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

Allah failed those who conspired to break or weaken Pakistan:

CM reiterates every possible measures for wellbeing of heirs of police martyrs; vows to eliminate terrorism in country together

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

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that our 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 heirs.

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 expressed by the Chief Minister while addressing the ceremony held to mark the Balochistan Police Martyrs Day at the Central Police Office here on Sunday.

The Deputy Speaker, Ms. Ghazala Gola, Provincial Ministers, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani and Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Chief Secretary, Shakeel

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 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 future that the families of 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 of our martyrs who rendered great sacrifices for us. So, we remember the martyrs of police every day of the year. We can't forget them as they are close to 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 together. He said that we 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 government 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 wreath there.

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

Says no compromise on security of Chinese workers

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

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 of government institution China Public Diplomacy Association.

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 thankful to the Chinese leadership and people on the exemplary hospitality 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 Attaullah Tarar was present in the meeting.

The delegation of

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LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a review meeting on Track and Trace System

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 aspirations 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 status."

Since 5 August 2019, he said India has embarked upon a ceaseless campaign to alter the demographic structure and political landscape 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 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.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam along with All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leadership addressing a press conference at PID Media Center.

Amir Muqam 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 region.

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 by Indian forces.

India is claiming the largest democratic state of 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 August 5. He

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

Armed Forces pay tribute to valiant personnel of Pakistan Police

RAWALPINDI (Online): On the occasion of Youm-e-Shuhada Police, the Armed Forces of Pakistan pay solemn tribute to the valiant personnel of the Pakistan Police who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their unwavering dedication, unrelenting courage, and selfless sacrifice will be perpetually remembered and honored.

Today, the Armed Forces, comprising officers and men, salute the memory of our fallen heroes who have protected the nation with their sweat and blood. Their noble and selfless service has ensured the safety and security of our communities, and their legacy continues to inspire and motivate us. We stand in solidarity with their families and reaffirm our commitment to supporting them in every possible manner.

To demonstrate our solidarity with the Shuhada of Police, army officers and troops participated in various events organized by the local police at numerous locations across the country.

Youm-e-Shuhada Police serves as a poignant reminder of the immense sacrifices made by our policemen in the pursuit of peace, justice, and security. The Armed Forces of Pakistan reiterate their unwavering commitment to the noble cause of defending the motherland, alongside the Police and other law enforcement agencies, and pledge to continue this mission with unshakable resolve and determination.

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

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 during next three months.

She announced that the

anti-polio campaign would be run in September, October and November 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

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Governor stresses need to make tourism places attractive for tourists

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.

He said that Ziarat can become source of attraction for the tourists of all over the world because of its natural beauty, Quaid-e-Azam Residency, ancient juniper forests, natural water falls and historic places.

He said that provision of necessary facilities is necessary for promotion of tourism industry in Ziarat. The Governor was speaking on occasion of briefing conducted during his visit to Ziarat valley on Sunday.

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 occasion, Governor directed to take special measures for establishing officers' club, restoring all the street lights, providing necessary facilities for the tourism. He also directed to take measures for protection of the tourists. He made it clear that no negligence would be tolerated in protection of life and property of the people especially the tourists besides provision of necessary facilities in Ziarat.

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

President Zardari summons Senate session today

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned a session of the Senate on Monday, August 5, at 5:00 pm.

The President has called the Senate session under Article 54(1) of the Constitution. This move comes as a significant development in the country's political landscape, and it is expected that important legislative business will be transacted during the session.

Dissenting note raises important points regarding reserved seats: Atta Tarar

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

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5 اگست
یوم استحصال کشمیر

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Why did India feel the need for the unlawful actions on August 5, 2019?

By Muhammad Hanif, Information Officer

On August 5th, Kashmiris in Pakistan and around the world commemorate "Exploitation Day" each year. Today, large demonstrations and rallies are being held across Pakistan and globally in support of Kashmiris and against Indian exploitation. The government and people of Azad Kashmir are also actively protesting today. The aim of these protests, rallies, and speeches by Kashmiris and Pakistanis is to make it clear to the world that Kashmiris categorically reject India's oppressive and unconstitutional actions. They urge the international community to exert effective pressure on India to retract its unconstitutional, illegal, and inhuman measures taken on August 5, 2019.

Five years ago, on August 5, 2019, India illegally and unconstitutionally abrogated the special status of occupied Kashmir. This oppressive and unjust act was an attempt to usurp the rights granted to the oppressed Kashmiris under Article 370 and Article 35A of the Indian Constitution. Article 370 accorded special status to the occupied state of Kashmir, while Article 35A specified the definition of permanent residents and who could own property in Kashmir. In other words, these articles meant that occupied Kashmir was an autonomous state, where only permanent residents could buy property, and non-locals had no ownership rights. The population and demographics of Kashmir could not be altered under these articles.

However, on August 5, 2019, India unilaterally abrogated these articles through sheer force and unlawful means. This action was a blatant exploitation of the fundamental rights of the oppressed and besieged Kashmiris, initiating yet another chapter of their exploitation. Through this step, India not only tried to strip Kashmiris of their fundamental rights but also violated their basic human rights.

The question arises: why did the Modi government feel the need to abrogate these articles, which had been a part of the Indian Constitution since the beginning? Under the sinister plan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), these articles were abolished with the objective of stripping Kashmiris of their basic state rights and resettling non-state Hindu residents in the occupied territory. This was aimed at increasing the number of Hindus and reducing the Muslim majority to a minority. Following the unjust abolition of these articles, the Modi government began resettling non-state individuals from India in occupied Kashmir. These people, instead of legitimately purchasing properties, have been seizing lands and orchards through coercion and force, with the help of the Indian government and RSS goons. They forcibly transfer these properties to their names under the guise of "purchases" on official documents. Moreover, these non-state individuals are being given government jobs in the occupied state without merit, displacing Kashmiris and rendering them unemployed.

Despite over seven decades and numerous UN resolutions, India continues its oppression and brutality against the innocent and defenseless Kashmiris, while the so-called human rights defenders remain silent. Astonishingly, five years ago, on this very day, India brazenly deprived Kashmiris of their fundamental constitutional rights, leading to a systematic genocide of the Kashmiri people.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti condoling with his Principal Secretary Imran Zarkoon on sad demise of his cousin Dr. Muhammad Farooq Zarkoon. Provincial Ministers Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Ali Madad Jattak are also present

Message from the CM GB on Kashmir Exploitation Day

Independent Report

GILGIT: Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan, has issued a special message on Kashmir Exploitation Day, stating that August 5, 2019, marks the day when India took illegal and unilateral actions in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The international community has been indifferent to India's inhuman actions against the oppressed Kashmiri people. The Chief Minister said that India is continuously violating the Geneva Convention and UN Security Council resolutions, depriving Kashmiris of their basic

rights. India's so-called democracy has been exposed to the world. The Indian government is shamelessly promoting its Hindu nationalist agenda to change the demographic structure of occupied Kashmir.

The Chief Minister urged the international community and the United Nations to play their role instead of remaining silent and watching the atrocities committed by India against the oppressed people of Kashmir. He emphasized that human rights and freedom are the rights of the people of occupied Kashmir.

He also directed to run the expanded programme of immunization in the high risk districts of the province in next few months. Mir Sarfaraz Bugti also assured that the polio immunization campaign would be run successfully under supervision of the Deputy Commissioners.

In this regard, no administrative negligence would be tolerated, adding he asserted.

He said that it is necessary for success of the polio immunization campaign to create awareness among general public. In this regard, there is a key role of religious leaders, mass media and civil society so as to eradicate polio fully, adding he stressed.

PM's Focal Person highly...

Continued from page 1

Ministers Ali Madad Jatak and Sardarzada Faisal Jamali, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadeer Khan, National Polio Coordinator, Muhammad Anwarul Haq, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, Secretary Health, Muhammad Saleh Baloch and Coordinator of Emergency Operation Center, Inam Khan Mandokhail were present. During the meeting, matters about prevention of polio, immunization campaign and other related ones were discussed. 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 province. The Chief Minister on the occasion directed to the Secretary Health not to commit any negligence in the polio immunization campaign and other immunization programmes.

He also directed to run the expanded programme of immunization in the high risk districts of the province in next few months. Mir Sarfaraz Bugti also assured that the polio immunization campaign would be run successfully under supervision of the Deputy Commissioners.

In this regard, no administrative negligence would be tolerated, adding he asserted.

He said that it is necessary for success of the polio immunization campaign to create awareness among general public. In this regard, there is a key role of religious leaders, mass media and civil society so as to eradicate polio fully, adding he stressed.



QUETTA: Commuters are facing problem in transportation due to wreckage and worst condition of road, creating problems for commuters and they demand to concerned department to construction of road as soon as possible, in Quetta



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti and others standing in respect of National Anthem during a ceremony held in collection with Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police at Central Police Office

Weather Alert: Heavy rainfall, flash flooding expected in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Meteorological Department of the Government of Balochistan has warned that heavy rainfall and flash flooding are expected in various districts of the province over the next three to four days. The districts that may be affected include Sibi, Harnai, Ziarat, Awaran, Kech, Panjgur, Barkhan, Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Jhal Magsi, Nasirabad, Jaffarabad, Quetta, Kalat, Khuzdar, Qila Saifullah, Gwadar, Washuk, Zhub, Sherani, Loralai, and Musakhel.

