

# Independent

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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

## 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 journalists included Salman Ghani of Dunya News, Amir Mir, Shiraz Hussain of Hum News, Khizar Hayat of Daily Jang, Khalid Hasnain from Dawn News, Azam Malik of Geo News and Matur Rehman of Pakistan Television.

Big News for Karachi:

## CM Sindh announces release of funds for Safe City Project

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has announced a major development for Karachi on the occasion of Youm-e-Shuhada Police. He revealed that funds have been released for the Karachi Safe City Project, with Rs 3 billion and 67 crore allocated for the first phase.

He added that significant steps are being taken to rid Karachi of crime and suppress criminals. He praised the Sindh Police personnel who have sacrificed their lives to maintain peace and law and order, saying that their bravery and courage are a source of pride.

The CM was speaking at a ceremony to mark Youm-e-Shuhada Police, where he paid tribute to the Sindh Police's sacrifices. He said that the Sindh Police's martyrs have played a crucial role in maintaining national security.

APP adds: The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said that to lay down one's life in the line of duty

was the epitome of dutifulness and the spirit to protect the lives and property of citizens. "This selfless act cannot be measured by words, and these admirable individuals have immortalized themselves in the annals of history by sacrificing their lives for the nation's cause."

This he said while speaking at the ceremony of Youm-e-Shuhada Sindh Police, organized by provincial police at Bahria Auditorium. Provincial Ministers Zia Lanjar, Riaz Shah Shirazi, Tariq Talpur, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Adl IG Karachi Javed Odho, senior officers of the Pak Army and Rangers, COMKAR Rear Admiral Mohammad Salem, senior bureaucrats, former

senior police officers and families of the police martyrs attended the program in a large number. The chief minister said Youm-e-Shuhada is observed on August 4th to honor the sacrifice of the policemen, who lost their lives in the line of duty. He emphasized that the sacrifices made by our policemen are unforgettable.

The chief minister paid a heartfelt tribute to the policemen who sacrificed their lives while performing their duties, and saluted the brave mothers, daughters, children, and family members for their courage. Murad Ali Shah mentioned that our police martyrs restored law and order by shedding their blood and upholding

the rule of law in the province. He also expressed that laying down one's life in the line of duty demonstrates the utmost dutifulness and a strong spirit to protect the lives and property of citizens, which cannot be measured by mere words. He added that such admirable individuals etch themselves into the annals of history by sacrificing their lives for the nation's cause.



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

report regarding the track and trace system and on progress of digitization of FBR. He directed immediate action against the persons responsible for deficiency and irregularities regarding the track and trace system. He directed immediate implementation of steps for taking action against the officials negligent in upgrading the system. The prime minister said that reforms in FBR were necessary to improve the tax system of Pakistan, adding, "We will work day and night to save every penny of the poor people of Pakistan."

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The chief minister assured the families of police heroes and martyrs that his government would always stand by them and never leave them alone. He expressed pride in the bravery and courage of the police martyrs, calling them the jewels of the police department.

## President Zardari summons Senate session today

**Independent Report**  
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.

## Governor Tessori says Indian government denial of rights of the people in occupied Kashmir is illegal

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori's message on Youm e Istehsal Kashmir, condemning India's actions on August 5, when it unilaterally violated international laws to seize control of a disputed territory. He stated that India government denial of the rights of the people in occupied Kashmir is illegal and that the Indian state cannot quell the Kashmiri people's desire for freedom. Kamran Khsn Tessori described these actions as state terrorism, which cannot alter the reality of the situation.

He highlighted that India has attempted to alter the demographics of the region by settling non-state people in Kashmir. However, he affirmed that India's oppressive measures cannot change the history of occupied Kashmir. The entire Pakistani nation stands with the people of occupied Kashmir and supports their struggle for the right to self-determination. Kamran Tessori saluted the bravery of the people of occupied Kashmir and called on the international community to take note of India's illegal actions.

## PM directs economic team to speed up transformation of FBR

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. The total digitization and restructuring of FBR according to modern standards was part of the transformation plan. He delegated responsibility to Minister of State for Finance to oversee the transformation project of FBR. The prime minister was presented a detailed

report regarding the track and trace system and on progress of digitization of FBR. He directed immediate action against the persons responsible for deficiency and irregularities regarding the track and trace system. He directed immediate implementation of steps for taking action against the officials negligent in upgrading the system. The prime minister said that reforms in FBR were necessary to improve the tax system of Pakistan, adding, "We will work day and night to save every penny of the poor people of Pakistan."



