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Voice of masses

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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing a ceremony held in collection with Youm-e-Shuhadae-Police at Central Police Office

Fast-paced work in progress on second phase of CPEC: PM

Says no compromise on security of Chinese workers

LAHORE (APP): Prime Association. Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said that work was progressing fast on the second phase of China Pakistan Économic Corridor (CPEC) and there was positive momentum on further promotion of cooperation with China in different fields during visit of Chinese experts to Paki-

The prime minister was speaking during a meeting here with a seven member delegation of journalists who returned from an official visit to China undertaken on the invitation China Public Diplomacy ship and people on the ex- present in the meeting.

He said that China was sincere friend which helped Pakistan on every difficult occasion.

He urged that all stakeholders should rise above politics to work together on the national development projects like China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The PM said whenever Allah Almighty gave him an opportunity to serve the country, he pledged to himself to focus all his energies on progress of the country.

He said he was thank-

shown during his recent visit to China.

He told that he himself was monitoring the progress on the memorandums of understanding and agreements after the visit to China.

The prime minister assured that Pakistan was ensuring all steps for the security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

There is no place for politics of any kind on relations with a close friend like China, he remarked.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting of government institution ful to the Chinese leader- Attaullah Tarar was



PM's Focal Person highly concerned about increasing polio cases in Balochistan; announces special anti-polio drive

Independent Report QUETTA: The Focal Person of Prime Minister for Polio Eradication, Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq has expressed concern about reporting of polio cases in Balochistan saying in view of the situation, special anti-polio campaign would be run in the province dur-

ing next three months. She announced that the anti-polio campaign would be run in September, October and Novem-

ber this year. The PM's Focal Person was speaking to the Chief Minister whom she called on at the Chief Minister's secretariat on

Sunday afternoon. During the course of meeting, the Provincial Ministers Ali Madad Jatak and Sardarzada Faisal Jamali, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadeer Khan, National Polio Coordinator, Muhammad Anwaarul Commissioner

Governor stresses need to make tourism places attractive for tourists

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has underlined the need to make tourism places in Ziarat attractive for the tourists and provide them the necessary facilities there

become source of attraction take special measures for for the tourists of all over establishing officers' club, the world because of its natural beauty, Quaid-e-Azam Residency, ancient juniper forests, natural water falls and historic places.

of necessary facilities is no negligence would be tolnecessary for promotion of tourism industry in Ziarat.

The Governor was speaking on occasion of briefing conducted during sary facilities in Ziarat. his visit to Ziarat valley on

The Governor was briefed about the law and order situation in Ziarat and

adjacent areas. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, Chairman District Council and Municipal Committee besides the political, social and tribal personalities of the area.

Speaking on the occa-He said that Ziarat can sion, Governor directed to restoring all the street lights, providing necessary facilities for the tourism. He also directed to take measures for protection of the tour-He said that provision ists. He made it clear that erated in protection of life and property of the people especially the tourists besides provision of neces-

> Meanwhile, the Governor visited the Quaid-e-Azam public library and went round of its different

Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, Secretary Health, Muhammad Saleh Baloch and Coordinator of Emergency Operation Center, Inam Khan

During the meeting, matters about prevention of polio, immunization campaign and other related ones were discussed.

Mandokhail were present.

Expressing views on the occasion, Chief Minister assured that the complete administrative cooperation would be extended to the anti-polio teams for carrying out immunization campaign smoothly in the province.

He asserted that stern action would be taken against those creating hurdles in the anti-polio programme in the prov-

India's actions demonstrate disregard for int'l law in **IIOJK: President Zardari**

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari said India's actions since 5 August 2019 demonstrated complete disregard for international law, the aspira-tions of the Kashmiri people, and the UN Security Council resolutions regarding Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a message on Youm-e-Istehsal on 5th August 2024, he said, "Today marks the completion of five years of India's latest campaign to consolidate its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, five years ago, India took a number of unilateral and unlawful steps in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to undermine its internationally recognised disputed

Since 5 August 2019, he said India has embarked upon a ceaseless campaign to alter the demographic scape of IIOJK

Issuing domicile certificates to outsiders, registering temporary residents in the voters' lists, gerrymandering assembly constituencies, and modifying land and property ownership laws are some of the key lutions."

features of this campaign. All these measures are in blatant violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention, he observed.

"The continued presence of hundreds of thousands of Indian troops has turned IIOJK into one of the most heavily militarized zones in the world. The gross human rights violations in IIOJK have been documented extensively and condemned globally. The mistreatment of Kashmiri journalists and human rights defenders has further revealed India's willingness to go to any lengths to silence dissenting voices. India would not succeed in suppressing the just struggle of the people of IIOJK through domestic legislation and judicial verdicts, "he added.

For the past seven decades, the President said the the United Nations to fulfil its solemn commitments. "It is crucial that the international community urges India to end its human rights violations in IIOJK and implement the relevant UN Security Council reso-

Amir Maqam calls Int'l community to play its role to address Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam has appealed to the international community and Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to play their vital role in addressing the longstanding Kashmir valley issue of the re-

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, the minister said the Kashmir dispute should be resolved through the resolution of the United Nations as without a solution to this issue there is no peace and development in the region

He said that the incumbent government was highlighting the Kashmir issue at all appropriate platforms of the globe effectively. The minister underlined that since August 5, 2019, to date in the last five years around 900 people have been killed, more than 2500 freedom fighters injured and many widows have been arrested

India is claiming the largest democratic state of

by Indian forces.

the world but violating the human rights and suppressing the self-determination rights of Kashmiris, he added

Amir Muqam asked all parliamentary parties to participate in the walk from Radio Pakistan to D Chowk in Islamabad on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir on Au-

gust 5. He said on August 5, 2019, the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was repealed by the Modi regime which will complete five years on August 5.

He said that every vear, Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir is also being observed this year. Protest walks and demonstrations have been announced against this illegal move of the Modi government in Pakistan as well as around the world, he said. Amir Maqam ap-

pealed to all parliamentary parties to participate in the walk so that a clear message could be sent to India that the government and people of Pakistan are united on the Kashmir dis-

for wellbeing of heirs of police martyrs; vows to eliminate terrorism in country together

Allah failed those who conspired to break or weaken Pakistan: CM reiterates every possible measures

Mir Sarfraz Bugti says we can improve governance through strong governance; pledges to make complete defence of fault lines of terrorism in country

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that our Chief Secretary, Shakeel police martyrs are lucky that their blood was shed for the cause of country, and as such reiterated his government's resolve to take every possible steps for the well-being of their

He also reiterated the government's resolve to eliminate terrorism from the country. He asserted that no terrorism can harm Pakistan. "Allah failed those who conspired to break and weaken Pakistan."

He also vowed to face all the challenges together. He said that the government is not refusing the negotiations, but no one would be allowed to harm the country at all. He said that those involved in violence are not peaceful citizens. Those who are carrying weapons would be contended.

These views were exister while addressing the ceremony held to mark the Balochistan Police Martyrs Day at the Central Police Office here on Sunday.