The department has advised all relevant authorities to remain alert during this period. According to the report, scattered thun-

derstorms and heavy rainfall are expected in various districts on Sunday, including Quetta, Kalat, Khuzdar, Panjgur, Lasbela, Hub, Awaran, Kech, Ziarat, Harnai, Sibi, Duki, Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Nasirabad, Jhal Magsi, Jaffarabad, and Barkhan.

On Monday, similar weather conditions are expected in the same districts, with a possibility of light rainfall in Quetta, Qila Saifullah, Gwadar, Washuk, Zhub, Sherani, Loralai, and Musakhel. The weather is expected to be partly cloudy with a chance of light rain in Kharan, Nushki, Qila Abdullah, and Chaman.

NHMP holds ceremony to honor sacrifices of Police officers

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: On the eve of "Youm-e-Shuhada Police," the National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) held a poignant ceremony to honor the sacrifices of Pakistan Police officers, particularly those from NHMP who gave their lives in the line of duty. Before the ceremony, IG, Salman Chaudhry along with ASP Sohaib Amin son of the martyred Sub Inspector Muhammad Amin offered floral tributes to the martyrs at Yadgar-e-Shuhada monument. The event was highlighted by Inspector General of NHMP, Salman Chaudhry, who recognized the bravery of the fallen officers and their families.

IG, Salman Chaudhry addressed the audience, underscoring the heroism of the 49 NHMP martyrs, in-

cluding a lady officer. He expressed deep gratitude to the families of these heroes, emphasizing their critical role in shaping NHMP into a beacon of excellence. IG Chaudhry lauded the martyrs as exemplary figures of courage and resilience, and voiced his solidarity with their families.

ASP Sohaib Amin, son of the martyred Sub Inspector Muhammad Amin, was among the chief guests, along with Nosheen Safdar, daughter of martyred Muhammad Safdar. Both conveyed their heartfelt thanks during the ceremony, acknowledging the support and recognition extended by the NHMP. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of certificates of honor, paying tribute to the enduring legacy of the fallen officers and their families.

PCB signs MoUs to promote cricket in educational institutions

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday signed historic memorandum of understandings (MoUs) with Higher Education Commission (HEC), Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Inter-Board Coordination Commission (IBCC) to promote cricket and improve the cricketing infrastructure in schools, colleges and universities across Pakistan.

Chairman PCA Mohsin and Federal Minister for Education Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui graced the signing ceremony held at CDA headquarters. Other attendees included Federal Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha, Federal Secretary Education Mohiuddin Wani, CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and senior officials from the Higher Education Commission, Inter Boards Coordination Commission, and CDA.

Dissenting note raises...

Continued from page 1

tice Naeem Akhtar Afghani, has 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."

Attallah Tarar said that some articles of the Constitution were related to reserved seats, adding that in the reserved seats case, a decision had been given not 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.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was not a petitioner but their 81 members had been provided relief, he said and added that those who had come after being elected on reserved seats and taken oaths of their membership were removed.

He said that it was a reality that if members of Sunni Ittehad Council would sit with Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf then this would be violation of Article 62(1) (f). He said that the two honourable judges in their dissenting note said that it was a proved reality that Sunni Ittehad Council had not taken part in general elections as a political party while the chairman of Sunni Ittehad Council had also contested election in an independent capacity.

A party which has no existence in the parliament how it could be given reserved seats, he questioned.

Attallah Tarar said that it was mentioned in the Constitution of Sunni Ittehad Council that no minority member could join it, so it could not get minority seats as well.

The Information minister said that a due procedure was followed for electing members on reserved seats.

He further said that PML-N and PPP had filed a review petition on the Supreme Court's reserved seats verdict but it had not been fixed for hearing till now.

He said that two honourable judges of the Supreme Court had raised constitutional and legal points in their dissenting note and added that these points were a big question mark on the legal framework and needed to be answered.

Availability of inclusive data demanded for the sustainable population growth

By Rafiullah Mandokhail

QUETTA: The 'Media Coalition Meeting' organized by the Population Council with the support of UNFPA in the federal capital called upon the media to play a pivotal role in urging both central and provincial governments to ensure the availability of inclusive, disaggregated data. This data is essential for crafting informed policies and implementing them effectively, ultimately achieving sustainable population growth and fostering a resilient and equitable future for all citizens. By advocating for the regular collection and dissemination of such data, the media can contribute significantly to the nation's efforts to achieve sustainable development goals and improve the overall well-being of the masses.

Dr. Ali Mir, Senior Director Programs Population Council, in his welcome remarks emphasized the pivotal role of the media in advocating for the regular availability of disaggregated data based on age, sex, disability, geography, and economic status.

"With targeted interventions based on robust data, we can ensure that everyone is counted and accounted for, as each individual plays a vital role

in national development."

He stressed the importance of data utilization for effective policymaking, highlighting the need for a nuanced approach to address diverse population needs. Dr. Mir also introduced this year's World Population Day theme, "Embracing the Power of Inclusive Data Towards a Resilient and Equitable Future for All," underscoring the significance of comprehensive and accessible data in formulating effective population policies.

Deputy Manager Communication Population Council, Ikram ul Ahad presented the latest Census 2023 data, emphasizing the need for Pakistan to follow the example of neighboring Muslim countries that have successfully lowered their fertility rates. He said, "The SDG targets for education, health, nutrition, a sustainable environment, and gender equality cannot be achieved without the implementation of data-driven strategies."

He urged journalists to highlight data gaps to ensure the timely availability of national-level data for informed policymaking aimed at achieving sustainable population growth. He also emphasized the importance of enrolling

out-of-school children, especially girls, increasing female labor force participation, and empowering women, which will remain a challenge with current high fertility rates.

Communication Officer, Population Council Ummi Kalsoom, shared data on Pakistan's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "Population growth and SDGs are intrinsically linked, with 12 out of 17 SDGs directly related to population growth. A decline in fertility and sustainable population growth could significantly help Pakistan achieve all the SDGs," she explained.

Kalsoom stressed the need for consistent media coverage to highlight data gaps and urged Media Coalition members to ensure periodic data availability.

Dr. Jameel Ahmed, Program Specialist at UNFPA, called for a comprehensive strategy prioritizing family planning to achieve the SDGs.

"People-centric development cannot be realized without the timely provision of disaggregated public data, which is crucial for developing nuanced and well-informed policies," emphasizing the media's pivotal role in advocating for voluntary family planning.



KARACHI: Activists of Pakistan Sunni Tehreek raise slogan outside the Karachi Press Club

Amir Maqam calls Int'l...

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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 year, 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 appealed 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 dispute.

He said that the Indian actions were aimed at a process of demographic change and political engineering. As a result, he said that the Kashmiri people are confronted with the danger of becoming a disempowered community in their land.

"India has increased its oppression in IIOJK since August 5, 2019. Efforts are being made to silence the media. The genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people remains behind bars. The Indian authorities have sought the death penalty for one of the most renowned Kashmiri leaders, Yaseen Malik," he said.

He said the harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, 'cordon and search' operations, and extra-judicial killings have become a matter of routine. The Kashmiri people are unable to enjoy their freedom of expression

and assembly. Most importantly, they are unable to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, he said.

He said on this 'Youm-e-Istehsal', we salute the courage and valour of the people of IIOJK, who have rendered countless sacrifices in their struggle for the realization of their basic rights.

The international community must demand an end to India's gross and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK, reversal of its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019, repeal of draconian laws; release of political prisoners and implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Amir Maqam said Pakistan will continue to play its role to ensure a free and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. "Our strong moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people will continue till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination", he said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed all provinces authorities including Gilgit Baltistan and AJK to befittingly observe Aug 5 Youm-e-Istehsal.

The minister also briefed the media about the planned activities for Youm-e-Istehsal to be observed on August 5, including walks, seminars and awareness drives, par-

ticularly the ceremonies scheduled to be held at Pakistan's diplomatic missions across the world.

Meanwhile, the convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference AJK Chapter, Ghulam Mohammad Safi, said that India has been trying to justify its usurpation of Jammu and Kashmir since day one. In a cynical attempt to make Jammu and Kashmir a part of itself, the provisions included in the Constitution of India regarding the special status of Kashmir were abolished.

On August 5, 2019, India, he said the Modi government abolished the special semi autonomous status of Kashmir, and this day is now marked every year as Youm-e-Istehsal where voice was raised against oppression at every forum around the world. He said India had an illusion that after this move it had succeeded in its nefarious objectives and the special status of Kashmir has been abolished.

He said now under the conspiracy to change demography of the state, Kashmir's land was being allotted to Indians and they were allowed to become citizens of Kashmir. Moreover Indian army was being allotted strategic areas and the Kashmiris were being deprived of their land. Encroachment is being done, the names of Muslim schools.

He said the curriculum was being changed and religious freedom was being abolished.

VCs of AJK Universities demand financial aid to prevent collapse

ISLAMABAD (APP): An urgent meeting of the Vice Chancellors (VCs) of all five public sector universities of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) was held here to discuss the severe financial crisis facing these institutions, specifically concerning the payment of salaries and pensions to university staff and pensioners.

The (VCs) conveyed their concerns and the potential repercussions of the financial crisis to the President of AJK who is the Chancellor of the universities following the meeting, said a press release.