HYDERABAD: Participants are holding demonstration to pay tributes to policemen who laid down lives in the line of duty on the occasion of Police Martyrs Day led by SSP Dr. Farrukh Ali in Hyderabad

## Heavy monsoon rains batter different parts of country for fourth day

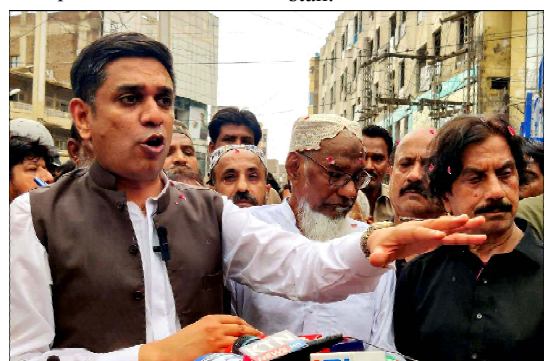
KARACHI (INP): An eight-year-old girl died while her father was injured when the wall of their house fell on them in the Sindh city of Daharki due to monsoon rains, which continued to lash different parts of the country, especially Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab, for the fourth consecutive day on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Summaiya, while the name of her father was stated to be Akhtar Ali. Similarly, rains were reported from different cities of Sindh, including Matyari Hala and Umakot, while the downpour left roads in Kashmir flooded. Likewise, persistent rains at Khairpur Nathan Shah raised the fear of floods.

Different localities of Larkana, Mohenjo Daro and suburban areas, receiving rains for the last 24 hours, were left without power as several feeders were tripped. 35 millimeters of rain was recorded in Larkana during the last 24 hours, while the Met Office forecast light to heavy rains for the division during the next three days.

On the other hand, thundershowers continued to pound Umakot, Sindh city bordering India, and its outskirts for the third day, inundating low-lying areas and resulting in prolonged power outages. Similarly, downpours were also reported from Kunri, Samaro, Chorr and other areas, raising fears of loss to cotton and other crops.

Several villages surrounding Nawabshah were under knee-deep water as torrential rains lashing the city and its suburban areas since last night wreaked havoc. The downpour also left cotton, sugarcane and other crops flooded, while the situation was no different in the city where main roads, different localities and markets were completely inundated, which completely paralyzed the routine life.



SUKKUR: Sindh Government Spokesperson and Sukkur Mayor, Barrister Arsalan Shaikh talking to media persons regarding monsoon rains, in Sukkur

## PPP calls for NA dissolution, fresh elections amid political tensions

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has urged the federal government to dissolve the National Assembly and hold new elections amidst growing political tensions. This advice came from PPP Secretary General Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, who emphasized the need for a fresh mandate if the government feels threatened. In an interview with a private television channel, Bukhari stated, "If the government perceives a threat, it should dissolve the assembly and initiate new elections." He suggested that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif should send an advisory to President Asif Ali Zardari to dissolve the as-

sembly and pave the way for elections. Bukhari expressed concerns about the government's reluctance to communicate its issues with the PPP. "PPP is ready to strengthen the government in Parliament, but it should deliver something meaningful. President Zardari has repeatedly stated his willingness to mediate discussions and play a constructive role, but there must be a willingness to engage in dialogue," Bukhari said. He cautioned that any derailment of the political system could harm the country. The PPP leader also reflected on the party's acceptance of the election results, despite having reservations.

## HC Dhaka assures security of Pakistani 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. In a statement Pakistan's High Commissioner Syed Ahmed Maroof 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.

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On the other hand, the happiness of the locals knew no bounds due to rain, especially in the desert surrounding Umakot, while the weather department said that more rains were expected in the area during the next few days. Heavy rains prompted the Sindh government to announce a state of emergency. In a notification issued in this connection, Provincial Minister for Education Syed Sardar Shah was appointed the focal person for district Umakot.

## Major transfers in Sindh Police Department

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: In a significant reshuffling within the Sindh Police Department, several key positions have been reassigned. Dr. Samiullah Soomro has been transferred from Dadu and reappointed as the SSP of Khairpur.

SSP Zubair Nazir Sheikh has been transferred from Khairpur. Captain (Retired) Amir Saud has been appointed as the new SSP of Dadu. SP Shahzaib has been transferred from Shikarpur and appointed as the new SSP of Shikarpur. The additional charge of Shikarpur, previously held by SSP Sukkur Amjad Sheikh, has been revoked. These changes are expected to bring new dynamics to the respective districts, with the officers bringing their expertise to their new positions.

