pakistan launched an ambitious programme of economic liberalisation. However, this programme fell victim to the political instability of the 1990s. Another attempt was made in the late 1990s to draft a vision and long-term plan in the form of Vision 2010. This was scuttled by the military coup of 1999.

In 2013, Pakistan's 11<sup>th</sup> five-year plan for 2013-18 was launched as part of the medium-term Vision 2025. This was intended to be the first stage of a long-term vision leading to 2047. It appeared that Vision 2025 would not reach its logical end because of the acute political instability since 2017 and debilitating policy reversals that have shattered investor confidence.

The World Bank published a report five years ago in 2019, titled Pakistan@2047: Shaping the Future, which predicted that Pakistan could

become an upper middle-income country by 2047, but that this aim would require accelerated and sustainable growth over a 30-year period. The report suggested several reforms: a focus on human capital through sustainable population growth and efficient public spending on education and health; a technology-savvy taxation system; a business regulatory framework free of red tape; a check on the unsustainable use of finite resources, particularly water; and fuller participation of the female labour force in the Pakistani economy.

It also recommended public service delivery be made transparent and accountable by completely devolving responsibilities and resources to local governments. Political leaders, public officials, and service providers would also be held accountable.

The present government is working on Pakistan Outlook 2035 and Vision 2047 based on a study being prepared under the auspices of the Planning Commission and aimed at drawing up a roadmap for rapid socio-economic development. Some details are available on the website of the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives. Reportedly, the study will pick up the seven pillars on which Vision 2025 was built, including human resource development, sustained growth, democratic governance, institutional reform, water and food security, an enhanced role for the private sector, a competitive knowledge economy, and greater regional connectivity. The study is also guided by the 5Es framework: exports, e-Pakistan, environment and climate change, energy, and equity and empowerment.

According to the

planning minister, if we follow a path of stable politics and steady economic policies, Pakistan might become a trillion-dollar economy by 2035. Speaking at the Islamabad Business Summit 2024 recently, the minister affirmed Pakistan's potential to achieve the targets of \$2tr by 2047 with a growth rate of seven per cent and \$3tr with a growth rate of 9pc.

These are commendable aspirations. However, given the ground realities, are we on our way to achieve these well-intentioned goals? Do we have the political and economic stability that can generate sustained economic growth and social development? Regrettably, there appears to be no sign of our political leaders being ready to work together to build a future of shared prosperity for all citizens. The country is in need of a consensus-based politico-economic vision to be able to say with confidence that by 2047, Pakistan will attain prosperity. Everyone agrees that Pakistan has been endowed with the right mix of elements that could create a development bonanza: young human resource, fertile land, minerals-rich mountains, a great coastline, and an outstanding economic geography. With such resources, the country can certainly achieve the aspirational goals cited above, provided we can ensure political stability, law and order backed by an impartial judiciary, continuity of economic policies, a streamlined regulatory framework, tax compliance by all, an enhanced role for the private sector, efficient resource utilisation, non-partisan accountability, and a foreign policy that works for regional peace. This is indeed a tall order, but it is worth pursuing for a peaceful and prosperous 2047, the centennial year of our independence. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Museums reflect history, culture of nations: Governor KpK

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said that museums reflect the history and culture of nations, highlighting rich heritage includes the Gandharan civilization and various religious traditions.

He said this during visit to the Peshawar Museum.

Upon arrival, Dr. Abdul Samad, Director of Archaeology and Museums, welcomed the Governor.

During his visit, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi inspected the Gandharan civilization artifacts and the unique cultural heritage of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa showcased at the museum.

Dr. Abdul Samad briefed the Governor on the historical and cultural significance of the

museum's valuable collection, as well as details regarding the museum's renovations.

Governor Faisal Kundi praised the Archaeology and Museum Department for maintaining the museum to a state-of-the-art level and ensuring the protection of precious historical artifacts.

He emphasized that museums reflect the history and culture of nations, highlighting that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's rich heritage includes the Gandharan civilization and various religious traditions.

The Governor suggested that special tours of the Peshawar Museum be arranged for the youth, especially students, to familiarize them with their cultural and historical heritage.

Governor Kundi

described the Peshawar Museum as crucial for projecting a positive image of the province to international tourists.

He stressed the need to promote Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for its peace and tourism potential.

Governor Kundi also mentioned that the first session of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly was held in Peshawar Museum. He said that the museum and its artifacts are valuable assets. He asserted that while there may be political differences, the primary goal should be to advance the province's rights and public welfare.

He called for a collective political effort to present the province's case at the federal level and highlighted the need for more industries to create job opportunities for youth.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi being briefed about Gandhara heritage displayed in Peshawar Museum.

## Punjab govt to upgrade health facilities in all 43 jail hospitals

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government, on the special directive of the Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, will chalk out a comprehensive plan to upgrade health facilities at all 43 jail hospitals, ensuring better health cover to all inmates across the province.

Senior Superintendent of Police Central Jail Kot Lakhpat Chaudhry Ijaz Asghar, a member of the committee, headed by both health ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir, said on Sunday the initiative was aimed at ensuring better healthcare for prisoners, aligning with the government's commitment

to upholding their welfare and improving public health standards.

The upgrade would include modernising medical equipment, enhancing infrastructure, and increasing the availability of essential medicines.

He said both ministers, during their maiden meeting, emphasised that providing quality healthcare to prisoners was a crucial aspect of the justice system, ensuring that inmates receive the same level of care as the general population.

He said this initiative reflects the Punjab government's broader strategy to reform the

prison system, promoting rehabilitation over punishment. By addressing health disparities and improving living conditions, the government aims to reduce recidivism and aid in the successful reintegration of prisoners into society.

This commitment to enhancing healthcare services in jails underscores the government's dedication to creating a more just and humane correctional system.

He said Inspector General of Prisons Punjab Mian Farooq Nazeer has already ordered the deployment of mobile dental and eye camps in all jails for medical checkups of prisoners.

## QWP opposes selling of land acquired for educational complex in Mardan

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Chairman of Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao on Sunday opposed the selling of the land acquired for the educational complex in Mardan and said that this belied the claims of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government about declaring education emergency in the province.

He was speaking at a meeting of the Party office-bearers of District Peshawar, said a press release issued from Watan Kor. The provincial Chairman QWP directed the participants to work on strengthening and reorganizing the QWP at the grassroots level.

Sikandar Sherpao said that the PTI had been ruling Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the third straight term but it failed to work for the welfare of the people. "Selling the land acquired for the educational complex is a violation of the relevant laws," he said, adding that under the law, a piece of land once acquired for a

project should be used for that specific purpose.

He said that the bid to sell the land was a classic example of the PTI's poor economic management. He said that this would set a bad precedent and would open a Pandora's box. "This shows the PTI has miserably failed to run the economic affairs of the province and it has now started selling off the provincial assets," he maintained.

Expressing concern over the deteriorating law and order in various parts of the province, the QWP leader said the local administration in Kurram tribal district should swing into action to broker a ceasefire between the warring tribes.

He said that the clashes had claimed several lives, but the provincial government was acting like a silent spectator.

He said that the provincial ministers and advisers were already ready to give political talks and indulge in making political statements over petty issues.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chairs meeting regarding launching of prosperity survey "Ab Ho Ga Sub Ka Shumar" in the province.

## Health minister mourns loss of rescuer medical technician in Sahiwal

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Health and Emergency Services, Khawaja Salman Rafique, has expressed profound grief over the tragic death of Rescuer Medical Technician Habib ur Rahman. The incident occurred at Qadirabad Stop in Sahiwal while Rahman was on duty, serving the community with Rescue 1122.

message on Sunday, the minister prayed Allah Almighty grant Rahman a place in Jannah. He also paid tribute to the Rescue 1122 personnel, acknowledging their dedication and crucial role in providing emergency services to the public. The minister's message highlighted the bravery and commitment of those who risk their lives to protect and serve others.