Participants in this meeting included Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, Vice Chancellor of

the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad; Brigadier Prof. Dr. Muhammad Younis Javed, Vice Chancellor of Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST); Prof. Dr. Abdul Hameed, Vice Chancellor of Women University Bagh; Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zakria Zakir, Vice Chancellor of the University of Poonch; and Prof. Dr. Rahmat Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor of the University of Kotli.

The VCs highlighted that they have repeatedly informed all relevant forums and authorities about the financial crisis over the years through written and verbal communication, but

no positive development has occurred. Consequently, the crisis has intensified, leaving the universities with no resources to pay salaries and pensions.

The main reasons for this crisis include the lack of increase in funding from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) since 2017, low student fees in public sector universities, the introduction of BS degree programs in colleges, resulting in decreased university enrollments, and HEC's discontinuation of private degree programs. Simultaneously, salaries and pensions have increased by 135% over the past seven years, rendering the univer-

sities unable to manage payments within their current financial resources.

The VCs have made continuous efforts to resolve the financial issues, including meetings with the President of AJK/Chancellor of the universities and the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission. As a result, the President expressed concerns in a letter to the Prime Minister of AJK on June 7, 2024, warning that the absence of financial support from the AJK government could lead to potential unemployment of faculty and staff and affect over 30,000 students enrolled in higher education programs.



ISLAMABAD: Posters and flags displayed on different roads of the Federal Capital, urge people to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal (Exploitation Day), Jammu Kashmir falling on 5th August.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Interior Captain @ Muhammad Khurram Agha attending the grand ceremony held at the Police Community Center, Police Lines Headquarters, to honor the 62 martyrs of the Islamabad Police

Kiyani urges opposition to shun differences, unite for public interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Convener of the National Parliamentary Task Force Bilal Azhar Kiyani Sunday urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership to abandon its polarizing tactics and believed that Pakistan's political leadership can pool their expertise to devise a comprehensive solution to this pressing public problem.

Talking to a private news channel, Kiyani argues that PTI can play a constructive role in building national consensus and fostering a more inclusive political environment in the country, adding, the government was fully aware of the gravity of the situation and was working tirelessly to provide relief to the masses.

Kiyani reiterated that the government was taking a multi-pronged approach to address the issue, including negotiations with traders, measures to enhance productivity, and initiatives

to promote economic growth.

He also appealed to the opposition parties to put aside their political differences and join hands with the government to tackle the challenge of inflation, which, he said, was a national issue that required a collective response. By working together, Kiyani emphasized, Pakistan could overcome the current economic difficulties and emerge stronger and more resilient.

Replying a query, he pointed out that Khan's policies had no continuity, and his decisions were often driven by personal whims rather than a coherent vision for the country. "Pakistan needs leaders who can provide stability and consistency, not those who change their stance with the wind," Kiyani asserted, dismissing Khan's overtures for talks as nothing more than a publicity stunt.

9th Conference of Awqaf: Islamic Affairs Ministers discuss efforts to promote correct understanding of Islam

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Minister of Islamic Affairs, Dawah, and Guidance, Sheikh Dr. Abdullatif bin Abdullatif Al-Sheikh, has stated that the ministry is working diligently to establish communication bridges with Islamic affairs ministries in various countries around the world.

He said this during the press conference, ahead of the 9th Conference of Ministers of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Makkah on Sunday.

The conference, organized by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Dawah, and Guidance, is titled "The Role of the Ministries of Islamic Affairs and Awqaf in Promoting the Principles of Moderation and Consolidating the Values of Moderation" and would see the participation of Islamic figures from over 60 countries around the world. Dr. Abdullatif is also the Executive Chairman of Conference of Ministers of Awqaf and Islamic

Affairs in countries of the Islamic world, said these efforts would help advance Islamic work, strengthen ties and cooperation foundations, promote moderation and combat terrorism.

Dr. Abdullatif said the conference would enhance Islamic solidarity, coordinate and collaborate in the fields of Dawah, Awqaf and Islamic affairs, and strive to promote the correct understanding of Islam worldwide according to the Holy Quran, the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

He said the conference would discuss the cause of Al-Quds (Jerusalem) and Palestine, matters related to Islamic Dawah, the care of mosques, and other aspects impacting the life of the Islamic nation.

The conference would also address the exchange of experiences in appointing Imams and preachers, as well as the programmes and responsibilities assigned to them, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Summer vacations are over, students getting ready for school, purchasing new bags and books.

Police Martyrs' Day Tributes paid to 62 martyrs of Islamabad Police

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, a grand ceremony was held at the Police Community Center, Police Lines Headquarters, to honor the 62 martyrs of the Islamabad Police. Secretary Interior Captain @ Muhammad Khurram Agha attended the ceremony as the chief guest, a public relations officer said.

He said that the chief guest visited the martyrs' memorial, placed a flower wreath and offered prayers for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks. On this occasion, a smartly turned-out contingent of police officers presented a guard of honor.

DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza, DIG Security Muhammad Jawad Tariq, SSPs, all zonal SPs, DSPs and other police officers,

along with the families of the martyred policemen, children, representatives from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and members of civil society participated in the ceremony.

The chief guest along with senior police officers met the families of the martyrs and distributed gifts to the children of the martyrs. During the ceremony tributes were paid to the Islamabad Police martyrs for their eternal sacrifices for the country and the nation. Documentaries and videos featuring the police martyrs were also shown to the participants. Addressing the ceremony, the chief guest stated that the Islamabad Police martyrs sacrificed their lives while performing their duty to protect the nation.

CDA Chairman takes notice of fish mortality in Rawal Dam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Commissioner and Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, took notice after media reports of increased fish mortality in Rawal Dam.

A team led by Member Environment and Administration, Talat Gondal, was dispatched to the dam to investigate the matter.

The team, accompanied by officials from the Environment Protection Department, collected water samples from the dam, which have been sent to the Environment Protection Department, Punjab Fisheries Department, and Fisheries Research Institute of NARC, Islamabad, for analysis. The departments are expected to submit their reports within two days.

Preliminary observations suggest that the fish mortality occurred in the last week of July, and the dead fish have since been removed. The situation has improved, and the CDA has initiated the process to address the issue permanently. An expression of interest has been invited for the installation of a sewerage treatment plant upstream to prevent water contamination.

Bani Gala police teams arrested 290 accused during last six months

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza had assigned special tasks to the zonal SPs and Police teams to arrest those involved in heinous crime and recover the looted items. In this regard, Islamabad Police Bani Gala police station teams arrested 290 outlaws including 41 gang members during the last six months involved in a series of criminal activities, a public relations Officer said.

He said that the Bani Gala police teams also recovered looted items worth Rs 23 million including valuables, vehicles, motorcycles, mobile phones, laptops, while drugs, liquor and weapons with ammunition were also recovered from their possession.

Police teams also arrested accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and recovered 10,545 gram hashish, 12,654 gram heroin, 1082 gram Ice, 55 liters of liquor, while police teams recovered 25 pistols, 02 Kalashnikov and 04 rifles along with ammunition from their possession.

Moreover, investigation on 203 was also completed and their challan were submitted in the relevant courts.

Additionally, Bani Gala police team also arrested 148 absconder and target offenders.

Materializing Quaid's vision with renewed focus

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Pakistan navigates the complex terrain of modern economic challenges, it finds itself striving to fulfill the dream of founding father, Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah of a progressive, self-reliant, robust and invincible Pakistan. As Quaid's vision remains a guiding beacon for the nation, Pakistan is once again embarking on an ambitious path of economic reform and development and its economy has started improving despite numerous challenges as the World Bank also projects its GDP growth to reach 3.7% in 2024 after sluggish growth in recent past.

Since its inception in 1947, the country sailed through different upheavals and turmoil with its growth rate fluctuating between one and seven percent. Political uncertainty, regional

circumstances like Afghan War, war against terrorism and Indian infiltration have been severely affecting our economic growth. But, our economy showed strength and resilience to sustain all these and manmade calamities. Respective government toiled hard to lift the country from obvious pits of recession time and again and so is the present government doing to stabilize economy by implementing structural reforms.

Through concerted efforts, the government has been successful in bringing down CPI inflation rate to 9.5% in 2024 from 11.0% in 2023 and putting in efforts to reduce fiscal deficit to 4.2% of GDP by end of 2024 from 5.0% in 2023.

Projects like China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have seen significant advancements and besides development of

Kashmiris rendered matchless sacrifices for plebiscite: Amir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Gilgit-Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam on Sunday said that on the 'Youm-e-Istehsal', the Pakistani government saluted the courage and valour Kashmiri people, who rendered countless sacrifices for the noble cause of the right to self-determination.

In a message on Youm-e-Istehsal will be observed on Monday, the minister said this 'Youm-e-Istehsal' marks the fifth anniversary of India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, in the Indian illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

He said that India scrapped the special status of IOJK on this day and bifurcated it into two so-called 'Union Territories' to alter its internationally recognised disputed status and undermine the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

He apprised that the Indian actions were aimed at a process of demographic change and political engineering. As a result, the Kashmiri people were confronted with the danger of becoming a disempowered community in their own

land, he added.

Amir Muqam said that India had increased its oppression in IOJK since August 5, 2019, and efforts were being made to silence the media, adding that the dynamic leadership of the Kashmiri people remains behind bars. He said the Indian authorities had sought the death penalty for one of the most renowned Kashmiri leaders Yaseen Malik. The harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, 'cordon and search' operations, and extra-judicial killings had become a matter of routine, he maintained.

