

Six die in Jamshoro mishap

JAMSHORO (INP): Six persons were killed while three seriously wounded after a mini-truck collided with a trailer near Loni Kot, Jamshoro on the M-9 section of the motorway on Monday morning. Rescue personnel said that the dead as well as the injured had been shifted to Jamshoro Hospital, where the doctors said the condition of those injured was also critical. Police said the mini-truck was carrying fruits from Karachi to Hyderabad.

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Elahi again skips indictment  
F.P. Report

LAHORE: Once again, ailing Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi skipped the indictment in the alleged illegal appointments in the Punjab Assembly case on Monday. The Anti-Corruption Court in Lahore heard the case regarding alleged illegal appointments in the Punjab Assembly. Former Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervez Elahi did not appear in court due to illness.

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# Govt decides to move SC for ban on PTI

## Tarar says PML-N led govt to initiate treason case against Imran Khan and Arif Alvi

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Monday announced four major decisions of the federal government of banning Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, filing of review petition in reserved seats case, references against PTI founder and others for subverting the Constitution and strict legal action against handful of overseas Pakistanis for anti-state activities.

He announced the decision at a press conference which mainly highlighted the activities of the PTI and its leadership to weaken sovereignty of the country and harm its integrity at the international level. The press conference also featured audio and video clips that allegedly showed involvement of the PTI and its leadership in the 'anti-state' activities.

The minister said: "This is a fact and on the record that the PTI has been involved in the anti-state activities and to this end, the government and its allies have decided to initiated legal proceedings to ban the PTI under Article 17 of the Constitution which empowers the federal government to ban any such a party."

Tarar justified the action of the government against the PTI which, he alleged, obtained foreign funding to attack the state institutions on May 9, default the economy by sabotaging Pakistan's negotiation with the International Monetary Fund, resettle

the terrorists in the country and hire lobbying firms to get a resolution passed against the country in a foreign country's Parliament. All these activities of the PTI were established, he said, adding "in view of the foreign funding case, May 9 riots, and the cipher episode as well as the resolution passed in the US, we believe that there is very credible evidence present to have the PTI banned."

He said a series of events that set off in a form of chain, gave a clear understanding of the anti-state agenda of the PTI which first brought terrorist back into the country and then attacked on the state institution to undermine its sovereignty. On the one hand, they were giving shelter and safe heavens to the terrorists and on the other hand they resorted to attack the army installations including the Corps Commander House in Lahore, he said asking the PTI's founder who gave him the authority to bring back disgruntled elements in settled areas.

The minister said the party used the prohibited funding to hire lobbying firms that worked to damage the integrity of the country. The minister said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had given a verdict that the PTI had received prohibited funding, recalling how delaying tactics were used to prevent further proceeding in the case during the tenure of the PTI government.

He said it was on the record that how the PTI miserably failed to justify and defend the funding received from

Israeli and Indian origin overseas persons. He questioned the participation of the PTI leadership in a meeting and dinner which reportedly had a presence of an Israeli billionaire in London especially at a time when genocide of innocent Palestinians was being committed.

Recalling how the PTI misled the nation by orchestrating a cipher drama, he said it was on record that the PTI founder suggested his confidants to play with an official document. Even Ambassador Asad Majeed, the author of cipher, said there was no threat to the country in the cipher, but the PTI leadership was hell bent upon damaging the diplomatic relations of Pakistan with the other country. He said PTI's former finance ministers Shaukat Tareen reportedly told the then provincial finance ministers to write a letter to sabotage a deal of the Government with the IMF.

Tarar said the entire family of the PTI founder was involved in May 9 attack as three of his sisters were found outside the Corps Commander House in Lahore and his nephew was seen defiling the official uniforms. The workers were ordered to reach designated points for creating chaos and anarchy, he said, adding the video and audio evidences were available with the government. "We have irrefutable evidence and strong grounds to ban the party," he noted.

Speaking about the time when the then-government decided to dissolve the assemblies during the no-confi-

dence motion against Imran Khan, the minister said the ruling alliance had also decided to move a reference against the then-prime minister, then-president Arif Alvi and then former National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri. He said that this reference, under Article 6 of the Constitution, would be sent to the Supreme Court after the cabinet's approval.

As regards anti-state campaign and conspiracies from abroad, he said a handful of overseas Pakistanis who collected funds to weaken Pakistan, did not represent the majority who had been contributing to the national economy by sending massive remittances. A resolution would be passed in the House to take action against such elements, he added.

For the last some days, he said an orchestrated campaign was underway to create a volatile situation in the country. The whole nation witnessed how an impression was being created that "whatever worst one does, it could be forgone," he said referring to the relief given to what he described as "perpetrators of the May 9, orchestrators of cipher conspiracy against country and patrons of those who hired services of the lobbyist firms abroad to get approve Parliamentary resolution."

"Whatever happens whether they hold (intra) party elections or not, or there is an Iddat case or any other thing such as a case of 190 million pounds...the impression is that they are untouchables," he added. "I want

to respond to them in clear and unambiguous words that is no more," he said while ruling out any progress of the country amid the presence of the PTI.

As regards a decision on reserved seats, he said it had created an impression that "the given relief is uncalled for". "The PTI was not a party to the case, nor their members claimed to be members of the PTI; all of them joined Sunni Itehad Council and submitted their affidavits," he said while asserting that the Sunni Itehad Council did not allow non-Muslim to be the members of the party which technically deprived the party of its minority seats.

"Keeping in view the legal loophole in this judgement, the government and its allies have decided to file a review petition," he added. Stressing that the review petition is justified, the minister said that the women and minorities, who suffered injustices, believed that this review petition should be filed. "We will ask whether the MNAs who got relief were present in the court, were their affidavit present and did they ask for that relief and should the Election Act 2017 section be nullified," said Tarar.

Meanwhile, comparing political grooming of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers, he said the founder of the PTI was a "worst fascist" in the political history who set tradition of sending mothers and sisters of his political opponents behind



bars and suspending the supply food and medicines to his opponents in the jail under his political witch-hunt.

On the other hand, he said the PML leadership had trained its workers to share pain, grief and happiness of their opponents, but unfortunately, it seemed that our patience and far-sightedness was being taken as weakness. He also lashed out the PTI for running a malicious campaign targeting the NAB Chairman. To a query, he said talks with leader of Tehreek-e-Labaik Saad Rizvi was underway and being briefed about the steps taken by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to highlight plight of Palestinians at international level. To another query, he said, "we respect the judiciary wholeheartedly and we have legal right to appeal against the decision and the government is going to file the review petition."

# Israel hits Gaza from land, sea and air

GAZA STRIP (AFP): Israel hammered the Gaza Strip from the air, sea and land Monday as the war in the Palestinian territory showed no sign of abating, with Hamas saying it was pulling out of truce talks.

Shells rained down on the neighborhoods of Tal Al-Hawa, Sheikh Ajlin and



GAZA: A Palestinian woman reacts after Israel's military bombed UN-run Abu Oreiban school-turned-shelter.

Al-Sabra in Gaza City, AFP correspondents reported, while eyewitnesses said the Israeli army had shelled the Al-Mughraqa area and the northern outskirts of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. Paramedics from the Palestinian Red Crescent said they had retrieved the bodies of five people, including three children, after Israeli air strikes in the Al-Maghazi camp, also in the central Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses reported Israeli gunship fire east of Khan Yunis, in southern Gaza, and shelling and Apache helicopter attacks in western areas of the southernmost city of Rafah. The Israeli military said in a statement that it was continuing its activity throughout the coastal territory, and said it had conducted raids in Rafah and central Gaza that killed "a number of" militants, as well as air strikes through-

out the strip over the past day.

It also said its naval forces had been firing at targets in Gaza. The relentless bombardments came as prospects dwindled for a truce and hostage release deal being secured any time soon. Hamas said on Sunday it was withdrawing

prisoner exchange deal." Last week, US President Joe Biden had suggested a deal might be close, saying at a NATO summit that both sides had agreed to a framework he had set out in late May. Hamas on Monday lashed out at the US, accusing it of supporting "genocide" by supplying Israel with "internationally banned" weapons. "We condemn in the strongest terms the... American disdain for the blood of the children and women of our Palestinian people... by providing all types of prohibited weapons to the 'Israeli' occupation," a statement from the Hamas government media office said.

Talks between the warring parties have been mediated by Qatar and Egypt, with US support, but months of negotiations have failed to bring a breakthrough. The war was sparked by Hamas's surprise October 7 attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,195 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures.

The militants also seized 251 hostages, 116 of whom are still in Gaza including 42 the Israeli military says are dead. Israel responded with a military offensive that has killed at least 38,584 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to data provided by the Gaza health ministry. The war and accompanying siege have devastated the Palestinian territory, destroying much of its infrastructure, leaving the majority of its 2.4 million residents displaced and causing a dire shortage of food, medicines and other basic goods. Among the devastated facilities have been multiple schools.

from ceasefire talks. The decision followed an Israeli strike targeting the head of Hamas's military wing, Mohammed Deif, which the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said killed 92 people. Deif's fate remains unknown, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying there was "no certainty" he was dead while a senior Hamas official told AFP that Deif was "well and directly overseeing" operations. Speaking after the strike on Al-Mawasi, a second senior official from the militant group cited Israeli "massacres" and its attitude to negotiations as a reason for suspending negotiations.

But according to the official, Haniyeh told international mediators Hamas was "ready to resume negotiations" when Israel's government "demonstrates seriousness in reaching a ceasefire agreement and a

## Govt hikes petrol price by Rs9.99

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The petrol price in Pakistan has been jacked up by Rs9.99 per litre for the next fortnight in the light of the rise in oil rates in the international market.

Meanwhile, the price of High Speed Diesel (HSD) has also been hiked from Rs277.45 per litre to Rs283.63 with an increase of Rs6.18.

The Finance Division issued a notification for the latest fuel prices under the fresh fortnightly review. "The Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has worked out the consumer prices, based on the price variations in the international market," the statement read.

As per the notification, the new fuel prices will come into effect from July 16. The government had increased the petroleum development levy (PDL) by Rs10 per litre — from Rs60 to Rs70 — in the federal budget 2024-25, further burdening the inflation-hit masses.

## Attack on Bannu Cantt repelled

F.P. Report

BANNU: A terrorist attack on Bannu Cantt was foiled by security forces on Monday. No loss of life has been reported in the incident so far.

According to details, the terrorists approached the Cantt at 4:40 am on Monday in a car with an improvised explosive device rigged to it. The terrorists tried to breach the Cantt's through the IED explosion targeting the area between the outer wall and the supply depot. However, timely response from the security forces foiled the attack and cornered the terrorists.

# Focus on to invest in modern skills: PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the government was committed to investing in modern skills and professional education for the youth.

In his message in connection with the World Youth Skills Day, the prime minister said the greatest strength of Pakistan was its talented youth and equipping them with modern skills was the need of the hour to secure the future of the country.

He highlighted that the government was equipping its youth with modern education, equal development opportunities as well as modern professional training to compete with the world. The prime minister reiterated the government's resolve to send 300,000 youth for vocational training in the field of information technology and 1000 for modern agriculture to

China.

In this context, he said the government was prioritizing the women and the youth belonging to remote and backward areas of the country. The prime minister said training programs in the field of information technology were also continued at the national level. "Millions of students are honing their skills in and outside Pakistan after completing their education under these programs."

He said the government had also started bringing reforms in the institutions under National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC). He remarked that with NAVTTTC and its partner institutions, the government is ensuring the provision of marketable skills and professional training to thousands of youth. He said the government would ensure modern skills and professional training to the youth for their development and dignified employment

in every field of life.

**Shehbaz felicitates KP Sharma Oli for taking oath as Nepalese:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated KP Sharma Oli for taking oath as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the fourth time.

"Congratulations to H.E. KP Sharma Oli on taking oath as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the fourth time," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline. The prime minister wished him every success and said that he looked forward to working with him to further strengthen bilateral ties and promote regional cooperation between the two nations.

Nepal's Communist leader KP Sharma Oli was sworn in as the prime minister for the fourth time on Monday. He succeeds Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda who lost the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives on July 12, leading to the formation of the new government process.

## PPP, ANP oppose govt's decision to ban PTI

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Senior leadership of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Awami National Party (ANP) opposed the government's decision to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

According to sources, senior leaders of the PPP advised the leadership to oppose the decision openly. Some PPP leaders expressed surprise over Atta Tarar's statement about taking allies into confidence. Senior leaders of the PPP stated that they were not aware of being taken into confidence and that their party does not support the government's decision.

Farhatullah Babar opposed the decision to impose the ban on the PTI. Meanwhile, ANP Senator Arbab Umar Farooq Kasi stated that the decision to ban political parties could not be supported in a democratic era. He urged the political parties to strengthen the democratic process instead of engaging in leg-pulling.

"It is the government's responsibility to prevent the derailment of the democratic system. The solution to the current crisis in the country is purely political, and the use of force will only increase instability," he added.

**Abbasi warns govt against dividing country:** Awami Pakistan Party Chairman Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said on Monday that by banning the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, the rulers instead of uniting the country wanted to divide it.

The former PM asked, "do you want a clash between institutions." He said that with this decision (a reference to reserved seats), the Supreme Court had washed away its wrongs.

# Orchestrated campaign against Pakistan

THE recent funeral procession of poet Gilaman, spanning from Islamabad to his native town in North Waziristan, has sparked significant controversy and concern. What transpired was far more than a mere act of mourning; it was a deliberate affront to Pakistan's territorial integrity.

The federal government and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government's permission for this procession was a gross miscalculation, intentionally sowing confusion among the already bewildered Pashtuns of Pakistan. This event was not just a funeral but a political statement, one that challenges the very essence of Pakistan's unity.

During this procession, supporters of the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) carried the older version of the Afghan flags, a flag no longer recognized even by the current Taliban leadership in Afghanistan. This act was not just symbolic; it was a blatant defiance of Pakistan's sovereignty.

Allowing such displays undermines the state's authority and sends a dangerous message to both domestic and international audiences. The state of Pakistan must take decisive

action. A case of treason should be registered against Manzoor Pashteen and other PTM leaders.

Stability in the merged tribal areas of Pakistan hinges on a strong response to such provocations. Political parties worldwide operate within the bounds of national interest and respect for territorial integrity. The actions of PTM and its supporters clearly fall outside these bounds, warranting stern legal repercussions. The involvement of social media activists from Afghanistan, many of whom reside abroad and oppose the Taliban, further complicates the situation. These activists, along with journalists from platforms like Voice of America, used the event to amplify anti-Pakistan sentiments.

This coordinated effort on social media aimed to undermine Pakistan's military establishment and fuel discord within the country. The impact on the morale of Pakistani soldiers cannot be overstated. Hearing slogans against their country and leadership, especially from their fellow citizens, is demoralizing.

## Comment

Jalil Afridi

Manzoor Pashteen's followers, primarily uneducated Pashtuns struggling for daily sustenance, are being manipulated into a cause that serves foreign interests rather than their own. These individuals, driven by economic desperation, are easy targets for political manipulation.

The notion that bolstering Manzoor Pashteen's popularity could weaken the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) or serve as a buffer between Pakistan and Afghanistan is fundamentally flawed. Such strategies fail to consider the broader implications for Pakistan's global reputation. The widely shared images and videos of the funeral procession, showcasing anti-Pakistan slogans, have already tarnished the country's image internationally. This orchestrated event was a calculated attempt to defame Pakistan, and it succeeded in drawing negative attention from

around the world.

Pakistan has a long history of hospitality towards Afghan refugees. For decades, millions of Afghans have found refuge in Pakistan, especially after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. Thousands of these refugees participated in the funeral procession, raising their voices against the state that has sheltered them. This act of ingratitude is not only disheartening but also a stark reminder of the complex dynamics at play. The government's leniency in allowing such a procession reflects a severe lack of foresight. The decision to permit an event that would undoubtedly provoke anti-state sentiments demonstrates a failure to anticipate its repercussions. It is imperative that the authorities reassess their approach to handling such sensitive issues, prioritizing national integrity above all else.

Moving forward, Pakistan must adopt a multi-faceted strategy to address this challenge. Firstly, stringent measures should be taken against those who incite anti-state activ-

ities. The legal system must be employed to its fullest extent to deter future provocations.

Secondly, there needs to be a concerted effort to educate and uplift the Pashtun community. Providing better economic opportunities and educational resources will reduce their susceptibility to manipulation. Additionally, Pakistan must engage in robust diplomacy to counter the negative narrative being pushed by foreign entities. Highlighting the country's contributions and sacrifices for Afghan refugees on international platforms can help restore its global standing. In conclusion, the funeral procession of Gilaman was a strategic move aimed at destabilizing Pakistan.

The use of outdated Afghan flags, the involvement of PTM leaders, and the support from anti-Taliban Afghan activists all point to a well-orchestrated campaign against Pakistan. The government's response must be swift and decisive to protect the nation's integrity and ensure long-term stability. The path forward requires a blend of legal action, community development, and diplomatic efforts to safeguard Pakistan's interests both domestically and internationally.





# Police to ensure peace in Sindh, says Lanjar



## F.P. Report

KARACHI : Sindh Home Minister Zia Ul Hassan Lanjar said in a prss conference that the successes achieved by the police in the Kachha areas are the result of their hard work and best strategy. He assured that in case of organized crimes in any area, the relevant district officer will be held responsible. He said that an award of Rs. 5 lacs has been announced for SSP East and his team for their excellent performance in the police encounter on Shahrah-e-Faisal.

He said that the Sindh Police is performing well during the Muharram events, and in this regard, a conversation has also been held with K-Electric to avoid load shedding for three days during Muharram.

He said that the notorious dacoit Amjad Bhayo, involved in the kidnapping of important personalities of the Hindu community,

has finally been killed, which has sparked a wave of happiness in the Hindu community, and they have also chanted slogans in favor of the Sindh Police. The Sindh government had fixed a bounty of Rs 50 lacs on Amjad bhayo's head.

He said that so far, 80 to 100 suspects have surrendered their arms in the Kachha areas. He said that the officers and personnel of the Sindh Police are our arms, and on this occasion, he praised the Sindh Police boxer Shahir Khan Afridi for winning the title against India in the boxing competition and announced a prize of one million rupees.

Earlier Sindh Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon briefed the press conference agenda and said that the security of around 40,000 personalities associated with the Bohra community from other countries is being ensured at the provincial level, and in this regard, the Police is taking

all measures under a comprehensive security plan.

He said that Muharram arrangements, the security of 4135 processions across the province has been ensured with the deployment of over 50,000 police personnel, and as part of the security plan, police personnel have been deployed in various districts since the first of Muharram.