In his condolence

## July 27, 2017, the darkest day in Pakistan's history: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari has said that July 27, 2017, was the darkest day in Pakistan's history. In a statement issued on Sunday, she said those who had orchestrated the Panama drama to oust Nawaz Sharif on an Iqama issue and declared him disqualified for life, wanted to distance Nawaz Sharif

from his people. "Perhaps they forgot that despite their strategies, Allah also has a strategy. Alhamdulillah, my leader returned, his disqualification was overturned, and the people gave him the mandate. Despite all conspiracies, Pakistan and its largest province, Punjab, are governed by Nawaz Sharif today," she concluded.



MUZAFFARABAD: Rescue 1122 officials transferring injured people to hospital with the help of people of the area.

## PTI Govt poor policies mar education, health sectors in KP: Ikhtair

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Provincial Secretary Information and former Member Provincial Assembly, Ikhtair Wali Khan here on Sunday claimed that the poor policies of PTI Government has marred the education and health sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where problems of the people increased manifold.

He further claimed that about 18 universities out of 34 public sector universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were being closed, putting the careers of thousands of students at stake.

In a statement here, the PMLN leader said that the higher education sector has been put on the verge of economic collapse in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as evidenced by the recent statement of Chief Minister KP about selling

the lands of universities. In such a grim situation, he said that thousands of students would be deprived of education and the problem of unemployment would be further increased in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that PMLN would not allow anyone to deprive thousands of students of higher education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The PMLN leader said that shutting down of large number of universities was tantamount to promoting illiteracy, unemployment, and poverty in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where literacy and unemployment rates were already high.

The poor fiscal and monetary policies of PTI had plunged the country into price hike and inflation, he said and added that the price of a 20 kg flour bag.

## CM message on World Hepatitis Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her message on the World Hepatitis Day, said that environment free from contamination and provision of clean drinking water save many from multiple diseases.

"The number of Hepatitis B and C patients is increasing rapidly and we need to undertake collective efforts along with preventive measures for their complete eradication," she said.

The Chief Minister said, "Prevention from Hepatitis becomes easier by adopting preventive measures as its treatment is prolonged and difficult. "Hepatitis is a silent killer and is adversely affecting the lives of lakhs of people. Further awareness and information regarding Hepatitis inevitably need to be imparted among the citizens."

The CM said, "Vaccination facility for the prevention of Hepatitis along with free test facility is available in all the hospitals across Punjab."

## Four bodies found

LAHORE (APP): Four people including three drug addicts lost their lives in different areas of the city.

According to an Edhi spokesperson, 21-year-old Haseeb died due to electrocution in Gulberg.

A 45-year-old man was found dead on the side of a road at Factory Area, in Walton Road. The deceased apparently was a drug addict, who could not be identified.

A 37-year-old Adnan died from a drug overdose near Butt Chowk, Ghaziabad. The body of an unidentified 50-year-old man was found on a footpath in Nawan Kot. He appeared to be a drug addict.

The Edhi spokesperson said that after police action, all dead bodies had been shifted to mortuary.

## ANF seizes 574 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 574 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman.

He informed that 1.6 kg ice was recovered from two parcels booked for France and Saudi Arabia at a courier office in Lahore.

56 heroin filled capsules were recovered from the stomach of a Jeddah-bound passenger arrested at Peshawar Airport.

## Students of different KP universities spend one day with Pakistan Army

PESHAWAR (APP): The girls and boys students of different universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have spent a day with the Pakistan Army here Sunday. The students observed the underused large and small weapons of Pakistan Army and underused planes of Army Aviation and took keen interest in it. The boys and girls students presented great tributes to the matchless sacrifices of Pakistan Army for defense and protection of the

motherland, a security official told APP. They reaffirmed their strong commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with their armed forces. The students termed such events as positive and welcome step. This event removed many misconceptions and this enjoyable event would always be remembered, they said. The students made proud that our armed forces were laying down their lives with great courage and steadfastness.

## Mayor Sukkur reviews Chehllum arrangements

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Islam Sheikh on Sunday said that the district administration would provide all outstanding arrangements on the occasion of Chehllum Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA).

He said that Islam taught Muslims to remain in a society with peaceful co-existence and promote brotherhood. He expressed these views while chairing a meeting in connection with the sanitation arrangements of the Chehllum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) here.



LAHORE: Garbage-clogged rainwater drains on the roads are a testimony to the inefficiency of the WASA.

## New series of monsoon rains likely to start in most districts of KP

PESHAWAR (APP): A new series of monsoon rains is likely to start in most districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Sunday, said a Provincial Disasters Management Authority issued here.

From Sunday night, more monsoon winds will enter the upper regions of the province from the Arabian Sea due to which Dir, Chitral, Swat, Kohistan, Malakand, Bajaur, Shangla, Battagram, Buner, Kohat, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar,

Mardan, Charsadda, Hangu, Kurram, Waziristan, Bannu would receive rain with strong winds and thunder in Dera Ismail Khan. The new series of rains will continue intermittently till Wednesday, and there is also a risk of landslides in the mountainous areas of the province due to rains, the PDMA release said. PDMA has issued an alert to all district administrations in view of the weather situation and directed them to pre-emptively deal with any untoward incident due to dusty winds, wind, storm and thunder.

## 18,554 drug traffickers arrested

LAHORE (APP): In a single day, 225 raids were carried out at the hideouts of drug-dealers on Sunday, 104 accused were arrested, and 97 cases were registered. The seized material included 68 kilograms of charas, 3 kilograms of heroin, 1.5 kilograms of ice, and 1,320 liters of liquor. Punjab Police spokesperson said that during the special campaign, which has been ongoing for six months, police teams conducted 38,751 raids at the hideouts of drug dealers across Punjab. A total of 18,554 suspects involved in drug trafficking were arrested.

## KP Minister inaugurates water scheme in Shireen Mela

KOHAT (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate along with former MNA Qaiser Jamal Afridi Sunday inaugurated the Water Supply Scheme Shireen Mela in Bostikhel of Tribal Tehsil Dara Adam Khel, Kohat District, funded by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The inaugural ceremony was largely attended by the party workers, local elders and common people. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Law Minister said that he is well

aware of the backwardness and deprivation of Dara Adam Khel because it remained a part of the former FATA. He said he would try to pay special attention to the area. He said that provision of basic needs like drinking water, communication, education and health to the people is at the top of his priorities.

Aftab Alam said that he is preparing a separate development plan for each area keeping in view its needs with active participation of the local leadership so that the real problems faced by the people are solved.

## CCPO orders expediting IBOs against criminals

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Siddique has issued orders for expediting intelligence-based operations (IBOs) against criminals, increasing pace of crackdowns on illegal weapons and drugs and ensuring swift arrest of proclaimed offenders.

He was presiding over a meeting at his office here on Sunday to review progress on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to performance of divisional

officers. During the briefing, it was informed that the 15 Call Data, issued by the Punjab Safe Cities Authority, indicated a significant reduction in crime rate in the provincial capital. The CCPO emphasised that the police force must ensure timely response and actions upon receiving calls through the 15 service. He urged that in the light of the Punjab government's KPIs, every department, officer and official should align their performance.



HYDERABAD: Activists of STP hold a protest in favor of their demands outside HPC.