Media urged to raise awareness about ending child labour

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Labor Organization (ILO) is committed to eliminate child labour, to provide safe and healthy childhood to children across the world, said ILO official Munawar Sultana here Sunday. She said while much progress has been made in reducing child labour over the years, recent years have seen global trends reverse.

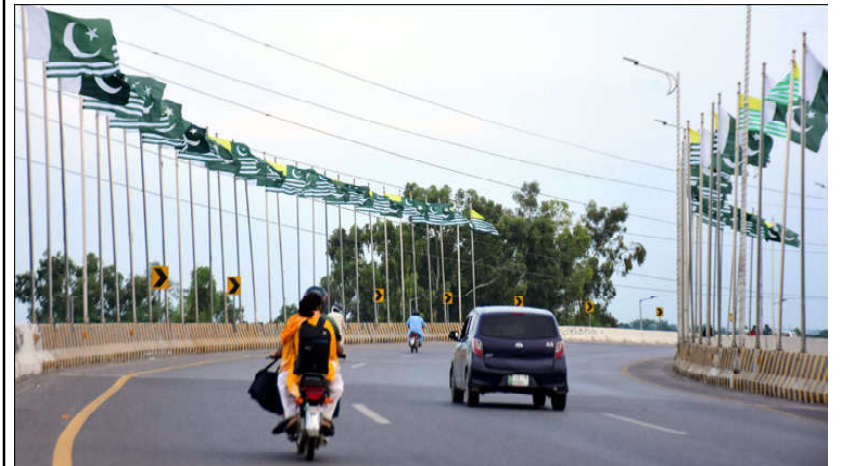
MoHR Helpline Zainab alert receives 688 open cases during 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Human Rights Helpline Zainab alert response and recovery agency report has received 688 open cases and close cases of violence which include 3230 and 1704 child cases found during the last six months, revealed the data issued by Ministry here on Thursday.

According to the report, around 558 cases have been resolved, the duplicate

cases were 285 and 683 cases were fake.

Around 2,589 cases and 1123 cases have been received in which from the age 0-5 years old age 2,820 cases were received, from 5-10 around 261 cases were received and from the age 10-15 year, around 701 cases have been received and from the age 15-18 -year only 03 cases have been received.



ISLAMABAD: Posters and flags displayed on different roads of the Federal Capital, urge people to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal (Exploitation Day), Jammu Kashmir falling on 5th August. In world over, August 5 is observed as Kashmir Exploitation Day by the people of Kashmir as on this black day.

Civil society activists demand special child protection centers in ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): Civil society activists here have demanded the government to ensure child protection and open special centers in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Talking to APP, child rights activist and former NCR member Dr Rubina Fareed said that it was very crucial to facilitate children and protect them.

Psychologist Dr Bashir Ahmad highlighted that child abuse has created psychological issues pro-

tection centers of higher quality can significantly benefit children, for instance, by supporting better social and academic performance, she added.

Children out of home growth in cases involving multiple risk factors, including cases where children faced risks both inside and outside the home, or simply risks outside the home.

He further added that domestic abuse was combined with other factors,

particularly emotional abuse and parental mental health (complex domestic abuse/risks at home).

There were complexities related to parental mental health, which often involved domestic abuse and substance misuse.

There were concerns relating to family members other than the child or parent (concerns about another person), which tended to co-exist with other risks, including domestic abuse.

marked Pakistan's entry into the group of nuclear armed states, thereby enhancing its strategic deterrence capabilities.

Pakistan has made considerable progress in developing indigenous defense production capabilities. The organizations like Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF), Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) and Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) have enabled the country to produce a wide range of military equipment, Al-Khalid tank, JF-17 Thunder fighter jet and various missile systems are notable examples of Pakistan's indigenous defense production. Pakistan has cultivated strategic defence partnerships with several countries and its ties with China have of utmost importance, leading to joint ventures like development and production of JF-17 Thunder fighter jet.

As economic growth has its impact on social development, the government in line with Quaid's vision is endeavoring to improve literacy rate and educational outcome while investment in health sector has also led to establishment of 50 new hospitals and 200 health clinics across the country.

Since 1947, Pakistan has also made significant

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Monday August 05, 2024

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 law-and-order issue, and refusing to see the underlying political and socio-economic 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.

Muhammad Amir Rana

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 decision. The TLP's threats to the judiciary are not new; neither has it spared the top military brass in the past in its hate-mongering. 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 bigotry. 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 backed tracked 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 campaigns. Initially, the PTI government took a soft stance 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 marched on Islamabad in April 2021 to demand the expulsion of the French ambassador from the country. TLP zealots killed sev-

eral 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 government 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 Iqbal 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 hate-mongering 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 international press because 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 Sipahi-Sahaba Pakistan, Jamaatut Dawa, and many other extremist outfits, were used for political purposes. 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 country. It 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 jubilation 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 the public. The TLP was accused of causing harm to law-enforcement personnel and civilians, vandalising public property, obstructing essential health supplies, and promoting hatred. The group was seen as a significant threat to national security. Consequently, under Section 11B(1) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, the federal government listed the TLP as a proscribed organisation, which means that the group was considered a national security threat by the state.

The TLP challenge

Of man's murderous 'honour'

Abbas Nasir

Horrified by TV images of a young woman in a hospital in upper Sindh, and whose own father had attacked her with an axe because she wanted to divorce an abusive husband, I googled 'woman+axe+attack', and what did I find? Where a man has been 'dishonoured', axes are among the weapons of choice. Others include knives, shotguns, pistols, rocks, machetes and even fuel — mostly kerosene and petrol — to redeem the lost 'honour'. Kudos to a society where the conviction rate for 'honour killing' ranks near zero and often the perpetrator is a member of the victim's own family. Most of us assume our family's support no matter what we do. Imagine the despondency and loneliness that must fill that woman's life and soul when her own father attacked her so savagely that he almost severed her legs below the knee. All for the crime of wanting to escape from an abusive relationship. Similarly, a man at-

tacked his granddaughter with an axe in the Karachi suburb of Korangi and killed her a fortnight ago. She had married of her own will, angering her family, and had moved to Jamshoro with her husband. Her grandfather had brought her back on the pretext of a patch-up and then axed her to death. Before you criticise me for acting all shocked at something that routinely happens in our society and has been happening for decades, let me tell you that each time such a crime takes place, it fills me with infinite rage and also despair because I know the following day it will be forgotten. The man's honour redeemed, one can be sure that the loss of the murdered woman would also only be mourned by another woman, perhaps the mother or the sister. It seems like an endless cycle. Somewhere religion is invoked, in other instances, tribal laws, not to mention the much-cited/abused 'our traditions'. Whatever the grounds, the murder victim is almost always a

woman. To confirm this, you only need to google and, in a moment, dozens of stories from the early 2000s (I suspect because that is when most Pakistani papers were digitised with searchable content) to this day will show up. Our great, enviable traditions and our faith-based order don't seem to put a stop to how we perceive women — demonstrably not as equal beings with rights we men take for granted — or to our feelings of horror and rage when they wish to exercise their free will. The following are just random statistics to make the point, and not to say the issue is confined to one part of Pakistan. In 2019, in Sindh alone 108 women were killed in the name of honour. But our honour went for a walk when last year some 500 women and underage girls were sexually assaulted and over 4,000 physically attacked in Karachi. From the deep recesses of KP to remote parts of Balochistan crimes against women happen every day, mostly in the name of honour.

The perpetrator is almost always a man whose honour remains intact when he is responsible for a woman's abuse, assault or witnesses it and does nothing. And before anyone thinks that Punjab is immune to such violence, here is a small window to the size of the problem in the province. In 2022, there were 39 'honour killings of women' in Gujrat district alone and 35 the following year. There are over three dozen districts in the province. The number of 'unreported' crimes would surpass the ones listed here, regardless of the location. In my search, in recent weeks, I found such a crime in Dera Ghazi Khan and Bahawalpur. In the first case, the woman was shot, and in the second, the husband poured fuel over his wife and set her alight. There is very little left to the imagination in terms of the final moments of the victim. Whenever journalists including columnists, such as this one, draw attention to the wrongs/ills in society that have re-

mained unaddressed for as long as one can remember, at least a couple of readers write, decrying the 'negative stories you report' without offering any solutions. So here are some suggestions. The PPP was led by one of the most courageous women I know. Its leadership needs to commit itself to fighting against this evil. Even today, the Bhutto name is revered in large swathes of the province. Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and his sibling Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari should personally lead a high-profile campaign, and rush to the places where such incidents are taking place. As an essential part of this campaign, they should personally ensure that the survivors of such crimes receive state protection including relocation and perhaps an ID change on the lines of witness protection programmes abroad. Equally, prosecution should be no holds-barred. Perhaps special 'honour crimes' courts should be set up and cases fast-tracked.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz could lead a similar effort in her province. Her high-profile role and personal interest in such cases would do wonders to rehabilitate her party in the province. It needs no reminding that women are at least half the country, even if we treat them as lesser beings. Another concrete suggestion. A national task force can be set up to address all factors related to this brutal crime. And though I don't have her consent to mention her, PPP MNA from Khairpur, Dr Nafisa Shah, should be drafted in as her expertise in detailing such cases was evident in magazine and newspaper writings — as well as her doctoral dissertation if I am not wrong. Last but not least, former prime minister Imran Khan, who has the most effective narrative-building machine, needs to be asked to help with public messaging and throw in his personal weight behind it. Perhaps, if all these things happen, we may have the beginnings of a turnaround.