Regarding police performance against crime, the IGP Sindh said that since the last four months, police operations against drug mafia/drug dealers have been ongoing at an extreme pace, during which over 300 suspects have been arrested. There were around 575 drug dealers operating in the city, 4760 cases have been registered against drug dealers. He said that this year, 72 citizens were killed by street criminals during robberies. Police have registered 69 cases against the culprits and arrested 65 street criminals.

Similarly, this year, there have been 471 police encounters in the last four months, and significant successes have been achieved against dacoits in the Kachha areas. The successes include the killing of notorious dacoit Teeghani and the arrest of a dacoit in Ranipur, as well as the killing of a dacoit in Noshero Feroz.

He said that the East Police has done commendable work against crime, under which a major drug dealer was killed in an encounter in the limits of Shahrah-e-Faisal police station. The CTD police arrested a terrorist planning terrorism in Muharram due to their excellent intelligence.

IGP Sindh said that improving the environment of police stations is my priority, and my target for this year is to improve around 100 police stations. Sindh Police has 484 police stations, and each police station is being made financially autonomous by providing them with a regular budget.

IGP Sindh said that practical steps are being taken to modernize the Sindh Investigation Department according to the requirements of the modern era, and in this regard, the Sindh government is providing full support and assistance. An amount of Rs 500 million has been allocated for the Investigation Department.

Similarly, under the health insurance scheme, police personnel will be given Rs 10 lakh each for medical treatment. The Safe City Project has been launched to ensure the safety of the city.



KARACHI: Pakistani Shiite Muslims attend the Muharram procession during the Muslim holy month of Muharram. —INP Photo

## Fool-proof security being provided to processions

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar said the police were ensuring fool-proof security arrangements across the province during the month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

Majlis and processions organised in all districts, including Lahore, were being provided with the best security as per SOPs, he added. The IG Punjab mentioned that on the 8th of Muharram-ul-Haram, 3,937 Majalis and 1,366 mourning processions were held across Punjab.

The police teams ensured high-alert with comprehensive security arrangements for the events.

A spokesman for the Punjab Police said on the 8th of Muharram-ul-Haram, 54,696 policemen were deployed. More than 26,000 officers and personnel were deployed for security of 3,937 Majalis in all districts and over 30,000 personnel performed security duties for 1,366 processions.

Traffic police, the Counter Terrorism Department, Special Branch, Dolphin Force

and volunteers also fulfilled their security duties.

Similarly, on the 8th of Muharram, 86 processions and 416 Majalis were held in the provincial capital as over 8,000 officials performed security duties. IG Punjab directed the RPOs and the DPOs to personally monitor security arrangements, stressing absolute vigilance without compromise on security of gatherings and processions.

The IG instructed for continuous monitoring of security arrangements through control rooms and CCTV cameras.

## CM takes notice of Noriabad accident

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah while taking notice of the Nooriabad road accident and loss of lives had directed to provide medical treatment to injured persons in the accident.

According to the Spokesman for CM House, MPA Imdad Patafi called the CM and informed him about the accident. Seven people had been killed and seven others injured in the accident.

The CM directed Imdad Patafi to offer condolences to the families of the deceased. Financial assistance should be given to the families of the bereaved families and injured persons, the CM added.

## Wasa MD for implementing SOPs

LAHORE (APP): Water and Sanitation Agency Managing Director Ghufuran Ahmad on Monday directed the authorities to strictly implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) regarding Muharram.

He presided over a meeting which reviewed preparations related to Muharram, desilting operation and revenue progress here. The MD directed to ensure presence of covers on manholes at procession routes, Imambargahs and in surroundings of graveyards.

He said water tankers should be placed in surroundings of procession routes and Imambargahs. Ghufuran Ahmad said the staff with machinery would perform duty around Imambargahs and processions.

## Mobile service to be partially suspended in some districts

LAHORE (APP): Mobile phone service will remain active in 17 districts of Punjab while it will be partially suspended in the rest of the province during the 9th and 10th of Muharram.

According to the spokesperson for the Punjab Home Department, the cellular service will remain active in Lahore, Kasur, Sheikhupura, Sargodha, Khushab, Sialkot, Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal, Multan, Khanewal, Lodhran, Vehari, Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Okara and Chiniot.

It is recommended that the cellular services are suspended only in the surrounding areas of processions and Majalis for security reasons, he added.

The spokesperson said mobile services will be partially suspended in Gujranwala, Narowal, Toba Tek Singh, Bhakkar, Mandi Bahauddin, Wazirabad, Rajanpur, Faisalabad, Bahawalnagar, Hafizabad, Gujrat, DG Khan and Jhang.

The spokesperson clarified that cellular services will not be completely suspended in any city of the Punjab. The partial suspension of mobile signals will continue from 8am till 10pm during the 9th and 10th of Muharram on procession routes and areas of Majalis in the already mentioned districts only.

He added that cellular

network services will be suspended at 28 locations in Rawalpindi, 15 locations in Rahim Yar Khan, 11 locations in Mianwali and Bahawalpur. Mobile service will remain suspended at 10 places in Layyah, seven places in Muzaffargarh and six places in Nankana Sahib.

Earlier, on the Muharram 7, mobile services were partially suspended in some areas of Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Jhang, Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar. He said that the decision to partially suspend cellular network services at certain places was taken to maintain law and order and ensure citizens protection.

## Canada Aviation Security Assessment starts at Jinnah Airport

### F.P. Report

KARACHI: The two-member team of Transport Canada consisting of Transportation Security Inspectors Mr. Barbara Durette and Mr. Abdel Tahir, arrived at Karachi for Asvec assessment of JIAP today.

Air Cdre (R) Shahid Qadir, Director Asvec PCAA, welcomed the team in the open meeting at Civil Aviation Headquarters, Karsaz. During the four-days assessment, the team will be inspecting implementation of various aviation security protocols at the airport and implementation of Special Security measures being undertaken by PIA for direct flights to Canada.

The assessment is being hosted by the Aviation Security Directorate of PCAA and is a continuation of collaborative efforts between Transport Canada and PCAA for enhancing Aviation Security standards in the country.

## PHP checks 446,167 people

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) is actively engaged in serving and safeguarding people on all highways across the province. A crackdown on enforcing laws and combating crimes is underway in Lahore and throughout the province.

The Punjab Highway Patrol Headquarters released its performance report of the last week. The PHP checked 446,167 people and 329,283 vehicles through E-Police Posts during the past week.

During the checking, 76 wanted criminals/court absconders were apprehended, and 36 stolen vehicles/motorcycles were recovered. Under the Road Safety Campaign, 56,203 e-challans were issued over traffic violations, and under Excel Load Management, actions were taken against 11,671 overloaded vehicles besides imposing fine of Rs 24 million deposited into the national treasury.

The action was also taken against 210 vehicles for illegal use of gas cylinders. In the interest of public convenience, 3,275 driving licenses were issued, and nine missing children were reunited with their parents. Further, assistance and guidance were provided to 1,618 travelers, and 63 temporary and permanent encroachments were removed to improve traffic flow.

## Govt committed to empowering youth: CM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the Punjab government is committed to providing vocational training opportunities to its youth.

In her message on World Youth Skills Day, the CM said that skilled youth is our investment and asset, adding that World Youth Skills Day is a day to recognize the important role of

youth in building a sustainable future. Youth must be exposed to the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world, she asserted.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that information and communication technology is indispensable for the youth to compete in the global job market. She mentioned that under Chief Minister's Skills Development

Initiative, the number of students would be gradually increased to 40,000 for TEVTA courses.

The chief minister said that Middle Tech, Matric Tech and Intermediate Tech are being introduced for students in Information Technology. She added it is our vision to make every youth of Punjab skilled to ensure their economic empowerment.

## Ustaad Plus, Pakistan's first teacher finder app

### F.P. Report

KARCHI: On July, Ustaad Plus, Pakistan's first teacher finder app, organised its

inaugural teacher training event. The event saw participation from numerous teachers who appreciated the platform and its benefits.

Jarrar Hashmi, CEO and founder of Ustaad Plus, explained the app's vision and how it provides job opportunities for teachers.



## Salman visits PDMA, reviews relief operation

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman Cabinet Committee on Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique visited Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Head Office here on Monday.

Director General Irfan Ali Kathia briefed the provincial minister about the damage caused by the recent rains and the relief operations. He told the provincial minister in the briefing that 24 precious lives were lost due to dilapidated buildings and other reasons this month.

Khawaja Salman Rafique said that PDMA should ensure financial

support to the bereaved families as per the instructions of the Punjab government. Water condition in rivers and dams has been reviewed. Water condition in all rivers and barrages of Punjab is normal. All resources will be utilized for the rehabilitation of the areas affected by natural calamities, he said.

The DG briefed about the situation of rivers in Dera Ghazi Khan. Due to the rains in Mount Sulaiman mountains, floods may occur in the rivers and mountains. PDMA Punjab has set up flood relief camps in view of the possible threat. All resources are being provided to the district adminis-

tration in this regard. Pakistan is facing severe rains and floods due to climate change. Timely measures should be taken to protect human lives. The public is requested to take precautionary measures during the rainy season. All departments, divisional and district administrations should maintain close contact with each other.

The DG said that 24-hour monitoring is being done in the provincial and district control rooms. Rains are predicted in most districts of the province on 8th and 9th of Muharram. On the 10th of Muharram, the weather is likely to be hot and humid in most of the districts of the province.

## 12,000 rescue officials to perform duty

LAHORE (APP): Secretary Emergency Services Department Dr Rizwan Naseer said on Monday that more than 12,000 rescue officials will perform duty on Ashura. To provide emergency rescue and medical cover to Ashura mourning processions, Dr Rizwan Naseer reviewed the Rescue 1122 arrangements to provide emergency help in all districts of Punjab. In this regard, a complete link with all control rooms and provincial monitoring cell monitoring have been formulated so that a quick response mechanism may be carried at any time. He instructed all the district emergency officers that rescuers' leave would be limited while the Disaster Response Force deployed.



**WSSP**

Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar

**WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES PESHAWAR**

**GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA**

**CORRIGENDUM**




The NIT published in Daily Aaj and The Frontier Post **"Auction Notice for Recyclable Material at WSSP Transfer Stations and Land Fill Sites"**, on July 13, 2024 the following is added to the said NIT.

Lot #	Name of Site	Location	Estimated Amount of Recoverable Per month	Taken Money (Security)	Date / time & place of Auction
4	Recyclables Zone D Transfer Station	Warsak Road STP, Behind Prime Hospital, Warsak Road	1,819,821	400,000	8th July 2024 at 11:00 am WSSP Zone – E office, Ring Road near Landi Arbab Overhead bridge,
5	Recyclables Land Fill Site (LFS)	Shamshatloo	2,420,569	500,000	

**General Manager HR/Admin/ Procurement**

Local Government Complex, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Plot # 33, Street No. 13, Sector E-8, Phase-VII, Hayatabad, Peshawar. Office Phone # 091-9219098.



**Mobilink Bank**  
MICROFINANCE

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Auction of Gold

Finance facilities were extended by Mobilink Bank against the security of deposit and pledge of gold to the customers mentioned below. The customers who have neglected and failed to repay the finance extended to them by Mobilink Bank along with the markup thereon.

**Details:**

Branch	Abbottabad	Branch code	0013
Auction Date	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	Time	10:30 AM

Customer Name	CNIC #	Address	Gold Weight (GM)	Detail of Gold Ornaments
Muhammad Sohail Khan	13102-0385567-5	House # G 81, POB Colony, Havelian, Abbottabad.	9.8	2 Bangles (Chorian)
Qazi Mustafa	42301-4101536-3	Mohallah Dharian, Nari Road, Mandian, Abbottabad.	34	2 Bangles (Karay)

Notice is hereby given to the customers in above mentioned that if payment of entire outstanding amount financed along with markup is not made by them to Mobilink Bank within 1 day of the publication of this notice, Mobilink Bank shall auction the gold ornaments and no further Public Notice shall be issued to call upon the customers to make the payments.

**Mobilink Bank**



# Six-day rain spell predicted from July 16 to 21

PESHAWAR (APP): The Regional Meteorological Department on Monday forecast new spell of rain starting July 16 to 21 in most parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Rain predicted in Dir, Chitral, Kohistan, Swat, Malakand, Bajaur, Shangla, Batagram, Buner, Kohat, Mohmand, DI Khan, Khyber, Haripur, Mansehra, Peshawar, Abbottabad, Bannu, Waziristan, Kurram, and others.

According to a notification issued by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) stated that Regional Met Office Peshawar has informed that a new spell of rains is starting for which people are urged to take all precautionary measures to avoid any loss of life, damages to infrastructure and crops and animals.

Furthermore, all concerned authorities asked to take the safety measures.

Tourists to be informed about weather forecast, ensure availability of all emergency services staff and machineries, and all concerned line departments to remain vigilant in restoring road links.

In case of any occurrence contact with PDMA, active round the clock via helpline 1700.

## Special arrangements placed Muharram at HMC

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman of Accident and Emergency, Dr. Mohammad Shah, formed a team for the preparation of Muharram at Hayatabad Medical Complex, said a press release issued here Monday.

In-charge, Dr. Ramzan, Dr. Fahad, Nursing Director Awal Khan, Pharmacy Manager Zaffar visited the Accident and Emergency along with Dr. Shah and inspected arrangements for Muharram based on emergency basis.

Ortho, surgical, neuro, medical team will be present on time to provide emergency medical facilities to the mourners coming to the hospital. 33 beds have been allocated in the emergency department of the hospital.

Additional measures have been taken by the hospital's operation theater, ICUs, medical staff, hospital drugs, blood supply, wheelchairs, stretchers, and the hospital's infection control team.

Adequate storage of emergency supplies has been ensured for all these arrangements.

In addition, the hospital's security presence will be increased to manage the large number of pilgrims and visitors during the important period of Muharram.



PESHAWAR: Blacksmith busy in sharpening knives to be used during the procession of Muharram at Kohati area.

## Fair taxation on tobacco industry advocated

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Liaqat Khan, the former President of the Swabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has voiced significant concerns regarding the current tax regime imposed on the tobacco industry. Known for his persistent efforts to promote economic growth and fair business practices, Khan's recent statements highlight the pressing issues of dual taxation and exorbitant export taxes that are currently burdening the tobacco sector.

Khan's primary concern centers around the duplication of excise duties on tobacco. The federal government currently imposes an excise duty of Rs 390 per kilogram on tobacco, a substantial levy that already places a significant financial burden on producers. However, the situation is exacerbated by the provincial government's additional excise duty of Rs 50 per kilogram. This dual taxation system, Khan argues, lacks a clear legal basis and raises questions about its compliance with existing legislation.

"Imposing multiple excise duties on the same product not only creates confusion but also leads to an unfair financial strain on our industry," Khan remarked.

He urged the relevant authorities to review and streamline the excise duty structure to ensure it is both legally compliant and economically viable for businesses.

## Training for Judicial Officers held

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy (KPJA) conducted a three-day training program on Monday for judicial officers focused on "Maintaining Health and Well-being to Ensure Optimal Judicial Performance."

Twenty-five judges, including Senior Civil Judges and Civil Judges cum Judicial Magistrates from across the province, participated in the training.

The program aimed to equip them with tools and strategies for managing their physical and mental well-being, ultimately leading to better performance in their duties.

Ikhtiar Khan, Registrar Peshawar High Court presided over the inaugural ceremony. Jehanzeb Shinwari, Director General KPJA welcomed the participants and explained the program's goals and objectives.

He also highlighted the academy's commitment to continue such trainings for the benefit of all judicial officers in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Zia ur Rehman, Dean Faculty, KPJA, delivered an overview on the course.

The training program turned concluded with a closing ceremony.

Sumbal Naseer, Director Inspection (SDJ) Peshawar High Court, graced the event as the chief guest.

The ceremony was also attended by distinguished members including the Director General, Dean Faculty, directors, and faculty members of the Academy. Representing the participants, Muhammad Junaid Alam, Civil Judge expressed his gratitude to the Peshawar High Court and the Academy for providing this valuable training opportunity.

The Director General appreciated the participants and the KPJA team for their dedication which led to the successful completion of the activity.

At the end, certificates were conferred on the participants.

## Drugs smuggling gang busted

PESHAWAR (APP): Police on Monday arrested four accused including a wanted Afghan ring-leader of an international drugs supply gang during a raid in Tadjabad area here.

Police said, a team of Pishakhara police raided a house in Tadjabad area and unearthed a heroin producing factory. Four accused were arrested from the factory. The arrested accused were involved in supplying drugs to Dubai, Afghanistan and other countries.

During the intelligence-based raid, police also recovered 60 kilograms of heroin from the factory, police said, adding that a most wanted Afghan drug dealer was among the four accused arrested from the factory.

Police also recovered 24kg of chemicals used in manufacturing of heroin and later shifted the accused and recovered items to the police station for further investigation.



PESHAWAR: A view of Qissa Khawani Bazaar closed for Muharram procession. — APP photo

## Journalist's murder condemned

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The murder of Hassan Zaib Malik is a glaring example of the government's incompetence. Senior journalists are being slaughtered like vegetables. Jamaat-e-Islami stands with the journalist community and demands that the killers be arrested and hanged publicly.

These views were expressed by Hamdullah Jan Budhani, Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Peshawar, during an emergency meeting. He stated that maintaining law and order is the fundamental responsibility of the provincial government, in which it has miserably failed. The government's writ is nowhere to be seen, and there is no one to listen to the grievances of the people. Once again, it has been proven that the current government is fake. Many precious lives have been buried under the soil due to the government's incompetence.

The public knows that Jamaat-e-Islami is making the new generation part of the 'Bano Qabil' project, while due to the negligence of the tughghish government, children are becoming orphans. Many families have lost their loved ones. Journalists are the eyes and ears of any society and are considered the fourth pillar of the state. If their lives and property are not safe, then no one's life and property are secure. Jamaat-e-Islami has been with the journalist community from day one. Jamaat-e-Islami itself belongs to the tribe of the pen. What do treasure-stealing politicians, who are busy with frivolities, know about the sanctity of the pen and how to protect lives and property?

Jamaat-e-Islami expresses its condolences, sympathy, and solidarity with the tribe of the pen. We demand the current government immediately arrest Hassan Zaib Malik's killers and give them exemplary punishment, and provide solace to his innocent children. Otherwise, Jamaat-e-Islami will go to the last extent.

## Mina Khan inspects Muharram security

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Mina Khan on Monday visited various areas of the interior city to inspect arrangements, security and cleanliness for the peaceful conduct of Muharram processions and gatherings.

The provincial minister also visited the control room where he was briefed in detail on adopted security measures. The officers of district administration, local government and police were also present on the occasion.