## Free eye camp arranged for police personnel, families at SSU headquarters

KARACHI (APP): A one-day free eye screening camp was organized for police personnel and their families at the Special Security Unit (SSU) Headquarters on Sunday.

The camp was established in collaboration with Digital Media Network Voice of Nation (VON) and POB Trust Eye Hospital.

Specialist doctors from POB Eye Hospital conducted comprehensive eye screenings and police personnel diagnosed with cataract illness were offered free surgery at the hospital.

DIG Security &

Emergency Services Division Dr. Maqsood Ahmed expressed his gratitude to the administration and doctors of POB Eye Hospital for their support in conducting eye screening and providing free cataract surgery.

DIG Dr. Maqsood Ahmed highlighted the importance of eye health, stating that many people lose their sight due to eye diseases, often due to expensive treatment and lack of awareness.

He emphasized the need for regular eye check-ups and timely treatment.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Jamit Ulma Pakistan Norani hold a protest in favor of their demands outside HPC.

## Haroon Sharif says: Elite bargain for structural transformation, governance way forward for eco. progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Minister of State, Board of Investment (BOI), Haroon Sharif has said that the only way forward for economic progress is to embrace a structural transformation prevailing in the economic system of the country through elite bargaining insulating the beneficiaries of the status quo with improved governance responding developing regional trends.

The former Chairman BOI explained that the country's prevailing structure, modalities and tools to improve GDP demanded diversification in the market and business practices catering to the needs of both the regional nations and the local masses, Haroon Sharif stated that in a talk organised by Sustainable Development Policy

Institute (SDPI). "Elite bargain or political will is that elites of a country reconsider their models and bargain on shifting over new economic models and systems. We also need to include politicians and businessmen and beneficiaries of this system to change the structure," Haroon Sharif said.

The second option is to succumb to the young population's pressure either willingly or by force to change the system as for elite bargain other than the electorate pressure-based changes, and transformation mega steps are taken to change the ways of doing business like Taiwan, Vietnam and others did, he added.

"Asia's successful examples of economic

structure transformation including East Asia and Southeast Asia have been on governing the markets who had identified economic winners and supported them to deliver their economic goals. India's three decades journey where it has reformed its economic structure and built up its private sector is evident. Pakistan has to start from somewhere," he mentioned.

He said the country's financial system is unable to support new development initiatives which is the job of the development banks and not the commercial banks. For instance, to promote the agriculture sector the government should revise ZTBL with the help of Chinese investors which is lying redundant through capital and experts.



RAWALPINDI: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami hold placard and chanting slogans during 3rd day of sit in protest (Dharna) against the country's rising inflation, at Murree road, in the city.

## Saigol asks govt to reduce production to make trade, industry competitive

LAHORE (INP): Chairman Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Faheemur Rehman Saigol has asked the government to take prompt measures to bring down the production costs for trade and industries to enable them to compete in the international market.

He said that trade and industry was currently having difficulty to compete the global market because of rapid increase in production costs. He said that the high cost of production was not good for our exports.

"The cost of production is a major factor, which makes an industry stand out among competitors in the world market," he explained.

Faheemur Rehman

Saigol said that high energy tariffs, shortage of fuel for machines, high rate of taxes, and lack of skilled labor are the main reasons behind the increase in the cost of production. He expressed concern that the reduction in industries' contribution to Pakistan's gross domestic product (GDP) is a worrying trend.

"Manufacturing and production industries have the potential to significantly impact economic growth by reducing unemployment in the country. The government needs to take solid steps to make doing business easier," he added.

He said lack of research and development (R&D) is one of the major reasons behind the increase in the cost of production in any industry. "Sometimes we have

the resources, but we make poor decisions. A poor decision means poor practices of work execution," he added. He said that R&D could help in the provision of valuable technologies, business models, and designs for the industry. "Implementation of modern techniques or work practices can increase production and also reduce its costs," he added.

The PIAF Chairman said that both external and internal issues lead to an increase in cost of production. He said Pakistan's industry is struggling in the international market due to challenges such as high inflation, political instability, increased power tariff, rising fuel costs, energy shortages, and lack of R&D.

## Agri dept being transformed to upgrade agri sector: Kirmani

MULTAN (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ahsiq Hussain Kirmani said that Chief Minister (CM) Punjab is paying special focus on the agriculture sector to bring revolutionary changes.

Presiding over a meeting regarding cotton crop here on Sunday at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Agriculture University, the provincial minister said that CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is encouraging public partnership to upgrade the agriculture sector. He said that cotton had a key role in the country's economy and a special task had been assigned to the field formation to achieve a target of 6.4 million cotton bales.

He directed officers concerned to bring more improvement in performance related to the cotton crop. He said that as per the vision of the CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, 62 Farmer

Facilitation Centres have been established across the province and the number of centres would be increased after consultation with the public representatives.

Kirmani directed officers concerned to ensure strict monitoring for the provision of quality pesticides in the market.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftekhar Ali Sahu said that the shops of pesticide dealers selling quality pesticides in the market would be given the status of mini Farmer Facilitation Centre. He stressed the need for more coordination with the irrigation department for the proper supply of canal water.

Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateeel said that an online Google workbook with the title of Virtual Cotton Pest Management Hub has been launched to trace activities related to pest scouting, management and others.



LARKANA: The farmers are busy planting the seedlings of rice crop in their field near the Bypass Road.

## Call for prioritising 'caring economy' in Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former president Iftekhar Ali Malik has said prioritising a 'caring economy' in Pakistan is essential for economic growth, gender equality, social well-being in the country.

Talking to a trade delegation, led by Muslim Khan Bunerji here on Sunday, he said by investing in care services and infrastructure, the country could harness the full potential of its population, ensuring a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

Malik said a caring economy fosters social cohesion and well-being. Accessible and high-quality care services can reduce inequality, improve health services, and enhance the quality of life for all strata of society.

In a country like Pakistan, where social safety nets are often inadequate, building a

caring economy is vital for ensuring a more inclusive and resilient society, he maintained.

Malik said the caring economy approach can help address Pakistan's demographic challenges. With a growing population and increasing life expectancy, the demand for care services is set to rise. Developing a robust care infrastructure can not only provide essential services to the elderly and children but also create millions of jobs, thereby reducing unemployment and underemployment. This shift can stimulate economic growth and enhance social welfare.

He said in Pakistan, women's labour force participation is significantly lower than men's, largely due to their disproportionate share of unpaid care work. By supporting care services, the government can help women balance their work and family responsibilities.

## Call for renegotiating IPPs agreements

LAHORE (APP): Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) former vice president Chaudhry Zahid Iqbal Arain has called upon the government to review and restructure the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) contracts to align their payments more closely with actual electricity production and demand.

Speaking at a roundtable conference on 'Impact of high power tariffs and huge payments to IPPs on economy' here on Sunday, he said revisiting and renegotiating these capacity payment agreements with the IPPs could provide a solution to the problem of high power tariff, which was a major impediment to economic growth.

He added that even for domestic consumers, the high electricity tariffs exacerbate financial hardships, leading to widespread dissatisfaction and social unrest.

## Railways putting efforts to retrieve its 13,972 acres land

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has accelerated the efforts to retrieve the major portion of around 13,972 acres of land worth billions of rupees found under the illegal occupation of private individuals and different government departments across the country.

"Around 5,809 acres were occupied in Punjab, 1,181 acres are under encroachment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,948 acres in Sindh and 1,034 acres land occupied in Balochistan," an official in the Ministry told APP here Sunday.

He said the category of land under illegal occupations included commercial, residential, agricultural and various persons or departments.