'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 sanctity. I have experienced the 'not Pakistan' brigade, 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 one-off 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, he'd say. When sanitary pad advertisements migrated to TV, you heard some iteration of 'Kya behudgi hai yeh' (what is this obscenity). The ads were not coy like the family planning ones where two roses represented contraceptives. This was before such ads were banned altogether in 2016 to prevent exposure of such material to inquisitive children. Two steps forward, 200 steps back. The point is not to recall all the complaints I've faced and witnessed but to demonstrate how people's resistance is not to 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 but they do not want it seen in the paper, on screens etc. They do not want us to tell stories of ground realities as we see fit. This brigade has found a new target: Asim Abbasi's Barzakh, a drama released on YouTube which has among its many themes, one about same-sex relationship. Detractors all over social media will have you believe this is enough to destroy the country's existence. At the time of writing we are five episodes in of a beautifully shot story that also — and not exclusively — sheds light on the situation of the LGBT community in this country. How do you deny someone's existence? Abbasi is no stranger to the 'this is not us' brigade. His earlier drama, Churails, released on an Indian streaming platform, was about a group of diverse women who come together to form a detective agency to find cheating hus-

bands. Essentially, the story was about the injustices faced by women. It was briefly banned in Pakistan after a scene from the show went viral on social media in which a character admitted to physical intimacy to get ahead in her career. The fury was that it promoted vulgarity. Just like Barzakh does, they say. People exercising 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 answer but I know it cannot be a singular story centred around an ideological identity that teaches hatred for others; that issues ghadhari 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 a person who has since asked I not share their name because they fear someone, somewhere may recognise their identity. They asked me to write about them and their friends, university students who will soon graduate, struggling to find purpose. They have no one to guide them about career opportunities; their teachers also want to leave the country. Some of them cannot leave because they do not have the money needed to give to agents who can get them visas or take them via the illegal route. They will take on whatever job they can find to care for their families because their parents cannot make ends meet anymore. They know this means giving up whatever dreams they have. 'Write about so many people like us who bought into a dream about a new Pakistan but are living in a nightmare.'

War clouds in ME

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

With the targeted assassination of Hamas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran on July 30 and a Hezbollah commander in Beirut a day before, the Middle East is once again overcast by the dark clouds of a possible war. Israeli officials are gloating that the head of Hamas, which had carried out the Oct 7, 2023, strike on Israel, has been killed. However, they can never rest in peace because in the past 10 months, their country has killed nearly 40,000 innocent residents of Gaza and erased much of its infrastructure. Global public opinion has turned against Israel, including in the US, which is by far Israel's staunchest supporter. During the recent address to the US Congress by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, most TV channels were telecasting the demonstrations taking place inside the Capitol building. Many sober voices in the US, like Senator Bernie Sanders, have openly criticised the welcome accorded to a war criminal. Tragically, the US and most Western governments continue to support Israel and refuse to condemn its crimes against humanity despite the fact that the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court have both called out Israel for its war crimes in Gaza. Israel has also ignored, with impunity, the calls of the UN for ceasefire. It is striking that the Western countries, which take great pride in championing the cause of universal human rights, and even lecture the rest of the world on these issues, are silent in the

face of the genocide unfolding in Gaza. So, the question arises as to why the US (and the European countries) are standing so firmly behind Israel. There are indications that the US is increasingly concerned about losing its dominance in the Middle East, which it had propelled all these years mainly through Israel and its Arab friends. Iran at the regional level, and Russia and China at the global level, have challenged the American dominance. Israel is now desperately seeking to embroil Iran in a war with the objective of taming the country, which has consistently refused to accept US and Israeli hegemony in the Middle East. However, defeating Iran will not be easy because, notwithstanding its recent intelligence failures, Iran has systematically extended its influence in the region from Iraq to Syria to Lebanon. Despite differences in Yemen, Iran has also sought to normalise ties with Saudi Arabia. All this is a setback for Israel. An earlier attempt by Israel to provoke Iran — via an attack on the latter's consulate and Iran's counter strike — did not lead to a full-scale war partly because the US was not ready to get involved in a wider conflagration. This is Israel's second attempt to engage Iran in a war that Israel thinks it can win thanks mainly to American support. Much to Israel's dismay, both Iran and America have opposed such a war so far for their own respective reasons. However, Israel continues to test Iran's patience, hoping to use the broader war theatre to divert global attention from its atrocities in Gaza, and in the process, create space for a 'Greater Israel', which

has been its cherished goal. At the global level, the prevailing world order is in disarray and a new balance of power is yet to emerge. The US is firmly locked in a major power competition with a rising China and resurgent Russia. Since the US has a clear advantage in terms of military capabilities, being the largest military spender, it would prefer to engage China in a kinetic conflict to erode the latter's recently gained economic and military prowess. H a v i n g effectively embroiled Mos-c--ow in Ukraine, Washington would be keen to see Beijing get involved in either of the two theatres of global contestation: the South China Sea and Taiwan, or the Middle East. China has so far prudently avoided a kinetic conflict around the question of Taiwan and the South China Sea, despite provocations from the US. In the Middle East, too, China is reluctant to get involved in any war, and has focused, instead, on increasing its influence in the Middle East by facilitating unity amongst Palestinian factions, and earlier, by brokering Iran-Saudi reconciliation. With the killing of the Hamas chief, who was involved in peace talks, the chances of a wider war cannot be ruled out. The provocation is so grave that Iran has no choice but to respond in kind. That said, Iran, the US, and all Arab countries would not want a wider war because of the enormous destruction that it can cause in the region and beyond. As for China's involvement, its preference all along has been to not enter into any war that impedes its own national development plans.

CM alerts local bodies, irrigation, admins on upcoming rain spells

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has stated that although the current spell of rain has ceased, the next spell beginning on August 11 requires preparedness from all relevant departments, including the local government in urban areas and the Irrigation department in rural areas to ensure the protection of lives, property, and crops through timely and precautionary measures. This he said while presiding over a meeting here at CM House on Sunday. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, Sharjeel Memon, Saeed Ghani, Mayor Karachi Muratza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretary Local Govt Khalid Hyder Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, DG PDMA Salman Shah and Chief Metrologist

Dr Sarfraz, while Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, Minister Relief and Rehabilitation Makhdoom Mahboob, Secretary Irrigation Zareef Khoro and the divisional Commissioner attended the meeting through Zoom. At the outset of the meeting, Chief Metrologist Dr Sarfraz apprised the CM about the weather and told that there was a prediction of above-average rains for August 2024 especially over Sindh and Balochistan with over 50 per cent probability. In July 2024, rain was nine percent below average across Pakistan while Sindh received 44 percent less rain in July. 1 July to 4 Aug, over 11pc across Pakistan, over 48pc in Balochistan, over 17pc in Punjab, while, AJK, KP & GB received deficient rains so far. From July 1 to August 4, plus 16 percent in Sindh with Jacobabad 71.7 percent, Shaheed

Benaziabad 49.2pc, Rohri 39.2 percent and Sukkur 53.6 percent, he told. The Chief Metrologist told that heavy spell of the rain would subside by Aug 6, 2024. "The next spells are expected from August 11 to 13. The last days of August such as 18, 20 and 21 would be moderate/heavy falls again. Overall August is expected to be wetter. September rains may also be above average as per the model outlook. Monsoon to persist till September 15 to 20, 2024. The weather warning shared in the meeting said that widespread Wind-Thunderstorm/rain with few heavy/very heavy falls likely to continue in Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Kambar Shahdadkot, Kashmore, Larkano, Dadu, Naushahro Feroze, Shaheed Benazirabad, Ghotki, Sukkur, Sanghar, Matiari, Jamshoro, Mirpurkhas.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting to assess the impact of the recent rains on urban flooding and the river and lake situations, at CM House in Karachi.

Punjab transport minister lauds district administration for monsoon measures

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister Punjab 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 government, 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 Waqar Cheema made a detailed visit to Nullah Lai, Gawalmandi and reviewed the

arrangements made by the administration. The provincial minister was briefed regarding the measures taken by the administration. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that all possible safety arrangements are complete. The situation is under control with timely cleaning of drains, he added. He said that all the concerned departments 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.

Police Martyrs' Day observed across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The Police Martyrs Day was observed across Punjab 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 nation. "A nation turns out successful which pays tribute to their martyrs. We will never compromise on the respect of the martyrs," she said. 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 immortal sacrifices of the

Aug 5 another black day for Kashmiris: Ramesh

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora said in a statement on Sunday that August 5 was another black day for Kashmiri people. Issuing his statement on Kashmir Exploitation Day, he said that on this day, India had revoked the special status of Kashmir against their wishes and it infringed upon their rights. He said Pakistan had always stood by its

Kashmiri brothers and it would continue to support their right to self-determination. Arora appealed to the international community to take notice of human rights violations in Kashmir and put pressure on India to grant Kashmiri people their rights. He added that the struggle for Kashmir's freedom will continue, and we will keep advocating for Kashmir at every forum.



MUZZAFFARABAD: NHA staff restoring the road blocked by the landslide at Kohala Road Dulai area.