Ms. Ghazala Gola, Provincial Ministers, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani and Bakht Muhammad Kakar. Qadir Khan, IG FC North, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Army and Frontier Corps and other high ups were present at the ceremony. The families of the police martyrs from different parts of the together. He said that we province especially participated in the ceremony.

While addressing the ceremony, Chief Minister said that he is not chief guest of the ceremony, rather the families of martyrs are chief guests of the event. He said that such a tradition should be set in martyrs are chief guests of this ceremony.

He paid homage to the police martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of peace in Balochistan.

He said we are proud pressed by the Chief Min- of our martyrs who rendered great sacrifices for us. So, we remember the marthe year. We can't forget them as they are close to presented salute.

The Deputy Speaker, our hearts, he maintained

The Chief Minister on the occasion said that we have the capability to take revenge of sacred blood of our martyrs. He said that the complete defence of the fault lines of terrorism would be made. He asserted that those having thinking of weakening the country can't be set free.

He said that the war against terrorism is of all of us, and we have to fight it can improve law and order through strong governance.

He said that the parliament is guarantor of rights of the province, and we got whatever rights, these were acquired through parliament. Referring the families of martyrs, the Chief Minister said that the govfuture that the families of ernment would extend full cooperation to the families of martyrs.

Earlier, the Chief Minister visited the monument of Balochistan police martyrs in the Central Police Office and laid floral wreathe there.

He also offered fateha for the departed souls of tyrs of police every day of martyrs. Smartly turned out contingent of police also

Dissenting note raises important points regarding reserved seats: Atta Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said that two honourable judges of the Supreme Court had raised important points in their dissenting note regard-

ing reserved seats. Addressing a press conference here, he said that on the issue of reserved seat a party was provided relief which was not a petitioner. He said that two honourable judges of the Supreme Court, Justice decision had been given not Aminuddin Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, have issued detailed dissenting notes and it said that after the passage of 15 days a detailed verdict of the case had not come. He said, 'Usually a detailed verdict

comes within 15 days after a decision is announced." Attaullah Tarar said that some articles of the Constitution were related to reserved seats, adding that

in the reserved seats case, a

in line with these articles.

He further said that it was also mentioned in the dissenting note of two honourable judges of the Supreme Court that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had not been a party to this case and to provide it a relief the court had to travel beyond the jurisdiction conferred by Articles 175 and 185 of the Constitution and would also have to suspend Article 51, 63, 106 of the Constitution.





QUETTA: Focal Persons of PM for Anti Polio Ayesha Raza meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti. Provincial Ministers are also present

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Balochistan tumult

As the stalemate between the state and the Baloch Yakjehti Committee continues, life in many parts of Balochistan remains paralysed. Negotiations have failed to end the impasse, and the protesters have refused to call off the weeklong BYC sit-in in Gwadar. The apparent bone of contention is the BYC's demand that all detained protesters be freed, and cases against them withdrawn. There seemed to be some progress made on Friday as the government announced that talks with the BYC had been successful. But following clashes in Noshki, it appears that matters are back to square

one.

Though the immediate aim of the state should be to peacefully end the protest and listen to the BYC's demands so that life in Balochistan returns to normal, a longer-term strategy is required to ensure that the province's people are not frequently compelled to take to the streets because the state refuses to acknowledge their grievances. Sadly, successive governments have failed to earnestly address the actual problem in Balochistan, dealing with it as a lawand-order issue, and refusing to see the underlying political and socioeconomic factors fuelling widespread discontent in the province. Today, it is Mahrang Baloch who has managed to unite wide cross-sections of Baloch society under the BYC banner, with women at the forefront of the protests. Before her, it was the Haq Do Tehreek and various campaigns for the release of Baloch missing persons that raised the same issues the BYC is highlighting. Has the state bothered to look into the issues beyond superficial talk of enemies stirring up trouble in the province? Hostile foreign elements may well be involved in fuelling militancy, but when the state refuses to engage with peaceful citizens demanding their rights, it pushes more and more people into the embrace of extreme elements.

Those who wield power must listen to Balochistan's aggrieved voices with compassion, and work to solve the province's burning issues, chief amongst which are the missing persons and socioeconomic disparity. Speaking at a press conference on Friday not directly related to the BYC sit-in, the federal law minister announced a financial package for families of the missing persons. He said it should not be viewed as compensation, but as 'support'. The announcement of state financial support to the families of the missing should serve as a symbolic gesture, and temporary relief. The actual issue remains to be tackled: bringing to an end the deplorable practice of enforced disappearances. Coming back to the protests, if the same colonial methods are employed to stifle the province's voices, it will have a detrimental effect on national harmony. The state must begin the process of healing by acknowledging past mistakes, and promising to start afresh in Balochistan.

The TLP challenge

The state has initiated another crackdown against the leadership of the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) after the group incited violence against Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. The government's strong response was necessary in this situation. It remains to be seen how effective it will be and whether the government remains firm in its de-

The TLP's threats to the judiciary are not new; neither has it spared the top military brass in the past in its hatemongering. One of its founders, Pir Afzal Qadri, had threatened the judges of the Supreme Court and incited soldiers to stand against generals if Aasia Bibi (accused of blasphemy but later acquitted) was not hanged publicly. He made this statement in the presence of Khadim Rizvi, the co-founder of the group, in 2018. Rizvi had used similarly strong language against the judiciary and military leadership, besides igniting religious big-

The state institutions acted swiftly after the TLP leadership's statements became louder. The group's top leadership, including Rizvi and Qadri and thousands of its workers, were arrested. Later, Qadri backtracked from his statements and quit the TLP. Hundreds of TLP workers issued disclaimers and disassociated themselves from the group. It looked like the state had decided to crush the TLP completely.

Just a few months later, Rizvi was granted bail by the Lahore High Court and released from jail. He did not take a break and restarted his hate campaign. He secured over two million votes in the 2018 elections. Many political analysts had linked his release with the election, but the biggest challenge was the TLP's rise and its hate-filled

Initially, the PTI government took a soft sta-nce on the TLP, but it was becoming a challenge for the state after the death of Rizvi. His son Saad built up further momentum, and

MuhammadAmirRana marched on Islamabad in international press because April 2021 to demand the expulsion of the French ambassador from the country. TLP zealots killed several policemen, Saad Rizvi was arrested and the party banned.

The situation took another turn when the TLP launched a nationwide protest for the release of its leader. The protests became violent, forcing the govern-ment to release all TLP leaders and workers. Later, in November 2021, even the demand to lift the ban on the party was accepted.

The state has yet to adopt a straightforward approach to dealing with the TLP. Since the TLP's inception, it has accepted all its demands, including controversial ones, to convince its leadership to end their protest. However, the state used such agreements only to find a temporary solution to end the protests; this, eventually, strengthened the group.

Arrests, crackdowns,

and criminal charges are not new in the TLP's case. The question is: why does the state compromise after taking decisive action against the group? Why is it tolerating a group, which is responsible for vandalism, the killing of innocent citizens and security officials, damaging property, blotting the country's international image, and being a source of extremism? The state's attitude is making it strong and one of the indications of this has been its growing vote bank

Successive governments have not shown the will or capacity to deal with the group. At a recent press conference, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Planning Minister Ahsan Igbal condemned the TLP leader's remarks against the chief justice. They showed the same resolve for the rule of law as the PTI government had. The latter eventually surrendered to the group's demands.