Giving details of the land, the official said that around 769 acres were commercial in all the provinces, 3,309 residential, 5,512 acres agricultural and 4382 were under encroachment of various persons or departments.

The official said that the department had also decided to accelerate its ongoing anti-encroachment operation against land grabbers across the country to recoup its land from different individuals, groups and even business organizations which were using it for residential, commercial and agriculture purposes for decades.

"The joint procedure orders have been issued to all Divisional Superintendents of Pakistan Railways.

## Dera admin, PESCO continue operations against power theft

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district administration along with Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) staff is continuing to conduct operations against electricity theft across the district.

Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner Sarah Rehman, Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Faseeh Ishaq Abbasi along with PESCO Superintending Engineer (SE) Fida Muhammad Mehsud visited different areas for the purpose.

Speaking on this occasion, the assistant commissioner said that actions against electricity theft and recovery of pending dues would be continued indiscriminately. The people involved in electricity theft.

## SWCCI demands review of IPPs agreements

SARGODHA (APP): The Sargodha Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SWCCI) executive committee held a meeting here on Sunday to discuss in detail escalating energy crisis in the country.

According to a press release issued here, the meeting, held via Zoom and presided over by SWCCI President Mrs. Shameem Aftab, resulted in a unanimous resolution, urging the government to immediately review the capacity payment agreements with the independent power producers (IPPs).

All meeting participants strongly supported the resolution,

including Senior Vice President Sadia Khan, Vice President Tanzeela Riaz, Executive Member and MD Khan Medicare 32 Block Sargodha Dr. Humaira Azhar, Dr. Nusrat Javid Awan, Ms Shazia Bangish, Ms Robina Mukhtar, Tehseen Fatima, Dr. Atika Lohani, and SWCCI Secretary Ms Saira Rehan. Highlighting the devastating impact of the energy crisis, Dr. Humaira Azhar emphasised that it posed a significant challenge to businesses, particularly women entrepreneurs, following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Nusrat Manzoor underscored the critical role of energy in business.

## Efforts on to reduce inflation

SARGODHA (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Member Punjab Assembly (MPA) and District General Secretary Rana Munawar Ghous has said the federal and Punjab governments are utilising all resources for public welfare and country development.

Talking to state news agency APP at the PML-N Sillanwali tehsil office on Sunday, he said the government was making relentless efforts to combat inflation and reduce unemployment. He said the Punjab government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, was taking practical steps for



MULTAN: Labourers are packing seasonal fruit mangoes in wooden boxes.

## Kissan Ittehad Surging input cost big threat to agriculture

MULTAN (APP): Chairman Pakistan Kissan Ittehad Khalid Khokhar said on Sunday that increasing cost of inputs was a big threat to agriculture sector.

He said this while holding a press conference at local press club.

He stated that farming had become impossible for the peasants due to rising cost of inputs especially electricity tariff for tube-well and fertilizers. Late year, agriculture sector made growth of 6.5 percent which was higher if compared to other sectors. Industry improved with one percent growth, he remarked. He lamented that government announced incentives for industry but ignored agriculture sector.

The electricity price of agriculture remained always low, comparing to industry. However, this

time the electricity price is high in agriculture sector against the industry. Khokhar maintained that that Pakistan owned huge resources to excel in all field but it was importing agri products worth 10 to 12 billion dollars annually.

The Chairman Pakistan Kissan Ittehad stated that per acre production was high in neighbourly if compared the Pakistan. He added that the difference of per acre production was due to cost of inputs. In Pakistan, cost of inputs is increasing with fast pace and the peasants are unable to apply inputs properly.

Khokhar feared that there would be food security issue in future as the farmers would not be able to cultivate wheat. He added that there would be 40 to 50 percent decline in wheat cultivation in upcoming season.

## Prices of Ginger, Garlic unchanged

PESHAWAR (APP): The wave of inflation in Peshawar could not be reduced as the prices of Ginger and Garlic in the vegetable market hit an all-time high and now being sold on Rs. 900 and Rs. 800 in the City respectively wherein the district administration failed to implement the official prices issued for various food items here on Sunday.

Likewise, the Ginger, the price of Garlic also hit high and now being sold at Rs. 800 per kg instead of official rates Rs. 550. The price of Onion also increased with every passing day and now Onion is being sold on Rs. 220 instead of on official rates Rs 110. The rates of other food items including Tomato Rs 200, Potato 180, Kachalu 180, Green pepper 150, Capsicum 170, Eggplant 180, Cauliflower 160, Okra 220 per kg being sold in the vegetables market.

## Mills seek permission to export 1.5MMT surplus sugar

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA-Punjab Zone) has urged the government to allow export of 1.5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of surplus sugar worth one billion dollars for the country.

A spokesman told the media on Sunday that the PSMA had also reiterated its request in a recent meeting of Sugar Advisory Board (SAB), adding that sugar industry had long been appealing to the government to consider export of surplus sugar as it was facing huge losses due to increased costs of production and by incurring carrying costs on surplus stocks of crushing seasons of 2022-23 and 2023-24. Continuous production of surplus sugar every year without its appropriate exports and domestic sale of sugar below its costs of

production has increasingly become unsustainable and unviable for the sugar industry.

The spokesman said that sugarcane farmers had greatly suffered due to detrimental conditions of their wheat, cotton and maize crops and now are relying solely on sugarcane crop for their sustenance and survival. Previously cane payments to the growers have been made regularly and timely crushing was started but the current cash flow constraints confronted by the sugar industry due to huge inventory have increasingly become uncontainable.

The PSMA requests the federal government to allow export of surplus sugar to enable the sugar mills to complete cane payments to sugarcane farmers.

## Modern furniture designs can capture global markets: PFC

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq said on Sunday that modern designing was essential for capturing global furniture markets as it meets the evolving needs and preferences of buyers. By focusing on functionality, aesthetics, and sustainability, modern designs could successfully attract a diverse and discerning international market, he added.

Talking to a delegation of furniture designers and

manufacturers, led by Muhammad Arabi Arain, he said in today's fast-paced world, buyers increasingly prefer furniture that offers both functionality and aesthetic appeal. Modern designs emphasize simplicity, clean lines, and innovative use of materials, catering to a wide range of tastes and spaces.

He said the global furniture market is highly competitive, with buyers having access to diverse products from around the world.



RAWALPINDI: People are busy in buying secondhand toys at Sunday weekly bazaar at Committee Chowk area, in the city.

## Children among 30 killed in Israeli strike on Gaza school

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: At least 30 Palestinians were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a school housing displaced people in Gaza on Saturday, Palestinian health officials said.

The Hamas-run government media office said 15 children and eight women were among those killed in the strike in the central town of Deir Al-Balah. More than 100 people were wounded, the media office and the Gaza health ministry said.

Israel's military said it had targeted fighters operating there and that it had taken steps to reduce the risk to civilians.

Separately, nine people were killed in a rocket attack on a football ground in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Saturday.

At Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir Al-Balah, ambulances rushed the wounded in for treatment. Some people arrived on foot, their

clothes stained with blood. Reuters footage showed people returning to the site of the bombing to check on their belongings, and fires burning in the area.

Um Hasan Ali, a displaced woman living at the school, said it had only been a couple of months since she returned to Gaza from Egypt with her daughter who had been taken there for medical treatment. Now her daughter had been wounded in the strike and taken to hospital, she said.

Another woman, Ibtihal Ahmed, told Reuters she was sitting in a neighbour's tent when she heard heavy bombing.

"I started running, my daughter was one place and I was at another, I saw people running towards the place that was struck. The people sheltering in Khadija school are all wounded people, they are innocent and this should not happen to them," she said.