PWPA reveals significant progress in Sania Zahra case

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Women Protection Authority (PWPA) on Sunday revealed that a significant progress in the investigation of the tragic death of Syeda Sania Zahra has been achieved. In a statement, it said that after extensive efforts and support of the PWPA chairperson, police successfully obtained a four-day physical remand

from the court for the accused, Ali Raza. He has been transported to the Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSA) in Lahore for comprehensive DNA, it said. In addition to Ali Raza, all nominated co-accused, including servants and drivers present on the day of the incident, have also been taken to the PFSA for DNA testing.

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 hours. 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, 15 underage drivers, 125 pedestrians, and 411 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 258 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 279 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 93 accidents and 103 victims, and at third Gujranwala with 66 accidents and 58 victims. According to the data, 1,080 motorbikes, 79 auto-rickshaws, 103 motorcars, 24 vans, six passenger buses, 27 truck and 110 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of overseas Pakistanis led by the leader of Pakistan People's Party and Chairman Pakistan Sweet Home, Zamard Khan (Hilal Imtiaz).

Governor appreciates overseas Pakistanis' role in charity projects

RAWALPINDI: Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan on Sunday underscored the role of overseas Pakistanis in the development of the country. 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 Zumarud Khan (Hilal Imtiaz) Chairman of

Pakistan Sweet Home. 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 establish more such hospitals for poor and needy people in Attock and other remote areas. The newly elected 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 martyrs.

CM pays tribute to police martyrs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab 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 tribute to their martyrs. We will never compromise on the respect of the martyrs," she said. 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 immortal sacrifices of the

police 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 rendering 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.

Head Muharer and Police Constable kidnapped

SHIKARPUR: An other incident of kidnapping of Police personnel were occurred in Shikarpur District on Sunday in which Head Muharer and Police Constable were Kidnapped by Dacoits from the jurisdiction of Kot Shahoo Police station. According to initial reports reached here that two police personnel including Head Muharer Abdul Jabbar Solangi and Police Constable Ayaz Kumbhar were on their way from Khanpur to Kot Shahoo Police station for duty and were Kidnapped by some group.



GILGIT: Inspector General of Police Gilgit-Baltistan Afzal Mehmood Butt and Force Commander GB Kashif Khalil offering fataha after laying floral wreath on Yadgar-e-Shuhda on the occasion of Police Martyr's Day at CPO.

We're indebted to martyrs sacrifices for peace in country: PA speaker

LAHORE (APP): Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said on Sunday "we are indebted to those people who sacrificed their lives for peace in the country". Speaking at the Police Martyrs' Day ceremony, Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said the assembly belongs to the heirs of those martyrs. "When Captain Ahmed Mubeen was martyred, I was the spokesperson for

the government. But I have not forgotten the martyrs and their families till today," he added. Malik Ahmad said "I have no words to describe the sacrifices offered by families of martyrs. We are indebted to those martyrs who sacrificed their lives for peace". He said "we are giving free education to children of martyrs up to F.Sc., we will bring more privileges for police martyrs in consultation.

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 Sunday. 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 police arrived at the scene and arrested the suspect.

PA session called for Aug 11

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider has convened a meeting of Punjab Assembly on August 11. The meeting of the Punjab Assembly was convened for August 11 at 2:00 p.m. The governor convened the meeting using the powers granted to him under Section A of Article 109 of the Constitution. The meeting will be chaired by Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan.



GARHI KHUDA BUX: Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister, Mansoor Shahani offering Fataha for the peace of departed soul at the graves of PPP Founder, Martyred Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Martyred Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto during his visit at Bhutto Mausoleum in Garhi Khuda Bux.

Denial of rights to IIOJK people India's illegal act: Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday said the denial of rights to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is an illegal act of India. In his message on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsaal Day, being observed on Monday (tomorrow), he said that the action was taken to usurp the IIOJK. Tessori said that India could not stop Kashmiri brothers and sisters from their right to self-determination. He said that India settled non-state people and made their

domiciles. He further said that India used new tactics to control IIOJK. The Governor said that India could not change the history of IIOJK through brutality. The entire nation of Pakistan stands with the people of IIOJK and we salute the struggle of IIOJK brothers and sister, he said. Tessori said that India used force to oppress IIOJK people. He urged the international community to take notice of India's illegal action and pressurize India to withdraw its unconstitutional and illegal actions and restore human rights in IIOJK. He said that Pakistan would continue supporting IIOJK brothers and sisters.



MULTAN: Provincial Parliamentary Leader, MPA Syed Ali Haider Gilani addressing a press conference at Press Club.

DC Ghotki reviews water drainage during rains

TANVEER AHMED SOOMRO MIRPUR MATHELO: Deputy Commissioner Ghotki visited different cities of the district, reviewed the water drainage during rains, ordered the relevant officers to stay in the field, issued instructions to arrange rain water drainage from the cities. According to the details, Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Mohammad Ali along with Assistant Commissioners visited different disposal sites of Daharki, Ghotki and Khangarh to review the situation of cities during rains and reviewed the drainage process. On this occasion, he instructed the concerned officers to make an effective strategy

for drainage during possible rains, in this regard all the diverting pumps and necessary machinery should be activated, the use of generators should be ensured during load shedding. Any kind of omission in this regard will be intolerable. He directed the municipal and public health department officers to oblige their technical staff to stay in the field so that they do not face any difficulties during any outward incident. He also instructed all the s s i s t a n t commissioners to monitor the process of drainage from the cities and provide a report of those who are negligent.

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

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. The minister emphasised that the initiative would ensure that patients 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 province. He highlighted the successful implementation of evening private practices at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology in Lahore and the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology, suggesting this model could be expanded to other government hospitals. "This decision is geared towards improving the health system and ensuring patients have access to quality care beyond regular hospital hours," Nazir said.



KARACHI: Home Based Women Workers Federation is protesting outside the Press Club of Thekidari Nizam.

Police Martyrs Day observed in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The Police Yaum-e-Shuhada (Martyrs Day) was observed in the district to pay homage and tribute to the sacrifices rendered by the policemen with a ceremony held here at Ejaz Shaheed Police Lines, Dera Ismail Khan on Sunday. Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera Nasir Mehmood Satti, Acting Sessions Judge Mian Mehmood, Additional Session Judge Jameel Khan, District Police Officer Nasir Mehmood, Officers of Pak Army, SPs Investigation, CTD, City, Saddar, SDPOs, relatives of

martyrs, religious leaders, traders, media persons and people from different walks of life participated in the meeting. To pay tribute to the martyrs of the police, the children of the martyred policemen performed Naats, songs and speeches. Addressing the ceremony, RPO Nasir Mehmood Satti said that the rank and position that the Almighty has given to a martyr in Islam was matchless. "The martyrs are our real heroes and their families were a source of boosting the morale of our forces," he mentioned.

Pakistani, Chinese experts discuss enhanced economic growth, connectivity

LAHORE (APP): The Federation 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 Pakistan. 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 experts from diverse fields here on Sunday. The Chinese 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 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. During the event, the Chinese delegation engaged in meaningful discussions with representatives from

Pakistani industrialists and think tanks. The discussions covered a broad range of topics, including technology transfer, industrialization, economic policy, industrial development, and sustainable growth. The interaction provided a platform for the exchange of ideas, fostering a collaborative approach to addressing economic challenges. Zaki Aijaz emphasized that Pakistan is poised for a new era of economic growth and regional connectivity through the dynamic framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He highlighted that with a young, burgeoning population and a rapidly expanding middle class, Pakistan presents a compelling case for significant investment and development.



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

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 taxpayers 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 taxpayers, 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 who are backbone of national economy and contribute significantly towards development and prosperity. He added FTO secretariat is one call away and any aggrieved taxpayers can contact nearest regional office and file genuine complaint which is processed instantly without loss of time.

Roadside vendors adding in festive atmosphere as August 14 nears

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the occasion of Independence day, preparations are on peak as the roadside vendors are adding to the festive atmosphere by selling colourful flags and decorations that are enhancing the nation's passion for patriotism. According to a report aired by a private news channel, as August 14 nears, the vendors' stalls are becoming a hub of activity, with citizens flocking to buy their favorite items. "It is a time of great patriotism and pride, and we are happy to be a part of it," says Muhammad Ali. "I have been selling

flags and decorations for 10 years, but this year's demand is higher than ever," says Muhammad Ali, a vendor in Islamabad. "People are eager to show their love for Pakistan, and I am happy to provide them with the means to do so," said a motorist. Citizens are also enthusiastic about the vendors' offerings. "I buy flags and decorations every year, but this year I am looking for something special," says Maria Khan, a resident of Lahore. "I want to decorate my home and car with something that shows my pride for Pakistan," she added.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling burned items at Sasta Bazaar H-9 in the Federal Capital.

Agriculture deputy director visits Center Kotli Loharan

SIALKOT (APP): Deputy Director (DD) Agriculture (Extension) Sialkot Dr Rana Qurban Ali Khan, along with Assistant Director (AD) Agriculture (Extension) Sialkot Sheikh Jawahar Ali, visited Center Kotli Loharan in tehsil Sialkot. The deputy director checked attendance of all field formation teams and asked about their performance. He directed that officers should regularly notify farmers for 'Kissan Card' registration through village-to-village announcements on a daily basis and complete the registration of farmers by August 15, 2024. He said awareness should be given to farmers about 'Green Tractor Scheme' of Bank of Punjab and convey the message of the Agriculture Department to every farmer about benefiting from 50 per cent to 70pc subsidy.