The Governor Sindh urged the international community to pressure India to reverse its unconstitutional and illegal actions and restore human rights in occupied Kashmir. He asserted that no Pakistani would rest until Kashmiris achieve freedom and vowed that Pakistan would continue to provide moral, political, and diplomatic support to the oppressed Kashmiris' struggle for self-determination.

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## 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 Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, have issued detailed dissenting notes and it said that after the passage of 15

days a detailed verdict of the case had not come. He said, "Usually a detailed verdict comes within 15 days after a decision is announced." Attaullah Tarar said that some articles of the Constitution were related to reserved seats, adding that in the reserved seats case, a 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).

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## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Balochistan tumult

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

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

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

## The TLP challenge

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 hatemongering. One of its founders, Pir Afzal Qadri, had threatened the judges of the Supreme Court and incited soldiers to stand against generals if Aasia Bibi (accused of blasphemy but later acquitted) was not hanged publicly. He made this statement in the presence of Khadim Rizvi, the co-founder of the group, in 2018. Rizvi had used similarly strong language against the judiciary and military leadership, besides igniting religious 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 backtracked from his statements and quit the TLP. Hundreds of TLP workers issued disclaimers and disassociated themselves from the group. It looked like the state had decided to crush the TLP completely.

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

The situation took another turn when the TLP launched a nationwide protest for the release of its leader. The protests became violent, forcing the 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 hatemongering and faced an assassination attempt by one of the group's supporters in 2018, while Khawaja Asif's hometown Sialkot has been mentioned by the

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 Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan, Jamaatud Dawaa, 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.

## '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 husbands. 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 ghaddari certificates freely, that cares not for the most marginalised in this country.

I'll leave you with a message I received a fortnight ago on X from 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."

## Commerce News

### 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 aimed 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.

### 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.



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

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

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.



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

### 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 that world moves rapidly towards an 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 socio-economic challenges.

### 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 billion against the imports of \$5,811.517 billion 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 \$ 84.730 million to \$ 94.187; 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.

### Strictly follow safety measures during rainy season: GEPCO

SIALKOT (APP): Superintendent Engineer (SE) Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) Sialkot Sardar Jamsheed 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.

### 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 salaried persons and the consumable goods used mostly by all segments of society, irrespective of their income levels.



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

### Sargodha University, NRSF sign MoU for establishing Special Technology Park

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Rural Support Program (NRSF) 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 NRSF, and Professor Dr. Qaiser Abbas, Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University, during the second "Future of Education" conference organized by the University of Sargodha at Nathia Gali.

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



## Governor appreciates overseas Pakistanis' role in charity projects

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan on Sunday underscored the role of overseas Pakistanis in the development of the 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 Zumar 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 Pakistan Sweet Home is an exemplary contribution of social responsibility in the society," he said adding that the charitable contributions by overseas Pakistanis should be encouraged.

Governor Punjab underlined the need to estab-

lish 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.



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).

## 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 immor-

tal 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.

## 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, 51 underage drivers, 125 pedestrians, and 411 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 258 accidents were reported in Lahore.

## 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 are alert. He further said that officials of the concerned departments have been deployed in Naula Lai and nearby low-lying areas.

It is worth mentioning that the meteorological department has forecast more than normal rains this year.



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

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

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

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

from Nishtar Hospital. He said that the locals would face problems due to relocation these two major departments from main Nishtar Hospitals to outside branch. He said that the Punjab government was requested to reconsider the decision to transfer the departments. He said that the people of South Punjab have given heavy mandate to Gilani family from the platform of the Pakistan People's Party adding that his family had always put political affiliations above all else and made practical efforts for the development of South Punjab.

## 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 E.Sc. we will bring more privileges for police martyrs in consultation with the chief minister of Punjab,

## Police Martyrs' Day observed across Punjab

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

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

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

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

## 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 initia-

tive 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.

## 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.



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

# International News

## At least 73 killed as clashes rock Bangladesh, curfew imposed

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

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

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

the country of 170 million people.

Twelve policemen were beaten to death in the north-western district of Sirajganj, police official Bijoy Bosak said.

At least eight people, including two students and a ruling party leader, were killed and dozens injured amid fierce clashes in several places in the capital, Dhaka, police and witnesses said.

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

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

Police said they had not fired any live bullets.