On Saturday, the mili-

tary said it had instructed Palestinians to evacuate the southern neighborhoods of Khan Younis and move to the Al-Mawasi humanitarian zone. Israeli attacks in Khan Younis on Saturday killed 14 people, health officials said.

UN and humanitarian officials accuse Israel of using disproportionate force in the war and of failing to ensure civilians have safe places to go, which it denies.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesperson for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, blamed the Israeli attacks on the support of the US.

A rocket fired from Lebanon hit a football pitch in an Arab town in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights on Saturday, killing 11 youngsters in what the army described as the "deadliest attack on Israeli civilians since October 7".



Palestinians inspect the damage following an Israeli strike on the Khadija school housing displaced people in Deir al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip.

## US to announce military command revamp in Japan, official says

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: The United States will unveil a major revamp of its military command structure in Japan and other measures to deepen defence ties with its Asian ally at high-level security talks in Tokyo on Sunday, a US official said.

The overhaul comes as Tokyo looks to establish a new joint headquarters to oversee its armed forces by March to coordinate better with Washington on growing regional threats they see emanating from China and North Korea.

US Secretary of State

Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin will hold talks with their Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Defence Minister Minoru Kihara later on Sunday. "Secretary Austin plans to announce that the United States intends to reconstitute US Forces Japan as a Joint Force Headquarters, reporting to the commander of US INDOPACOM," the US official told a briefing ahead of the talks. The command will be headed by a three-star general, the official said, not the four-star rank that Japan had requested.

## Libyan court jails 12 officials over deadly floods

**Monitoring Desk**  
BENHAZI: A Libyan court has jailed 12 officials in connection with the collapse of a series of dams in Derna last year that killed thousands of the city's residents, the Attorney General said on Sunday. The officials, who were responsible for managing the country's dams, were sentenced to between 9 and 27 years in prison by the Court of Appeal in Derna. Four officials were acquitted. Derna, a coastal city with a population of 125,000, was devastated last September by massive floods caused by Storm Daniel.

## Australia bans uranium mining at Indigenous site

**Monitoring Desk**  
SYDNEY: Australia moved on Saturday to ban mining at one of the world's largest high-grade uranium deposits, highlighting the site's "enduring connection" to Indigenous Australians. The Jabuluka deposit in northern Australia is surrounded by the heritage-listed Kakadu National Park, a tropical expanse of gorges and waterfalls featured in the first "Crocodile Dundee" film. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the national park would be extended to include the Jabuluka site.

## Landslide from Storm Gaemi remnants kills 12 in southern China

**Monitoring Desk**  
GUANGDONG: Continuing heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Gaemi triggered a landslide that killed 12 people in southern China, causing flash floods in the northeast and railway disruptions elsewhere, state media reported on Sunday. Cyclonic winds from Gaemi, downgraded from a typhoon, had mostly dissipated by Sunday, but many parts of China remained under alert for flooding risks caused by earlier rains. Forecasters warned that the remnants

of Gaemi's vast cloudbanks could still dump rain on already waterlogged cities.

The 12 were killed in the landslide near Hengyang city in Hunan province on Sunday morning that trapped 18, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Six injured survivors were rescued. Hunan provincial authorities issued a flood warning as heavy rains continued through Sunday. Two officials, including the deputy mayor of Linjiang city in Jilin province, went missing during flood rescue efforts.

## Putin warns the United States of Cold War-style missile crisis

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday warned the United States that if Washington deployed long-range missiles in Germany then Russia would station similar missiles in striking distance of the West.

The United States said on July 10 that it would start deploying long-range missiles in Germany from 2026 in preparation for a longer-term deployment that will include SM-6, Tomahawk cruise missiles and developmental hypersonic weapons.

In a speech to sailors from Russia, China, Algeria and India to mark Russian navy day in the former imperial capital of St Petersburg, Putin warned the United States that it risked triggering a Cold War-style missile crisis with the move.

"The flight time to tar-

gets on our territory of such missiles, which in the future may be equipped with nuclear warheads, will be about 10 minutes," Putin said.

"We will take mirror measures to deploy, taking into account the actions of the United States, its satellites in Europe and in other regions of the world."

Putin, who sent his army into Ukraine in 2022, casts the war as part of a historic struggle with the West, which he says humiliated Russia after Soviet Union fell in 1991 by encroaching on what he considers Moscow's sphere of influence.

Ukraine and the West say Putin is engaged in an imperial-style land grab. They have vowed to defeat Russia, which currently controls about 18% of Ukraine, including Crimea, and parts of four regions in eastern Ukraine.

## Philippines says China mischaracterised South China Sea deal

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: The Philippines' foreign ministry accused China on Sunday of "mischaracterising" an arrangement for massive floods caused by Storm Daniel.

counterpart said that China's coast guard was notified ahead of the mission and had "let the vessel through" after an "on-the-scene confirmation".

Daza said on Sunday it was "unfortunate" China "mischaracterised" the resupply mission.

"Instead of acknowledging how two countries were able to manage differences in order to avoid miscalculation and misunderstanding, the spokesperson chose to misrepresent what has been agreed between the Philippines and China," Daza said in a statement.

The Chinese embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside office hours.

Details of the arrangement between China and the Philippines have not been publicly released, but both countries have said the deal was aimed at easing tensions in the waterway.

However, her Chinese

## Meloni vows to 'relaunch' Italy's cooperation with China

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni vowed on Sunday to "relaunch" cooperation with China, signing a three-year action plan during her first official visit to Beijing since taking office.

Meloni, who has led a right-wing government since 2022, made the announcement during a meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, as Rome seeks to improve trade ties with Beijing after it exited President Xi Jinping's flagship Belt and Road infrastructure investment scheme last year.

The Italian leader said her five-day trip was a "demonstration of the will to begin a new phase, to relaunch our bilateral cooperation". The action plan aims to experiment with new forms of cooperation, she added in a video shown Italy's RAI state television network.

The industrial cooperation memorandum signed by Italy and China "includes strategic industrial sectors such as electric mobility and renewables," Meloni said later in the day.

Meloni, who sees Chinese investment as a way to spur Italy's anaemic economic growth, will meet Xi and China's top legislator, Zhao Leji, third in the leadership hierarchy.

She also attended an Italy-China business forum, to which companies including Italian tyre-maker Pirelli, energy group ENI, defence group Leonardo, wine producers and several Italian luxury fashion groups such as Dolce & Gabbana were invited.

## Thousands evacuate after wildfire in California

**Monitoring Desk**  
CHICO: A huge, fast-moving and rapidly growing wildfire in northern California has forced more than 4,000 people to evacuate as firefighters battle gusty winds and perilously dry conditions, authorities said on Friday.

Fueled by a crushing heatwave, the so-called Park Fire — the most intense wildfire to hit the state this summer — has rapidly devoured nearly 240,000 acres as of Friday night and is continuing to gain strength.

losses, Butte County Fire Chief Garrett Sjolund said "many more have been saved." "It is a fire that is challenging our strategies, but we are finding opportunities to deploy our resources in successful ways," Sjolund told reporters.

The fire started on Wednesday near Chico, in Butte County, and within hours had devastated a wide area there and in neighbouring Tehama County. In just two days, the Park Fire has already become the 20th largest fire in California history by land area.

The blaze has generated an enormous column of dense grey smoke, with gritty clouds akin to those of a violent storm now visible in nearby US states.

Fire departments from across the state have sent crews to lend a hand. The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for the region through Friday night, predicting "critical" fire weather conditions.

On Thursday, police detained a 42-year-old man on suspicion of having started the fire by pushing a burning car into a ravine.