Expressing satisfaction over the security arrangements, the provincial minister lauded the preparations and efforts of the district administration for Muharram. He said the month of Muharram was sacred for all the Muslims and we have to respect each other's sentiments.

## Resident approaches PHC against 'illegal police intervention'

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A resident of Takhtbhai named Fakhir Alam, has filed a writ petition in the Peshawar High Court against the police's alleged illegal intervention and attempted to takeover his land by force.

The petition names Inspector General (IG) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

District Police Officer Mardan, Deputy Superintendent of Police Takhtbhai Circle, Station House Officers Takhtbhai and Saro Shah along with others as respondents.

According to the petition, Fakhir Alam purchased the land from Rambel Khan, but a dispute arose with Zahid Khan over the same plot. The matter was taken to court, and during the proceedings, the police illegally intervened to take possession of the land by force despite proceedings in the court.

The counsel Javeed Ali Ghani Advocate stated in the plea that the police in collaboration with Zahid Khan, raided the disputed land on June 30, 2024, and July 2, 2024, and used force, firing, and intimidation to take control of the land.

The petition seeks the court's orders to stop the police from interfering in the matter and to restrain them from taking any action against the petitioner.

The petition also requests the court to direct the respondents to implement the court's orders and to take action against the police officials involved in the illegal intervention.

## KP Special Assistant assures support to Wah Nobel Group in investment

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Industries Commerce and Technical Education Abdul Karim Tordher, chaired a meeting held with representatives of "Wah Nobel Group", here at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BoIT) office, while officials of the board also attend.

During the meeting, the investment group showed keen interest regarding joint collaboration on different investment projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Similarly, the group representative Brig (R)



Shiraz Ullah Choudhry intended to serve in the province through contribution in Infrastructure Development, Hydro Power Projects and Mines & Minerals sectors.

He also deliberated on that concerned departments may approach Wah Nobel Group for provision of mining facilities etc and drilling services at door step.

On this occasion, the Special Assistant ensured full cooperation and support to materialize Wah Nobel Group joint collaboration on different investment projects.

He expressed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have a vast potential in various area for investment opportunities and the provincial government is welcoming the investors

to come here for investment.

He added that we are creating a conducive environment for investment here so that the investors without any hurdle contribute in business and investment areas here in the province. He said that from (KP-BoIT), full cooperation will be extended to the group in the way of investment here.

## KhUJ, PPC protest against journalist's murder



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A large number of journalists on Monday protested demonstration organized by the Khyber Union of Journalists and the Peshawar Press Club against the murder of journalist Hassan Zaib.

Holding placards and banners, the protesters

chanted slogans against the murder of the journalist in Nowshera. They demanded the immediate arrest of Hassan Zaib's killers from the police.

Senior Vice President KhUJ Imran Yousafzai pointed out that despite the killers' faces being visible in CCTV footage, the police have not been able to apprehend the culprits. They urged the Chief Minister to take notice of Hassan Zaib's murder and ensure the killers are promptly arrested.

President of Peshawar Press Club Arshad Aziz emphasized that providing security to journalists is the government's responsibility. He criticized the government, stating that it has completely failed to protect journalists.

Nasir Hussain, President of KHJU, warned that if Hassan Zaib's killers are not arrested, they would stage intense protests. Journalist Hassan Zeb was brutally shot dead in broad day light by two men in Nowshera the other day.

## SIDB begins practical steps for construction of Industrial Park

PESHAWAR (APP): Small Industries Development Board (SIDB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has begun initiating practical measures for the construction of the mega project of Industrial Park Peshawar.

For the completion of Rs.3 billion mega Industrial Park, the Managing Director, SIDB, Habibullah Arif has issued work orders to the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of two construction companies, said a spokesman of the board here on Monday.

Besides, Deputy Managing Director (DMD) Planning & Development, Nauman Fayyaz and DMD Engineer Zulfikar Ali Sahibzada, Joint Director, Safdar Abbas Afridi was also present on the occasion.

The project will trigger economic activities in the provincial metropolis of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and generate employment opportunities for the locals of the Sara Khawra locality at Zangali area on the Kohat Road.

He said that Industrial Park Peshawar will be one of the unique type projects wherein 400 industrial units would be set up on industrial plots

of 11 marla to 4 kanal land in the industrial estate and generate about 25000 employment opportunities.

For the completion of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Industrial Park Peshawar, the construction companies have been issued special instructions to complete the project within the stipulated time period of two years.





## In brief

### Procession ends peacefully F.P. Report

KOHAT: The eighth Muharram mourning procession in Kohat district concluded safely and peacefully on Monday. According to DC Office, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. Azmatullah Wazir and District Police Officer (DPO) Umar Khan along with district administration, police and army officials monitored the event from a central control room. They used CCTV cameras to electronically oversee the proceedings and also conducted physical checks in sensitive areas along the procession route. The main market was sealed off with special barricades, and access to the procession was restricted to those who had been thoroughly searched. Security personnel repeatedly scanned the routes to ensure nothing disrupted the traditional mourning procession.

### Awareness walk held F.P. Report

BUNER: Under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Buner Hamid Ali Khan, a Monsoon awareness walk was conducted in Swari Bazar in collaboration with volunteers of Civil Defense and TMA Gagra, which was led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Relief and Human Rights Syed Akram Shah. Speaking at the gate of Buner University at the end of the walk the Additional Deputy Commissioner said that according to the report of the Meteorological Department, there is a possibility of heavy rains this year, so the residents near the flooded areas should move their valuables and livestock to safe places. Give and God forbid contact me immediately in case of damage due to rains so that I and my team can reach for timely assistance. Action will be taken so that no person tries to make false and false application, he warned.

### Man found dead near Mastung

MASTUNG (PPI): A body of unidentified man was found in Milku dringarh area of district Mastung in Balochistan province on Monday. According to rescue sources, the body of unidentified man was found lying in Milku dringarh area of district Mastung. Initial investigation suggested that four-day-old body seemed to be strangled to death with a rope. The body was shifted to the morgue of Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Memorial Hospital Mastung for completion of necessary medico-legal formalities and identification. Further investigation was being conducted by the concerned authorities.

### Sargodha police hold flag march

SARGODHA (APP): On the direction of District Police Officer (DPO) Dr. Asad Ijaz Malhi, Sargodha police held a flag march to maintain law and order during Muharram across the district. According to a press release issued by the DPO office, the flag march was led by Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Ziaullah and ASP City Abdul Sami Sheikh, DSP CIA, DSP Traffic, SHOs of City Circle, Elite Force, Muhafiz Squad, Rangers and Traffic Police participated in it. The march started from Zakullah Shaheed Police Lines and passed through the city's main roads, places, and procession routes and culminated at police lines. ASP Ziaullah said that the purpose of the flag march was to give the citizens a sense of security and to maintain law and order during Muharram.



QUETTA: President, Pakistan Young Lawyers Forum for judicial reforms Balochistan chapter, Fatima Advocate addressing a press conference.

## Pakistan Climate Change Act boasts administrative procedures

Nusrat Bibi

**ALL natural resources of Pakistan include mountains, glaciers, avalanches, water, air, sun, land, forest, biodiversity, wildlife, rivers, oceans etc. are at stake from our government's ineffective policies as well as from the haphazard development pressure.**

Natural resources play very crucial role in the existence of human beings on this planet and there is an urgent need of to be managed and used wisely. But unluckily these natural resources are either over used by the developed countries for their comforts or are ruined, mismanaged and looted by the underdeveloped countries' government for their own wealth. Similarly Pakistan, though has ratified several international agreements on Environmental Management and Climate Change Mitigation but unable to integrate and regulate all natural resources in the Climate Change Act.

Deliberate cutting of forest is continued since almost two years around KP and our most precious flora and fauna are extinguished and

endangered. Clearing forest not only provides land for sale but also provides billions-dollar return on trees trading. Hence our rear biodiversity and wildlife are the direct sufferers by losing their habitats and food chains and the depletion of our water resources, the carbon explosion in air and the flash flooding, soil erosion, glaciers melting and drought etc. are the byproducts of deforestation and Pakistan will suffer the most in coming decades. The existence of living beings is the biggest challenge on this part of the planet in future due to harsh weather and no means for existence.

Similarly mountains and hills are seriously threatened in Pakistan either from bulldozing for roads and developing motels and other tourism structures or directly are leveled for agriculture and residential purposes. Mountains are also mined for minerals as well as for precious rocks to develop marbles factories and cement. Despite the fact, that mountains topography not only regulates weather and climate of a region and brings rain and snow but also creates low belt pressure and protect our region from cyclones and Trans-boundary pollution.

In addition to, our land is the most endangered commodity in recent years due to development pressure and our government has no plan to regulate this precious commodity for keeping balance in its multiple uses. The govt should rule out intelligent procedures for accommodating us and other biodiversity as well as meeting our food requirements immediately.

Likewise our water resources are on depletion due to deforestation, glaciers melting, industrial pollution, watershed damages in development and dams. Our water cycle must be maintained and regulated.

Equally important are biodiversity and wildlife by providing genes pool and is the biggest source of health and wealth on this planet. The Climate Change Act of Pakistan should incorporate all these natural resources and promulgate its wise uses, protection and management for us as well as for our future generations. All the natural resources should be protected legally from haunting by the powerful. The government should regulate our each single natural resource separately and define its intelligent and appropriate uses.

## Security tightened for Muharram processions

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Police and district administration have made foolproof security arrangement to ensure peace during Ashra Muharram in the district Hafizabad whereas 139 mourning processions are being taken out and 603 Majalis being held at different places from 1st Muharram to 10th Muharram in the district.

Incharge System Network Waleed Irshad informed the Deputy Commissioner Sundas Irshad in a briefing during her visit to District Control Room setup to monitor processions and Majalis through CCTV Cameras. DPO Faisal Gulzar and ADCG Hammadullah and prominent social worker and President Awami Mahaz Hafizabad were also present on this occasion.

DC inspected Control Rooms set up at DC Office and City Police Station Hafizabad and reviews performance of CCTV Cameras and other arrangements.

DC was also told that officers and officials of health department, Rescue 1122, Municipal Committees, Civil Defence, WAPDA, Sui Gas and PTCL were deputed to provide treatment and other facilities to participants of processions and Majalis.

Meanwhile, the Punjab government has released Rs. 329.661 million to complete construction work of University of Hafizabad. Former Federal Minister Saira Afzal Tarar said that the Punjab government has shut mouth of those people who were spreading rumors to contain funds by the present government.

She said that leadership

of Pakistan Muslim League (N) was not believe in politics of revenge and all people friendly projects would be completed according to specification.

Meanwhile, prominent educational and literary personalities and parents thanks Saira Afzal Tarar to get release funds for this project. They expressed hope that Saira Afzal Tarar would ensure lunching of classes in University of Hafizabad during this year.

Moreover, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ata Tarar visited Rasulpur Tarar near Hafizabad. He visited residence of District President PMLN Muhammad Bukash Tamar and expressed his condolence over demise of Haji Imdad Ullah Tarar father of Muhammad Bukhash Tarar. He also prayed for internal peace for departure soul.

## Triage Unit inaugurated at Quetta hospital

QUETTA (PPI): Minister for Health Balochistan, Sardarzada Mir Faisal Khan Jamali on Monday said that steps were being taken on priority basis to overcome the deficiency of healthcare machinery and medicines at Teama centre of Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta.

These views were expressed by him while inaugurating "Triage Unit" at Trauma Centre of Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta. Giving briefing to the health minister, Managing Director,

Trauma Centre, SPH, Arbab Kamran Kasi, said that triage was a process used to prioritise as to who needed emergency medical attention first, whether injured or sick people or disaster or disaster survivors, adding that patients were triaged according to their need for emergency.

During inspection of Trauma Centre, Jamali interacted with doctors, staff and inquired after the health of patients admitted to the Trauma Centre. On the occasion, Director General,

Health Services Balochistan, Dr. Farooq Hoot, Medical Superintendent, Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta, Dr. Ishaq Panezai, Medical Superintendent, Bolan Medical Complex Hospital Quetta, Dr. Amin Mandokhail, Dean, PGMI, Professor Dr. Naseebullah Zarkoon, Chief Surgeon, Trauma Centre, Surgeon Iqbal Jaffar, Deputy Director, Trauma Centre, Dr. Humaira, Dr. Saleem Boriwal, Dr. Saidal Khan, Dr. Jahanzaib and others were also present.

## Dir civic bodies initiate measures for attracting investors in regional development

Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: Dir Think Tank (DTT) and Dir Overseas Pakistani Association (DOPA), are set to initiate actionable measures to bridge the gap between research and practice, said a press release issued by chief of the DTT and DOPA Rahim Shah Akhunkhail. The DTT and DOPA are civic bodies of intellectuals, advocating for regional development through research and analysis.

It said that actionable research in multiple sectors in collaboration with national and interna-

tional universities' academia from six Universities including the public and private universities in Dir and other districts would lead on these research and analysis for strategic development in Dir.

Dr Hanif Yousufzai from the University of Malakand, Dr Sadeeq Ur Rehman from the Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Dr. Zul Kamal from the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University (SBBU) Sheringal, Dr Atiq Ur Rehman from the Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE, Dr Fayaz Ali Shah from the Islamia College University

Peshawar and Dr Wali Rehman from the Sarhad University will be leading the specific researches.

Later talking to this scribe on Phone, Mr Rahim Shah Akhunkhail, the founder of DTT and DOPA, said the key sectors identified for research and analysis were the Human Capital Development, Tourism Industry, Mines and Mineral Industry, Fishery and Wildlife Industry, Agriculture Industry and Peace in the Region.

He said the research and analysis would provide useful and applicable findings that

would facilitate informed decisions making, guide policies, and lead to tangible outcomes. In addition to academia, the audience for these research and analysis are policymakers, investors, practitioners, businesses communities and individuals, he added.

"I am grateful to the professors for leading the research which could be decisive to the development of the region by highlighting the strategic importance of Dir and attracting investments" Mr Akhunkhail said.

He said the human capital and the hidden investment opportunities in Dir were not marketed.

## MPC condemns murder of journalist Hasan Zeeshan

Fazal Haq

MARDAN: The Mardan Press Club has strongly condemned the murder of journalist Hasan Zeeshan, a reporter for Daily Aj of Peshawar and demanded the immediate arrest of his killers. The press club's emergency meeting, presided over by President M. Bashir Adil, termed the incident a "brutal and shameful act" and urged the government to provide complete security to journalists.

Hasan Zeeshan was killed in a firing incident in Akbarpura, Nowshera, on July 13, 2024. This is the second such incident in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa within a month and the 14th journalist killed in Pakistan this year alone.

The Mardan Press Club meeting was attended by Vice President Faqir Hussain Hoti, General Secretary Akhunzada Fazal Haq, Joint Secretary Khurshid Wahab, and Finance Secretary Parvez Shahin. The club members expressed their deep con-

### Pabbi Press Club protests against journalist's murder

F.P. Report

PABBI: The journalist community protested against murder of Daily Aaj reporter Hassan Zeb in daylight in the premises of Akbarpura police station at the front of Pabbi Press Club, on Monday.

The protesters demanded the inclusion of Section 7ATA of the Anti-Terrorism Act in the FIR of Hasan Zeb's murder case. They will also demand the suspension of SHO Akbarpura, Niaz Muhammad Khan, for his failure to maintain law and order in the area.

The protesters will also demand the provision of security to journalists and the implementation of the martyrs' package for Hasan Zeb's family. President PPC Muhammad Ilyas, Dr. Khair Abrar, Abbas Khan, Muhammad Shoaib, Muhammad Abrar, and others addressed the participants.

dolences to the bereaved family and demanded that the government take immediate action to arrest the killers and provide justice to the family.

President M. Bashir Adil urged the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, Chief Secretary, and Inspector General of Police to take notice of the incident and ensure that the perpetrators are

brought to justice. The meeting also offered special prayers for the departed soul and expressed solidarity with the grieving family.

The killing of Hasan Zeeshan has sent shockwaves through the journalist community in Pakistan, with many calling for increased security measures and an end to the impunity enjoyed by those who attack journalists.

## Toru slams decision to ban PTI

Anees Takar

MARDAN: Provincial Minister for Food and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Zahir Shah Toru has lambasted the federal government's decision to ban PTI, terming it a "madman's dream" and a futile attempt to suppress the party's popularity. In a statement issued on July 15, 2024, Toru asserted that the federal government's move is unconstitutional and violates the Election Act 2017.

Toru argued that under Clause 212 of the Election Act 2017, the federal government lacks the authority to ban any political party. Instead, it can investigate

anti-national activities and refer the matter to the Supreme Court within 15 days, which will then decide whether to ban the party or not. He emphasized that the law does not empower the government to ban a party simply because it dislikes it.

The PTI leader dismissed the federal government's decision as an "undemocratic" move that will be rejected by the courts and the public, just like similar attempts in the past. He reiterated that the power to ban political parties lies with the people, and PTI is the only party that has won the hearts of millions of Pakistanis.

Toru also pointed out

that the people of Pakistan have already rejected all other political parties and given a clear mandate to PTI on February 8. He predicted that the federal government's efforts to ban PTI will end in failure, especially after the recent historic decision of the Supreme Court.

The statement from Toru comes in response to Federal Information Minister Atta Tarad's press conference, where he announced the federal government's decision to ban PTI. The move has sparked a heated debate in political circles, with many criticizing the government's attempt to suppress political opposition.

## DC, DPO review security arrangements

SIALKOT (APP): Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Zulqarnain and District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Hassan Iqbal along with Rangers officials reviewed the 7th Muharram majlis, processions and visited Imambargahs to review administrative and security arrangements.

According to the details, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Zulqarnain and District Police Officer Sialkot Hasan Iqbal along with Rangers officers reviewed the security of the 7th Muharram procession from Central Imambargah Adda Pasrurian and Tiba Syedan. The DC termed the performance of the officers and personnel on duty for the security of the processions and other administrative matters satisfactory and said that according to the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, official duties must be performed honestly and diligently to organize peaceful processions and no negligence will be tolerated in this regard.

DPO Muhammad Hassan Iqbal said that the processions were being monitored with the help of closed circuit cameras and along with police and rangers personnel, civil defence, rescue 1122, traffic wardens, Haider scouts and Hussaini volunteers are performing duties along with law enforcement agencies.

Additional Deputy

Commissioner (ADC) Revenue Muhammad Iqbal said that street lights and flood lights along with back-up generators have been installed on the procession routes, while the streets and roads adjacent to the route of the procession have been blocked with barriers, fences and barbed wire.