Ahsan Iqbal has himself been a victim of TLP hatemongering and faced an assassination attempt by one of the group's supporters in 2018, while Khawaja Asif's hometown Sialkot has been mentioned by the the public.

of the tragic incident of mob lynching of Sri Lankan citizen Priyantha Kumara on false allegations of blasphemy in 2021.

The statement issued by both ministers would test the government's resolve, especially considering that the law-enforcement agencies are afraid of the TLP's street power and capacity to incite mass violence. The establishment sees each radical group's potential through a political lens, which prevents it from taking decisive action against such groups. Such radical groups remain an integral part of the political engineering designs of the establishment. Before the TLP, several banned groups, including the Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan, Jamaatud Dawa, and many other extremist outfits. were used for political pur-

Internal and external pressures and the changing security dynamic have forced the establishment to find new religious actors for political manoeuvres.

The TLP will have utility for the state until a new actor replaces it. It cannot be predicted what the future tool will look like, but this group itself has caused a lot of damage and is considered a major source of extremism in the coun-

knows the establishment's weakness and exploits it. During its last sit-in at its favourite spot at the juncture of the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi at Faizabad, ostensibly showing solidarity with Palestine though perhaps also to counter the PTI's jubilance after the Supreme Court's decision on the reserved seats, it was expected that the TLP would use the opportunity for other ends.

In 2021, when the government banned the outfit, the interior minister at that time, Sheikh Rashid, and the religious affairs minister. Noorul Haq Qadri, said that the group had engaged in terrorism, actions prejudicial to national peace and security, and efforts to create anarchy by intimidating

'Not Pakistan'

Muna Khan

Nothing gets me into a tizzy faster than hearing some iteration of 'this is not Pakistan'. And inevitably, women and/ or young men attempting to smash the patriarchy are the source of

someone's outrage. Those shocked by whatever new thing 'is not Pakistan' are in denial, stuck in a notion that the XYZ period in the country was better. They are unable to move on and believe that folks living their lives as they wish threaten the country's identity, its I have experienced

the 'not Pakistan' bri-

gade, especially as a journalist, reporting or commissioning stories that pushed boundaries. For example, in the early 2000s, when I was editing a mid-weekly magazine at Dawn, some of our stories caught their ire. To name a few: a fortnightly column called Single Women over Thirty (SWOT)', a cover story on dating over the decades, and Dr Riffat Hasan's critique of Farhat Hashmi and Asma Jahangir. Stories of honour killing, sexual assault, blasphemy did not elicit the same outrage. I suppose we accepted this as the norm.

We were inundated with feedback after an advertisement of a sanitary pad was printed on the back of the magazine. It was not a oneoff ad so the complaints sort of grew as readers saw the ad every week. We received versions of 'this is no longer a family magazine' emails and calls; even colleagues were surprised about the ad's prominent placement. My editor (the late and great) Tahir Mirza too received such calls but he always took it in his stride. People need time to accept change,

When sanitary pad about the injustices advertisements mi-grated to TV, you heard briefly banned in Pakisome iteration of 'Kya stan after a scene from behudgi hai yeh' (what the show went viral on is this obscenity). The social media in which a ads were not coy like character admitted to the family planning ones where two roses represented contraceptives. This was before such ads were banned altogether in 2016 to prevent exposure of such mate-

The point is not to recall all the complaints I've faced and witnessed but to demonstrate how people's re- swer but I know it cansistance is not to not be a singular story change but to progress, especially when it comes to women and young people. The 'this is not Pakistan' brigade knows about menstruation. contraceptives, honour crimes, rape and so forth

dren. Two steps for-

ward, 200 steps back.

ground realities as we one about same-sex relationship. Detractors all

but they do not want it

seen in the paper, on

screens etc. They do not

on the situation of the Abbasi is no leased on an Indian streaming platform, was

about a group of diverse

women who come to-

physical intimacy to get ahead in her career. The fury was that it promoted vulgarity. Just like Barzakh does, they

People exercising rial to inquisitive chil- consent is vulgar but committing violence against them is not.

If all this is not Pakistan, what then is the country's reality?

I do not have the ancentred around an ideological identity that teaches hatred for oththat issues ghaddari certificates freely, that cares not for the most marginalised in this country.

I'll leave you with a message I received a fortnight ago on X from want us to tell stories of a person who has since asked I not share their name because they fear This brigade has someone, somewhere found a new target: Asim may recognise their Abbasi's Barzakh, a identity. They asked me drama released on to write about them and YouTube which has their friends, university among its many themes, students who will soon graduate, struggling to find purpose. They have over social media will no one to guide them have you believe this is about career opportunienough to destroy the ties; their teachers also country's existence. At want to leave the counthe time of writing we are try. Some of them canfive episodes in of a not leave because they beautifully shot story do not have the money that also — and not ex-clusively — sheds light agents who can get them visas or take them LGBT community in this via the illegal route. country. How do you They will take on whatdeny someone's exist- ever job they can find to care for their families because their parents stranger to the 'this is cannot make ends meet not us' brigade. His ear- anymore. They know lier drama, Churails, re- this means giving up whatever dreams they

"Write about so many people like us who gether to form a detec- bought into a dream tive agency to find about a new Pakistan cheating husbands. Es- but are living in a nightsentially, the story was mare.

Commerce News

Pakistani, Chinese experts discuss enhanced economic growth, connectivity

LAHORE (APP): The Fed- here on Sunday. The Chieration of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Acting President Zaki Aijaz emphasized that industrial cooperation was crucial at this time and expressed hope that it could be shifted to

He stressed that by learning from China, Pakistan can develop strategies to overcome economic challenges and achieve sustainable growth. He expressed these views while meeting with a high-level Chinese delegation comprising ex-

nese delegation visit aiming at providing invaluable insights into the Chinese economic model, emphasizing lessons that Pakistan can leverage for its own growth. Welcoming the delegation Zaki Aijaz emphasizing that China and Pakistan were eternal friends, with a friendship that knew no bounds, he said that industrial cooperation was crucial at this time and expressed hope that it could

be shifted to Pakistan. Zaki believes that joint ventures and cooperation perts from diverse fields would create a win-win

delegation's visit was highly reassuring, and expressed hope that it would be both useful and produc-

tive 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

During the event, the Chinese delegation engaged in meaningful discussions with representatives from Pakistani industrialists.

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Islamabad Tax Bar Association President Fazal

Sheikh Advocate presenting Shield to Chief Guest Malik Jawad Khalid. President of the Bar Association.

FTO orders advisors to address complaints within 60 days

LAHORE (APP): Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr Asif Mahmood Jah has directed all advisors nationwide to address complaints of aggrieved taxpavers within 60 days of their filing. Speaking here on Sunday to an awareness session with various sectors of business community, he said the direction aims to ensure prompt and efficient handling of grievances, providing timely relief to taxpayers. The directive underscores the government's commitment to delivering justice at the doorstep of aggrieved taxpavers, enhancing trust and transparency in the tax administration system.