Two factories sealed over spurious edible items

FAISALABAD (APP): Punjab Food Authority (PFA) sealed two factories on the charge of preparing spurious food items in Faisalabad. A PFA spokesman said here on Sunday that a team, on a tip-off, raided Gulshan-e-Rehman Town, Canal Road, and unearthed a factory where spurious Desi ghee was being prepared through chemicals. The PFA team seized 750 kilogram packed spurious Desi ghee and 350 kg banaspati ghee in addition to sealing the factory premises and confiscating various items including freezer, drums.



RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Islamabad Tax Bar Association President Fazal Sheikh Advocate presenting Shield to Chief Guest Malik Jawad Khalid, President of the Bar Association.

Monthly inflation hits 8-month high due to new taxation measures: APBF

LAHORE (INP): All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has observed that 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 frustrated. The reading shows higher inflationary pressures as the monthly

index normally stands around 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 salaries of persons and the consumable goods used mostly by all segments of society, irrespective of their income levels. Ibrahim Qureshi said that Pakistan has been facing a high inflation for

the past couple of years partly due to massive depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar and partly due to a surge in global commodity prices like energy cost. The country largely meets its energy demand through expensive imports. There was a significant increase in prices of those items which had either been affected by the imposition of sales tax or 2.5% withholding tax on their supplies. The average wheat flour price of a 20kg bag increased by Rs170, or 10%, to Rs1,943 in July over the preceding month. Likewise, owing to 10% sales tax on poultry feed, chicken prices rose by 12% to Rs382 per kg compared to the pre-budget month.

Machinery imports surge 46.27% in one year

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall machinery group experienced a substantial increase of 46.27 per cent during the last fiscal year compared to the 2022-23 period, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The surge in machinery imports is poised to enhance productivity and technological advancement across key sectors, driving economic growth and infrastructure development. The total imports of the machinery group during the last year stood at \$8,500.628 million against the imports of \$5,811.517 million

recorded in 2022-23. The import of agriculture sector machinery and equipment surged by 122.85 per cent from \$40.972 million to \$91.307 million; office machinery including data processing equipment 35.31 per cent from \$339.428 million to \$459.288 million; construction and mining machinery 11.16 per cent from \$8.730 million to \$9.4187; electrical machinery and apparatus 95.67 per cent from \$1,673.820 million to \$3,275.127 million; telecom related equipment 147.36 per cent from \$956.696 million to \$2,366.500 million; mobile phone 233.10 per cent.

Strictly follow safety measures during rainy season: GEPCO

SIALKOT (APP): Superintending Engineer (SE) Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) Sialkot Sardar Jamshed Khan has appealed to the citizens to strictly follow safety measures during rainy season. Talking to APP, the SE said an awareness campaign had been started for citizens to take precautionary measures during the rainy season. The campaign was launched through media, social media and other public communication platforms. He said that the pamphlet issued by GEPCO has asked the public to take precautionary.



HYDERABAD: Members of Schwan Development Authority Employees Workers Union are holding protest demonstration against non-payment of their salaries, at Hyderabad press club

Online marketplace vital to increase carpet exports, reduce delays: Ejaz

LAHORE (INP): Chairman Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Ejazur Rehman has called for the establishment of a dedicated business-to-business e-commerce portal to bolster Pakistan's carpet exports and enhance its global competitiveness. He emphasized the urgent 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 like India, streamlining business processes and eliminating delays. The CTI Chairman expressed these views while addressing a consultative meeting with well-known 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 competitiveness. Speaking on the occasion, Ejazur Rehman stressed the need to leverage all available resources to explore new markets for Pakistan's handmade carpet products. He urged manufacturers and exporters of hand-woven carpets to embrace the business-to-business e-commerce model by developing modern, data-driven portals. He said that this would enable Pakistani manufacturers, exporters, and global buyers to converge on a single platform, facilitating seamless connections and timely sales. "The portal will empower Pakistani manufacturers and exporters to showcase their products in global.

SNGPL disconnects 12 metres over violations

LODHAN (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) Task Force here on Sunday raided at various places and disconnected twelve meters including a commercial on various violations. According to details, a metre of a consumer was installed out of the service area which caused loss to the department in line with leakage on which his metre was disconnected. Likewise, three meters were found to be suspicious of Seal Tampering on which the metres were disconnected and sent to the laboratory for further legal action. The metres of seven consumers were also found on the meter counter tampering and the glasses were broken due to which the gas consumption was not being registered correctly and the company was suffering losses in terms of UFG on which their meters.

Skilled workforce key to economic growth: PFC

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan 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 scientific knowledge cannot be 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 capacity to enroll required number of students meeting ever increasing demand of industrial sectors. He said, a skilled workforce contributes to higher productivity and quality in manufacturing and services, leading to increased 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 essential for addressing the country's socio-economic challenges, such as healthcare access and digital transformation. He added that investing in education and training programs that emphasize modern scientific and technical skills is essential for Pakistan's long-term prosperity.



ISLAMABAD: A boy selling clothes at Sasta Bazaar H-9 in the Federal Capital.

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 signed by Dr Rashid Bajwa, CEO of NRSP, and Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of various universities, faculty heads, NRSP Regional General Manager Sargodha Ghulam Rasool, NRSP Senior Program Manager Tahir Waqar, Chief Business Development Abrar Qaiser Abbas, Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University, and several other distinguished personalities. The project would be completed under a public-private partnership, focusing on joint efforts to establish a Special Technology Zone said a news release.

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 Qaiser Abbas, Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University, and several other distinguished personalities. The project would be completed under a public-private partnership, focusing on joint efforts to establish a Special Technology Zone said a news release.

Fine of more than Rs 5 mln collected for overpricing, hoarding

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Under the direction of the Chief Minister of Punjab, Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar Jappa is overseeing the active roles of price control magistrates in the field to eradicate overpricing and hoarding. Assistant Commissioners and Price Control Magistrates across the district are mobilizing early in the morning to monitor the auctioning of fruits and vegetables in markets and ensure that other food items are sold at fixed prices. From July 1 to August 1, price control

magistrates visited 42,607 shops, vendors, and business centers throughout the district to check the pricing of food items. During these inspections, a total fine of Rs 5,221,000 was imposed for violations of price regulations. Additionally, two cases were registered against violators at local police stations, three shops were sealed, and 307 merchants were apprehended at the scene. The Deputy Commissioner of Bahawalpur has instructed shopkeepers to prominently display price.



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

President HCSTSI for ensuring transparency of projects related to energy

HYDERABAD (APP): Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani, President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (HCSTSI) has urged the government to ensure transparency of all projects initiated under public-private partnership agreements. He called for regular audits and a robust monitoring system to curb corruption and advocated for the promotion of

alternative energy sources, such as solar and wind power. In a statement on Sunday, the President HCSTSI argued that these measures would help reduce electricity prices and amend policies to eliminate unreasonable conditions, ultimately easing the economic burden. He asked the government to ensure the transparency of all projects.

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 main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Critics of Hasina, along with human rights groups, have accused her government of using excessive force against protesters, a charge she and her ministers deny. Demonstrators blocked major highways on Sunday as student protesters launched a non-cooperation program to press for the government's resignation, and violence spread nationwide. "Those who are protesting 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 hand." Police stations and ruling party offices were targeted as violence rocked



UMMALFAHEM: Arab-Israelis and left-wing activists 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 closer, and Putin made the 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 from the flood damage," KCNA said. Kim thanked the offer but said since his government has already taken measures to conduct recovery work, he would ask for

help "if aid is necessary," it added. Heavy rains have pummeled the North's northwestern areas in recent days, flooding more than 4,000 homes and isolating some 5,000 residents, KCNA has reported. Kim personally inspected the affected areas and oversaw rescue efforts. KCNA did not mention a separate proposal last week by South Korea to provide relief supplies for flood damage but released a statement by the North's foreign ministry criticising recent joint military drills between South Korea and the US. On Thursday, South Korea's unification ministry handling inter-Korean affairs said it was ready to discuss flood relief with the North's Red Cross, a rare outreach under President Yoon Suk Yeol.

Russians pay homage to Wagner fighters killed in Mali

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: In the shadow of the Kremlin, more than 70 Russians paid homage on Sunday to Wagner fighters killed in a major battle with Mali rebels and Islamist fighters, one of the mercenary group's most deadly defeats in Africa. The Wagner mercenary group said last month its fighters and Malian soldiers had taken losses in heavy fighting against Tuareg rebels and Islamist fighters from an al Qaeda affiliate near Mali's border with Algeria. Mali's northern Tuareg rebels said they had killed at least 84 Russian Wagner mercenaries and 47 Malian soldiers during days of fierce fighting in late July. In Moscow, just a few hundred metres from

the Kremlin, dozens of Russians came to mourn the fallen Wagner fighters, a Reuters journalist said. One man, dressed in military clothing and wearing Wagner badges, knelt before pictures of the group's fighters killed in Mali. Beneath flags with the Wagner motto of "Blood, Honor, Motherland, Courage", some lit candles. One woman on knees wept before a picture of a Wagner fighter. Others laid red carnations below pictures of the dead. None of those asked for comment at the makeshift memorial would speak to Reuters. Mali, where military authorities seized power in coups in 2020 and 2021, is battling a years-long Islamist insurgency.



A protester holding a piece of concrete walks towards riot police as clashes erupt in Bristol during the 'Enough is Enough' demonstration.