"This fire has been rapidly expanding 4,000 to 5,000 acres an hour," incident commander Billy See said at a press conference. For now, it is "zero per cent" controlled, despite the efforts of about 1,700 firefighters, according to state agency Cal Fire, with hundreds of additional resources ordered en route.

A total of 4,000 people have evacuated the towns of Cohasset and Forest Ranch, plus an additional 400 from the small city of Chico. The blaze so far has destroyed 134 structures, authorities said.

Despite the structure



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iran's new president, Masoud Pezeshkian, attend an endorsement ceremony in Tehran, Iran.

## Bangladesh students vow to resume protests unless leaders freed

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: A Bangladeshi student group has vowed to resume protests that sparked a lethal police crackdown and nationwide unrest unless several of their leaders are released from custody on Sunday.

Last week's violence killed at least 205 people, according to an AFP count of police and hospital data, in one of the biggest upheavals of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year tenure.

Army patrols and a nationwide curfew remain in place more than a week after they were imposed, and a police dragnet has scooped up thousands of protesters including at least half a dozen student leaders.

Members of Students Against Discrimination,

whose campaign against civil service job quotas precipitated the unrest, said they would end their weeklong protest moratorium.

The group's chief Nahid Islam and others "should be freed and the cases against them must be withdrawn," Abdur Hannan Masud told reporters in an online briefing late Saturday.

Masud, who did not disclose his location because he was in hiding from authorities, also demanded "visible actions" be taken against government ministers and police officers responsible for the deaths of protesters.

"Otherwise, Students Against Discrimination will be forced to launch tough protests" from Monday, he said.

## Jasper, Alberta fire coming under control, say authorities

**Monitoring Desk**  
TORONTO: Progress has been made suppressing fires in the Canadian tourist town of Jasper, with the remaining ones expected to be put out by the end of the day, authorities said.

The fires — caused by a massive wildfire that is sweeping through Alberta's mountainous Jasper National Park — are said to have destroyed about a third of the town.

"Jasper townsite fire suppression has been progressing well, and we are anticipating that all remaining fires within the townsite will be extinguished today," Parks Canada, the government agency that manages the country's national parks, said on X.

## Oil leaking from sunken tanker in Manila Bay

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: Some of the 1.4 million litres of industrial fuel oil inside a sunken Philippine tanker has started to leak into Manila Bay, the coast guard said on Saturday, as they raced to avoid an environmental catastrophe.

The MT Terra Nova sank in bad weather off Manila on Thursday, killing one crew member and leaving the country potentially facing its worst oil spill disaster. The oil slick has more than tripled in size and is now estimated to stretch 12-14 kilometres across the bay, which thousands of fishermen and tourism operators rely on for their livelihoods.

Divers inspected the hull of the vessel on Saturday and saw a "minimal leak" from the valves, Coast Guard spokesman Rear Admiral Armando Balilo said, adding it was "not alarming yet".



Kim Jong Un, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in Pyongyang, North Korea.

## Blinken says US will not prejudice outcome of Venezuela election

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the United States would not prejudice the results of presidential elections taking place in Venezuela on Sunday, but called on parties to respect the democratic process. Just before voting starts in the South American country, Blinken told a press conference in Tokyo the US and the international community would be closely watching the vote.

"The United States is

not going to prejudice the outcome. This is a choice for Venezuelans to make, but the Venezuelan people deserve an election that genuinely reflects their will, free from any manipulation," Blinken said. Washington eased sanctions on Venezuela's oil industry last October in response to a deal between President Nicolas Maduro and opposition parties, but later reinstated the sanctions over actions that Washington said threatened an inclusive democratic vote.

## UK police arrest two men after assault on anti-fascism protester

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: UK police arrested two men on Saturday following an assault on a participant in an anti-fascism protest, held to counter another nearby demonstration organised by far-right agitator Tommy Robinson.

London's Metropolitan Police said the pair were arrested on suspicion of assaulting a "Stand Up To Racism" protester in Victoria Embankment Gardens in the city centre.

Officers gave the victim first aid after he sustained a head injury in the incident, and he will be taken to hospital to be checked, according to the force.

It noted that, contrary to social media reports, the arrests were not related to the carrying of any flags.

The Met, as the London force is known, said around 1,000 officers were on duty on Saturday as part of the policing operation to deal with the two rallies, as well as another protest.

Thousands gathered in the heart of the British capital from late morning for the demonstration organised by Robinson, a far-right firebrand and founder of the now defunct 'Islamophobic English Defence League' organisation. Meanwhile the counter-protest staged by 'Stand Up To Racism' and others also rallied in the heart of London.

## Venezuelans vote in highly charged election amid fraud worries

**Monitoring Desk**  
CARACAS: Venezuelans waited in line at polling stations and cast ballots on Sunday in the most consequential election in a quarter-century of socialist party rule, with President Nicolas Maduro confident of victory even as the opposition has attracted impassioned support and warned of possible irregularities.

Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado has been the star of the coalition campaign, even after a ban on holding public office forced her to pass the torch to candidate Edmundo Gonzalez, a 74-year-old diplomat known for his calm demeanor. Gonzalez has

won backing even from some former supporters of the ruling party, but the opposition and observers have questioned whether the vote will be fair, saying decisions by electoral authorities and the arrests of opposition staff are meant to create obstacles.

Maduro — whose 2018 reelection is considered fraudulent by the United States, among others — has said the country has the world's most transparent electoral system and has warned of a "bloodbath" if he were to lose. Reuters journalists located in six cities around the country reported lines outside polling stations, including some that opened late.

## Republican candidate Trump tells Christians they 'won't have to vote after this election'

**Monitoring Desk**  
FLORIDA: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump told Christians on Friday that if they vote for him in the upcoming US elections, "in four years, you don't have to vote again. We'll have it fixed so good, you're not gonna have to vote."

It was not clear what the former president meant by his remarks, in an election campaign where his Democratic opponents accuse him of being a threat to democracy, and after his attempt to overturn his 2020 defeat to President Joe Biden, an effort that led to the deadly insurrection at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. Trump was speaking at an event organized by the conservative group Turning Point Action in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Trump said: "Christians, get out and vote, just this time. 'You won't have to do it anymore. Four more years, you know what, it will be fixed, it will be fine, you won't have to vote anymore, my beautiful Christians.'" He added: "I love you Christians. I'm a Christian. I love you, get out, you gotta get out and vote. In four years, you don't have to vote again, we'll have it fixed so good you're not going to have to vote," Trump said. Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung did not directly address Trump's remarks when asked to clarify them.

Cheung said Trump "was talking about uniting this country," and blamed "the divisive political environment" on the attempted assassination of Trump two weeks ago.



People take part in a counter-demonstration against British far-right activist and founder of the anti-Islam English Defence League (EDL), Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, also known as Tommy Robinson, in central London.

## Announces nationwide campaign to eradicate Hepatitis C PM for united efforts to ensure a hepatitis-free future

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the international community observed World Hepatitis Day on Sunday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called for united efforts to raise awareness and work towards a hepatitis-free future, also announcing a nationwide campaign to eradicate the disease.

"On this World Hepatitis Day, let us stand united in our efforts to raise awareness, support those affected by viral hepatitis, and work towards a future free from the burden of this disease. Together, we can make a difference and build a healthier and more prosperous nation," the prime minister said in his message to the nation on the Day.

He said the Day was dedicated to raising awareness about hepatitis and its impact on individuals and communities worldwide.

He said this year's theme "It's time for action" was a reminder for urgent actions to prevent, diagnose, and treat hepatitis

and emphasised necessary actions to help eliminate the disease and ensure a healthier future for all.