By setting a strict 60-day deadline, he said it will expedite the process, preventing unnecessary delays that could burden taxpayers and undermine their confidence. This measure is part of broader efforts to streamline tax-related procedures, making the system more responsive and accessible. The emphasis on quick redress reflects a recognition of the challenges taxpayers face and a commitment to addressing their concerns with urgency and fairness. Dr Waqar Ch Arain Advisor to FTO speaking on the occasion said that FTO always attached great importance to business community.



LAHORE: Tailors preparing mosquito nets in a factory to prevent dengue mosquito-borne diseases from the water of monsoon rains.

Online market place vital to increase carpet exports, reduce delays: Ejaz

AHORE (INP): Chairman Carpet Training Institute (CTÎ) Ejazur Rehman has called for the establishment of a dedicated business-tobusiness e-commerce portal to bolster Pakistan's carpet exports and enhance its global competitiveness.

He emphasized the rgent need for a comprehensive online platform that showcases Pakistani manufacturers, exporters, and international buyers, facilitating seamless and efficient trade operations and this initiative aims to bridge the gap with rival nations ike India, streamlining business processes and

eliminating delays.
The CTI Chairman expressed these views while addressing a consultative meeting with wellknown manufacturers and exporters of handmade carpets here on Sunday. The participants also addressed the industry's challenges and the need for training skilled workers in line with modern demands, sparking a productive discussion on how to enhance the sector's competitive-

Skilled workforce key to economic growth: PFC

Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mian Kashif Ashfaq has said that trained skilled manpower on modern scientific lines is crucial for success and sustainable economic growth. Speaking at a seminar on "Role of Skilled Manpower in Economic Growth" here on Sunday, he said as world moves rapidly towards a economic based economy, the importance of a workforce equipped with advanced skills and scien-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The imports of the overall

machinery group experi-

enced a substantial increase

of 46.27 per cent during the

last fiscal year compared to the 2022-23 period, the

Pakistan Bureau of Statis-

ery imports is poised to en-

hance productivity and

technological advancement

across key sectors, driving

economic growth and infra-

the machinery group dur-

ing the last year stood at

\$8,500.628 million against the imports of \$5,811.517

million recorded in 2022-

structure development.

The surge in machin-

The total imports of

tics (PBS) reported.

overstated. In Pakistan, fostering such talent is vital for economic development as it enhances the competitive edge, allowing it to innovate and improve efficiency in

various industries. He said it supports the development of new technologies and industries, thereby diversifying the economy and reducing dependency on traditional sectors.He said we are confronting huge scarcity of skilled manpower in all sectors and technical colleges and institutes are lacking tific knowledge cannot be capacity to enroll required

\$956.696 million \$2,366.500 million.

Machinery imports surge

46.27% in one year

economic challenges. **Strictly follow** safety measures during rainy season:

ing ever increasing demand

workforce contributes to

higher productivity and

quality in manufacturing

and services, leading to in-

creased exports and foreign

investment. This, in turn,

generates job opportunities

reduces unemployment, and

improves living standards.

He said skilled professionals

in manufacturing, engineering,

and information technology

and other sectors are essen-

tial for addressing the socio-

He said, a skilled

industrial sectors.

The import of agriculture sector machinery and **GEPCO** equipment surged by 122.85 per cent from \$40.972 million to \$91.307 SIALKOT (APP): Superintending Engineer (SE)
Gujranwala Electric Power million; office machinery (GEPCO) Company including data processing Sialkot Sardar Jamshed equipment 35.31 per cent Khan has appealed to the citizens to strictly follow from \$339.428 million to \$459.288 million; construction and mining masafety measures during rainy season. Talking to chinery 11.16 per cent from APP, the SE said an aware-\$ 84.730 million to \$ 94.187; electrical machinness campaign had been started for citizens to take ery and apparatus 95.67 per cent from \$1,673.820 precautionary measures during the rainy season. The million to \$3,275.127 million; telecom related equipcampaign was launched through media, social mement 147.36 per cent from dia and other public com-

munication platforms.

8-month high due to new taxation measures: APBF LAHORE (INP): All Paki- higher inflationary presstan Business Forum sures as the monthly index (APBF) has observed that normally stands around

Monthly inflation hits

during the previous month of July, the monthly inflation rate has reached an eight-month high due to direct and indirect taxes of Rs1.8 trillion in the budget of current fiscal year (2024-25). President APBF, Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the pace of inflation rose 2.3% compared to the preceding month, in the wake of higher prices of food and energy despite recent cut in the prices of petroleum products, as essential commodities have still not seen a decline in prices, leaving trade and industry frus-

The reading shows

1%. The impact was more pronounced in cities where the new tax measures hit the consumers hard. The monthly food inflation in July came in at 4.5% in urban localities.

Chairman Ibrahim APBF Qureshi said that the government has imposed a record Rs1.8 trillion in new taxes in the new budget for winning a \$7 billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund. Taxes have been slapped on the salaried persons and the consumable goods used mostly by all segments of society, irrespective of their income levels



SIALKOT: A large number of people purchasing traditional food item "pakoras" from vendor during heavy in the city.

Sargodha University, NRSP sign MoU for establishing Special Technology Park

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Rural Support Program (NRSP) and the University of Sargodha have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing a Special Technology Park in Sargodha. The MoU was Saigned by Dr. Rashid Bajwa, CEO of NRSP, and Professor Dr. Qaiser Abbas, Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University, during the second "Future of Education" conference organized by the University of Sargodha at Nathia Gali.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by notable figures, including former Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Professor Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, and Vice Chancellors of various universities, faculty heads, NRSP Regional General Manager Sargodha Ghulam Rasool, NRSP Senior Program Manager Tahir Waqar, Chief Business Development Abrar Anjum, former Secretary Saleem Raniha, and several other distinguished personalities

Governor appreciates overseas Pakistanis' role in charity projects

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan on Sunday underscored the role of overseas Pakistanis in the development of the coun-

He said that the hearts of Pakistanis abroad are full of love for their countrymen. "Overseas philanthropists also contribute to charitable works by sending valuable foreign exchange which is appreciable", he added.

The governor stated

this while talking to a delegation comprising overseas Pakistanis who met him at Punjab House Islamabad under the leadership of Zumurd Khan (Hilal Imtiaz) Chairman of

sacrificed their lives for

Martyrs' Day ceremony,

Speaker Punjab Assembly

Malik Ahmad Khan said

heirs of those martyrs.

When Captain Ahmed

peace in the country"

We're indebted to

martyrs sacrifices for peace

in country: PA speaker

LAHORE (APP): Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan their families till to-

said on Sunday "we are in-debted to those people who Ahmad said "I have no

the assembly belongs to the education to children of mar-

Mubeen was martyred, I martyrs in consultation with

was the spokesperson for the chief minister of Punjab.

GILGIT: Inspector General of Police Gilgit-

Baltistan Afzal Mehmood Butt and Force

Commander GB Kashif Khalil offering fateha after

laving floral wreath on Yadgar-e-Shuhda on the

occasion of Police Martyr's Day at CPO.

