

# Independent

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## Haniyeh's martyrdom in Tehran a flagrant violation of International laws: PM Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday strongly denounced the attack that led to martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, chief of Hamas Political Bureau, in Tehran, terming it a barbaric act that was a flagrant violation of international laws and rules. The extrajudicial assassination, he said, had sparked widespread condemnation across the world including Pakistan, Türkiye, Russia, Iran, China and Malaysia which had denounced the attack in the strongest words.

Ismail Haniyeh's children and grandchildren had also been ruthlessly martyred, he added. The prime minister was chairing a meeting on the situation of Palestine which was attended by the parliamentarians representing the government's allied political parties. Shehbaz Sharif said that the bloodshed in Palestine continued for last nine months claiming lives of many innocent Palestinians everyday. Over 40,000 Palestinians including thousands of children had been martyred till date. "The world is silent over this barbarism," he said. "Such terrorism and extremism is highly condemnable."

The prime minister said Netanyahu was out to destroy Palestine. Despite clear verdicts of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and resolutions of the United Nations, Israel could not be stopped from its barbaric acts.

He expressed gratitude to the countries from the West such as Ireland and Spain who had openly supported the Palestinian cause and its two-state resolution.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a consultative meeting of Allied Parties regarding deteriorating situation in Palestine.

## Govt, allied parties urge world to address genocide of Palestinians

Nation to observe day of mourning today to show solidarity with Palestinians; Funeral prayers in absentia after Friday prayer; special resolution in parliament to express solidarity with Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government allied parties on Thursday decided that the nation would observe a day of mourning across the country on August 2 (Friday) in solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters and to condemn the Israeli state-sponsored terrorism in Palestine.

A consultative meeting of the allied parties on the deteriorating situation in Palestine, in a joint declaration, also announced that the funeral prayer in absentia for Ismail Haniyeh, chief of Hamas Political Bureau, who was assassinated in Tehran on Wednesday, would be offered by the nation after Friday prayers.

The meeting, which was presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, also decided to present a resolution in the Parliament to express full solidarity with the people of Palestine.

The participants of the meeting strongly condemned the ongoing Israeli brutalities in Palestine for last nine months, and expressed full solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters.

They also expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

They were of the view that the Hamas leader's assassination incident was a conspiracy to sabotage the efforts to get stopped the

ongoing Israeli atrocities on the Palestinians and establish peace in the region. Such incidents destroyed the world peace.

The prime minister termed the ongoing Israeli state-sponsored terrorism in Palestine a tragedy for the Muslim Ummah.

The meeting demanded to ensure immediate provision of humanitarian aid to the unarmed Palestinians.

It was decided that Pakistan would continue to provide relief goods, besides taking effective measures for the medical assistance of the oppressed Palestinian brothers and sisters. It was further decided that the injured Palestinians would be brought to Pakistan for treatment.

The meeting also decided that Palestinian medical students would be admitted to medical colleges in Pakistan with financial support to continue their education.

The participants were of the view that with the ongoing genocide and state-sponsored terrorism in Palestine, Israel was violating the resolutions of the United Nations, the decisions of the International Court of Justice and international laws, while the world community remained a silent spectator.

They asked the international community to adopt a clear stand against the Israeli brutalities, as otherwise it would be a question mark against vi-

ability of international laws and institutions for future generations.

The meeting also urged the international community, including the United Nations to break their silence and immediately get stopped the ongoing genocide of the oppressed Palestinians by the Zionist forces and bring Israel to justice for war crimes.

Leaders and senior representatives of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Pakistan Muslim League-Q, Pakistan Muslim League Zia and National Party attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari speaking to a delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry, comprising of businessmen and office-bearers of 40 regional business associations, led by Gohar Ejaz, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President for viable solution to rising energy costs

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for finding a win-win solution to address the issue of rising energy costs in the country. He proposed that the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) should form a committee and work with the President's office to develop a viable solution to the issue of paying capacity charges to Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

The President gave these remarks while talking to a delegation of FPCCI comprising of businessmen and office-bearers of 40 regional business associations, led by Dr Gohar Ejaz, at Aiwan-e-Sadr today.

Talking to the delegation, the President announced that the President's office would collaborate with a smaller committee from the business community to find a win-win solution for the Government, the people, the business community and IPPs. He urged the for evolving a consensus solution so that none of stakeholders lose out. He said that he was aware of the problems being faced by Pakistani businesses, that were in "triple-whammy" due to high input, energy, and fuel costs.