The DC and the DPO visited Imambargah Mistri Abdullah, Darbar Imam Sahib and Cantt Imambargah late night and monitored the processions till dawn. Later, Muhammad Zulqarnain instructed the Assistant Commissioners (ACs) of the four tehsils that according to the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, refreshments and food will also be arranged for the participants in the processions.

He said that the routes for the Ashura procession should be cleared of all encroachments and the rain emergency camp should be kept active so that water does not accumulate on the routes in case of rain. Meanwhile, the DC today also inspected the revamping of Iqbal library, Hakeem-ul-Umat Special education school Hajipura, Government Sardar Begum Teaching Hospital and remodeling and redesigning of Social Welfare Complex and issued instructions to PHA authorities to improve the green belts of Hajipura.

**Gang of robbers smashed:** District police

have busted a dangerous gang involved in dacoity and robbery cases and arrested its three members.

In a press conference at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), SP Investigation Ghulam Abbas said that a few days ago, bandits had looted Haji Imran (Owner of Colaro sports) and escaped with Rs18,00,000 in cash. On the special instructions of District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Hassan Iqbal, DSP CIA Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan along with a police team traced out the accused. They were identified as Adnan Ahmed alias Dana, Mustaqeem and Amjad Mukhtar, he added.

He said that during interrogations Rs15,00,000, in cash, two motorcycles and two pistols were recovered from the accused. Police have sent the accused behind bars after registering separate cases against them. Further investigations are underway. The SP Investigation said that the safety of life and property of the business community of Sialkot was their top priority as the business community plays an important role in the economy of Pakistan and earns foreign exchange for the country. Vice President (VP) Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Amer Majeed Sheikh thanked the Sialkot police on behalf of the business community for recovering the loot.





WEST BANK: Palestinians evacuate from the site hit by Israeli bombardment in the al-Mawasi camp.

## What does the Trump rally attack mean for the US election?

WASHINGTON: Eight gunshots have transformed the United States election, casting an already unprecedented race into further uncertainty. A day after the attack at candidate Donald Trump's Butler, Pennsylvania rally, details have continued to emerge, as have early indications of how the violent act would affect US political discourse, campaigning and voter attitudes in the days leading up to the November 8 poll.

But for Rina Shah, a US political strategist, one thing was clear in the immediate wake of the attack: "No matter what, everything changes from here on out." That will be particularly on display, she said, at the Republican National Convention (RNC) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Republicans will gather starting Monday to begin the official process of nominating Trump as their candidate. The event will kick off just two days after the shooter, identified as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, opened fire from a nearby rooftop outside of the Secret Service security perimeter at Trump's rally.

One bullet grazed Trump in the right ear, causing panic on the crowded stage. Others struck spectators, killing one man and injuring two more. "I can say that this shocks the consciousness," Shah said during a television interview with Al Jazeera. "We have less than 120 days to go and this resets everything." Indeed, the rally attack - in which Trump became the 13th US president or presidential candidate to face an

assassination attempt, and the eighth to survive - was swiftly met with calls from elected lawmakers for a reset in the polarisation that has come to define modern US politics. US President Joe Biden decried the violence as "sick" before holding a phone call with his opponent. He said "everybody must condemn" the attack. Trump, in a break from the often caustic rhetoric that had previously defined his campaign, said "It is more important than ever that we stand united." Political violence experts have said it is imperative for leaders to continue to bring the temperature down to prevent further violence or retributive attacks. Speaking to Al Jazeera in a television interview after the attack, Colin P Clarke, the director of research at the Soufan Group, a security consulting firm, said that the rally violence "epitomises" the current extremes of US democracy.

Recent studies have shown that while Americans are less ideologically polarised than they perceive themselves to be, they are increasingly "emotionally polarised", meaning they "harbor strong dislike for members of the other party", according to an analysis published last year by Rachel Kleinfeld, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Several studies have shown an increase in threats against elected officials and public office holders in recent years, surging after Trump supporters stormed the US capitol in an effort to overturn

Biden's election victory on January 6, 2021. Meanwhile, a June survey conducted out of the University of Chicago found that nearly 7 percent of respondents said the use of force was justified to restore Trump to the presidency. Another 10 percent said force would be justified to "prevent Trump from becoming president". Security analyst Clarke added that while the violence at the Trump rally could be a unifying moment for Americans, "it's likely to be divisive". He predicted a "very dangerous political season". His words have since proven prescient, with a raft of Republicans, including Trump's possible vice president pick Senator JD Vance, laying blame for the attack on Biden. Vance said Biden's rhetoric has portrayed Trump as "an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs".

At least one Republican legislator has dipped into conspiracy theory, with US Representative Mike Collins of Georgia baselessly calling on authorities to arrest Biden for "inciting an assassination". As politics watchers wait to see if the shooting will indeed inflame or soothe US political polarisation, almost every analyst who spoke to Al Jazeera agreed that Trump is likely to receive a bump in support in the wake of the attack. That will be buoyed by the timing of the incident, just before the RNC, with Trump's team saying he will still attend. It will also be boosted by the images and the narrative that have emerged from the attack. — Al Jazeera

## Despite UN appeal, US and UK don't fund 'critical lifeline' to Palestinians

NEW YORK: The United Nations chief has led an internationally backed effort to support its agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) but has yet to persuade its biggest Western donors. The United States and the United Kingdom, key allies of Israel, have continued to financially block the main organisation delivering humanitarian aid to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and elsewhere.

Fourteen of the 16 donor nations resumed funding after suspending it in January, when Israel accused members of the organisation of having taken part in the October 7 Hamas-led attacks that killed more than 1,100 people in southern Israel. The US was the UNRWA's biggest donor, but Congress has banned any payments to the agency until March 25, 2025.

An independent review in April found that Israel has not presented credible evidence for its claims. There is a separate investi-

gation into the October attack itself, by the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told a pledge conference in New York that the UNRWA faces "a profound funding gap" and that without financial support to the organisation "Palestinian refugees will lose a critical lifeline and the last ray of hope for a better future". "Let me be clear - there is no alternative to UNRWA," he said, also warning that Israeli evacuation orders are forcing Palestinians "to move like human pinballs across a landscape of destruction and death".

UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini thanked the 118 countries that signed on to a shared commitment to support and bolster financial and political support for the agency as it "undergoes unprecedented attacks and systematic attempts to dismantle it". Lazzarini said he was hopeful the UK - which elected a new Labour government last week - would soon resume its financial

support. He said the organisation has currently secured funding from donor countries until September, but the total amount in pledges won't be known until next week. According to Lazzarini, there are now 600,000 Palestinian "girls and boys of the age of primary and secondary school living in the rubble, deeply traumatised", who need the UNRWA's help to restart their education. The initiative to support the organisation at the UN was spearheaded by Slovenia, Jordan and Kuwait and was signed by all 15 members of the UN Security Council. Hassan Barari, professor of international affairs at Qatar University, told Al Jazeera that Israel has been trying for years to defund the UNRWA because they believe that the organisation has been effective in helping Palestinian refugees. "They think that if they defund UNRWA then the Palestinians would be in their own societies and forgotten in the years to come," he said. "This is the continu-

ation of the Israeli attempt to defund UNRWA in order to kill the refugee file from any future negotiations." Lex Takkenberg, former chief of UNRWA's ethics office, told Al Jazeera that the agency is the only international body with an elaborate neutrality framework that includes staff training, financial checks and inspections of its installations. "It can never be ruled out that there are abuses, as in any other organisation, but it is doing an amazing job in providing support to Palestinians in the direst circumstances," he said, adding that the agency was going above and beyond to operate according to humanitarian principles.

Takkenberg said Israel did not present credible evidence to support its claims that UNRWA staff took part in the October 7 attacks. These claims instead served to normalise raids against the UNRWA and its facilities, which have become "an integral part of the onslaught in Gaza", he said. — Al Jazeera

## Zelenskyy says he can 'forget' Biden's Putin mix-up

KYIV: Volodymyr Zelenskyy has played down US President Joe Biden's recent gaffe at a NATO summit where he introduced the Ukrainian leader as Russian "President Putin", saying it was a "mistake" that could now be forgotten. "It's a mistake. I think [the] United States gave a lot of support for Ukrainians. We can forget some mistakes, I think so," the Ukrainian president told reporters after touching down at Ireland's Shannon airport.

Zelenskyy is visiting Irish leader Simon Harris on his way back from the summit in Washington, DC marking NATO's 75th anniversary, where the 81-year-old Biden made his faux pas. The US president,

under intense scrutiny over his ability to stand for another term in office in this year's US presidential election, stumbled while announcing a NATO-Ukraine compact, mistakenly referring to Zelenskyy as "President [Vladimir] Putin" as he handed him the stage. Though Biden quickly corrected himself, exclaiming that the Ukrainian leader was actually going to "beat" Putin, the incident drew more attention to his age and speculation about his mental acuity, coming weeks after a disastrous performance in the inaugural 2024 presidential debate opposite Republican rival Donald Trump. Zelenskyy's meeting with Harris is expected to cement

Ireland's support for Ukraine's bid towards European Union membership. Arriving in the country, the Ukrainian leader thanked Ireland for hosting Ukrainian refugees.

"You were with us from the very beginning of the Russian invasion," he told reporters on the tarmac. In Ukraine, five civilians were killed in separate Russian attacks on the northeastern Kharkiv region and the southern Kherson region. Kharkiv's regional Governor Oleh Syniehubov said that Russian forces had struck the village of Budy in Kharkiv twice, firing a second time as emergency services arrived on the scene and killing a police officer and an emergency rescue official. Twenty-two

people were injured. "This is not the first time that Russia has attacked emergency services while they are rescuing civilians," Ukraine's Minister of Internal Affairs Ihor Klymenko said on social media. In the southern Kherson region, governor Oleksandr Prokudin reported that three people - a 72-year-old woman, a 50-year-old woman and a 41-year-old man - were killed by Russian shelling. On the other side of the border, a Ukrainian drone attack sparked a fire at an oil depot in the Tsimlyansky district, deep inside Russia's southwestern Rostov region - the latest long-range strike by Kyiv's forces on a border region. — Al Jazeera

## Alberto plans to run for presidency in 2026

LIMA, Peru (AP): Former President Alberto Fujimori, who was pardoned in December from his convictions for corruption and responsibility for the murder of 25 people, plans to run for Peru's presidency for the fourth time in 2026, his eldest daughter said. "My father and I have talked and decided together that he will be the presidential candidate," Keiko Fujimori, leader of the right-wing Fuerza Popular party, said on social networks.

Despite the announcement, Peruvian law says anyone found guilty of acts of corruption cannot run for the office of president or vice president. Fujimori, who was convicted in 2009 of involvement in the killing of 25 Peruvians during his administration in 1992, has three convictions on corruption charges and owes about \$15 million to the Treasury, according to the Attorney General's Office specializing in corruption crimes. The former president was extradited from Chile in 2007 and was in a Peruvian prison until last December. Fujimori, 85, joined his daughter's party in June, posting a video of the event in which he is seen with Keiko Fujimori along with the phrase: "The founding leader of Fujimorism takes his place in Fuerza Popular." Keiko Fujimori, 49, has herself run for president three times unsuccessfully. On July 1, a trial began against her on allegations of money laundering for which the prosecution is seeking a sentence of 30 years in prison.

Alberto Fujimori, who governed with an increasingly authoritarian hand in 1990-2000, has begun to rebuild his image on social networks since being released from prison in December under a 2017 presidential pardon that was revived by Peru's Constitutional Court. Fujimori reported in May that he had been diagnosed with a new tumor on his tongue that was considered malignant. In July, he underwent hip replacement surgery after a fall, his daughter said.

## Alec's shooting trial dismissed

WASHINGTON: A United States judge has dismissed the involuntary manslaughter case against Hollywood actor Alec Baldwin after finding that the state had withheld evidence on how live rounds ended up on a film set where a cinematographer was fatally shot.

The trial that started three days ago came to a dramatic after Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer threw out the case based on the misconduct of police and prosecutors over the withholding of evidence from the defence in the 2021 shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the film Rust.

"The late discovery of this evidence during trial has impeded the effective use of evidence in such a way that it has impacted the fundamental fairness of the proceedings," Marlowe Sommer said in the court in Santa Fe, New Mexico state. "If this conduct does not rise to the level of bad faith it certainly comes so near to bad faith to show signs of scorching."

The judge said the case cannot be filed again. This ends the criminal culpability of Baldwin, 66, after a nearly three-year saga that began when a revolver he was pointing at Hutchins during rehearsal went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza. Breaking down in tears, the multiple Emmy Award-winning actor hugged his wife Hilary Baldwin as other family members wept in the public gallery. Baldwin's lawyer, Alex Spiro, told the court that the Santa Fe sheriff's office took possession of the live rounds in March as evidence but failed to list them in the investigation file or disclose their existence to defence lawyers.

"The real reason you didn't inventory that evidence is because it could have jeopardised the law enforcement case," Spiro told Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office Corporal Alexandria Hancock, the lead investigator. — Al Jazeera

## Kagame seeks fourth term as Rwandan president

KAMPALA (BBC): Rwanda's President Paul Kagame, feared and admired in equal measure, is seeking to extend his 24-year rule in an election analysts say he will win by a landslide. He has dominated every election since becoming president in 2000, with over 90% of the vote. In 2017 he won with a staggering 99%.

Mr Kagame, 66, faces off against the only two contenders who were authorised to run - other candidates were barred by the state-run electoral commission. President Kagame has been at the helm of Rwandan politics since his rebel forces took power at the end of the 1994 genocide which killed some 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Since then, he has been praised for overseeing the country's dramatic revival and unifying the country.

"Rwanda was 30 years ago essentially written off - but thanks to some extent to the leadership under Kagame and his ruling party Rwanda managed to show some stability," Dr Felix Ndahinda, a scholar on the Great Lakes region, told the BBC. But his critics have accused Mr Kagame of not allowing any opposition - to the extent of orchestrating cross-border assassinations of dissidents. Mr Kagame has always fiercely defended Rwanda's record on human rights, saying his country respects political freedoms. But one analyst told the BBC the election was a mere "formality". About nine million people are registered to vote, according to the electoral body, and at least two million are first-time voters. A provisional winner should be known. Voters will elect the president and 53 members of the lower House of Parliament on Monday, while 27 other MPs will be

elected the following day.

"I am very excited about voting for my first time, I can't wait," Sylvia Mutoni told the BBC. For most young people in Rwanda, Mr Kagame is the only leader they have ever known. Even while vice-president and defence minister from 1994 to 2000 he was the country's real leader, and has been president since 2000. The two opposition candidates - Frank Habineza, of the Democratic Green Party and independent Philippe Mpayimana - both ran in the 2017 election, where they took less than 1% of the vote between them. But they are undeterred. "I believe democracy is a process," Mr Habineza told the BBC Focus on Africa podcast. "People still have a fear of expressing their opinions. I'm fighting for freedom of speech, freedom of the media," he said. And some Rwandans are listening to him. One voter told the BBC he would not be voting for the incumbent president.

Celestin Mutuyeyezu, 28, used to support Mr Kagame, but this election has been swayed by Mr Habineza.

"He said great things on fighting unemployment, and he's got me," he said. But defeating President Kagame may prove difficult. Diane Rwigara, an outspoken critic of the president, was barred from running in the election. She was also disqualified in 2017. "Rwanda is portrayed as a country where the economy has been growing. But on the ground, it's different. People do lack the basics of life, food, water, shelter," she told the BBC. The electoral commission said she had failed to provide correct documentation. Though the country continues to struggle with high rates of youth unemployment, it is one of the fastest-growing

economies in Africa. Mr Kagame is credited for Rwanda's remarkable economic transformation and stability over the last three decades. Rwanda is known globally for its clean capital city and having the world's highest proportion of female MPs, 61%. In the book Rwanda, Inc, American authors Patricia Crisafulli and Andrea Redmond describe Mr Kagame more as a company CEO than a political leader because of "his drive for excellence" in every sector in the country. He is also a shrewd politician.

Despite often criticising the West, he tries to cultivate useful allies - for example by working with the UK on its now-abandoned scheme to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda. Rwanda has also been flexing its soft power on the international stage, by building its appeal through sports, culture, and entertainment. The small East African country is home to the African Basketball League, which is a partnership with the NBA. It hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2022 and international stars like Kendrick Lamar have played concerts there. But Mr Kagame's diplomacy also has a very tough side. The election comes days after a UN report said there were some 4,000 Rwandan troops in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, where they are accused of backing the M23 rebel group. Rwanda did not deny the allegation and told the BBC the DR Congo government lacked the political will to resolve the crisis in its mineral-rich east, which has witnessed decades of unrest. On the campaign trail Mr Kagame promised to protect Rwanda from "external aggression" amid tensions with neighbouring DR Congo and Burundi.

## Palestinians observe strike in West Bank

WEST BANK: Palestinians in the occupied West Bank are observing a general strike in protest against Israel's war on Gaza, denouncing attack on a designated safe zone of al-Mawasi that killed at least 90 people and injured some 300 others. Most cities in the West Bank joined the general strike against Israel's air attack on the refugee camp west of Khan Younis.

Palestinians also protested in the cities of Jenin, Hebron and Tubas to condemn the devastating war. Local Palestinian social media accounts shared videos showing shops closing in Jenin, the Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem, and Tulkarem in response to calls for the strike.

Reporting from Ramallah, Al Jazeera's Nour Odeh said Palestinians feel that this is "the bare minimum" they can do "to express solidarity, to feel

that they are doing something to stand by their fellow Palestinians in Gaza as they feel helpless", while at the same time "confronting" Israeli raids imposed on several cities in occupied West Bank since October 7.

"That reality of occupation and relentless war happening in Gaza, [as well as] raids and home demolitions and confiscation of land happening here in the West Bank is coming full-circle in this expression of solidarity," said Odeh, adding that apart from the sentiment, the strikes are unlikely to have any effect. In addition to voicing their anger over the war on Gaza, Palestinians are also expressing frustration with their fractured politics, said Odeh. "In Ramallah, for example, the Palestine factions were unable to agree to join the general strike, while the same factions in other cities agreed on that bare minimum."

## Kenyan police relocated following body parts discovery

NAIROBI (BBC): Officers at a police station near a rubbish dump where dismembered body parts were found have been transferred, Kenya's acting inspector general of police has said. Douglas Kanja Kirocho said that so far, eight female bodies had been retrieved from the site in the capital, Nairobi. Kenya's police watchdog previously announced it was investigating whether there was police involvement in the gruesome deaths, which come amid allegations of widespread human rights abuses by officers during recent anti-government protests.