Speaking at the Police of martyrs. We are indebted

According to DPR Rawalpindi, the chairman briefed the governor about a new project of Pakistan Sweet Homes named Fatimat Al-Zahra Hospital

(Chakri Rajar).

Governor Punjab highlighted that overseas Pakistanis have helped Pakistan in every difficult hour.

"With the support of philanthropists, the new project of Overseas Pakistanis Sweet Home is an exemplary contribution of social responsibility in the society", he said adding that the charitable contributions by overseas Pakistanis should be encouraged.

Governor Punjab underlined the need to estab-

words to describe the sac-

rifices offered by families

to those martyrs who sac-

rificed their lives for peace".

He said "we are giving free

tyrs up to F.Sc., we will bring

more privileges for police

lish more such hospitals for poor and needy people in Attock and other remote

Monday August 05, 2024

chairman of the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, Syed Qamar Raza and overseas Pakistanis from Norway, Holland and Italy were also among the visiting delegation.

In a separate statement, the governor paid tribute to the police martyrs on the occasion of Police Martyrs Day and said that the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of peace in the country are our pride. He also expressed his solidarity with the families of the

Police Martyrs' Day observed across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The Police Martyrs Day was observed across country on Sunday. Candles were lit in memory of police martyrs. across the province in which tribute was paid to those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the na-

Miscellaneous events were held at the at different places including martyrs memorials, public service delivery centers and at police lines.

According to a spokesperson for the Punjab Police, the Police Martyrs Day observations were started officially by lighting candles in the memory of the police martyrs. A large number of families, civil society and citizens participated. August 4 is marked as Police Martyrs Day across the country including Punjab.

Regarding Martyrs Police Day, IGP Punjab Dr Usman Anwar said in his message that the eternal sacrifices of police martyrs would always be remembered. He said martyred policemen were figures of courage and bravery and lovalty to the country



with delegation of overseas Pakistanis led by the leader of Pakistan People' Party and Chairman Pakistan Sweet Home, Zamard Khan (Hilal Imtiaz).

CM pays tribute to police martyrs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab tal sacrifices of the police Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her message on Police Martyrs Day, said that August 4 can never be forgotten as this day reminds us of martyrs sacrifices.

"A nation turns out successful which pays trib-ute to their martyrs. We will never compromise on the respect of the martyrs," she

The Chief Minister said, "I salute the great sacrifices of all our martyrs. The Martyrs Day is a day to pay homage to the great sacrifices of the brave sons of the land. The martyrs will always remain alive in our hearts.

She added the immor-

martyrs are a precious asset which can never be forgotten, adding that the Punjab government every second stands with the family members of the martyrs and will remain so. "The police force is render-

ing commendable duties in every area including the Kacha area. The Punjab government is utilising all possible resources for the welfare of the martyrs families. We will fully accomplish our duty to look after and provide service to the family of every martyr. We take pride in the glorious achievements of our martyrs and their sacrifices will be remembered for long,

she added No ban on private practice of doctors in evening hours: Minister

tive would ensure that pa-

tients receive top-notch

medical facilities during

evening hours as doctors

engage in private practice.

This policy is part of the Health Department's

broader effort to enhance

health system in the prov-

ince. He highlighted the suc-

cessful implementation of

evening private practices at

the Punjab Institute of Car-

diology in Lahore and the

Rawalpindi Institute of

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir has announced that the Health Department has not imposed any ban on private practice of doctors. In a statement issued on Sunday, he clarified that the department had instructed hospital heads to allow private practice during evening hours within government hospitals, aimed at providing better convenience to patients.

7 dead, 1,240 injured in **Punjab** road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least seven people were killed and 1,240 others injured in 1,184 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24

As many as 550 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 690 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 711 drivers, 51 underage drivers, 125 pedestrians, and 411 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 258 acci dents were reported in

Stepbrother kills two siblings in Kabirwala

KABIRWALA (APP): A stepbrother killed his two brothers following a dispute over a marriage proposal in Kabirwala, a private news channel and police reported on Sun-

According to reports Munir Ahmed, the accused fatally shot one brother and stabbed the other in the Kabirwala area of Punjab. The victims were

identified as Qaiser Abbas and Nasir Abbas. The po-The minister emphasised that the initiaemphasised that the initia
Cardiology, suggesting this model could be expanded.

In Nashi Abbas. The lice arrived at the scere arrested the suspect. lice arrived at the scene and

Punjab transport minister lauds district administration for monsoon measures

RAWALPINDI (APP): the arrangements made by Provincial Minister Puniab for Transport, Bilal Akbar Khan on Sunday lauded the measures taken by the district administration regarding monsoon rains.

"In the light of the directions of the Punjab all possible safety arrangegovernment, the Rawalpindi district administration has made the best arrangements for the cleaning and drainage in view of the monsoon rains", he said during his visit to the nullah Lai.

According to the details, the minister along with Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hasan Wagar Cheema made a detailed visit to Nullah Lai, Gawalmandi and reviewed

the administration. The provincial minister was briefed regarding the measures taken by the administration. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that

ments are complete. The situation is under control with timely cleaning of drains, he added. He said that all the concerned departments are alert. He further said that

officials of the concerned departments have been deployed in Naula Lai and nearby low-lying areas. It is worth mentioning

that the meteorological department has forecast more than normal rains this year.



Syed Ali Haider Gilani addressing a press conference at Press Club.

PPP urges provincial govt to reconsider decision of relocating two wards of Nishtar Hospital

cial Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Syed Ali Haider Gilani accompanied by other local leaders, urged government to reconsider its decision of abolishing Neurosurgery and Orthopedic Wards from Nishtar Hospital to Nishtar Hospital phase-II by keeping in view the public facilitation.

Addressing a press conference here Sunday, Syed Ali Haider Gilani said that a notification has come out to shift two major sectors of the Punjab government, Neurosurgery and Orthopedics, to Nishtar-II, of South Punjab.

MULTAN (APP): Provin- from Nishtar Hospital. He said that the locals would face problems due to relocation these two major departments from main Nishtar Hospitals to outside branch. He said that the Punjab government was requested to reconsider the decision to transfer the departments. He said that the people of South Punjab has given heavy mandate to Gilani family from the platform of the Pakistan People's Party adding that

his family had always put

political affiliations above

all else and made practical

efforts for the development

International News

At least 73 killed as clashes rock Bangladesh, curfew imposed

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: At least 73 people were killed and hundreds injured in clashes in Bangladesh on Sunday, as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse tens of thousands of protesters calling for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign.

The government declared an indefinite nationwide curfew starting at 6 p.m. (1200 GMT) on Sunday, the first time it has taken such a step during the current protests that began last month. It also announced a three-day general holiday starting from

Monday. The unrest, which has prompted the government to shut down internet services, is Hasina's biggest test in her 20-year regime after she won a fourth straight term in elections that were boycotted by the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist

along with human rights groups, have accused her government of using excessive force against protesters, a charge she and her ministers deny.

Demonstrators Sunday as student protesters launched a non-cooperation program to press for the government's resignation, and violence spread nationwide. "Those who are pro-

testing on the streets right now are not students, but terrorists who are out to destabilise the nation," Hasina said after a national security panel meeting, attended by the chiefs of the army, navy, air force, police and other agencies.