## PM reaffirms Govt's desire to work with Commonwealth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland, leading a five-member delegation, met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House on Thursday. The prime minister welcomed Secretary-General Scotland on her first official visit to Pakistan. Appreciating the Commonwealth's consistent support for Pakistan's socio-economic and democratic institutions, the prime minister reaffirmed the government's desire to work with the Commonwealth on issues of common interest, particularly on youth empowerment, good governance and climate change.

Noting that young people below the age of 30 accounted for two-thirds of Pakistan's population, the prime minister said that providing modern education and technical training to the youth was one of the government's highest priorities. He highlighted the various initiatives taken by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and reiterated the government's commitment to working with the CW to help Pakistan's youth by enhancing access and opportunities for them in today's high-tech global economy.



ISLAMABAD: Provincial Minister for Education Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani in a group photo with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and others participants on the eve of inaugural ceremony of "she power" project at Chinese Embassy.

## 28 die as rains batter several parts of KP, Punjab

24 dead in rain-related incidents across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; At least four killed, seven wounded as rain breaks 44-year record in Lahore

PESHAWAR (INP): At least 24 people have been killed and 17 others injured in different rain-related incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last three days.

According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority, 73 houses were completely damaged while 71 were partially damaged due to rains in Kohat, Peshawar, DI Khan, Hazara and Malakand divisions.

Flash floods and house collapses were also reported in Hangu, Haripur, Mansehra, Lower Dir, Charsadda, Mohmand, Bajaur, and Abbottabad. The report added that landslides were also reported in Abbottabad.

Meanwhile at least four citizens, including a girl, lost their lives and 7 others were wounded in separate incidents of electrocution and roof collapse after Lahore was hit by heavy monsoon rainfalls that broke a 44-year record on Thursday.

The second-largest city of Pakistan was lashed by almost 360 millimetres of rain which flooded hospitals, interrupted power and submerged streets in the metropolis home to 13 million, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said.

Today's rain broke a previous record of 332 millimetres over three hours in July 1980.

The heavy downpours

resulted in several casualties and damages to the properties and paralyzing infrastructure in different parts of the provincial capital.

A youth was electrocuted near an electricity pole in Nishat Colony, whereas, a 14-year-old boy was drowned in rainwater in Kot Lakhpat area, rescue officials told Geo News. Moreover, another man was killed by electrocution due to an exposed wire in Defence Phase VII.

A girl was killed and five others sustained injuries in a roof collapse incident at a house in Nishat Colony. In another incident, a wooden roof collapsed near Shaukat Khanum Chowk, leaving two citizens wounded.

## Govt negotiators have no answer to our questions: Hafiz

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz Naem has said that the government negotiators have no answer to our questions. Talking to media Hafiz Naem ur Rehman said the government should receive the price of the electricity not additional taxes. "The people are paying price of the contracts made by the government". "We have asked them to show us the agreements with the



RAWALPINDI: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman addressing a press conference in Liaquat Bagh sit-in in the city.

IPPs", he said. "We will not lift the burden of the incompetence of the government," JI leader said. "The rulers should surrender their luxuries, free petrol and free electricity," JI chief demanded.

"If anyone want to drive car, run his own private car. The nation will not pay for carrying your children to school and shopping of your wife," he said.

Hafiz Naem said, they have hiked their administrative expenses by 25 percent while the salaried class being overburdened, which has already paid billions in taxes. "Taxes not being imposed over the feudal. They don't pay sugarcane price to farmer and mint money by creating sugar crisis."

Hafiz Naem said.

He said, these people running governments since 1994. "The IPPs business was also launched in 1994," he said. He demanded to cancel contracts of the local IPPs after forensic audit. "The government people saying that the proposals are good but unacceptable," he said.

He alleged of 1,000 billion corruption within the FBR. "The officers should be given cars not above than 1300 CC, it is not a big deal, but they don't prepare to accept it," JI leader said. "What happen if they will surrender 3000 to 4000 CC cars", he questioned.

## PTI allowed to hold power show in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): The district administration has allowed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold power show in Islamabad on August 22.

As per details, the state counsel informed Islamabad High Court regarding the permission of a public gathering in the federal capital.

The development came after a contempt plea was filed in Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the suspension of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Islamabad power show.

The plea was filed by the Coordinator of Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Aein Khanzaada Hussain against the suspension of the NOC for Tarnol Jalsa.

The petition urged the court to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the officials as the NOC was cancelled despite the court order.

According to the petition, the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad on July 4 had informed the court that an NOC was issued to PTI.

Later when the PTI leader Amir Mughal was taking the officials to the power show site, he was arrested by police outside the DC Office, the petitioner added.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary-General Commonwealth Patricia Scotland calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## As part of reform agenda, privatization process of DISCOs has begun: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said, as part of the present government's reform agenda, the process of privatization of DISCOs has been started after an amendment in the State Owned Enterprises Act.