Mr Kirocho said officers from Kware police station were being moved to ensure "fair and unbiased investigations" into the "heinous" deaths. Detectives have been scouring the site in the Mukuru slum, when the corpses of six women were found in sacks floating in a sea of rubbish. Five other bags containing body parts were recovered.

Preliminary reports show that the bodies were in various stages of decomposition and that the deceased were aged between 18 and 30.

Officers said some of the bags included severed legs and torsos, speculating that the deaths could be related to the activities of cultists or serial killers. But the Independent Police Oversight Authority said "widespread allegations of police involvement in unlawful arrests [and] abductions" meant it was undertaking a preliminary investigation to establish whether there was any police connection. Human rights groups have accused the police of shooting dozens of people who were demonstrating against planned tax rises earlier this month, some of them fatally. The police have also been accused of abducting or arbitrarily arresting hundreds more during the protests. Responding to the bodies found in Mukuru, the Independent Police Oversight Authority said:

"The bodies, wrapped in bags and secured by nylon ropes, had visible marks of torture and mutilation." The watchdog also noted that the dump site was less than 100m from Kware police station. In contradiction to the police's report, the Independent Police Oversight Authority said nine dismembered bodies were found at the Mukuru dump - seven female and two male. Mr Kirocho said the police were working to conclude their investigation into the deaths "within 21 days". The bodies are being kept at a funeral home in Nairobi, pending post-mortem examinations. Local media reported that police deployed two water cannons to the scene, after angry protesters threatened to open the bags filled with human remains. Officers from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) urged people to keep calm and grant them space to investigate the discoveries, accusing protesters of impeding their investigation.



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## UN agency vital for Gaza refugees

**T**HAT 118 countries have signed a joint statement supporting the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East reflects the international community's recognition of the agency as an "indispensable" and stabilizing force carrying out aid operations in Gaza and elsewhere in the Middle East despite efforts by Israel to dismantle it.

Created by the UN General Assembly in 1949, the UNRWA provides education, primary healthcare and other development activities to about 6 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. But as a result of some countries halting their funding to the UNRWA following allegations by Israel that some of the agency's staff members were involved in the Oct 7 Hamas attacks on Israel that triggered the Gaza conflict, the agency is now facing a profound funding gap.

The UNRWA immediately suspended the 12 staff members implicated, and an investigation is still ongoing. But Israel has long called for the UNRWA to be dismantled, accusing it of anti-Israeli incitement, and Israel's Parliament is currently considering designating the UNRWA as a terrorist organization.

The UNRWA reportedly has only enough funds to operate through August, and requires \$1.2 billion to cover critical humanitarian needs until the end of the year. In addition, the agency has been hit hard during the conflict in Gaza, with 195 staff members having been killed, "the highest staff death toll in UN history".

The dire situation that the UNRWA now finds itself in has prompted UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to warn that Palestinian refugees "will lose a critical lifeline and the last ray of hope for a better future" without more support and financing for the agency. "Let me be clear: there is no alternative to the UNRWA," he told a UNRWA donation pledging conference in New York on Friday. He urged all UN member states to help ease the deepening financial crisis that the UNRWA faces so it can sustain its operations, given the pivotal role that the agency plays in providing assistance to the Palestinian refugees under the UN mandate.

The UNRWA now faces increasing challenges as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza persists. More than 38,300 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in Gaza, according to the territory's health ministry, in the ground offensives and bombardments that Israel launched in response to the October Hamas attack that killed some 1,200 people, and led to the abduction of about 250 people. "Appallingly, civilians are being pushed into ever deeper circles of hell," the secretary-general said.

Thus ensuring enough funds for the UNRWA is not only about the survival of a UN agency, but also about the survival of people and the survival of Palestine refugees, especially women and children, across the Gaza Strip.

It came as a relief that pledges announced by UN member countries on Friday will be able to sustain the UNRWA's core budget until the end of September, reflecting the solidarity of countries in the face of the unfolding humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian enclave. Even the United States was among the signatories of the statement of support for the UNRWA, though it didn't attend the conference.

China has long provided humanitarian and development assistance to Palestine and supported the UNRWA in conducting its aid operations. Since the outbreak of the conflict, China has provided several batches of assistance to Gaza amounting to around \$82 million.

At the pledging conference at the UN Headquarters on Friday, Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, said China would contribute \$3 million to the agency to support its emergency humanitarian assistance efforts and called on the international community to support the agency in its work. China will also continue to work to realize a lasting cease-fire in Gaza as that is the only way to alleviate the humanitarian disaster that is taking place in Gaza.

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## What the Trump assassination attempt means for US politics

Christopher Rhodes

**O**N Saturday, the attempted assassination of Donald Trump at a campaign rally left the former president bloodied but not seriously injured, an audience member and the gunman dead and two other spectators seriously wounded.

A few hours later, in a brief press conference, President Joe Biden condemned the shooting and expressed sympathy to his opponent, calling him "Donald" in a rare break from the animosity between the two men.

Mainstream political figures and pundits from across the political spectrum also immediately expressed concern for Trump and the other victims and condemned this act of political violence.

By contrast, many people on social media were quick to embrace conspiracy theories. Trump detractors speculated that the shooting was staged, while his supporters suspected a left-wing attack, even after the FBI identified the deceased gunman as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, apparently a registered Republican.

The scepticism on both sides of the political spectrum represents the deep political divides that exist in the United States. The two presidential campaigns will undoubtedly seek to make the most out of the incident in the coming days. But in their pursuit of political gains, the two parties should not ignore a major escalation of political violence that needs to be urgently addressed.

### A presidential race reset

Trump emerged from the incident triumphant. As security agents escorted him offstage, he defiantly pumped his fist in the air while his supporters chanted "USA, USA!" The former president is basking in all the public and media attention.

The spotlight shifting to Trump is ironically what the Biden campaign wants as well. The focus on the incumbent's fitness for office and cognitive abilities has eaten away at his support.

The hope is now that all the attention on Trump will highlight his extremism, legal troubles, and his party's far-right agenda, detailed in the extensive Project 2025 plan, from which he has unsuccessfully tried to distance himself. The Democrats believe that this could encourage swing voters to move away from him.

Despite Trump being a victim of this assassination attempt, he is the candidate who has been associated

— is heading to the Republican National Convention where his nomination will be confirmed. He will likely use this stage to capitalise on the assassination attempt as much as possible.

### Polarisation and violence

The shooting fits well into the narrative that Trump has been robbed of his second term, attacked and victimised. Since his re-election loss bid in 2020, he has presented himself as the

**Trump emerged from the incident triumphant. As security agents escorted him offstage, he defiantly pumped his fist in the air while his supporters chanted "USA, USA!" The former president is basking in all the public and media attention. The spotlight shifting to Trump is ironically what the Biden campaign wants as well. The focus on the incumbent's fitness for office and cognitive abilities has eaten away at his support. The hope is now that all the attention on Trump will highlight his extremism, legal troubles, and his party's far-right agenda, detailed in the extensive Project 2025 plan, from which he has unsuccessfully tried to distance himself.**

with encouraging political violence: from his supporters assaulting Capitol Hill during the January 6 insurrection to mocking the near-fatal attack against Nancy Pelosi's husband by a hammer-wielding intruder seeking to kidnap the congresswoman. Notably, the former Speaker of the House was one of the first political figures to comment on the Trump shooting, posting on X that "as one whose family has been the victim of political violence, I know firsthand that political violence of any kind has no place in our society".

As the Biden campaign enjoys a break in the media scrutiny of the president's cognitive abilities, Trump — emboldened by the incident

target of the Biden administration, making unfounded claims of "electoral interference" and painting all the legal cases launched against him as political persecution.

Trump has even pushed the narrative that the 2022 FBI raid on his Mar-a-Lago residence to retrieve classified documents was an attempt by the feds to assassinate him.

Trump's base has been quick to react to any act perceived to harm him. For example, after his conviction on felony charges by a New York jury in May, supporters called for attacks on jurors, the death of the judge and riots.

Journalists on the scene of the shooting at the rally on Saturday reported threats

and taunts from the crowd immediately after the incident. A reporter for Axios even witnessed some Trump supporters trying to break into the media area before being stopped by security guards.

So far Trump has chosen to moderate his rhetoric. He has called for unity and "not allowing evil to win". Given that he thrives on conspiracy theories and polarising messaging, it remains to be seen whether he will discourage his base from engaging in them following the shooting.

Trump has the opportunity to put the peace and security of the country ahead of his personal ambition. Perhaps coming this close to death will change his perspective on stirring up his supporters.

If not, Saturday's shooting could be the start of a very perilous time for America. We have seen his supporters engage in mass violence on January 6 over imagined oppression. And there have been other actors, such as right-wing organisations like the Proud Boys, who have engaged in political violence and various individual fanatics who have perpetrated mass shootings and other attacks.

The spread of conspiracy theories and apocalyptic rhetoric within the right have encouraged such violent acts. The attempted assassination may pour more fuel into the fire of violent radicalism.

That is why it is crucial for Trump and his Republican allies, as well as Biden and the Democrats, to address the growing political polarisation in the country. Political violence must not become a staple of American politics.

Saturday's shooting was a tragedy that was just inches short of becoming one of the darkest days in American history.

It was also an inflection point for this year's presidential race and for the nature of our politics. The current and former presidents each have an opportunity to stop this escalation of tensions within American society and help ensure peace and decency prevail in American politics.

## In the US, change must come through ballots, not bullets

Dalia Al-Aqidi

**O**N Saturday, a profoundly sorrowful and dark chapter in the history of the US was written: a day that will be remembered with heavy hearts and grave reflection. The entire nation was left in a state of shock and disbelief as news spread of an unimaginable act of violence against one of its most prominent political figures.

Former president and current Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump found himself the target of an assassination attempt at a Pennsylvania rally. This heinous act occurred mere days before he was set to officially accept the Republican nomination for a third time, an event eagerly anticipated by his supporters. The rally, meant to be a celebration of democracy and political engagement, was instead plunged into chaos and terror as a sudden barrage of gunfire erupted.

The sound of gunshots reverberated through the crowd, setting off a wave of panic and fear. Attendees screamed out of fear for their own lives and that of their leader. Amid this commotion, a bloodied Trump, struck by a bullet that grazed his ear, was quickly encircled by Secret Service agents.

In the immediate aftermath, Americans across the country were glued to their televisions, laptops and phone screens, anxiously seeking updates. The harrowing images of the former president on the ground, the terrified screams of the crowd and the relentless sound of gunfire played over and over, etching themselves into the collective memory of the nation. Each frame, each cry, each echo of violence was a chilling reminder of the fragility of the American democratic institutions and the real dangers that political leaders face.

This is not the country its citizens know and love — a nation founded on the principles of freedom, liberty and democracy. Such an atrocity is fundamentally incompatible with the core values they hold dear. The very essence of the republic is challenged when political violence rears its ugly head. It is imperative that no one, for even a moment, believes this is acceptable or justifiable.

In a statement on Truth Social, Trump articulated the collective disbelief and condemnation felt by many. "It is incredible that such an act can take place in our country," he wrote. Trump further detailed the traumatic experience, stating: "I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear," before describing the immediate pain and shock as the bullet tore through his skin.

This assassination attempt brings back painful memories of past political violence in America, most notably the attempt on President Ronald Reagan's life in 1981. It also recalls the tragic assassinations of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and his brother, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, in 1968.

The echoes of history stretch further back to the

assassinations of Presidents Abraham Lincoln in 1865, James Garfield in 1881 and William McKinley in 1901, as well as the attempt on Theodore Roosevelt's life in 1912. These moments of national tragedy remind us of the profound impact that such violence has on the collective American psyche.

President Joe Biden spoke with his opponent on the phone on Saturday night, just hours after the assassination attempt. This rare conversation underscored the gravity of the situation. Addressing reporters, Biden conveyed his deep concern and condemnation of the violent act. "I've been thoroughly briefed by all the agencies in the federal government as to the situation based on what we know now," he said, emphasizing the seriousness with which the incident was being treated at the highest levels of government.

"Look, there's no place in America for this kind of violence. It's sick. It's sick," he continued, his voice reflecting the nation's shock and dismay. "It's one of the reasons why we have to unite this country," the Democratic president added, highlighting the urgent need for national solidarity and a united stand against political violence.

In the immediate aftermath of the shocking event, leaders from both sides of the political divide quickly sent their prayers and called for calm. This bipartisan show of support underscored the gravity of the situation and the shared belief in the sanctity of democratic processes. Democratic Party leaders, in particular, were swift and unequivocal in denouncing the heinous act, recognizing the broader implications for the nation's stability and unity.

The FBI has identified the now-deceased shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, a 20-year-old from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. The motive behind his dreadful actions remains a mystery.

Many pressing questions remain unanswered. What led Crooks to carry out this despicable act? Was he associated with any extremist organizations? Furthermore, why did the Secret Service fail to secure the event effectively? Attendees had raised alarms, so why did agents not take preventive measures instead of merely responding when the shots were fired? These questions point to critical concerns about security measures and the lapses that enabled this shocking event to occur.

At the end of this horrific day, we are left with the grim reality: one male Trump supporter has lost his life and two others remain critically injured. This chilling incident underscored a terrifying truth — a mere inch was all that stood between the nation and the brink of a possible civil war.

In a republic that stands as a beacon for the free world, change must be pursued through ballots, not bullets.

## Leverage yuan to boost China-Bangladesh trade

Fakhrul Islam Babu

**I**N the face of a persistent dollar crisis, Bangladesh is looking to fortify its economic ties with China by leveraging the yuan for bilateral trade. Despite having the regulatory framework in place since September 2022, Bangladeshi businesses have yet to capitalize on this opportunity.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ongoing visit to China is aimed at expediting this initiative, which is pivotal to stabilizing Bangladesh's economy.

China is a significant trading partner of Bangladesh, accounting for 25 percent of its total imports, but the problem of the trade imbalance should be addressed.

The post-COVID-19 economic landscape has exacerbated Bangladesh's financial challenges, with declining reserves, a 10

percent drop in garment exports, and soaring inflation. Despite a \$4.7 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund last year, Bangladesh's export sector continues to struggle. The country's financial strain was underscored when Fitch Ratings downgraded Bangladesh's credit score in May due to dwindling reserves.

In a bid to mitigate the foreign exchange reserve crisis, Bangladesh has sought a loan of 36.5 billion yuan (\$5 billion) from China. Abdur Rouf Talukder, governor of Bangladesh Bank, the country's central bank, said that this loan, to be taken in yuan, is aimed at alleviate the foreign exchange shortage and cover import costs. The favorable low interest rate, thanks to the Shanghai Interbank Offered Rate, makes this loan more attractive compared than US dollar-

denominated loans.

Bangladeshi State Minister for Commerce Ahasanul Islam Titu has proposed using local currencies — the Bangladeshi taka and the Chinese yuan — alongside the US dollar for bilateral trade. This approach could help alleviate the ongoing dollar shortage and expand regional trade.

Unlike the Indian rupee, the Chinese yuan is one of the five high-value currencies recognized by the IMF, making transactions in yuan both feasible and internationally accepted. China's Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen emphasized this point while addressing the media after meeting with Bangladeshi Planning Minister Abdus Salam at the Planning Commission office. He said that the fluctuation of the dollar

rate is now a worldwide problem, which China is also facing, and that China wishes to work with Bangladesh. He highlighted that engaging with Bangladesh in using their currencies — the yuan and the taka — for trade could be a viable alternative to using the highly fluctuating US dollar. In addition to trade, China seeks to collaborate with Bangladesh in other development activities.

Salam echoed this sentiment, acknowledging China's significant role in supporting Bangladesh's five-year plans, and assured that any delays in the disbursement of the promised funds from China would be resolved through discussions.

To foster yuan-denominated trade between Bangladesh and China, several measures need to

be implemented:

First, it is necessary to strengthen the banking infrastructure to facilitate the yuan's transactions, and bank officials must be trained to handle yuan-denominated letters of credit and transactions.

Second, conducting awareness and training programs to educate businesses on the benefits and procedures of the yuan-denominated letters of credit and transactions.

The NATO summit to mark 75 years of the trans-Atlantic military alliance in Washington last week was lost in the drama of American presidential election. The focus of the American media was on whether American President Joe Biden can hold himself in a press conference after his disastrous performance in the first round of television debate with his Republican rival, Donald Trump. And true to

form, Biden referred to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as President Putin, and he referred to Vice President Kamala Harris as Vice President Trump.

And it was inevitable that there was a flood of murmurs whether Biden should step away from the race in November. Biden is not willing to let go. So what happened to the NATO summit? And what is the stance of NATO on Ukraine? These two questions got lost in the talk about Biden.

The Washington Summit Declaration of July 10 is a lengthy reiteration of the Western alliance's resolve to stay together even as it welcomed its two new members, Finland and Sweden. It expressed that most of the member-states have kept to their promise of contributing 2 per cent of the national GDP for defence spending.



# How the Starmer model might work for the UK

**THE Labour Party's sweeping victory in the UK's general election already holds lessons for center and center-left parties elsewhere. But whether it will matter in the long run depends on Prime Minister Keir Starmer's ability to address his country's economic woes, which is a very tall order.**

To their credit, the Tories showed respect for democracy by accepting defeat, with Conservative Party leader Rishi Sunak graciously congratulating Starmer even before the vote count was final. With many Republicans already preparing to deny any electoral defeat for Donald Trump this November (further undercutting Americans' already low level of trust in institutions), the British example reminds us that we must never normalize such behavior. The US media and civil society have a duty to call out antidemocratic behavior at every turn.

Starmer's rapid rehabilitation of the Labour Party also holds valuable lessons. Upon taking the reins from Jeremy Corbyn in 2020, just after the party's worst defeat since 1935, Starmer emphasized moderation and policies to improve the economy and public services. His victory shows that it is possible to win elections without extremism. He promised to make democracy work better for everyone.

This is a powerful message. My own recent research shows that people become much more pro-democratic when they see democracy functioning properly and delivering in terms of economic growth, stability, public services and low levels of inequality and corruption. The same basic formula has worked well for workers' parties and social

democrats elsewhere. The birth of the storied Nordic model can be traced to election victories by workers' parties in Denmark, Sweden and Norway almost a century ago. These parties first moved away from hard-left ideas and rhetoric. Then, once in power, they delivered on the concrete improvements they had promised.

In Sweden's case, social democracy was forged in the crucible of the Great Depression. The Workers' Party — which had broken from its Marxist roots two decades earlier — campaigned on a platform of macroeco-

**Daron Acemoglu**

less economically developed parts of the country, winning the lasting support of many voters. Social democracy has remained the dominant model in Norway ever since.

Transforming a party is difficult. For Starmer, it involved sidelining Corbyn and making clear that his brand of far-left extremism would no longer be on the agenda. Starmer endured many months of widespread criticism from the left, but he held firm.