"I appeal to our countrymen to suppress these terrorists with a strong Police stations and

ruling party offices were targeted as violence rocked



ARIS: France and Italy on Sunday urged their citizens in Lebanon to leave the country due to the risk of military escalation in the Middle East, their foreign ministries said. Tensions have soared following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, leader of Palestinian group Hamas, in Tehran on Wednesday, a day after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed Fuad Shukr, a top military commander from Leba-

In two separate travel advisories, the French foreign ministry recommended citizens residing in Iran to temporarily leave the country given the risk of its airspace being closed. The ministry had urged citizens travelling in Iran to leave on



Objects set on fire burn as demonstartors with sticks occupy the street during a protest demanding the stepping down of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, following quota reform protests by students, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Biden voices hope Iran will stand down but is uncertain

Monitoring Desk WILMINGTON: US President Joe Biden ex-

pressed hope Iran would stand down despite its threat to avenge the assassination of Hamas' leader in Tehran, as fears mounted that Israel's war against Palestinians in Gaza could escalate into a wider Middle East con-

Regional tensions have soared following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas' top leader, on Wednesday, a day after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed Fuad group region.

Hezbollah, which like Hamas is backed by Iran. Iran and Hamas have blamed Israel for Haniyeh's killing, and they, together with Hezbollah, have vowed revenge. Israel has not claimed or denied responsibility.
Asked by reporters

whether Iran would stand down, Biden said on Saturday in response to a shouted question, "I hope so. I don't know. Seeking to bolster de-

fenses in the Middle East in response to threats from Israel's foes, the Pentagon said on Friday it would de-Shukr, a senior military ploy additional fighter jets commander from the and Navy warships to the

Five more killed in Israeli strikes at hospital, Gaza officials say

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: An Israeli

airstrike hit a tent inside a hospital compound in central Gaza, killing at least five people, bringing the total of Palestinians killed on Sunday to 19, Gaza health officials said, after another round of talks ended without result.

The airstrike hit a

Aqsa Hospital compound, starting a fire, wounding at least 18 people in addition to the five killed, medical authorities said.

The Israeli military said it struck a fighter who "conducted terror activities" and that secondary explosions were identified, indicating the presence of weaponry in the area.

Extreme heat breaks records in China

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Swathes of eastern China baked under a scorching heat wave on Saturday, with temperatures in some areas reaching record highs, weather authorities

China is enduring a summer of extreme weather, with unseasonable heat searing parts of the north and east while torrential rains have triggered floods and landslides in central and southern regions. The country is the world's largest emitter of the greenhouse gases that scientists say drive global warming and make extreme weather more frequent and intense.

Jordan's foreign minister to hold talks in Iran as tensions rise **Monitoring Desk**

DUBAI: Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi will travel to Iran on Sunday in a rare visit to discuss regional developments with his Iranian counterpart following the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, Iranian state media reported. Regional tensions have spiked following the assassination of Haniyeh on Wednesday, which came a day after an Israeli strike in Beirut which killed Fuad Shukr.

Fears of wider conflict grow after Hamas chief Haniyeh's killing **Monitoring Desk**

BEIRUT: Middle East tensions soared on Saturday as Iran and its allies readied their response to the assassination of Hamas's political leader, blamed on Israel, spurring fears of a regional war. Israel's ally the United States said it would move warships and fighter jets to the region, while Western governments have called on their citizens to leave Lebanon — where the powerful Hezbollah movement is based — and airlines can-

Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, hours after the Israeli assassination of Hezbollah's military chief in Beirut, has triggered vows of vengeance from Iran and the "axis of ron to the Middle East. stance"

Groups from Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq and Syria have already been drawn into the nearly 10-month bad will happen ily and friends"

Hamas. Iran said on Saturday it expects Hezbollah to hit deeper inside Israel and to no longer be confined to military targets. With such talk growing, the Pentagon said it was bolstering its military presence in the Middle East to protect US personnel and defend Israel. An aircraft carrier strike group led by the USS Abraham Lincoln will replace one led by the USS Theodore Roosevelt, the Pentagon said. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin also ordered additional ballistic missile defence-capable cruisers and destroyers to the Middle East and areas under United States European Command, as well as a new fighter squad-

In Beirut, 20-year-old student Diana Abu Aasel said she feared "something bad will happen to my fam-

Blinken speaks with UK, French counterparts to 'de-escalate' rising Mideast tensions

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with his British and French counterparts via telephone on Saturday about the need to de-escalate rising ten-

sions in the Middle East and prevent further escalation of the ongoing con-Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy reaffirmed the need

to "de-escalate rising tensions in the Middle East and prevent the conflict from spreading," said State Department spokesman Matthew Miller. They stressed the importance of finalising a

Gaza ceasefire hostage and prisoner swap deal "as soon as possible," it said.

Blinken also spoke with French Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne about achieving a Gaza ceasefire deal as well as the importance of preventing

further escalation of conflict in the Middle East and the challenges posed by threats from Iran.

The calls came as tensions are running high in the region after Iran vowed "severe punishment" for Israel for the assassination of Hamas' political chief Ismail Haniyeh in the Iran capital of Tehran. The assassination of

Haniyeh was "designed and executed" by Israel with support from the US, using a short-range projectile, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Saturday.

The US said on Friday it would deploy additional fighter jets and navy warships to the Middle

Haniyeh was assassinated early on Wednesday at his residence in Tehran in an attack that Iranian officials blamed on Israel Haniyeh's bodyguard was also killed

UMM AL FAHEM: Arab-Israelis and left-wing ac-

tivists lift flags of Palestine and placards to protest Israel's aggression in Gaza.

North Korea says Russia's Putin offered humanitarian aid over flood damage

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered humanitarian aid to North Korea, which has been hit by heavy rainfalls and floods, Pyongyang's state media KCNA said on Sunday. Relations between the two countries have grown

offer in a message to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delivered on Saturday via the Russian embassy in Pyongyang. The Russian leader's message expressed sympathy and support. Putin displayed "his willingness to provide immediate humanitarian support for the recovery closer, and Putin made the from the flood damage.

Critics of Hasina, the country of 170 million Twelve policemen

were beaten to death in the north-western district of Sirajganj, police official Bijoy Bosak said. At least eight people.

blocked major highways on including two students and a ruling party leader, were killed and dozens injured amid fierce clashes in several places in the capital. Dhaka, police and witnesses said.

Two construction workers were killed on their way to work and 30 injured in the central district of Munsiganj, during a three-way clash of protesters, police and ruling party activists, witnesses

"They were brought dead to the hospital with bullet wounds," said Abu Hena Mohammad Jamal, the superintendent of the

district hospital. Police said they had not fired any live bullets.

nese armed group Hezbollah.

Pakistan to continue moral, political, diplomatic support to Kashmiri people: Shehbaz

Resolution of Kashmir dispute essential for achieving lasting peace in region: NA speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan will continue to extend its strong moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people till the realization of their inalienable right to self determina-

In a message on Youme-Istehsal on August 5, 2024, he said the people and Government of Pakistan are observing the Youm-e Istehsal on Monday.