Addressing a press conference along with Muttahida Qaumi Movement leader Mustafa Kamal here Thursday, the information minister said that he pointed out that inefficiency and corruption of DISCOs span over several decades. Therefore, he said it was decided to bring competent and professional people from the private sector to run the DISCOs free from any political interference.

He said a delegation of MQM Pakistan comprising Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Mustafa



LAHORE: Rescue crew pushes a stuck car from the floodwaters after a drain system failure during historic rains that break a 44-year record in Provincial Capital.



**Syed Najmi Alam says Livestock deptt should take all possible steps to timely vaccinate animals of cattle owners of Sindh**

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Advisor to Chief Minister of Sindh on Livestock and Fisheries Syed Najmi Alam has said that the raiding team conducts raids twice a month through its campaign to catch illegal nets from all the coastal areas of Sindh. However, the Livestock Department should take all possible steps to timely vaccinate the animals of cattle owners of Sindh. He expressed this while presiding over two separate high-level meetings of the Marine Fisheries and Livestock Department in his office on Thursday.

In meeting Secretary Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Kazim Hussain Jatui, Director General Marine Fisher-

ies Dr. Ali Muhammad Mastoi, Director Marine Dr. Asim Karim, Director Red Farm Khaliq Ahmad Soomro, Director Coastal Fisheries Ijaz Ahmed Memon, Managing Director Karachi Fish Harbor Safdar Hussain Rizvi, Director General Livestock Sindh Dr. Hizbullah Bhutto, Director General of Sindh Institute of Animal Health Dr. Nazir Hussain Kalhor, Director General Poultry Production Dr. Manoor Hussain Rana, Director Livestock Animal Breeding Dr. Naubat Khan Khoso, Director Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CVDL) Tando Jam Dr. Madan Lal, Director Poultry Dr. Kabir Ahmed and Project Director Dr. Shah Murad Rand participated.



**FAISALABAD:** People are carrying coffin of stage actor late Sardar Kamal after offering funeral prayers in the city.

**22 brands of mineral water declared harmful for human consumption**

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: As many as 22 brands of mineral water have been declared harmful for human consumption. Among the mineral waters which have been declared harmful for human consumption are Fiji, BRO-H 20, Koh Noor, Rayaal Silver, Smart, Aqua Qismat, Asha Premium, Drinking Water, Buxton, Cliff Water, Health Drinking Water, Crystal Pure Life, Dream Pure, Neo Health Drinking Water, Oriaf, Faraz Water, Premium Safa, Pure Refined Water, Smart Indus Pure

Water, Splash Water, Still, Starlite Water, Vivo Water Plus Premium Drinking and Masafi. Director General Sindh Food Authority Muzamil Hussain Halepoto has directed the management of the said mineral water to withdraw their products from the market within seven days. He said that action would be taken under the Sindh Food Authority Act against those who didn't follow the orders of Sindh Food Authority. He said that no one would be allowed to play with the health of the people.



**PESHAWAR:** Opposition members and MPAs KP Assembly are participating in the dinner hosted by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

**Governor KP expresses concern over worsen law and order situation, developmental schemes in province**

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi has expressed concern over the worsening law and order situation and neglected developmental schemes in the province.

The Governor hosted a dinner in honor of the opposition members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly at the Governor's House on Wednesday night.

The dinner was

attended by key opposition members including Dr. Ibadullah, Leader of the Opposition in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Parliamentary leader of PPP Ahmed Karim Kundi, Arbab Usman of ANP, Malik Tariq Awan of PML-N, Rehana Ismail of JUI-F and others.

During the event, the discussions focused on the current political, economic, and law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Opposition members expressed grave concerns over the deteriorating security situation in the province, highlighting the recent incidents of terrorism, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, and general unrest in Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan and the merged district of Kurram Parachinar. They voiced their disappointment that the provincial government

**3 people die, seven injured in rain-related incidents**

**LAHORE (APP):** Heavy rain in several parts of the provincial capital on Thursday resulted in loss of three lives and injuries to seven people.

According to a Rescue-1122 spokesman, the roof of a house in a suburban village near Baba Bulleh Shah Interchange at Gajjumata Lahore collapsed, which resulted in one death and injuries to five people.

Another roof collapsed at Shaukat Khanum Chowk, in which two people suffered injuries.

**C&W staff put on high alert during rains: Bharth**

**LAHORE (APP):** The Punjab government has put all the field formation of Communication and Works (C&W) Department on high alert during the rains with an aim to avert any difficult situation by storm water. The engineering and field staff under the supervision of executive engineers remained in the field while visiting the important roads, public buildings, particularly hospitals in Lahore and across the province.