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."

Seeking to bolster defenses in the Middle East in response to threats from Israel's foes, the Pentagon said on Friday it would deploy additional fighter jets and Navy warships to the region.

## 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.

## 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.

Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy reaffirmed the need to "de-escalate rising tensions in the Middle East and prevent the conflict from spreading," said State Department spokesman Matthew Miller.

They stressed the importance of finalising a Gaza ceasefire hostage and prisoner swap deal "as soon as possible," it said.

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

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

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



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."

## 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.

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

The airstrike hit a

## 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.



# Murad alerts local bodies, irrigation, admin 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.

Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqi, 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 Benazirabad 49.2pc, Rohri 39.2 percent and Sukkur 53.6 percent, he told.



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



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.

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

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.

legal actions of 5 August 2019 vis-à-vis Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). On 5 August 2019, he said India took a series of steps to consolidate its occupation of IIOJK.

efforts are being made to silence the genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people and muzzle the media. The number of political prisoners remains in the thousands, while 14 political organizations have been outlawed. 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.

## 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.

laid down their lives while fighting on the front line with terrorists and criminal elements," President Secretariat Press Wing, said in a press release, quoting the president.

On Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police, the president lauded the unmatched bravery and sacrifices of the shuhada of the police force.

President Zardari highlighting the role of the police force during the success of the fight against terrorism said that Jawans of police force had been sacrificing their lives, fighting with terrorists and anti-social elements in different parts of the country.

## Dr. Farooq Sattar launches national tree plantation campaign in North Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr. Farooq Sattar, leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), launched the National Tree Plantation Campaign in North Karachi, emphasizing the importance of tree plantation for the country's ecosystem.

tree plantation to sustain the country's ecosystem and criticized the Mayor of Karachi for only focusing on affluent areas.

Dr. Sattar stated that humans have used natural resources recklessly, leading to a decrease in the world's natural resources. He emphasized the need for

## Shirazi instructs officers, staff to take necessary steps to resolve problems faced by the public

KARACHI: The Minister for Auqaf, Religious Affairs, Zakat, and Ushr, Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi, spent the previous day (Saturday) interacting with the people of Thatta and meeting with distinguished personalities.

The Minister also visited the patients under treatment, advising the doctors

Sardar Murtaza Lashari on his mother-in-law's passing. President Nawaz

According to details issued by office, the Minister visited Haji Muhammad Hanif Memon Shirazi at "Thatta House" on Saturday morning, where he met with local people and listened to their issues.



and paramedical staff to provide the best medical facilities to the patients. The Provincial Minister, Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi, accompanied by Syed Ghulam Haider Shah Shirazi and DFO Syed Madad Ali Shah Kazmi, visited Sardar Haji Umar Khan Lashari's village to offer condolences to Chief Mashooq Lashari on his mother's death and to

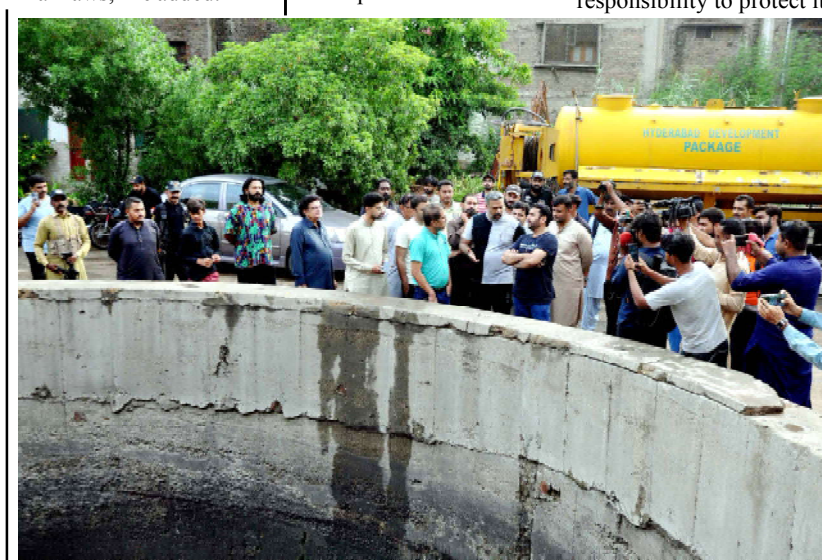
The Provincial Minister instructed the relevant officers and staff to fully cooperate and take necessary steps to resolve the problems faced by the public. Subsequently, Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi, along with the Chairman of the Municipal Committee Thatta, visited the Civil Hospital Makli where he inaugurated a filtration plant provided by the social organization "Live To Give" and met with the doctors and administration to review the hospital's facilities.