'This somber occasion reminds us of the grave consequences of India's illegal actions of 5 August 2019 vis-à-vis Indian Ilegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)."

On 5 August 2019, he said India took a series of steps to consolidate its occupation of IIOJK.

"Ever since, India has been trying to convince the world that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of its territory. However, international law, historical

facts, moral principles and the situation on the ground deny India's baseless claims. Today, in IIOJK, efforts are being made to silence the genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people and muzzle the media. The number of political prisoners remains in the thousands, while 14 political organizations have been

Harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, and the so-called 'cordon and search operations have become a matter of routine. The Indian forces are operating with impunity, according to them under different draconian laws," he added.

He said, "I, however, salute the indomitable courage of the Kashmiri people that has enabled them to withstand every Indian attempt to subjugate them. There is no doubt that India's coercive methods have failed to diminish their yearning for the realization the region.

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti offering

Dua after laying floral wrath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada at Central Police Office

ticians who would do prac-

tical work for the general

public would become

would be started with the

funds, and surely era of de-

velopment and prosperity

would be started, he added.

said that our government is

striving not only for devel-

opment of the area but for

development of the coun-

try lies in progress of the

opment projects can be

completed in the stipulated

time, if the funds were pro-

the whole province.

province.

low slogans has been vided for the same well in

Mir Ali Madad Jatak

The Minister said that

He said that the devel-

He said that funds of

leader, he added.

Provision of relief to masses

& solution of problems our

ultimate mission: Jatak

lief to the people and solu-millions of rupees have

tion to their issues is ulti-mate mission of the pro-tion to their issues is ulti-mate mission of the pro-The development process

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial

Minister for Agriculture,

Mir Ali Madad Jatak has

stated that provision of re-

vincial government for prac-

tical steps have been

pressed by the Provincial

Minister while speaking to

different delegations who

called on him here on Sun-

led by Mir Noroz Kalpar, Haji Shakar Khan, Hazoor

Bakhsh Nichari and Presi-

dent of PPP Turbat, Qadeer

that the era of raising hol-

These views were ex-

The delegations were

Ali Madad Jatak said

passed now. Only the politime.

started.

of their inalienable right to self-determination. "History has proven,

time and again, that durable peace in South Asia remains contingent upon the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. In the interest of lasting peace and security in South Asia, India must move from dispute denial to dispute resolution," he

The prime minister said, "The international community must urge India to halt its egregious human rights violations in IIOJK; reverse its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019; repeal the draconian laws; and implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir."

Meanwhile Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Sunday said that the resolution of the Kashmir dispute is essential for achieving lasting peace in

Naqvi pays

homage to

great sacrifices

of police martyrs

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Minister for Interior

Mohsin Naqvi has paid rich

tributes to the great sacri-

fices of police martyrs on

Police Martyrs' Day being

Martyrs' Day, he said that

this day is a reminder of the

unforgettable sacrifices of

brave police personnels

who are the pride of the

that police officers and per-

sonnel have always been at

the forefront in curbing

plary services of police

forces in all provinces for

maintaining peace and or-

Roof collapse

in district Tank

kills 3 as heavy

rains wreak

havoc

ISLAMABAD (APP): At

least three persons includ-ing two women and a child

killed on the spot while three others were critically

injured when the roof of a

house collapsed in village

Kot Murtaza of District

Tank due to heavy rains on

1122, a devastating roof collapse in Tank has claimed the lives of three

individuals and the tragedy

occurred as heavy rains

continue to wreak havoc in

the region, Private news

channels reported. The vic-

tims were reportedly

trapped under the debris

when the roof of the build-

ing suddenly gave way, suc-

cumbing to the intense pres-

sure of the accumulated wa-

ter, Rescue sources added.

Repatriation of

According to Rescue

Sunday

Interior Minister said

He praised the exem-

observed on Sunday.

entire nation.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding FBR Track & Trace System and FBR

Message on Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir: Pak always supported genuine stance of Kashmiri brethren at every forum, says Governor

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the world is witness that Pakistan has not only supported the genuine stance of Kashmir brethren at every forum, but it has also been highlighting cruelty

This, the Governor stated in an official message issued on the eve of Youme-Istehsal Kashmir being observed today (Monday) worldwide including PakiGovernor maintained that the day of exploitation is being observed against ending the special status of Kashmir by India today (5th August). Not only this, tion, he added.

ism all over the world, the Governor said.

He said that as every one knows that our Kash mir brothers are waging struggle for their right of self-determination for long

For this very pur-pose, they (Kashmiris) have rendered sacrifice of their lives, he maintained.

The Governor also said that the objective behind celebration of Youme-Istehsal today is to fully support the struggle of freedom of Kashmiris and demand of the world to give right of self-determination to them as per the United Nations' resolution.

Amir Muqam slams Imran for obstructing progress

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam said that we are not protesters, but workers, and our government has put the country on the path of progress under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif. On the other hand, Imran Khan is using every dirty trick to stop the country's progress. Addressing a press conference at the Pakistan Muslim League (N) provincial secretariat in

Peshawar, Amir Muqam said that PTI has not done any in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while the force and said the elements," President Secrefederal government's martyred police person-tariat Press Wing, said in a people-friendly policies and excellent performance have won the hearts of the people. He added that Imran Khan is busy conspiring against Pakistan's progress like Pakistan's en-

Amir Muqam thanked the people for their support and said that our govern-

team to speed up **FBR** transformation LAHORE (APP): Prime sons responsible for defi-Minister Shehbaz Sharif ciency and irregularities re-

PM directs economic

Sunday set a target for his economic team to speed up the process of transformation of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). He was chairing a re-

view meeting on Track and Trace System of FBR.

The total digitization and restructuring of FBR according to modern standards was part of the transformation plan.

He delegated responsibility to Minister of State for Finance to oversee the transformation project of FBR. The prime minister was presented a detailed report regarding the track and trace system and on progress of digitization of FBR. He directed immedi-

garding the track and trace system. He directed immediate implementation of steps for taking action against the officials negligent in upgrading the sys-tem. The prime minister said that reforms in FBR were necessary to improve the tax system of Pakistan, adding, "We will work day and night to save every penny of the poor people of Pakistan." Shehbaz Sharif said that digitization of FBR was main priority of the government and no disruption was acceptable in this regard. Federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik, Coordinator of Prime



OUETTA: On the occasion of the arrival of Independence Day, candles are being waved on decorated Pakistani candles in the market.

President lauds Police Force sacrifices

nel had offered valuable sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

lauded the unmatched the shuhada of the police

ISLAMABAD (APP): The police personnel had President Asif Ali Zardari laid down their lives while on Sunday paid tribute to fighting on the front line Shuhada of the police with terrorists and criminal press release, quoting the president President Zardari high-

On Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police, the president lice force during the success bravery and sacrifices of ism said that Jawans of

of the fight against terrorpolice force had been sacrificing their lives, fighting "The entire nation is with terrorists and anti-soand said that our government is a coalition government is a coalition government. It is a coalition government is a coalition government is a coalition government. It is a coalition government is a coalition government is a coalition government.