Now comes an even bigger test. The import of

and employment performance, Labour has sound ideas for kickstarting a robust economic recovery. But to finance the public investments in healthcare, education, infrastructure and technology that Starmer has promised, the government will need to increase its tax revenues. Starmer therefore may need to walk back a separate promise not to increase taxes for working people.

If so, he should point out that no advanced economy can achieve sustained, dynamic growth without innovating. While countries such as Vietnam and China have been able

technology race and no amount of government emphasis will miraculously turn things around. Instead, the UK needs a coherent long-term strategy geared toward finding a niche in the broader innovation economy. Success will require more than just an old-style industrial policy of supporting specific companies or sectors.

There are also potential fault lines within Labour's plans for making democracy work better. Responsive democratic governance means that no major public concern is ignored and the British electorate has again signaled that it is very concerned about immigration. One reason the Conservatives fared so poorly is that Nigel Farage's populist, anti-immigration Reform UK party performed so well. In fact, if the Tories had captured most of Reform UK's vote, they would have won the election.

As in the rest of Europe, the British right will face growing pressure to tilt further rightward and Labour and other centrist politicians will need to prepare for this shift. Election after election has shown that ignoring the population's views on immigration is not a viable strategy. Labour must make the humanitarian case for allowing in refugees, while also promising greater transparency and control on immigration overall. Finding the right communication strategy and the right principles to guide its immigration policy will be one of the new government's biggest challenges. As someone who formerly worked both as a human rights lawyer and as a chief prosecutor dealing with public order issues, Starmer may be uniquely qualified to succeed where others have failed.

# Sci-tech revolution to drive growth

**Sui Jigang**

**THE relations of production must meet the requirements for developing new quality productive forces. To develop new quality productive forces, it is imperative that reform across the board be deepened so as to create a new type of relations of production that is compatible with the development of new quality productive forces.**

The development of new quality productive forces also requires innovations in the field of science and technology. A sci-tech innovation system is a series of institutions and systems established to promote innovations. It not only includes different innovation subjects, but also an array of systems and policies that affect the country's innovation capabilities, in areas such as science and technology, market, patent and education. Hence, the sci-tech innovation system belongs to production relations.

But since the environment of sci-tech innovation and economic development, the old sci-tech innovation system can no longer meet the requirements for developing new quality productive forces in the new era. It is therefore necessary to establish a new sci-tech innovation system to facilitate the development of new quality productive forces.

The innovation-driven development paradigm put forward at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012 has helped China implement sci-tech system reform to comprehensively promote innovation-driven development.

The functional structure of innovation subjects has been optimized. China has formed a new diversified structure comprising enterprises, universities, research institutes and sci-tech intermediary agencies. While enterprises have become the subject of R&D investment and sci-tech innovation, universities are the subject of talent training and basic research.

Besides, China's innovation policy system is becoming increasingly sound, with the formation of a policy system that covers fields such as innovation-driven macro-management system, resource allocation mechanism, industry-university research coordination system, talent training system, research management mechanism, and incentive and evaluation system. Besides, policies concerning fiscal, taxation, finance, talent, foreign cooperation and industrial development have been further improved, and some laws have been issued or amended to form a basic legal framework for promoting sci-tech innovation.

Innovation-driven development has helped the country make remarkable achievements, providing a strong guarantee for economic growth, improving people's livelihoods, and giving rise to global innovation-driven enterprises.

Despite these achievements, however, China's innovation promotion system still faces challenges. The lack of strategic technology power results in weak innovation capability. In the past, many uni-

versities and research institutes blindly pursued economic benefits, ignoring national strategic targets by mainly focusing on fund-seeking and publishing papers. That in turn resulted in a lack of strategic scientific power and the inability to form an organized model for collaborative research in many key areas.

Also, the role of enterprises in sci-tech innovation needs to be strengthened. Although Chinese enterprises have become innovation subjects, many of them lack the basic absorptive and innovative capabilities. For example, a large number of national-level industrial enterprises either do not conduct research or have R&D departments despite the fact that innovation

tive and poorly coordinated, hindering overall efficiency.

A new round of sci-tech revolution and industrial transformation is booming across the globe, requiring sound basic research to promote original innovation. Yet China is unable to lead the revolution because it is still "catching up" with global leaders.

More important, since China's sci-tech development under-contributes to economic growth, innovation needs to be the primary driving force of economic development. So China should establish a new sci-tech innovation system to address those problems.

First, the authorities should establish an institutional framework to support innovation subjects and break the barriers.

**The functional structure of innovation subjects has been optimized. China has formed a new diversified structure comprising enterprises, universities, research institutes and sci-tech intermediary agencies. While enterprises have become the subject of R&D investment and sci-tech innovation, universities are the subject of talent training and basic research. Besides, China's innovation policy system is becoming increasingly sound, with the formation of a policy system that covers fields such as innovation-driven macro-management system, resource allocation mechanism, industry-university research coordination system, talent training system, research management mechanism, and incentive and evaluation system. Besides, policies concerning fiscal, taxation, finance, talent, foreign cooperation and industrial development have been further improved, and some laws have been issued or amended to form a basic legal framework for promoting sci-tech innovation. Innovation-driven development has helped the country make remarkable achievements, providing a strong guarantee for economic growth, improving people's livelihoods, and giving rise to global innovation-driven enterprises.**

means experimental development. The serious lack of basic research has undermined original innovation capability.

Besides, the coordination between innovation subjects should be deepened. For example, universities conduct research for scientific discoveries and talent training instead of applying the results of research to industry, while enterprises' research focuses on product development rather than finding basic sci-tech theories.

Hence, the lack of a common knowledge base has affected the industry-university-research coordination.

There is also a need to create a favorable environment for promoting innovation by, for example, straightening out the relationship between the government and market, and addressing problems such as a lack of market incentives, inefficient resource allocation and insufficient vitality in the micro economy. On the other hand, many policies aimed at reforming the sci-tech system are repetitive

of new systems and policies.

Second, innovation subjects need to strengthen cooperation, while enterprises can lead the joint innovation-promoting mechanism also comprising universities and sci-tech institutes to optimize the systematic layout of the industrial chain. A mechanism should be established to also encourage the flow of talents and resource allocation.

Third, efforts should be made to create a healthy environment to ensure the market plays the leading role in research, prices setting and resource allocation. And universities, sci-tech institutes and enterprises should be encouraged to cooperate with their foreign counterparts to build a global innovation network.

And fourth, a national sci-tech decision-making mechanism should be established to solicit opinions from related departments, councils, think tanks and all sections of society. And new innovative governance models should be established.

# Last-gasp bid to use Dalai Lama to destabilize China

**Yan Yongshan**

**ON Friday local time, US President Joe Biden signed a controversial bill related to Xizang, continuing the United States' practice of using domestic legislation to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. This new legislation, however, goes further than previous efforts by introducing the claim that Xizang's sovereignty is unresolved, denying the historical fact that Xizang has been part of China since ancient times. This move raises serious questions about the US' commitment to the rules-based international order it claims to uphold. Why has the US, disregarding historical facts and international consensus, decided to flagrantly violate its own longstanding position on Xizang?**

First, the US aims to use this unresolved sovereignty narrative as a strategic tool to revitalize its failing strategy of using Xizang to pressure China. Historically, Western powers like the United Kingdom and the US have manipulated issues like Xizang to serve their colonial inter-

ests.

The so-called Xizang issue emerged from this colonial context. Even today, the West clings to the illusion of separating Xizang from China, using it as a tactic to tarnish, accuse and destabilize China.

As China's peaceful development continues, the traditional US strategy of using Xizang against China is proving increasingly ineffective. Hence, in a desperate move, the US has unveiled this new narrative, directing its administrative bodies to promote it, revealing its ambition to intensify pressure on China and coerce other nations to join its stance.

Second, the US is seeking to extract the last remnants of value from the Dalai Lama and his followers. As the Dalai Lama ages and his clique's influence wanes due to internal divisions and the increasing fragmentation of the "Tibetan independence activists", the push for "Tibet independence" is weakening.

Both the West and the Dalai Lama's clique see this as a last-ditch effort.

Biden's timing of signing the bill during the Dalai Lama's visit to the US for medical treatment underscores this is the final pitch to use the Dalai Lamato serve US interests.

Third, the US is hoping to use this narrative to undermine China's unity and stability. The malign nature of the unresolved sovereignty claim lies in its intention to deconstruct the historical reality of China.

The West avoids acknowledging its own history of coveting, instigating division, and even militarily invading Tibet, instead fabricating various falsehoods about its historical status as part of China. These falsehoods are intended to sow confusion and division.

This strategy of inciting regional secession was previously used to destabilize the Soviet Union and is now being attempted against China.

The facts are clear: the West talks about the "Tibet issue", but they have never genuinely cared about the Tibetan people.

Xizang has been a part of China since ancient

times, a fact that is supported by the historical evidence. The US disregards these facts to serve its own agenda. But history cannot be rewritten, and the truth is more powerful than repeated lies.

Xizang's historical status as part of China is undeniable and cannot be negated by any country's legislation.

The integrated development of the Chinese nation demonstrates that Xizang's historical status as part of China is irrefutable. China's historical records clearly delineate its territorial integrity.

The close genetic, archaeological and linguistic ties between the Tibetan and Han peoples further affirm this. Historical documents, such as the inscriptions at Jokhang Temple, vividly capture the longstanding unity between Xizang and other provinces in China. These historical facts are unassailable.

The historical relationship between successive central governments and Tibet's local authorities underscores its unquestionable legal status as

# Blue ocean of China-EU cooperation worth exploring

**CHINA and the European Union (EU) are among the world's largest economies and are key forces in addressing global challenges. In the past few decades, the two partners have conducted fruitful cooperation in multiple dimensions. The achievements have brought concrete benefits to Chinese and European people, and contributed to global peace and prosperity.**

**Fruitful cooperation** Both Chinese and EU leaders fully acknowledge the great importance of their relations, and have set up a number of dialogue mechanisms. With the China-EU Summit being the top-most dialogue mechanism, there are five other high-level mechanisms in

strategy, economy and trade, environment and climate, digital, and people-to-people exchanges. Upon the end of Covid-19 pandemic, political exchanges between China and Europe resumed promptly. In 2023, the 24th China-EU Summit was held, and leaders of France, Spain, Belgium, Hungary, Serbia, Greece, and many more, visited China.

China and the EU are key partners for each other in investment and trade. The China-EU Railway Express that stretches between China and Europe constitutes an important trading network, connecting 223 cities in 25 European countries.

Local actors have been proactive contributors to China-EU cooperation.

Take Fujian of China as an example. The province, which locates at the eastern starting point of ancient Maritime Silk Road, is now the frontier of China's 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. In April 2024, Schneider Electric, a French multinational company, started to construct its industrial park in the city of Xiamen, Fujian. After its completion, the park will become its biggest manufacturing facility for medium voltage equipment anywhere in the world.

**Enormous potential** These achievements are attributed to the joint efforts of China and the EU, and deserve to be protected and developed. In fact, the China-EU relations are highly com-

plex and complementary, and their cooperation possesses great potential. Take the green sector as an example. The EU has stepped up its efforts to facilitate green transitioning, which takes the R&D and application of clean energy as a key measure. The EU aims to double its solar photovoltaic power generation capacity to 320GW by 2025, and further to 600GW by 2030. China is the world leader in solar panel installation and production, and can help the green transition of Europe.

EVs, although raising some concerns in Europe, serve as another example where China and the EU can work for a win-win result. The deployment of EVs is seen as critical for

**Zhang Chao**

greening the transport sector, which finally helps hit the carbon reduction targets of the EU.

Besides producing at home, more and more Chinese producers are going to Europe for manufacturing. In 2022, NIO Automobile and CATL announced their investment plans in Europe, and in 2024, Chery Automobile set up a plant in Barcelona, Spain, to produce EVs in collaboration with local partners.

In addition to investing in Europe, the Chinese economy has been growing rapidly, and the country is becoming increasingly open to foreign investors.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the US

trade war against China, China's GDP grew by 5.2 percent in 2023. According to the International Monetary Fund, China's economy will grow by 5.0 percent in 2024, ahead of other major economies in the world. It is notable that China released its unilateral visa-free policy towards 12 European states, which has considerably eased visits from Europe.

At the local level, the vibrant practices of China-Europe cooperation are seen everywhere. In May 2024, China Daily, a leading Chinese media, organized "A Date with China International Media Tour" activities in Fujian. Themed "Develop New Quality Productive Forces, Sharing Chinese Opportunities", foreign

correspondents and social media influencers are introduced to production workshops of enterprises, trade centers and cultural heritage sites in Fujian province. At Kelme Sports Products Co. Ltd (China) and ANTA sports, which all share close ties with their European counterparts, foreign visitors learned how the two enterprises are improving efficiency and quality with the help of digital technology.

**Looking ahead** The year 2023 marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and in 2025, China and the EU will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Looking back

at the course of half a century, close dialogue and pragmatic cooperation have constituted the mainstream of China-EU relations.

Currently China-EU cooperation encounters certain challenges. Specifically, the EU has labeled China as a "systemic rival", and advocated for a so-called "de-risking" strategy towards China. It is imperative for the EU to shift its perspective and acknowledge that delving into the untapped potential of their collaboration is mutually beneficial for both parties. By viewing each other as reliable partners and jointly explore cooperation opportunities, China-EU relations will surely move steadily and far into the future.





# Governor visits PSO Head Office Karachi

— stresses for identifying new sites in KP province

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday visited the head office of Pakistan State Oil (PSO) in Karachi and stressed the need to expand PSO's presence further in KP by identifying new sites.

During a meeting with PSO's Managing Director, Syed Muhammad Talha, they discussed various matters including foreign investment in oil refineries and other bilateral issues.

During the meeting, PSO's MD briefed Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in detail about the agency's operations.

They also exchanged views on the transportation of petroleum products, ports-related logistics, and other pertinent topics.

Governor Faisal Kundi highlighted the expected increase in demand for petroleum products post-CEPEC completion and

emphasized the need for proactive planning to meet future demands.

He noted that a significant number of individuals involved in the oil transport business have connections to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, underscoring the region's importance in the sector.

Efforts to address existing hurdles in foreign investment in oil refineries were also discussed, with a commitment to resolving these obstacles.

Highlighting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's substantial market for PSO, Managing Director Syed Muhammad Talha reaffirmed PSO's commitment to expanding operations in the region.

The visit underscore ongoing efforts to enhance collaboration between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and PSO, crucial for fostering economic growth and development in the region.

**Governor for easy loans to youth under NBP**

**schemes:** The Governor has stressed the need for providing easy loans to the unemployed youth under NBP schemes here on Monday.

Speaking to National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) President Rehmat Ali Hasnie during his visit to NBP head office, he said that NBP was an important national institution.

He said that the institution should take steps to provide better facilities to its customers.

Kundi said that facilities should be provided to pensioners and widows so that they did not face difficulties. He said that special arrangements should be made for senior citizens to sit in the branches.

He said that NBP should open new branches in remote areas.

The NBP President said that they were taking all such measures to facilitate the customers.

**Governor for improving State Life health insurance programmes in KP:** The Governor on Monday said that the health insurance programmes initiated by State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan must be improved in KP.

He said that the establishment of State Life Takaful Insurance Zone in Dera Ismail Khan was a welcome initiative and this initiative should also be expanded to other areas of the province so that more people of the province could benefit from it.

In a meeting with CEO of State Life Shoaib Javed Hussain at the State Life Principal Office on Monday, he said that the problems faced by the people regarding health insurance should also be resolved.

CEO Shoaib Javed Hussain said that the state Life taking steps to expand State Life Takaful Insurance to other areas of KP.



KARACHI: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a meeting with Managing Director Pakistan State Oil Syed Muhammad Taha at PSO Head Office.

## Pak-Chinese firms sign agreement

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Pakistani and Chinese business firms have signed an agreement for promotion of cooperation in the leather industry. This agreement was facilitated by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), according to a Radio Pakistan's report.

Leather products made in Pakistan are in high demand in the global market, including handbags, purses, suitcases and belts.

Cooperation with China will boost Pakistan's leather industry and also provide exposure to Pakistani leather products.

## Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where four ships namely, MSC Positano, APL Mexico City, Eco Alice, and Ondo carrying Containers, LPG and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Pakistan Gasport Terminal respectively on Monday, 14th July-2024.

A total of thirteen ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them six ships, Maersk Pelepas, APL Mexico City, Marangas Asclepius, Lila Confidence, Common Venture, and LPG OM left the port on Monday morning and four more ships, Ambrosia, Eco Alice, Atlantic Spirit, and Sara are expected to sail on today afternoon.

A cargo volume of 172,228 tonnes, comprising 104,928 tonnes imports cargo and 67,300 tonnes of export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 4,887 Containers (2,502 TEUs Imports and 2,385 TEUs export) was handled at the port during the last 24 hours. There are 07 ships are at outer anchorage of port, out of them three ships, Achilleas-S, ABK Tiger and Elandra Corallao & two more ships, MSC Pamela and Ardmore Cherokee scheduled to load/offload Containers, Cement, Peas and Palm oil is expected to take berths at QICT, MW-1, FAP and LCT respectively on Monday, 15th July-2024, while two more ships, Maersk Sentosa and Atlantic Ibis carrying Containers are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Tuesday.

# PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 1,211 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 1,211.51 points, a positive change of 1.52 percent, closing at 81,155.61 points against 79,944.10 points on the last working day.

A total of 441,338,958 shares were traded during the day as compared to 437,315,657 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 27.228 billion against Rs 23.484 billion on the last

trading day.

Around 457 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 265 of them recorded gains and 141 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 51 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were PIA Holding Company with 35,758,060 shares at Rs 19.01 per share, Pak Elektron with 25,836,722 shares at Rs 27.18 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 24,920,883 shares at Rs 1.21 per share.

Nestle Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 105.00 per share price, closing at Rs 7,150.00, whereas the runner-up was Excide Pakistan Limited with a Rs 93.45 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,077.11.

Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 99.27 per share closing at Rs 7,600.00, followed by Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited with a Rs 50.45 decline to close at Rs 1,014.25.

# Motorbikes, 3-wheelers sale decreases 3.10%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The sale of motorbikes and three-wheelers in the country witnessed a decrease of 3.10 per cent during the fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to sales of the corresponding period of the last year.

During July-June 2023-24, as many as 1,150,112 motorbikes and three-wheelers were sold against the sale of 1,186,969 units in July-June (2022-23), according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA).