Lashari, Mansoor Qadir Lashari, and other dignitaries of the Lashari community were also present. Later, the Provincial Minister, Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi, attended a reception hosted by Haji Muhammad Khaskheli and Abdul Qadir Khaskheli along with Syed Ghulam Haider Shah Shirazi and DFO Syed Madad Ali Shah Kazmi.

## 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.

ional laws and covenants, which speaks volumes about India's hegemonic designs. "Such acts will never change the facts or undermine the right to self-determination of Kashmiris," he added. The chairman said that it is high time for the global community to acknowledge the pain and suffering of the people of IIOJK and to raise their voices on humanitarian grounds, as humanity is suffering. He said that continuous violence in IIOJK has failed to silence the voices of Kashmiris, whose sacrifices and courage remain unparalleled. Pakistan's stance on the issue is clear and vocal. Gilani also noted that Indian belligerent postures, violations of international laws, and disregard for UNSC resolutions continue to pose a threat to regional peace.



HYDERABAD: Mayor Hyderabad, Kashif Shoro visits the Tulsi Das Pumping Station after heavy downpour of monsoon season, in Hyderabad

## Roof collapse in 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.

## Youm-e-Shuhada ceremony held in Lasbella district

LASBELLA: A ceremony was held in Lasbella 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 martyrs by offering Fateha, laying floral wreaths, and praying for their elevated ranks. Special prayers were also offered for the country's security, prosperity, and well-being.



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

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

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister 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 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.

## 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.

They paid homage to

the water drainage during rains, ordered the relevant officers to stay in the field, issued instructions to arrange rain water drainage from the cities.

## 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.

## Diya academy returns from successful tour of Kuala Lumpur

KARACHI: Diya Academy has returned home after a highly successful visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. During the 8-day tour, the academy played football and futsal matches with TOT City Ombrak and several other clubs on various surfaces, including turf, grass, and futsal grounds.

City Football Club coach Richie Banks praised Diya Club captain Faris Hamad Zardari for his exceptional skills and leadership, which kept the team motivated and led to several victories. The performances of goalkeeper Shanayz Saleem and Daniya Ansari were also outstanding. As a gesture of goodwill, souvenirs were exchanged between Diya Academy, TOT City Ombrak, and other clubs. Diya Academy's Founder, Sadia Shaikh, and Vice President, Naila Shaikh, expressed their gratitude to M. Nurain and Sidra for facilitating the successful tour.

Addressing a press conference at the Pakistan Muslim League (N) provincial secretariat in Peshawar, Amir Muqam said that PTI has not done any work in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while the federal government's people-friendly policies and excellent performance have won the hearts of the people. He added that Imran Khan is busy conspiring against Pakistan's progress like Pakistan's enemies.

## DC Kashmirore proves effective in flood relief efforts

KASHMIRE: Deputy Commissioner Amir Fazal Ussi has taken swift and effective action to address the flood situation in Kashmirore, following heavy rainfall in the region. The DC's prompt measures have helped to mitigate the effects of the flooding, with a focus on draining out rainwater from affected areas.

offices, and roads affected. However, thanks to the DC's efforts, the municipal staff has been able to clear out the waterlogged areas, restoring normal life to the residents. The DC has also directed the municipal staff to improve and expedite the drainage system, to prevent such situations from arising in the future. The administration is working tirelessly to ensure that the city returns to normalcy as soon as possible.

Amir Muqam thanked the people for their support and said that our government is a coalition government with allied parties. We face many challenges, including terrorism, inflation, and economic issues, but we are providing relief to the people within our resources and will solve their problems on a priority basis.

## DC Ghotki reviews water drainage during rains

MIRPUR MATHELO: Deputy Commissioner Ghotki visited different cities of the district, reviewed

Assistant Commissioners visited different disposal sites of Daharki, Ghotki and Khangarah to review the situation of cities during rains and reviewed the

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 tech-



the water drainage during rains, ordered the relevant officers to stay in the field, issued instructions to arrange rain water drainage from the cities.

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

nical staff to stay in the field so that they do not face any difficulties during any untoward incident. He also instructed all the assistant commissioners to monitor the process of drainage from the cities and provide a report of those who are negligent.