The prime minister said that hepatitis was a silent epidemic that affected millions of people around the world, causing liver inflammation and potentially leading to severe complications if left untreated.

"Pakistan has a very high burden of Hepatitis C infection, having 10 million infected cases, out of 60 million hepatitis C cases globally. Our country is facing an epidemic of Hepatitis C and it is feared that we may also see an epidemic of liver cancer if necessary actions to prevent and eliminate Viral Hepatitis are not taken," he warned.

He highlighted that the country had made significant progress in combating viral hepatitis through awareness campaigns, vaccination programs, and improved access to testing and treatment. However, there

is still much work to be done. We must continue to prioritize hepatitis prevention, ensure early diagnosis, and provide affordable and accessible treatment options for all, he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the government stood firm in its dedication to overcome the challenges posed by hepatitis. "I am pleased to announce a nationwide campaign aimed at eradicating Hepatitis C. As a part of this noble endeavor, our focus will be on decentralizing testing and treatment centers, ensuring that the services provided are tailored to the needs of our citizens, in alignment with the global strategy," he said.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Bakht Muhammad Kakar listening problems of people at his residence

## BHC directs petitioner to address grievances in land ownership case

QUETTA (PR): A two-member bench of the Balochistan High Court, comprising Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Mullahkhal and Justice Iqbal Ahmed Kasi, heard the constitutional petition filed by Naheed Khan against the Deputy Commissioner of Quetta and others. The petition relates to pending cases of land ownership in a housing scheme, where some individuals have made payments but not received possession or ownership certificates. During the hearing, the counsel for the petitioner, Behlol Khan Kasi, submitted a report listing 12 individuals who have made payments above 60%.

However, some individuals present in court claimed they had already made 100% payments but had not received possession or ownership certificates. The counsel for the petitioner assured the court that all individuals who had made payments above 60% would be adjusted according to the court's directives.

The boundary demarcation process was still incomplete, and the Additional Attorney General sought time to inquire about the pending demarcation process from the relevant revenue authorities. The petitioner's counsel further stated that cases of individuals with payments below 60% were also under consideration.



KARACHI: A delegation of Law Department Balochistan in a group photo with Secretary Law Sindh Ali Ahmed Baloch after a meeting

## Miftah pledges legal action against K-electric, demands tax rollback on power bills

KARACHI (INP): Ex-finance czar and leader of the newly-formed Awam Pakistan Party, Miftah Ismail has announced his plan to file a petition against K-Electric, demanding the withdrawal of taxes imposed on electricity. Speaking to demonstrators from his party on Sunday, Ismail emphasised his commitment to fighting for the public's rights.

Addressing the protesters, Ismail criticised the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for its "unfulfilled promise" of 300 free units of electricity.

"If free electricity cannot be provided to the public, then no one should receive it," he stated.

## Subjective exams for posts of Lecturers for different subjects postponed

QUETTA: The Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) has postponed the subjective exams for posts of lecturers for different subjects in the Colleges, Higher and Technical Education Department, scheduled to be conducted on July 29, 30 and 31, 2024.

According to an official notification issued here by the Secretary BPSC on Sunday, the subjective exams for the posts of lecturers for the subjects of English Literature, Urdu, Chemistry, Bio-Chemistry, Political Science, Environmental Science, Sociology and Pakistan Studies have been postponed.



QUETTA: Secretary Communication and Works Lal Jan Jaffar presiding over a meeting to review progress on development projects

## Weather forecast

QUETTA: According to the Regional Meteorological Center Balochistan, most districts of the province are expected to experience hot and humid weather on Sunday. However, there is a possibility of thunderstorms, strong winds, and rain at a few places in Zhob, Barkhan, Kohlu, Ziarat, and surrounding areas.

On Monday evening and night, thunderstorms and rain are expected in Zhob, Sherani, Musakhel, Barkhan, Kohlu, Loralai, Sibi, Lasbela, Awaran, Hub, Khuzdar, and surrounding areas. The rest of the districts in the province are likely to experience hot and humid weather.

In the past 24 hours, the highest temperature was recorded in Dalbandin and Nokundi (47°C), Sibi (45°C), Panjgur and Turbat (43°C), Quetta (41°C), Zhob (40°C), and Gwadar (35°C).

Rainfall was recorded in Barkhan (24.0 mm).

## Eight people killed in road mishap in HIOJK

MIRPUR (APP): At least eight members of the same family, including five children, were killed in a devastating road accident at Daksum in the Kokernag area of Kishtwar district in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir state on Saturday, according to a report reaching here late Saturday from across the line of control.

The tragic accident occurred when their vehicle, a Maruti Swift bearing registration number JK03H 9017, skidded off the road and fell into a ditch while they were traveling from Kishtwar to Marwah via Sinthan Top, the report said.

Emergency services remained unable to save any of the occupants of the vehicle, all of whom were pronounced dead at the scene, the report said. "Occupied Kashmir's puppet state authorities have started a probe to ascertain the cause of the accident, which is suspected to be due to the difficult and often dangerous road conditions in the region," the report further revealed.

The accident has cast a pall of gloom over the Kishtwar district, with local residents expressing their condolences to the bereaved family, the report added.



HUB: Residents of Lasbela are holding demonstration in favor Pakistan Army, held in Hub.

## Municipal corporation will bring in-house change in Hub: Mir Ali Hassan Zehri

Independent Report HUB: Nawab Jam Kamal Khan Aliani is very respectable to us and our elder and I have full confidence in his political insight, Nawab Sahib has rendered valuable services to the people of Balochistan, especially the people of Hub and Lasbela, for which I pay tribute.

Federal Minister Nawab Jam Kamal Khan and us are in complete agreement regarding the provision of facilities and long-term development for Hub and Lasbela. These views were expressed by Provincial Advisor for Industries and Crafts of Balochistan Mir Ali Hassan Zehri in Hub after meeting with representatives of Nawab Kamal Khan, while discussing with Kamal Aliani after agreeing on the decision to bring changes in the Municipal Corporation Hub.

He said that there has been an agreement between us for in-house change in the Hub Municipal Corporation and very soon the election of the new chairman and vice chairman will be implemented unanimously through our confidence.

He said that President Asif Ali Zardari Expressing full confidence in both parties, Zardari has allowed in-house change and on his instructions, in-house change is being brought in Hub Municipal Corporation, which will change the destiny of Hub and speedy development and public interests.

He further said that it was decided in the meeting that the Chairman and Vice Chairman will be nominated based on the consensus of President Asif Ali Zardari, Provincial Advisor for Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri and Nawab Jam Kamal Khan Aliani. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that by the grace of Allah, we together with Nawab Jam Kamal Khan will make the Hub Municipal Corporation the best

institution and the best and effective measures will be taken for the rapid development and prosperity of the city. He said that in the past periods, the Municipal Corporation Hub's performance was zero, due to which the people of the hub city were deprived of basic facilities.

Despite the funds of millions of rupees, no development works were done in the hub city and the city turned into ruins. So far, an institution like Municipal Corporation has been used for the personal interests of only a few so-called leaders who have never paid any attention to the city instead of solving the problems of the city, but this will not happen now. Nawab Jam Kamal Khan and we have fully agreed to work together for the development and prosperity of Hub City and for this purpose by utilizing all available resources to make Hub City a modern and well-equipped city.