The Minister for Communication and Works Sohaib Ahmad Bharth, after Thursday rain, visited various parts of the city and inspected the water disposal operations. He issued instructions to the officers of C & W to visit all hospitals of the province specifically of Lahore and check their rooftop, emergencies and wards to estimate the affected portions of the buildings. Moreover, the minister directed the staff to ensure the timely repair of affected portions of roads.

He also directed officers to submit their detailed reports in regard with effects of rain to the public buildings.

**Minister welcomes WHO collaboration on health initiatives**

**LAHORE (APP):** Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has expressed gratitude for the ongoing collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) on various health projects.

The minister made these remarks during a meeting with a WHO delegation at the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) on Thursday.

Highlighting the provincial government's commitment to enhancing healthcare services, the minister stated, "Under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, we are striving to provide better health facilities to the people." He emphasized that raising public awareness is crucial for significantly reducing the prevalence of hepatitis in Punjab. "Teamwork is essential to achieve positive outcomes from our policies, and improving the health system is our top priority," he added. He also mentioned that the scope of hepatitis screening has been expanded throughout the province.

He noted the growing challenge of controlling Pakistan's population and stressed the importance of intensifying screenings for Hepatitis B and C. Dr. Meg Darthy, HIV Global Director from WHO, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to supporting the Punjab Health Department.



**PESHAWAR:** UNICEF Chief Field Officer Mr. Radolslaw Rzehak giving shield to a participant during the Launching ceremony of Global Breastfeeding Month at a local hotel in Provincial Capital city.

**CS inspects drainage work during heavy rain**

**LAHORE (APP):** During the heavy rainfall, Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman visited different areas of the city including Services Hospital, Lakshmi Chowk, Qartaba Chowk, Circular Road and other major points. He directed that special measures should be taken for smooth flow of traffic during the rains. He asked the administrative officers to remain in the field and check the underpasses and disposal stations. He said that the relevant departments should be on alert to deal with any situation due to rain. Commissioner Lahore.

of water from the hospital. He also inspected the situation caused by the downpour on Lakshmi Chowk, Qartaba Chowk, Railway Road, Circular Road and other major points. He directed that special measures should be taken for smooth flow of traffic during the rains. He asked the administrative officers to remain in the field and check the underpasses and disposal stations. He said that the relevant departments should be on alert to deal with any situation due to rain. Commissioner Lahore.

**International News**

**Calls for revenge at Iran funeral for Hamas chief Haniyeh**

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iran held funeral processions on Thursday amidst calls for revenge after the killing of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in a strike in Tehran blamed on Israel.

The Islamic Republic's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led prayers for Haniyeh ahead of his burial in Qatar, having earlier threatened a "harsh punishment" for his killing. In Tehran's city centre, thousands of mourning crowds carrying posters of Haniyeh and Palestinian flags gathered for the ceremony at Tehran University before a procession, according to an AFP correspondent.

Haniyeh's death was announced the day before by Iran's Revolutionary Guards, who said he and his bodyguard were killed in a strike on their accommodation in the Iranian capital at 2am on Wednesday. It came just hours after Israel targeted and killed top Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukri in a retaliatory strike on the Lebanese capital Beirut, sending fears of a wider regional conflict soaring in the fallout from the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza. Israel has declined to comment on the Tehran strike.

Iran's state TV showed the coffins of Haniyeh and his bodyguards covered in Palestinian flags during the ceremony attended by senior Iranian officials. President Masoud Pezeshkian and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps chief, General Hossein Salami, were present.

Haniyeh had been visiting Tehran for Pezeshkian's inauguration ceremony on Tuesday.

Senior Hamas figure Khalil al-Hayya, the movement's foreign relations chief, vowed during the funeral ceremony that "Ismail Haniyeh's slogan, 'We will not recognise Israel', will remain an immortal slogan" and "we will pursue Israel until it is uprooted from the land of Palestine".

Iran's conservative parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Iran "will certainly carry out the supreme leader's order [to avenge Haniyeh]". "It is our duty to respond at the right time and in the right place," he said in a speech with crowds chanting "Death to Israel, Death to America!"

The caskets, with a black-and-white pattern resembling a Palestinian keffiyeh scarf, were borne on a flower-bedecked truck through leafy streets where cooling water mists sprayed the flag-waving crowds.

Khamenei, who has the final say in Iran's political affairs, said after Haniyeh's death that it was "our duty to seek revenge for his blood as he was martyred in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran".



**Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei performs prayer at the funeral of assassinated Hamas chief, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran, Iran.**

**Trump attacks Harris' racial identity, says she opted to 'turn Black'**

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump suggested on Wednesday that Vice President Kamala Harris had decided to "turn Black" for political gain, as he attacked his Democratic White House rival during a combative interaction with African American journalists in Chicago.