The sale of Honda motorcycles dipped by 0.21

per cent from 1,005,408 units to 1,003,253 units whereas the sale of Suzuki motorcycles witnessed a decrease of 42.35 per cent from 29,274 units to 16,876 units during the year under review.

Similarly, the sale of Yamaha motorbikes also went down from 13,217 units to 6,562 units while the sale of Road Prince motorbikes witnessed a sharp decline of 42.04 per cent from 27,690 units to 16,049 units. The sales of United Auto motorcycles witnessed a decrease of 9.48% from 91,347 units to

82,683 units.

Meanwhile, the sale of United Auto three-wheelers however surged from 1,708 units to 2,095 units showing growth of 22.65 per cent, while the sale of Sazzar three-wheelers also witnessed an increase of 35.88 per cent from 9,381 units to 15,014 units.

The data revealed that Qingqi three-wheeler sales had decreased by 19.87 per cent from 6,564 units to 5,977 units whereas sales of Road Prince three-wheelers also witnessed a decrease of 60.04 per cent from 1,677 units to 1,303 units.

# Indonesia extends trade surplus run to 50 months

JAKARTA (APP): Indonesia recorded a trade surplus of 2.39 billion US dollars in June, marking the 50th consecutive month of surplus, the country's Statistics Indonesia (BPS) announced on Monday.

"This surplus was lower than the previous month's 2.92 billion dollars," said acting head of BPS Amalia Adininggar Widayanti at a press conference.

Export value reached 20.84 billion dollars last month, down 6.65 percent compared to May, but up 1.17 percent compared to June 2023.

Generally, export commodities experienced a decline in June, particularly precious metals and jewelry, which contracted by 45.76 percent. In contrast, the export commodities that increased were animal and vegetable fats and oils, rising by 68.06 percent.

On the other hand, the country recorded imports worth 18.45 billion dollars, a decrease of 4.89 percent compared to May but an increase of 7.58 percent compared to the same month last year.

The most significant decline in imports

occurred in the machinery and mechanical appliances and parts, at 9.63 percent, while the largest increase was in optical, photographic, cinematographic, and medical instruments, at 64.69 percent.

From January to June 2024, China was the main importer of Indonesia's non-oil and gas commodities, reaching 32.45 billion dollars (35.41 percent), followed by Japan at 6.47 billion dollars (7.06 percent) and Thailand at 4.87 billion dollars (5.31 percent), showed the BPS data.

# Stocks wobble, dollar mixed as traders weigh Trump shooting

LONDON (AFP/APP): Equity markets and the dollar wavered Monday as investors mulled the impact of the assassination attempt on Donald Trump, while the luxury goods sector was slammed by plunging profits at both British fashion label Burberry and Swiss watch group Swatch.

European stocks edged downwards after a divergent performance in Asia, with the focus mainly on developments in the United States after Trump was wounded Saturday at a rally before this week's Republican convention.

"Markets were surpris-

ingly calm given the assassination attempt on US presidential candidate Donald Trump," said AJ Bell analyst Dan Coatsworth.

"While equities saw a small pullback in parts of the world, there was no panic on the markets as a result of the weekend of violence."

While the odds of him beating President Joe Biden had been rising in recent weeks, they got an extra lift from the shooting.

Observers said a Trump victory could see lower corporate taxes -- a boost for companies' bottom lines -- but also an increase in ten-

sions with China with fresh tariffs possible. Investors took the news in their stride.

"There has not been an enormous reaction in the markets to the attempted assassination of Donald Trump," noted Finalto analyst Neil Wilson.

On the corporate front, Burberry stock tumbled 17 percent after it announced the immediate departure of chief executive Jonathan Akeroyd as it posted "disappointing" results with the sector pressured by weak Chinese demand.

Another heavy blow came as Swatch posted

plunging profits owing to the luxury market crisis in China -- warning that sales in the country were likely to remain difficult this year.

In Paris, Gucci owner Kering saw its stock slide 3.6 percent and LVMH shed 1.9 percent in value on the back of concerns for the wider luxury sector.

Eyes were also on a key meeting of China's top leadership in Beijing, with hopes for measures to boost the world's number two economy, which grew less than expected in the second quarter according to official data Monday.

# PSW replacing aging WeBOC

ISLAMABAD (INP): With a view to make Gwadar a modern logistic hub, the government has embarked on replacing the aging WeBOC (Web-based One Custom System) with Pakistan Single Window (PSW).

A state-of-the-art customs digital management system in Gwadar custom mechanism is being enforced.

It aims to optimize high-tech modern automation, standardization and harmonization of all logis-

tic workouts and services related to land, air and sea routes, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

The Pakistan Single Window (PSW) arrangement will connect with the Customs, banking channels and other institutions to increase efficiency and reduce the time taken for processing in various departments.

With the initiative, WeBOC (Web-based One Custom System)'s thousands of registered users i.e. businesses, government departments includ-

ing Anti-Narcotic Force, Engineering Development Board, State Bank of Pakistan, Ministry of Climate Change, Railways, Income Tax Department, Provincial Motor Registering Authorities, Commercial Banks, will be incorporated into Pakistan Single Window.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) official told Gwadar Pro that strategic move is aimed at upgrading and transforming the core functions of Pakistan Customs through comprehensive Business Process Mapping & Re-engineering.

## Philippines sees remittances up 3.7%

MANILA (APP): Personal remittances from overseas Filipinos reached 2.88 billion US dollars in May, 3.7 percent higher than a year earlier, the Philippine central bank said Monday.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said the cumulative personal remittances grew by 3 percent to 14.89 billion dollars from January to May this year, from 14.46 billion dollars recorded in the same period of 2023.

The BSP said the growth in cash remittances from the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore contributed mostly to the increase in the first five months of 2024.

Personal remittances remain a vital source of foreign exchange inflow to the Philippines.

According to the Asian Development Bank, the Philippines is among the top 10 global recipients of remittances. There are an estimated 10 million Filipinos overseas.

The BSP data showed that personal remittances from overseas Filipinos reached an all-time high of 37.2 billion dollars in 2023, 3 percent higher than the amount recorded in 2022. The full-year 2023 remittances represented 8.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Saima Ehsan, Civil Judge-II/Allaqa Qazi, Buner at Daggar. Case No. 1, Institution 11-07-2024, date of hearing 18-07-2024. Anwar Bacha Vs. Mian Bacha etc. Notice to No. (1) Mian Bacha s/o Akbar Bacha, (2) Mer Bacha R/o Elai Tehsil Daggar, Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8:00 a.m. dated 18-07-2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Saima Ehsan, Civil Judge-II/Allaqa Qazi, Buner at Daggar. Case No. 41/1, Institution 21-02-2024, date of hearing 20-07-2024. Gul Bacha Vs. Jafar Notice to No. (2/2) Imran s/o Gul Nazer R/o Pacha Kalay, Tehsil Gadezai, District Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8:00 a.m. dated 20-07-2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

## Notice of Public

I, Muhammad Dost S/o Farman Dost, Mohallah Ochast, District Chitral, am the owner of Residential Plot, 200 measuring 10 Marla, Deed No. 04, Phase 1, located at Jalozi Housing Scheme, Nowshera. Now, I appoint Anis Ur Rehman S/o Muhammad Dost, as general attorney for the said plot. If anyone has any objection of the transfer of the said plot, he/she should inform the undersigned within 15 days of the publication of this Notice, PHA Office, Assistant Director EM5 Phone 091-9224374.





In brief

Hemming appointed as chief curator

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday appointed Tony Hemming as the new head curator on a two-year contract. The Western Australian will arrive in Lahore on July 18 (Wednesday) to take charge. One of Hemming's immediate tasks will be to prepare pitches for the upcoming five ICC World Test Championship matches against Bangladesh (two in August/September) and England (three in October). Hemming will also oversee pitch preparations for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, which Pakistan will host from 19 February to 9 March. Hemming is a highly respected curator with nearly four decades of experience. He has worked at various iconic cricket grounds in Australia, including Melbourne, Perth and Tasmania, as well as in countries such as Bangladesh, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, where he was the ICC's Head Curator from 2007 to 2017 in Dubai. During his time with the ICC, Hemming also oversaw pitch preparation at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium which was one of Pakistan's home venues between 2009 and 2019.

Fraser-McGurk to replace Warner

MELBOURNE (Reuters): Jake Fraser-McGurk will bid to fill the vacuum left by David Warner at the top of Australia's batting order after being confirmed in the white-ball squads for the tour of Britain in September. Warner bowed out of international cricket with Australia's exit from the T20 World Cup, and the hard-hitting Fraser-McGurk has been seen as his natural successor following his sensational Indian Premier League campaign. Uncapped in T20Is, Fraser-McGurk was included in Australia's World Cup squad as a reserve player but never got a chance to shine on the global stage. The 22-year-old was named in both Australia's T20 and ODI squads on Monday for the tour which starts Sept. 4 with three T20s against Scotland in Edinburgh. The tour then heads south for another three T20s and five ODIs against England. Mitchell Marsh will captain both the white-ball squads, with pace bowler Pat Cummins sitting out the tour to rest for the five-test India series over the home summer. Uncapped Western Australian Cooper Connolly, a 20-year-old batsman, has been called up for his first squad, while Matthew Wade and Ashton Agar have been omitted as selectors look to the future. Australia T20 squad: Mitchell Marsh (capt), Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa Australia ODI squad: Mitch Marsh (capt), Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Short, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa.

Copa final was dream farewell

MIAMI (Agencies): Argentina winger Angel di Maria said Sunday's Copa America triumph over Colombia was the perfect dream ending to his career with the national team. A 1-0 win after extra-time secured a third straight major title for the Albiceleste following their 2021 Copa win and their World Cup triumph the following year.

# Argentina beat Colombia to win 16th Copa America



MIAMI (Agencies): Argentina beat Colombia to win a record 16th Copa America but the game was marred by the kick-off being delayed by 80 minutes because of trouble outside the ground in Miami. Lautaro Martinez struck in the second half of extra time from Giovanni lo Celso's through ball to secure the win. Captain Lionel Messi was left in tears when he had to be replaced midway through the second half after injuring himself while chasing for the ball – but was celebrating his country's third successive major tournament at the final whistle. Kick-off was delayed because of chaos outside the Hard Rock Stadium. Organisers said ticketless fans tried to get into the ground, leaving some fans waiting for hours in the Miami heat for the gates to

open. Fans and police officers and security clashed with several arrests made. Several supporters needed treatment from paramedics. On top of that the half-time break lasted for 25 minutes because of a concert by Colombian popstar Shakira on the pitch, a move that was criticised by Colombia boss Nestor Lorenzo beforehand. It was a game of few clear chances in hot, humid conditions, with Colombia's Jhon Cordoba hitting the woodwork in the first half. Argentina thought they had taken the lead with 15 minutes to go but Nicolas Tagliafico's effort was ruled out for offside. Martinez would end up as the hero – and win the Golden Boot with five goals. What now for Messi after Copa America glory? Messi had never won a senior international tour-

nament until the age of 34 and now he has won three in three years after the 2021 Copa America and 2022 World Cup. The final was played at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami – which is just over 20 miles from the city of Fort Lauderdale, where Messi's Inter Miami club play. The 37-year-old said before this tournament he had yet to make a decision on whether he will play on for his country until the next World Cup, which is also in the US – as well as Canada and Mexico. His powers seem to be waning and his only goal of the tournament came in the semi-final win over Canada. He missed a penalty in the quarter-final shootout against Ecuador. In this game he was hurt by a tackle in the first half and hobbled off in the second period, holding an ice pack

on his ankle on the bench. Is this his final major tournament appearance of a legendary career? It was certainly the final appearance of Angel di Maria's international career. The 145-times capped player had already announced he would retire from the international stage after this. Trouble before the game The delays before the game were more bad news for organisers – with the Hard Rock Stadium due to host games at the 2026 World Cup. In the semi-finals in Charlotte, Uruguay players clashed with Colombia fans after the final whistle – because they were worried about the safety of their families. Players' families were affected too in Miami. Roberto Garnacho, brother of Argentina winger Alejandro Garnacho, wrote on social media: "What a shame CONMEBOL, the families not being able to enter the stadium, unbelievable. "We were with [Argentina defender Marcos Acuna's] family outside, getting away from the fights... Argentina's security had to come get us, children of players crying, people entering without tickets." Colombia's wait goes on Colombia had been unbeaten in 28 games, a run stretching over two years going back to a World Cup qualifier against Argentina. But their only Copa America triumph remains the 2001 success in their home country. They had chances against the Argentines, most notably when Cordoba hit the post early on with a hooked volley.

## Haris to lead Pakistan Shaheens' in Darwin

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mohammad Haris has been named Pakistan Shaheens white-ball captain for the two 50-over matches and nine-team Top End T20 series to be played from 4-18 August in Darwin, Australia. Haris last captained Pakistan Shaheens in the ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 in Colombo. In the final, Pakistan Shaheens defeated India by 128 runs to successfully defend the title, said a press release. Pakistan Shaheens are already in Darwin for two four-day matches against Bangladesh 'A' from July 19 to 22 July and July 26 to 29 July. Shaheens' 50-over matches will be against Northern Territory (NT) and Bangladesh 'A' on August 4 and 6, respectively.

ly before the T20 series commences on August 9. Other participating teams in the T20 series are ACT Comets, Bangladesh 'A', Melbourne Renegades, Melbourne Stars, Perth Scorchers, Northern Territory Strike, Adelaide Strikers and Tasmania. For the white-ball matches, seven changes have been made from the red-ball side. Abdul Faseeh, Arafat Minhas, Arif Yaqoob, Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Imran Jnr and Usman Khan will replace Kamran Ghulam, Khurram Shahzad, Mehran Muntaz, Mohammad Ali, Mubasir Khan, Tayyab Tahir and Umar Amin. Pakistan Shaheens will feature in the Darwin series for the second successive year. Last year, NT Strike had defeated

Shaheens in the Top End T20 Series final by 46 runs, before Pakistan Shaheens beat PNG by 224 runs and Northern Strike by 84 runs in the two One-day matches. The squad includes Mohammad Haris (captain), Abdul Faseeh, Arafat Minhas, Arif Yaqoob, Faisal Akram, Haseebullah (wicketkeeper/batter), Muhammad Irfan Khan, Jahandad Khan, Kashif Ali, Mohammad Huraiera, Mohammad Imran Jnr, Omair bin Yousuf, Sahibzada Farhan, Shahnawaz Dahani and Usman Khan. Support Personnel comprise Abdul Rehman (head coach), Mohammad Masroor (Assistant coach-cum-manager), Mohammad Asad (physiotherapist), Imranullah (trainer) and Usman Hashmi (analyst).

## Only seven athletes named for Paris Olympics

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Only seven athletes were named in Pakistan's contingent for the upcoming Paris Olympics, scheduled to commence on July 26. The 18-member contingent, announced by the Pakistan Olympics Association (POA) on Saturday, features 11 officials who will travel with the seven athletes to Paris for the Games and will return to the country upon completion of their respective competitions. Pakistan will compete in shooting, athletics and swimming in the Paris Olympics. Out of the seven athletes four of them earned direct qualification while sprinter Faiqa Riaz and swimmers Jehanara Nabi and Mohammad Ahmed Durrani will feature in the biggest sporting event on the basis of the universality places. Meanwhile, star javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem and swimmer Jehanara Nabi have been chosen as Pakistan's contingent flag-bearers for the prestigious event. Among the 11 officials, six are the officials of the contingent, including the chef de mission, deputy chef de mission and an admin officer. Four more officials include Dr Syed Meesaq Hussain Rizvi (chief medical officer), Kashif Jameel (NOC Olympic Attaché), Rizwan Ahmed (welfare officer) while the rest are either athletes' coaches or managers. For the unversed, Pakistan failed to qualify for major disciplines like Hockey, Wrestling, Volleyball, Boxing and Weightlifting. Pakistan's contingent for the Games will depart for Paris on July 19. Pakistan contingent for Paris Olympics: Athletics: Arshad Nadeem, Faiqa Riaz, Salman Iqbal Butt (support staff), Dr. Ali Sher Bajwa (support staff). Swimming: Mohammad Ahmed Durrani, Jehanara Nabi, Lt Col (retired) Ahmed Ali Khan (support staff). Shooting: Ghulam Mustafa Bashir, Gulfam Joseph, Kishmala Talat, Col Junaid Ali (support staff), Gennady Solodovnikov (support staff). Contingent officials: Mohammad Shafiq (chef de mission), Javaid Shamsad Lodhi (deputy chef de mission); Zainab Shaukat (admin officer).

## Pakistan wins two bronze medals in Int'l Biology Olympiad

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant achievement, the Pakistani team won two bronze medals in the International Biology Olympiad (IBO), held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from July 7-14. Ms. Zoha Asif from Nixor College, Karachi, and Mr. Soban Safdar from FFC Grammar School, Mirpur Mathelo, won the bronze medal for Pakistan in the IBO 2024. The Pakistan team participated in the Olympiad under the sponsorship of the STEM Careers program, which is a joint venture of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Science (PIEAS). According to PIEAS, the biology team was trained by Dr. Asma Imran and Dr. Amir Ali from the National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE), Faisalabad, which is also a constituent college of PIEAS University, Islamabad. PIEAS is responsible for managing the STEM Careers program and has made great efforts to provide an enabling platform that supports students' engagement in STEM fields and ensures that participants are well-equipped for the challenges and opportunities of the future. PIEAS conducts a National Science Talent



Contest (NSTC) each year under the umbrella of the STEM careers program. The students selected under NSTC are further trained for participation in the International Science Olympiads (ISOs), which is the most prestigious competition for young school and college students. The teams in the four subjects of physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics are selected through a country-wide NSTC held each year in 19 cities across Pakistan. The top 50 students in the screening test are initially invited to residential training camps in the home institutes of each subject. The grooming or selection process after multiple training camps gradually narrows down this number to 4-6 best students in each of these subjects for participation in ISOs. The activities of training

camps in HIs are managed through the STEM Careers program office in HEC. NIBGE (PIEAS) is a home institute for biology; HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry; the University of Karachi is a home institute for chemistry; COMSATS-Lahore is a home institute for mathematics; and PIEAS is a home institute for physics. Pakistan has been regularly participating in the International Physics Olympiad since 2001, the Mathematics Olympiad since 2005, and the Biology and Chemistry Olympiad since 2006. Since its inception, more than 350 students have been able to participate in the ISOs, winning 134 medals. With more than 240 training camps, 4000 students have received training in the Home Institutes through this program.