DALBANDIN: MPA Mir Sadiq Sanjrani, Mir Ijaz Sanjrani and other inaugurating 11 KV-4 line at 33 KV Grid Station Aminabad

## Successful launch of WEI Quetta chapter: a milestone in female empowerment

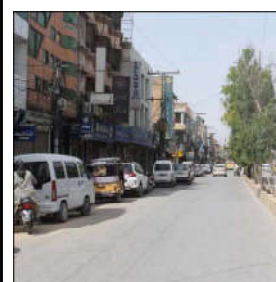
QUETTA (APP): Women in Energy Pakistan (WIE), a leading professional network dedicated to advancing women in the energy, climate, and environmental sectors, on Sunday announced to launch its Quetta Chapter.

The event, held at the Institute for Development Studies and Practices (IDSP) campus, represents a significant step in expanding WIE's reach and impact in Balochistan. Hosted by IDSP, the inception meeting was attended by a distinguished group of professionals and the Future leaders. The event featured a series of insightful presentations and discussions focused on fostering female leadership and promoting career development within the energy sector.

The event included interactive sessions that provided participants with valuable insights into career advancement, networking opportunities, and strategies to increase female representation in the energy sector. These sessions facilitated meaningful discussions and offered practical advice for professional growth. Rabia, Chair of the Women in Energy Quetta Chapter and Senior Research Associate at IDSP, expressed her excitement about the chapter's launch.

Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) teams are working around the clock to ensure swift drainage and mitigate potential flooding, said a news release.

To ensure smooth water flow, teams were instructed to monitor drains and waterways 24/7. Additional staff and machinery were deployed as needed to facilitate the process.



QUETTA: A view of deserted look of the road due to hot weather in Provincial capital.

## Asghar expresses deep concern over human rights violations

By Sardar Khondai CHAMAN: Asghar Khan Achakzai, Provincial President of the Awami National Party (ANP), has strongly condemned the violence against peaceful protests in Pashtun-Baloch regions, terming it "unacceptable". He expressed deep concern over the ongoing unrest, lawlessness, and human rights violations in the region.

ANP to Observe August Martyrs' Day with National Responsibility Achakzai also announced that the ANP would observe August Martyrs' Day with national responsibility, as in previous years.

Achakzai stated that the Pashtun-Baloch nations are being deprived of their right to peaceful protest, and the dignity of the people is being severely injured. He warned that the consequences of such actions would be severe and the responsibility would lie with the state and ruling elite. He made these remarks while addressing the ANP's provincial cabinet meeting at Arbab House. The meeting discussed the country's political situation, particularly the Pashtun-Baloch regions.

Hasan was produced before the court over the completion of his two-day physical remand.

On July 25, a local court in the federal capital approved an extension to PTI leader Raouf Hasan's physical remand.



QUETTA: National Party Central Information Secretary, Aslam Baloch along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, held at Quetta Press Club.

## KP requests PHC CJ to form judicial commission for May 9 probe

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, led by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on Sunday wrote a letter to Peshawar High Court's (PHC) Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim for the constitution of a judicial commission to investigate the May 9 incident.

mission to probe the May 9 events during the meeting presided by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

KP Law Minister Aftab Alam Afridi, while speaking to private TV news channel said: "The letter requesting the establishment of a judicial commission was sent to the chief justice by the administration department."

The PTI had been demanding to hold a judicial inquiry into the May 9 protests which broke out in the country last year over party founder Imran Khan's arrest in the Al-Qadir Trust case.

During the protests, alleged PTI supporters damaged public and private properties and also attacked military installations in different parts of the country.

Afridi said that the chief justice will announce the names for the commission, adding that the judicial commission will be headed by a PHC judge.

In May this year, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan reiterated his party's demand to hold a judicial inquiry into the violence.

A day earlier, the KP cabinet approved the establishment of a judicial commission to probe the violence on that day.

KP CM Gandapur had also demanded to form a judicial commission to probe the violence on that day.



QUETTA: Haq Do Tehreek head & MPA Mulana Hidayat ur Rehman addressing a press conference.

## PkMAP condemns gov't's crackdown on public rallies taken out by BYC

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) has strongly condemned the government's crackdown on the public protests rallies announced by Baloch Yekjehti Committee (BYC), and the arrest and supports all their constitutional and democratic demands.

Balochistan, on political grounds as a constitutional and human tragedy and supports every voice and step taken against it.

He further stated that the current unrest in the province is the result of decades of undemocratic authoritarian attitudes, arbitrary political decisions, and actions, which have become unbearable and are now manifesting as open protests, rallies, and processions on the streets. The statement added that the statement added that the misfortune of this Baloch-Pashtun province is that from the beginning, political issues were attempted to be suppressed by force rather than resolved in a political and democratic manner, which continues to this day. Ironically, in this delicate situation, the central and provincial governments imposed through Form 47.

In the statement issued here on Sunday, the central spokesperson of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Talimand Khan said that peaceful protest, political gatherings, and demonstrations are fundamental constitutional rights of every citizen, and it is the state's duty to listen to them instead of suppressing their voices. The Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party considers the extrajudicial abductions and forced disappearances of citizens, particularly in

Right to self-determination Kashmiris' basic, absolute right: Dr Mushtaq Khan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Kashmiri people, but despite the passage of 77 years, the Kashmiri people are continuing to struggle and making sacrifices for achieving the right to self-determination. He said India has been working with deceit and trickery since the first day. He said that the base camp had also not played the role it should have done while the United Nations also failed to implement its resolutions. Dr Mushtaq said that on August 5, 2019 India attacked the constitutional status of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and abrogated two important articles 370.

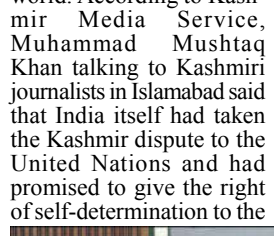
Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dr Muhammad Mushtaq Khan has said that the right to self-determination is the fundamental and absolute right of the Kashmiri people, which has been recognized by the just and democratic circles of the world. According to Kashmir Media Service, Muhammad Mushtaq Khan talking to Kashmiri journalists in Islamabad said that India itself had taken the Kashmir dispute to the United Nations and had promised to give the right of self-determination to

ISLAMABAD (INP): A local court in Islamabad has extended the physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson Raouf Hasan by two more days. As per details, the duty judge Murid Abbas announced the reserved verdict and handed over Raouf Hasan to FIA on a two-day physical remand.

Hasan was produced before the court over the completion of his two-day physical remand.

On July 25, a local court in the federal capital approved an extension to PTI leader Raouf Hasan's physical remand.

Hasan was produced before the court over the completion of his two-day physical remand.



QUETTA: National Party Central Information Secretary, Aslam Baloch along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, held at Quetta Press Club.

## Demands release of arrested persons: National Party supports BYC's protest demos, demands, says central Secretary Information

Independent Report QUETTA: The central Secretary Information of National Party (NP), Aslam Baloch has stated that the party supports the protest demonstration, public meetings and demands made by the Baloch Yekjehti Committee (BYC).

He was addressing the press conference at Quetta Press Club on Sunday. Other leaders of National Party and its MPA Ms. Kalsoom Niaz were also present on the occasion.

The Secretary Information NP said that we were also with the BYC and would also remain with it

in future. He demanded of the government to meet the demands of BYC.

He said that there is disturbance in the province for last one week and added that the present "non-political and non-serious" government is responsible for the situation created. He charged that the people who are part of the government are going to take advantage of the situation.

He said that the "puppet" government has been imposed on us through Form 47. He said that no one would give weightage to these people if there was political freedom, peace and

development in the province. He said that it is strange that the government has itself blocked different roads in the province for last couple of days.

He said that a peaceful public meeting was scheduled in Gwadar, but the government closed the roads by not allowing the people to participate in it.

He claimed that over 300 persons have been arrested under 16 MPO during last two days. He demanded of the government to release all the arrested all the arrested persons and recover the missing ones immediately.

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