Objects set on fire burn as demonstrators 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 expressed 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 conflict. 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 Shukur, a senior military commander from the Lebanese group 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."

France and Italy urge citizens to leave Lebanon due to security risks

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: 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 Shukur, a top military commander from Lebanese armed group Hezbollah.

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 tent area inside the Al-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. Its statement added it struck 50 military targets across the enclave in the last 24 hours, including militants' cells. The hospital compound is in the Deir Al-Balah area, which is crowded with thousands of people displaced by fighting in other parts of the enclave have sought shelter.

Extreme heat breaks records in China

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



People gather as an ambulance carries the dead body of an unidentified woman killed in an explosion that occurred while revellers were swimming at the Lido beach in Mogadishu.

UK gov vows 'consequences' for far-right rioters

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The UK government warned on Sunday that violent disorder would "not be tolerated" after police made dozens of arrests at far-right rallies following clashes between protesters and officers. Unrest linked to disinformation about a mass stabbing that killed three young girls last week spread to multiple towns and cities Saturday as anti-immigration demonstrators faced off against counter-

protesters. About 90 people were arrested after skirmishes broke out in numerous English cities, including Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Blackpool and Hull, as well as Belfast in Northern Ireland. In some instances, rioters threw bricks, bottles and flares at police — injuring several officers — looted and burnt shops, while demonstrators also heard shouting anti-Islamic slurs.

Opponents of deep sea mining suffer major setback

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Opponents of deep sea mining suffered a serious setback on Friday when they failed to take a first step towards an international moratorium on the controversial practice. Until now, those in favour of such mining — which would deliver minerals key to the green transition but with a potentially high environmental cost — have managed to prevent the International Seabed Authority (ISA) from even taking up any debate on the subject. This time, the debate took place, but a draft calling for a "dialogue" towards "the development of a general policy [...] for the

Seven EU countries call on Venezuela to publish electoral rolls quickly

Monitoring Desk
MILAN: Seven European Union countries, including Italy, France, Germany and Spain have jointly called on the Venezuelan authorities to promptly publish the electoral rolls to ensure full transparency around last weekend's election, the Italian prime minister's office said. Venezuela's electoral council has declared President Nicolas Maduro, in power since 2013, the winner of the July 28 election with 51% of the vote, sparking immediate accusations of fraud by the opposition. The opposition says its own detailed tally shows opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez likely received 67% of the vote. The joint statement by the seven EU countries added to a tide of criticism from abroad over the Venezuelan government's handling of the election. Some nations, including the United States and Argentina, have recognised Gonzalez as the election winner. Last week, G7 foreign ministers expressed their solidarity with the Venezuelan people and their concern about the election results. "We call on the Venezuelan authorities to immediately publish all voting registers to ensure full transparency and integrity of the electoral process."

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' 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 cancelled flights.

The killing earlier this week of Hamas leader 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 resistance". Groups from Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq and Syria have already been drawn into the nearly 10-month conflict between Israel and 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 squadron to the Middle East.

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

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 tensions in the Middle East and prevent further escalation of the ongoing conflict.

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 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 East. 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. Haniyeh was in Tehran to attend the inauguration of new President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Philippines, Germany commit to reaching defence pact this year

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines and Germany on Sunday committed to signing a defence cooperation arrangement this year, vowing to stand for the international rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius and his Philippine counterpart Gilberto Teodoro committed to establishing long-term relations between their armed forces to expand training and bilateral exchanges, explore opportunities to expand bilateral armaments cooperation and engage in joint projects.

Teodoro said the Philippines, seeking to modernise its military to boost external defence, will be "looking to engage Germany as a possible supplier of these capabilities". "These are in the command and control, anti-access aerial denial, maritime domain, aerial domain and in higher technologically capable equipment," Teodoro told a press conference with Pistorius. Manila and Berlin are deepening military ties as tensions have flared in recent months between China and the Philippines, which have traded accusations over run-ins in disputed areas of the South China Sea, including charges China intentionally rammed Manila's navy boats seriously injuring a Filipino sailor.

The two met in Manila during the first such visit by a German defence minister, as their countries mark 70 years of diplomatic relations.

Venezuelans march over contested election, number of detained rises

Monitoring Desk
CARACAS: Thousands of Venezuelans marched across the South American country over its contested election, as President Nicolas Maduro told supporters some 2,000 people had been arrested during protests against the results. Venezuela's electoral authority, blasted by critics as favoring the ruling socialists, proclaimed Maduro the winner in last Sunday's vote, saying on Monday he obtained 51% compared to 46% for opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez.

He pledged "maximum punishment." Maduro's supporters said they were defending democracy. "Today we are here heeding the call of our president... to defend democracy," Alfredo Valera, president of Venezuela's Fontur union, who took part in a pro-government caravan in Caracas, told state television. Elsewhere, opposition supporters marched to demand justice, buoyed by the presence of leader Maria Corina Machado, who emerged from hiding on Saturday to join her demonstrations on the streets of Caracas. "Just as it took us a long time to achieve electoral victory, now comes a stage that we take day by day, but we have never been as strong as today, never," Machado told supporters in Caracas. Supporters were happy to see Machado in the streets after the leader said in a Thursday op-ed for the Wall Street Journal that she was in hiding and feared for her life.

The authority reaffirmed a similar margin on Friday. The published election result sparked widespread allegations of fraud and protests. Subsequently security forces cracked down on protests which Maduro's government labeled part of an attempted US-backed coup. "This time there will be no forgiveness," Maduro told supporters at a rally in Caracas, where he said some 2,000 people had been detained in connection to "crimes" during the pro-

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-determination.

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.

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

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.

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



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti offering Dua after laying floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada at Central Police Office Quetta

Provision of relief to masses & solution of problems our ultimate mission: Jatak

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak has stated that provision of relief to the people and solution to their issues is ultimate mission of the provincial government for practical steps have been started.

tioners who would do practical work for the general public would become leader, he added. He said that funds of millions of rupees have been allocated for the areas. The development process would be started with the funds, and surely era of development and prosperity would be started, he added.

Naqvi pays homage to great sacrifices of police martyrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has paid rich tributes to the great sacrifices of police martyrs on Police Martyrs' Day being observed on Sunday.

On Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police, the president lauded the unmatched bravery and sacrifices of the shuhada of the police force. "The entire nation is proud of its valiant police force for their sacrifices. The police personnel had laid down their lives while fighting on the front line with terrorists and criminal elements," President Secretary Press Wing, said in a press release, quoting the president.

These views were expressed by the Provincial Minister while speaking to different delegations who called on him here on Sunday. The delegations were led by Mir Noroz Kalpar, Haji Shakar Khan, Hazoor Bakhsh Nichari and President of PPP Turbat, Qadeer Baloch.

Mir Ali Madad Jatak said that our government is striving not only for development of the area but for the whole province. The Minister said that development of the country lies in progress of the province. He said that the development projects can be completed in the stipulated time, if the funds were provided for the same well in time.

Roof collapse in district Tank kills 3 as heavy rains wreak havoc

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least three persons including 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 Sunday.

He warned that no negligence and weakness would be tolerated in work of rehabilitation of the roads and other infrastructure. Besides, the Secretary asked the Chief Engineers of all three zones and district engineers to remain alert along with the staff and machinery in their respective areas. In addition to this, the staff of C&W department should also take part in the relief activities together with the district administration and PDMA's rescue operation teams, the Secretary directed further.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti talking with daughter of a Shaheed during a ceremony held in collection with Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police at Central Police Office

HC Dhaka assures security of Pak students

DHAKA (APP): Pakistan 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.

said security of Pakistani 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 High Commission were also in touch with the Bangladeshi authorities.

Secretary C&W directs all staff of department to remain high alert in view of recent rains

QUETTA: The Secretary Communications and Works, Lal Jan Jaffar has directed to all officers and staff of the department to remain high alert in view of the recent rains in the province.

JI's protest enters 10th day amidst negotiation stalemate

RAWALPINDI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami's sit-in at Liaquat Bagh Chowk on Murree Road has entered its 10th day, with protesters voicing their grievances over rising electricity costs, exorbitant taxes, and inflation.

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

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood 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.

the revocation of Article 370 and 35-A of the Indian Constitution was to change the political and constitutional status of the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir. "India has been committing 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 August 5, 2019," he said.

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

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

Repatriation of 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 Afghanistan.

In his video message released on the eve of Youm-e-Istehsal, the president said that the main motive behind

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

Amir Muqam slams Imran for obstructing progress

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.

August 5 to be remembered as dark day in history: Gilani

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.



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

PM directs economic team to speed up FBR transformation

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif 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 review meeting on Track and Trace System of 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 Kashmiri brethren at every forum, but it has also been highlighting the cruelty and highhandedness meted out with them at the international level. This, the Governor stated in an official message issued on the eve of Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir being observed today (Monday) worldwide including Pakistan.

President lauds Police Force sacrifices

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday paid tribute to Shuhada of the police force and said the martyred police personnel had offered valuable sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. On Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police, the president lauded the unmatched bravery and sacrifices of the shuhada of the police force.

Amir Muqam slams Imran for obstructing progress

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.

Youn-e-Shuhada ceremony held in Lasbela district

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, 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 lives.



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

Traders urge Pakistan, Afghanistan to 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 new taxes imposed by both 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 the import and export of essential items.



QUETTA: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader, Munawara Bibi Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta Press Club.