The Republican former president's inflammatory comments marked an escalation of the 78-year-old's vitriol against Harris, whom he falsely accused of having identified as Indian but then, "all of a sudden, she made a turn, and she became a Black person".

Harris, 59, has long identified as Black and graduated from a historically Black university.

"So I don't know, is she Indian or is she Black?" asked Trump during a heated interview at the National Association of Black Journalists conference.

Harris later denounced the attacks as "the same old show" of "the divisiveness and the disrespect" from Trump.

The combative remarks by Trump, who has been eager to improve his performance with Black voters, are likely to send shockwaves through the 2024 White House contest.

They come as the former president, convicted two months ago of felony fraud related to hush money payments to a porn star, struggles to formulate a new strategy less than 100 days before the election.

Later on Wednesday, he held a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, a battleground state where he narrowly survived an assassination attempt earlier this month, and continued the verbal assault on his rival.

**Protesters in Nigeria demonstrate over high cost of living**

**Monitoring Desk**  
ABUJA: Police fired tear gas to disperse crowds of protesters in Nigeria's capital city Abuja on Thursday, as thousands rallied against escalating cost of living and governance issues in Africa's most populous nation, according to eyewitness accounts.

Protesters demonstrated in Abuja, the commercial capital Lagos and several other cities to show discontent with economic reforms that have led to rampant inflation and inflicted increasing hardship on ordinary Nigerians. President Bola Tinubu has vowed to pursue the changes that he says are needed to keep the country afloat.

Authorities deployed armed security personnel in an effort to preempt potential violence.

In Lagos, armed police watched as protesters marched towards the government house and then proceeded to two locations that were authorised for the protest.

Some shopping malls in the city were shut and guarded by a heavy police presence.

Inspired by protests in Kenya in June that led to the government there scrapping some planned tax increases, Nigerians are mobilizing online to demand the reinstatement of subsidies for petrol and electricity, free primary and secondary education and measures to combat insecurity, among other demands.

In Abuja, the military mounted roadblocks along the highway leading into town, while some protesters gathered at a stadium.

**Ukraine receives first F-16 fighter jets to bolster defenses against Russia, officials tell AP**

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Ukraine has received the first F-16 fighter jets that it has sought for months to fight back against an onslaught of Russian missile strikes, a U.S. official confirmed to The Associated Press.

A Ukrainian lawmaker also confirmed Ukraine had received a small number of F-16 fighter jets. The two officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not permitted to speak on the subject publicly. Ukraine has been pushing its Western allies for F-16s for Ukraine for months, saying they were critically needed to fight back against the onslaught of missiles Russia has fired against it. The F-16 is specialized in suppressing enemy air defenses.

**South Korea offers humanitarian aid to flood-hit North Korea**

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: South Korea on Thursday offered to send aid supplies to North Korea to help the country recover from heavy rains and floods that submerged thousands of homes and huge swaths of farmland.

It's unclear whether North Korea would accept South Korea's proposal for help. Antipathy between the war-divided rivals is at its highest in years over the North's growing nuclear ambitions and the South's expansion of combined military exercises with the United States and Japan to counter the North's threats.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said the South was willing to swiftly provide supplies to address the "humanitarian difficulties" facing North Korean residents following the recent storms. The ministry in a statement urged North Korea's Red Cross to promptly respond to its calls for discussions to determine the types and amounts of South Korean supplies and how to deliver them.

**Palestinians detained by Israel subjected to 'torture', says UN**

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: Palestinians detained by Israel during the Gaza conflict have largely been held in secret and in some cases subjected to treatment that may amount to torture, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

Since the October 7 Hamas attacks, thousands of Palestinians — including medics, patients, residents and captured fighters — have been taken from Gaza to Israel, "usually shackled and blindfolded", the OHCHR UN human rights office said in a report. Thousands more have been detained in the West Bank and Israel, it added.

"They have generally been held in secret, without being given a reason for their detention, access to a lawyer or effective judicial review," OHCHR said.

The report was released the day after Israel's military police questioned soldiers arrested on suspicion of sexually abusing a Palestinian detainee. At least 53 detainees from Gaza and the West Bank have died in Israeli detention since the Gaza conflict began, the report found.

Testimonies for the report suggested that Israel had subjected prisoners to "a range of appalling acts, such as waterboarding and the release of dogs on detainees", UN rights chief Volker Turk said.

The report covers October 7 to June 30. It relies primarily on information gathered through interviews with released Palestinian detainees and other victims and witnesses of violations, OHCHR said. The report said there were "reasonable grounds to believe" that since October 7, Israel and Palestinian armed groups had "committed gross violations and abuses."