ISLAMABAD: To observe "Youm-e-Istehsal", banners and panaflexs displayed against Indian Government's decision of revocation of the special status of disputed territory of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

PM's School Meals program being started in ICT today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Under Prime Minister's School Meals program, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training will start providing meal to the students of government Primary school of ICT today. According to the Education Ministry, Prime Minister's National Nutrition Initiative is utilizing state of the art Centralized Kitchen for cooking of 60,000 meals. emergent situation along with machinery round the staff and machinery.

Secretary C&W directs all staff of department to remain high alert in view of recent rains clock. He also directed to **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Secretary directed to all officers and Department has directed to all staff of the department to be ready to tackle any

ensure restoration of the Communications and link roads in view of the Works, Lal Jan Jaffar has emergent situation. He warned that no negligence staff of the department to and weakness would be tolremain high alert in view of erated in work of rehabilithe recent rains in the prov- tation of the roads and ince. The Secretary C&W other infrastructure. Besides, the Secretary asked the Chief Engineers of all three zones and district engineers to remain alert along with the

Measures taken to deal with the flood-like situation in Balochistan: Hafiz Majid

(APP): Balochistan Secretary Irrigation Department Hafiz Abdul Majid on Sunday said in view of the instructions of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Irrigation Minister Mir Sadia Ummrani. appropriate measures are being taken to deal with the flood-like situation in the

province. A statement issued

the flood-like situation in nal Naseerabad should different areas of the province, the officers and officials of the Irrigation Department should ensure their presence at the duty

He warned that no one will leave the duty station without his permission and ordered that whoever is on leave should report back immediately. He directed that the Chief Engineer Ca-

share information on daily basis regarding flood situation. Hafiz Abdul Majid said that Chief Engineer Quetta will visit the Sibi district today and report on the flood situation on Sunday. He ordered that the Chief Engineer and SE Gwadar should also report from their station tonight and meet with district ad-

In his message, the all the laws and values.

Independent Report highhandedness meted out with them at the interna-

tional level.

the day is also being observed against the continuous cruelty and exploita-On this day, the forceful voice is being raised against the Indian's barbar-

It may be mentioned here that India had unveiled its cruel face before the

word by annulling its article 370 and 35-A and violated

August 5 to be remembered as dark day in history: Gilani laws and covenants, which

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani stated on Sunday that August 5, 2019, will be remembered as a dark day in history when the Indian government unlawfully annulled the special status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In his message on Youm-e-Istehsal, he said, "The 5th of August will be remembered as a dark day in history when the Indian government unlawfully annulled the special status of Occupied Jammu & Kashmir in 2019 using violent imposing tactics,

local voices.' He added that unilaterally altering the internationally recognized disputed status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (ÎlOJK) is a clear violation of international

lockdowns, and other coer-

cive measures to suppress

speaks volumes about India's hegemonic designs. "Such acts will never change the facts or undermine the right to self-determination of Kashmiris,' he added. The chairman said that it is high time for the global community to acknowledge the pain and suffering of the people of IIOJK and to raise their voices on humanitarian grounds, as humanity is suffering. He said that continuous violence in IIOJK has failed to silence the voices of Kashmiris, whose sacrifices and courage remain unparalleled. Pakistan's stance on the issue is clear and vocal.

Gilani also noted that Indian belligerent postures, violations of international laws, and disregard for UNSC resolutions continue to pose a threat to regional peace and stability.

Youm-e-Shuhada ceremony held in Lasbella district

Independent Report LASBELA: A ceremony

was held in Lasbela district to commemorate Youm-e-Shuhada, honoring the martyrs of the police force. The event was organized by the District Administration and Police Department. The ceremony began

with Quran Khawani at the Levies Police Lines Othal, followed by a gathering at the Lasbela Levies Police Lines. District Council Chairman Sardar Abdul Rashid Phorai, Levies Police martyrs' families, administrative officers, and police officials attended the

the martyrs by offering Fateha, laying floral wreaths, and praying for their elevated ranks. Special prayers were also offered for the country's security, prosperity, and

well-being.
Later, SSP Naveed Alam, ADC Saraj Baloch, Chairman District Council Sardar Abdul Rashid Phorai, District Vice Chairman Sardar Ghulam Farooq Sheikh, and other police and Levies officers laid a floral wreath on the memorial of martyrs. Lady police officers of the district also paid tribute to the brave police officers who sacrificed their

They paid homage to lives.

Traders urge Pakistan, Afghanistan to

countries. He emphasized that the entire business community, as well as the general public, is suffering due to these taxes. Traders cannot import goods due to high taxes, and the poor cannot afford to buy them, as the prices skyrocket from 100 rupees to 500 rupees due to these taxes. Kakar suggested that Pakistan should show flexibility in all matters with Afghanistan, as it is a newly formed country. This would lead to improved relations between the two countries and ease



QUETTA: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader, Munawara

Shaheed during a ceremony held in collection with Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police at Central Police Office HC Dhaka assures security of Pak students

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir

Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti talking with daughter of a

DHAKA (APP): Pakistan said security of Pakistani High Commission, Dhaka was keeping a close eye on the changing situation in Bangladesh and was taking all possible steps for ensuring security of Pakistani students.

citizens was top most priority and the High Commission was continuously in contact with the citizens particularly Pakistani students who were studying in the country. The officials of statement High Commission were also Pakistan's High Commis-sioner Syed Ahmed Maroof Bangladeshi authorities.

Sultan terms August 5 as the darkest day in the Kashmir's history

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Chaudhry, while terming August 5 as the darkest day in the Kashmir's history, has said that India's apartheid regime's move to strip the region of its special status was a brazen violation

of the UNSC resolutions.

released on the eve of Youm

e Istehsal, the president said

In his video message

370 and 35-A of the Indian Constitution was to change Mahmood the political and constitutional status of the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

India has been commiting state terrorism against the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir since a long time, however, the level of brutality and state repression has intensified significantly after

the revocation of Article

illegal Afghans continues ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has successfully repatriated 675,190 Afghan

nationals as part of an extensive operation to address illegal immigration. The latest data reveals that from July 21 to August 3, 15,537 illegal Afghans, including 6,345 men, 4,963 women, and 4,229 children, have been returned to Afghani-In this phase of the operation, 421 families

were transported in 489

vehicles. The repatriation

effort is a response to wide-

spread issues such as smug-

gling and extortion linked to

illegal residency, particu-

review new taxes

By Sarkar Khundai CHAMAN: Haji Imran Khan Kakar, former president of the Chaman Chamber of Commerce and a prominent trader, has urged Pakistan and Afghanistan to review the newly imposed taxes on trade. He warned that the increased taxes would affect the general public and lead to a rise in inflation.

In an interview, Kakar said that the fresh season of fruits and vegetables is only a few months long, but this year, traders are facing severe difficulties due to the

the import and export of es-

Bibi Baloch addresses to media persons during

press conference, at Quetta Press Club. here, said that in view of August 5, 2019", he said. larly in cities like Karachi. that the main motive behind Chief Editor: Sved Faroog Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Bolan market main RCD Road Hub. Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E-mail:newsdailyind@gmail.com.dailyindisb@gmail.com