**Khaled Meshaal, who survived Israeli assassination attempt, tipped to succeed Haniyeh**

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Khaled Meshaal, tipped to be the new Hamas leader, became known around the world in 1997 after Israeli agents injected him with poison in a botched assassination attempt on a street outside his office in Amman, the Jordanian capital. The hit against a senior figure of the Palestinian group, ordered by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, so enraged Jordan's then-King Hussein that he spoke of hanging the would-be killers and scrapping Jordan's peace treaty with Israel unless the antidote was handed over. Israel did so, and also agreed to free Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, only to assassinate him seven years later in Gaza. Meshaal, 68, became Hamas's political leader in exile the year before Israel tried to eliminate him, a position that enabled him to represent the Palestinian group at meetings with governments around the world.

**UN gravely concerned over Israeli attack on Beirut**

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: The UN expressed "grave concern" on Tuesday over an Israeli strike on a densely populated suburb of the Lebanese capital Beirut that killed at least three people and injured 74 others. "As we await further clarity on the circumstances, we again urge the parties to exercise maximum restraint and call on all concerned to avoid any further escalation," Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, said in a statement. "All parties must comply with their obligations under international law."

# PM Sharif vows to revamp Pakistan's economy by emulating Chinese model

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday pledged to revamp Pakistan's economy by emulating China's model, with the objective of achieving similar economic success on a smaller scale.

Speaking to a 12-member Chinese delegation led by Wang Fukang, the prime minister said that during his recent visit to China, he requested President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang to send experts to Pakistan. "The goal is to model Pakistan's economy after China's. Today, these experts are here, and we're confident that progress will follow soon."

Welcoming the delegation by emphasizing that China and Pakistan were eternal friends, with a friendship that knew no bounds, he emphasized that

industrial cooperation was crucial at this time and expressed hope that it could be shifted to Pakistan. He believes that joint ventures and cooperation would create a win-win situation. He said the delegation's visit was highly reassuring, and expressed hope that it would be both useful and productive for Pakistan.

He anticipated that it would enhance bilateral arrangements in areas such as industry, agriculture, economic zones, and help increase Pakistan's capacity to produce agricultural items in high demand in China. He noted that Pakistan could meet Chinese requirements by exporting high-quality goods and exploring opportunities in mining and minerals, IT, and export zones. He also suggested relocating certain industries to Pakistan due to China's shift towards more ad-

vanced and sophisticated industrial ventures.

He stated that the federal cabinet has decided to offer free visas to Chinese citizens starting August 14, demonstrating Pakistan's commitment. He emphasized that Sino-Pak relations were higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans.

The delegation, comprising representatives from 10 different Chinese ministries, was visiting Pakistan to enhance cooperation across various sectors. They will provide input on Chinese investment, the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and boosting Pakistani exports. Additionally, they will review and offer recommendations on IT, agriculture, industry, investment, energy, minerals, special economic zones, and communication.



A high level delegation of Chinese experts calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

## UAE envoy calls on Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi called on Minister for Defence and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Thursday.

The Minister lauded the vision and efforts of President and Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan for development and transformation of UAE, a news release said. Khawaja Muhammad

Asif said: "Pakistani Nationals are playing a productive role in various fields for the progress of UAE. Pakistan will continue to extend its support for UAE in civil and defence sectors."

He expressed that there was a lot of potential of cooperation between Armed Forces for enhancement of existing cooperation. Matters pertaining to commercial/civil aviation sector of Pakistan and UAE were also discussed for enhancing scope in aviation sector between both countries.

## Pakistan urges Afghanistan to ensure their land isn't used for terrorist activities

ISLAMABAD (Online): Foreign Office says the latest UN Security Council report endorses Pakistan's view that Afghanistan has hideouts and sanctuaries for terrorist groups including "Fitna al-Khawarij", the banned TTP.

At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad today, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the report contains the view that the TTP could transform into an extra regional threat as well as umbrella organization of other terror groups.

Mumtaz Zahra

Baloch urged Afghanistan to take immediate, effective and robust action against the terrorist groups including Fitna al-Khawarij. She said the Afghan side should ensure that their land is not used for terrorist activities inside Pakistan.

Referring to the killing of Chief of the Political Bureau of Hamas Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, she said targeting individuals inside sovereign states is a violation of international law and global norms. Such acts carry the seeds of further escalation.

She said it is yet another demonstration of indiscriminate and disproportionate Israeli aggression that has continued unabated to the detriment of regional and global peace and security.

The spokesperson said Israel must be held accountable for its transgressions and actions. She said Israel's extra-territorial acts have endangered regional security. She urged the backers of Israel to prevail on Israel to end its unlawful military operations in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries in the region.

other demonstration of indiscriminate and disproportionate Israeli aggression that has continued unabated to the detriment of regional and global peace and security.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner and others cuts the cake during 733rd National Day of Switzerland, at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

## CDA Chairman Danish Envoy discuss Islamabad's development, environmental initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): A meeting was held between Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jakob Linulf on Thursday to discuss various projects aimed at making Islamabad a modern city.

Chairman Randhawa highlighted the launch of new projects and initiatives taken to make CDA a dynamic institution.

He emphasized the

efforts to transform Islamabad into a model city, with a focus on environmental sustainability.

Ambassador Linulf commended the environment-friendly initiatives undertaken by Chairman Randhawa, particularly the Climate Change Fund and Margalla Hills Fund.

He expressed his support for these initiatives, stating that they will play a crucial role in protecting Islamabad's natural environment.

The meeting also touched upon solid waste management, with Chairman Randhawa expressing interest in utilizing Denmark's expertise in this area.

Furthermore, Chairman Randhawa extended an invitation to Ambassador Linulf to participate in the Margalla Hills plantation drive, which the ambassador gladly accepted.

The drive is expected to receive overwhelming participation.

## Court grants post-arrest bail to Rauf Hassan in PECA case

ISLAMABAD (APP): A lower court on Thursday granted Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI)'s Secretary Information Rauf Hassan and others post-arrest bail in case registered under Prevention of Electronic Crime Act (PECA). The court accepted the bails against surety bonds worth Rs50,000 each.

Duty Magistrate Abbas Shah heard the post-arrest bail petitions of the accused. Petitioner's Lawyer Ali Bokhari Advocate argued that on the statement of Ahmed Waqas Janjua an FIR is registered against Rauf Hassan. He said that eight accused were named in the case who have no connection with his client.

## Former Info Secretary Ismail Patel passes away

KARACHI (APP): Ismail Patel, a former Information Secretary who served in senior government positions, passed away in Karachi on Thursday after prolonged illness. He was 74. Patel was buried in a graveyard of the Defence Housing Society.

He leaves behind his wife, Anjum and a brother, Ibrahim, to mourn. Patel, who was from the first CSS batch of the Information Service, had a distinguished career, including as press officer at the Pakistan Mission to the United Nations in New York in early 80s.



ISLAMABAD: Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President ECO Science Foundation called on the Federal Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

## Sahibzad Khan says: High flood situation can occur in Chenab River, if rainfall continues at same pace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Mahr Sahibzad Khan Thursday revealed that the high flood situation can occur in Chenab River during this monsoon season, if the rain continues with the same pace. "The PMD is closely monitoring the water levels in the reservoirs and sending timely information to all the concerned authorities to take precautionary measures for avoiding any untoward situation", the Director General said during a press conference held here.

Briefing about the current situation of reservoirs, Sahibzad Khan said that the current level of water in Tarbela is 1526.89 ft while the maximum conservation level is 1550.00 ft.

The current water level in Mangla is 1202.15

ft out of the total conservation level of 1242.00 while in Rawal Dam, the current water level is 1739.00 ft and the maximum conservation level is 1752.00 ft.

In Simly Dam, the current water level is 2277.5 ft out of the total conservation level of 2315.00 ft while in Khanpur Dam, the water level is 1942.4 ft and the maximum conservation level is 1982.00 ft.

The Director General indicated fewer chances of floods considering the overall rainfall situation so far however, he said, the high flood situation can be developed in Chenab river, if rain continues with same intensity.

He said that after the rain spell of Aug 01-06, there are chances of another rain spell August 07-15 about which the PMD will issue an advisory.

## FGEHA, SCBAP, and DHA signs MoU for Park Road Housing Project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and Defense Housing Authority (DHA) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the development of Park Road Housing Project.

Federal Ministers Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar (Law and Justice), Riaz Hussain Pirzada (Housing and Works), and Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi (Interior) attended the MoU signing ceremony.

This initiative underscores the government's commitment to the welfare of lawyers, said a press release. During the event, the secretary and president of SCBA praised the Law and Interior Ministers for their supportive roles.

Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi assured full cooperation from the government.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Housing and Works and DHA authorities for their support.

## AIOU to begin admissions in BA, B.Ed. from Sept. 1

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will open admissions for its Teacher Training Programs, including the 1.5-year, 2.5-year, and 4-year B.Ed programs, starting September 1st.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan while addressing climate change symposium at PIPS.

## Rubina emphasizes zero tolerance against misbehavior with women beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid during her visit to the Peshawar Tehsil Office on Thursday emphasized that there will be zero tolerance against any misbehavior with the women beneficiaries.

Highlighting the transparency measures in place, she noted that BISP payment centers were set up following instructions from President Asif Ali Zardari.

Rubina Khalid also announced that President Asif Ali Zardari directed the opening of bank accounts for deserving women to streamline their access to stipends. Stressing the importance of skill development and technical education, she stated, "Empowering women with skills and technical education is crucial for their economic independence and the overall development of our society."

led to the establishment of BISP.

"The program was founded by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto while she was in exile in Dubai and was implemented by President Asif Ali Zardari in 2008," she recounted.

The purpose of the visit was to monitor the arrangements at the office and review the facilities provided for the deserving women receiving Kafalat and educational stipends. Rubina Khalid engaged with the beneficiaries, listened to their issues, and provided guidance, particularly to the needy and elderly women in the program.

In her conversation with the media, Senator Rubina Khalid reflected on the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for the welfare of poor women in Pakistan, which



ISLAMABAD: People gathered around loading pickup van after a road accident at Islamabad Highway in the Federal Capital.

## Forging Global Partnerships: Strategic Deliberations from the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Foreign Affairs convened today at the Parliament House in Islamabad, engaging in a comprehensive session to discuss and strategize Pakistan's foreign relations. The meeting provided an extensive overview by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Pakistan's current diplomatic standing and future outlook with several key regions, including Russia and Europe, the Middle

East, Turkey, and the Central Asian countries.

The committee delved into the evolving geopolitical landscape with emphasis on enhancing trade relations and people-to-people contact in the said regions. Discussions highlighted Pakistan's strategic and economic interests in the Middle East, particularly with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The session also explored the

potential for enhancing trade cooperation with Turkey and the Central Asian Republics. While the briefing on Africa and South America was deferred, the committee acknowledged the need for a focused diplomatic strategy for these growing regions.

Key recommendations from the committee included increasing Pakistani scholarships in European countries, addressing internal processes to curb illegal emigration.

## Support needy students Edu Ministry to start remedial classes on every Saturday

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has decided to introduce remedial classes on every Saturday to support students who need extra help in language and numeracy skills.

According to the Education Ministry, this initiative aims to provide additional support to students who require it, ensuring they can catch up with their peers and excel in their studies.

Sharing the key details of the initiative, the ministry said that two classes will be conducted each Saturday to focus on language and numeracy skills.

However, the initiative would provide targeted support for students who need extra help.

The objective of these remedial classes is to provide a supportive environment where students can improve their language and numeracy skills, building a strong foundation for future success.

The benefits of the initiative is to personalize attention and support for students who need it most. It will also improve language and numeracy skills and enhance academic performance and confidence.

## Deadline extended for admissions at IUI

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Islamic University, Islamabad (IUI) has announced an extension to the application deadline for its fall semester admissions till Monday, 12th August 2024.

According to the IUI, the extension covers all MS and PhD programs, while BS programs in the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, BS English, BS Psychology, LLB and BS International Relations are not included in the extended date. The applicants of the rest of the BS programs may apply for admission till Monday, 12th August 2024.

Prospective students can find details on the offered programs, eligibility criteria, and fee structure on the university's website, cms.iui.edu.pk. For queries, male applicants can contact on WhatsApp number 0319-5213192, while female applicants can contact on 0319-5213193.

## IRSA releases 412,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 412,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 523,400 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1530.00 feet and was 132.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 318,000 cusecs and 236,900 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1203.05 feet, which was 155.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 39,700 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded.



ISLAMABAD Ayub Jamali Director General of PNCA visiting AN exhibition was recently held under the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) to mark the completion of a six-month calligraphy course.

## FOSPAAH striving for gender equality, human dignity: Fauzia Viqar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection against Harassment (FOSPAAH) Fauzia Viqar on Thursday underlined efforts to create a Pakistan, built on the ideals of gender equality and human dignity.

Ms. Fauzia Viqar held an interactive meeting with mediapersons covering the Islamabad High Court at the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection against Harassment (FOSPAAH), said a press release.

The meeting was also attended by Rehman Shehzad, Registrar FOSPAAH and Ms. Meher Jamy, Law Officer FOSPAAH.

During the meeting Ms. Viqar elaborated upon the need for an institution like FOSPAAH in the coun-

try where only 23% of women were in the workplace and therefore required increased protection.

Additionally, Ms. Jamy explained the mandate of FOSPAAH, namely, eliminating workplace harassment and securing the property rights of women while Shehzad informed the attendees about the implementation powers of FOSPAAH.

The media participants raised many pertinent questions about the workings of FOSPAAH such as inquiring about the number of complaints received so far by transgendered persons, the availability of a mobile application to facilitate parties and the level of cooperation between FOSPAAH and other women-centric bodies.