## Head coaches to be part of Men's selection committee: PCB

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday took key decisions including a review of player central contracts on a yearly basis, inclusion of head coaches on the Men's selection committee, making domestic cricket participation compulsory for national team selection, compulsory players' fitness test every three months and grant of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for foreign leagues through technical method. The decisions were taken during a meeting at the Board Room of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) Gaddafi Stadium with Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi in the chair and are aimed at strengthening cricket structure in the country besides enhancing performance of the Men in Green. Among other decisions, the meeting adopted zero tolerance policy on indiscipline and infighting within the Men's team, upgradation of High-Performance center and setting up of new centers in Peshawar and Islamabad, appointment of separate coaches for U-19 and Shaheens teams, conduct of new domestic tournaments, and development of women cricket and review of central contracts. The meeting decided against revising players' central contracts in view of poor show and early exit at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 but decided to revise the category after yearly performance and fitness review. A technical method for issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for playing in leagues will be established, and players meeting the criteria will be granted NOCs. Head Coaches Gary



Kirsten and Jason Gillespie have been inducted into the national Men's selection committee while they have been tasked on presenting a final report for setting up new High-Performance Centers in Islamabad and Peshawar. Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi expressed full confidence in Gary Kirsten and Jason Gillespie, granting them complete autonomy and expecting excellent results from them. Each player will undergo a fitness test every three months while participation in domestic cricket has been made compulsory as the selection committee will finalize criterion with respect to participation in domestic cricket. Players who meet the standards of fitness and performance will be given the opportunity to progress. Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that there will be zero tolerance for indiscipline, and any player violating discipline will face strict action. Team unity and harmony are paramount, and players engaging in infighting will not be spared. The management is instructed to take stringent action against any such behavior. Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi has called for an

upgrade plan for high-performance centers and an enhancement in the training methods of coaches. Instructions have been issued to appoint separate coaches for the Shaheens and Under-19 teams and to develop a comprehensive program for regular tournaments. The Director of High-Performance Centres has been tasked with improving the women's cricket team performance & skills and reviewing their central contracts. A review of men's domestic contracts has been entrusted to Mohammad Yousuf, Asad Shafiq, Usman Wahla, and Nadeem Khan. Chairman PCB has directed immediate action to enhance the quality of pitches and stressed the importance of investing in new talent to produce outstanding players. The meeting was attended by White ball Head Coach Gary Kirsten, Red ball Head Coach Jason Gillespie, COO PCB Salman Naseer, Director International PCB Usman Wahla, Assistant Coach Azhar Mahmood, Selection Committee members Mohammad Yousuf, Asad Shafiq, Bilal Afzal, Director High-Performance Centres Nadeem Khan, and Director Domestic Cricket Abdullah Khurram Niazi.

## Nadal returns to competition with Bastad doubles win

BASTAD (AFP): Rafael Nadal returned to competition for the first time since his early French Open exit on Monday teaming up with Casper Ruud for a doubles win in Bastad. It was Nadal's first match since the 38-year-old fell to Alexander Zverev in the opening round at Roland Garros on May 27 as he prepares for the Paris Olympics. The Spaniard and Ruud, 25, won 6-1, 6-4 in the rain-interrupted clay-court match against second seeds Guido Andreozzi of Argentina and Miguel Reyes-Varela of Mexico. Wild card entries Nadal and Ruud, who trained at the Rafa Nadal Academy in Mallorca, looked at home on the Swedish clay, racing through the first set with two breaks. Play was suspended at 3-3 in the second due to rain and briefly a second time before Nadal and

Ruud, saw out the match in 79 minutes. "We played quite well for it being the first time that we played together," said Nadal. "And yeah, happy to be back here after almost 20 years. I have great memories of this place from 2003, 2004, 2005. I am enjoying this week and hopefully we can keep going." Nadal lifted the singles title in Bastad as a 19-year-old in 2005. This month he skipped Wimbledon to focus on the Olympics which will be played at Roland Garros where he won 14 French Open titles. In Paris, Nadal plans to compete in the singles and doubles with Carlos Alcaraz, winner of the Wimbledon tournament on Sunday. "It was an amazing day for Spanish sport," said Nadal of Alcaraz's win and Spain's Euro 2024 triumph. "The Spanish team

played an amazing Euro Cup since the first day to the last. We are very proud, all the country, about what they did. I was a very happy day yesterday too, with Carlos winning Wimbledon." The 22-time Grand Slam champion is also playing in the singles where he will take on Leo Borg, the 21-year-old son of the long-retired former world number one Bjorn Borg, now 68. Ruud added: "He did well and we played good doubles and it was a lot of fun to share the court with Rafa as always. 'I'm used to it more than Rafa, being from Norway,' he said of the rain delays before joking about Nadal's age. "And he's getting old so I'm not sure how the body feels when he has to stop and start all the time." Borg, currently ranked 467 in the world, lost his doubles match on Monday.

## Shaqiri ends Switzerland career after 125 caps

GENEVA (AFP): Xherdan Shaqiri announced his retirement from international football on Monday after winning 125 Switzerland caps and becoming the only player to score in each of the last three World Cups and European Championships. Midfielder Shaqiri, 32, who now plays with Chicago Fire in the United States, is Switzerland's second most-capped player after team-mate Granit Xhaka on 130 caps. The former Bayern Munich and Liverpool winger made his international debut in March 2010 aged 18. He represented his country at four World Cups and three European Championships. In what was his last game for the Nati, Shaqiri scored in the shoot-out as England beat Switzerland 5-3 on penalties following a 1-1 draw in their Euro 2024 quarter-final in Dusseldorf on July 6. "Seven tournaments, many goals, 14 years with the Swiss national team

and unforgettable moments. It's time to say goodbye to the national team. Great memories remain and I say to you all: thank you!", he said on social media. Shaqiri retires as Switzerland's fourth top goalscorer with 32 goals, behind Alexander Frei with 42 and Kubilay Turkylmaz and Max Abegglen on 34. The Swiss Football Association (SFV) said most of his goals were "bangers". Shaqiri first scored for Switzerland in a 3-1 defeat by England in Basel in 2010, in his seventh appearance. He scored all three as Switzerland beat Honduras 3-0 in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. His final international goal came at Euro 2024, pouncing on a loose ball and blasting in the equaliser from outside the penalty box in Switzerland's 1-1 draw with Scotland in the group stage. The strike means he is the only player to score in the last three World Cups and the last three Euros.

'Special moments' The SFV governing body paid tribute to Shaqiri's imprint on the national football team. "With Shaqiri, a big part of the Nati's history is gone. In recent years, the attacking midfielder was the man for special moments," the SFV said. "We thank you with all our hearts for the many unforgettable commitments and the wonderful goals and assists in the national team and wish you the best for your future, and much success. "You have touched and conquered our hearts with your game and your goals." Nobody has scored more goals for Switzerland in finals tournaments than Shaqiri with 10: five in the Euros and five in World Cups. "Only six other players have scored five or more goals at both the Euros and the World Cup: Michel Platini, Jurgen Klinsmann, Zinedine Zidane, Thierry Henry, Cristiano Ronaldo and Romelu Lukaku," said the SFV.





## In brief

### IRSA releases 319,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 319,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 325,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1523.91 feet and was 125.91 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 180,000 cusecs and 187,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1195.05 feet, which was 147.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 28,600 cusecs and 15,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 221,800, 187,400, 141,800 and 81,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 67,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 22,200 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

### Six dead in traffic accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Six people died while four injured in a tragic traffic accident on Monday near the Loni Kot interchange on the Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway (M-9) in District Jamshoro, Sindh. According to a private news channel, police said that a Mazda carrying fruits collided with a trawler while heading towards Karachi. The collision resulted in the deaths of six individuals, including two brothers. The victims were identified as 28-year-old Nanji, 30-year-old Imdad Hussain, 28-year-old Amerji, 35-year-old Ramesh, Jitan, and another Ramesh. The Mazda was traveling from Hyderabad to Karachi when the accident occurred. Four other individuals were critically injured and have been transported to the District Headquarters Hospital in Kotri for medical treatment. The police are investigating the cause of the collision, while rescue operations are ongoing.

### Five stolen bikes recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police on Monday arrested motorcycle thief and recovered five stolen motorcycles from his possession. Kahuta police during course of action held motorcycle thief who was identified as Shahroz. The police spokesperson confirmed the recovery of the stolen motorcycles and stated that efforts are underway to arrest other accomplices involved in the thefts. SP Saddam Mohammad Nabeel Khokhar praised the police team for their swift action. He emphasized that strict measures will continue against those who deprive citizens of their valuable possessions.

### BOM meeting held at PAC

RAWALPINDI (APP): The fifth meeting of the Punjab Arts Council's Board of Management (BOM) was held under the chairmanship of President Board Saqib Rafiq here at Punjab Arts Council, Rawalpindi. It was decided in the meeting to celebrate Independence Day with great enthusiasm. The Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain provided a detailed briefing on the programs related to Kashmir Day and Independence Day celebrations. He proposed the establishment of a permanent art gallery in the council, which would showcase the artworks of famous regional artists. The members also agreed on holding a summer camp for young children during the months of July and August.



ISLAMABAD: A monkey is drinking water through water bottle that take from girl at famous picnic point Daman-e-Koh. —APP Photo

## Govt. committed to empowering women: Shaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Monday said that the present government was committed to empowering women as women's role was very important for putting the country on the path of development.

"Steps are underway to empower women by equipping them with digital skills" she expressed these views while addressing the Webinar titled "Women

Shaping the Tech Landscape of Pakistan" organised by the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day.

The minister was committed to implementing policies and programs that support skills development and empower women at all levels of the tech industry.

"It is our vision to create an inclusive and equitable tech industry where women have equal opportunities to succeed", she said. The

minister said it was very important to pave the way for more women to join and lead in the tech sector by addressing key barriers such as safe transportation and workplace inclusivity. She said with better digital skills women can also work online while sitting at home and added that the Ministry of IT was focused on skills development and capacity building of our youth, especially women.

Shaza Fatima said that joint efforts were needed to

create a future where women were not just participants but leaders in the tech landscape of Pakistan.

She said that seventy percent of Pakistan's population comprises youth which was our asset. She said in the present era of technology, it was extremely important to equip our youth with the latest digital skills to enable them to be employable. Shaza Fatima said that a skilled workforce would take the country forward.

## National Skills University commemorates World Youth Skills Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Skills University (NSU) Islamabad on Monday celebrated World Youth Skills Day 2024, reaffirming its commitment to advancing technical and vocational education in Pakistan and beyond.

Recognized by UNESCO/UNEVOC as an International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, the university marked the occasion under the theme of 'Youth Skills for Peace and Development' said a press release. Under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Vice Chancellor of National Skills University Islamabad, the institution has been at the forefront of empowering youth with cutting-edge skills in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Data Science, and several other contemporary and conventional skills.

Prof. Mukhtar commended the dedication of the university faculty, technologists, and staff for their relentless pursuit of excellence in

skills education across the country.

Expressing profound gratitude, Prof. Mukhtar acknowledged the pivotal role of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training in strengthening NSU's infrastructure and global outreach efforts. He particularly highlighted the guidance and support of Mr. Mohyuddin Wani, Federal Secretary of the Education Ministry, in advancing various initiatives to enhance educational standards and promote high-tech skills training.

Reflecting on the significance of World Youth Skills Day, Prof. Mukhtar emphasized the theme "Youth Skills for Peace and Development." He drew inspiration from a Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him, underscoring the importance of creating safe and constructive environments for youth to thrive. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014, World Youth Skills Day on July 15 acknowledges the critical role of

skills development in preparing young people for employment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihoods. This year's theme underscores the essential contribution of youth in fostering peace, resolving conflicts, and driving sustainable development.

"As we commemorate World Youth Skills Day 2024, we recognize the potential of young people as catalysts for positive change and peacebuilding," said Prof. Mukhtar adding, "It is imperative to equip them with the skills and opportunities necessary to address global challenges, promote peace, and build resilient communities."

He said that the National Skills University Islamabad remains steadfast in its commitment to nurturing a generation of skilled professionals. These individuals will be equipped to tackle the challenges of the 21st century and contribute to a prosperous and harmonious world, Mukhtar added.

## Senate Committee addresses Auqaf Rules objections

ISLAMABAD (INP): The meeting of Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation held on Monday with Senator Naseema Ehsan in chair considered the objection raised by Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman against the Auqaf Rules, prepared by the ICT administration under the authority of the Waqf Properties Act, 2020.

The Interior Ministry representatives informed that all stakeholders were invited on February 9, 2023, to discuss and approve the proposed rules. The process was completed, and although the Ulema Council was not active, a Ulema Committee was formed. The process took one year, reaching its final shape in February 2024.

Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman emphasized the

need to consult with the Ulema and gain their trust. He suggested that the reasons should be discussed with the Ulema Council and the relevant documents presented to them. The committee members unanimously agreed to keep the Ulema Committee on board and to proceed with the consensus of all stakeholders.

The committee meeting featured the participation of Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Senator Atta-ur-Rehman, Senator Rubina Qaim Khani, Senator Poonjo Mal Bheel, the Special Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology, and senior representatives from the concerned ministries.

A representative of the Ulema committee present-

ed the challenges faced during the proceedings of the rules, adding that the Ministry of Interior deemed the rules incorrect and requested new rules.

The Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) noted that in Islamabad, due to the absence of a waqf manager, administrators have been given authority. It was observed that a knowledgeable leader should be chosen to facilitate societal harmony and goodness through their preaching.

The Additional Secretary of Law and Justice briefed the committee members on delegated and subordinate legislation, reporting that the Rules of Business, 1973, provide for the procedure of making subordinate legislation. He highlighted that, according to Article 8,

inter-division consultations with consensus are necessary before finalizing draft subordinate legislation.

He further reported that after finalizing the draft subordinate legislation, the administrative division is required to consult the Law and Justice Division for vetting under Rule 14. However, if the legislation is to be made by the Federal Government, the administrative division must initiate a summary for the Cabinet. The Cabinet has established the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) to examine the draft before Cabinet approval. Upon the CCLC's recommendation and Cabinet approval, the administrative division is responsible for publishing the legislation in the official Gazette.

## Crime mapping officer resolves Rs10 mln theft case in 78 hours

RAWALPINDI (APP): Crime Mapping Officer Kashif Khattak, Westridge Police successfully apprehended a woman from Multan within 78 hours for stealing gold jewelry and foreign currency worth Rs 10 million, the thief was identified as a household maid's mother.

The incident happened on July 12 in a house within the jurisdiction of Westridge Police Station. Upon returning from a trip to Murree on July 14, the owners discovered that 42 tolas of gold, foreign currency, and other valuables totaling Rs 10 million had been stolen. Upon reporting the

incident, the police immediately started an investigation.

Crime Mapping Officer Kashif Khattak utilized modern technology and his experience to focus on the household staff and their families. His efforts soon led to a crucial lead, resulting in the arrest of the maid's mother. During the investigation, the accused confessed to the crime and handed over the stolen goods to the police.

According to police officials, the suspect committed the theft to financially support her son. A case has been registered against her, and fur-

ther investigation is underway.

This incident highlights the skill and dedication of Crime Mapping Officer Kashif Khattak. His successful resolution of the case has strengthened the reputation and public trust in Westridge Police.

Officers have noted that the new Crime Mapping Officer post has proven highly beneficial, with officers in this role-playing a crucial part in solving crimes using advanced technology and their expertise. Rawalpindi Police reiterated their commitment to reducing crime and ensuring public safety.

## Govt to ban PTI due to its anti-state ideology: Talal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N leader Talal Chaudhary on Monday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is committed to anti-state ideology, therefore the government has decided to ban it by sending a reference to the Supreme Court.

Talking to the mediapersons on current important issues, he said that this decision has been taken because of PTI's anti-state policies.

"The government will send a reference to the Supreme Court to ban PTI. We know that there will be

a lot of criticism on this decision. However, history will bear witness that PML-N preferred to suffer political loss but saved the state".

Talal Chaudhry said that this type of punishment is very difficult for any party, but PTI forced the government to take this difficult decision. He went on saying that all the information in the interest of state to be sent to the Supreme Court in that regard.

He questioned that how can the accused of May 9 get bail, the ciphers walk freely and the state does

nothing? The reference should go to the Supreme Court, it is hoped that justice will be done, he added.

He said that those who say that we are afraid of political opponents, we have fought dictators, we have always fought within the constitution and law.

"Whoever stands against the state, it is the responsibility of the government to fulfill its duty. Politics in Pakistan can only be done by those who do not have a military wing".

PTI is weakening Pakistan, he remarked.

## Dengue SOP's violations, Rs.1.13mn fined

RAWALPINDI (APP): District Health Authority has accelerated protective measures against dengue SOP's in entire district with strict vigilance to ensure implementation of said SOPs by the citizens.

Joint efforts by health, education and environment departments have resulted in the declining trend of dengue spread. Since Jan 2024 till date the health authority has imposed a fine of Rs.1.13 million while 363 FIRs have been registered against the dengue SOP's violations.

According to the details, in Rawalpindi district, the number of patients who have recovered from dengue has increased to 28, while one patient affected by dengue is under medical treatment in the hospital. In collaboration of the allied departments, spraying is also being done by the health department in different areas of the district. Surveillance activities are being intensified in relation to anti-dengue measures.

In a strict surveillance campaign, 716 challans were issued and 200 places were sealed in addition to imposed fine and registering police cases against the violators. The District Health Authority appealed to the citizens to ensure implementation of dengue SOPs, particularly during the rainy season.

## ANF recovers over 86 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations managed to recover over 86 kg drugs and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 810 grams ice was recovered from a parcel booked for Bahrain at Karachi Airport. 150 intoxicated tablets were recovered from an accused arrested near a college in Peshawar. 15.6 kg opium, 8.4 kg hashish, and 7 kg ice were recovered from two vehicles intercepted in Kasur while 7 accused were arrested during the operation.

34.8 kg opium, 17.1 kg hashish, and 1 kg suspicious material were recovered in Faisalabad and 2 suspects were arrested. In 5th operation, 2.2 kg of weed was recovered from the possession of an accused netted in Al-Asif Square Karachi. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

## Man kills 2 daughters

RAWALPINDI (APP): A man killed his two daughters and attempted to cut his wife's throat in Muhalla Azizabad, an area of Tench Bhatia police station, a private news channel and police reported on Monday.

According to the details, the matter arose out of a domestic dispute, resulting in the murder and attempt to murder. The police and rescue teams reached the spot immediately after the incidence was reported. The rescue 1122 team shifted the dead bodies and the injured to the hospital. The police arrested the accused, cordoned off the accident site and started collecting the evidence.

## ADC visits 8th Muharram procession in G-9

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) General, Abdullah Mahmood, visited the main procession routes for the 8th of Muharram ul Haram on Monday in the G-9 area of the Federal Capital.

He was joined by the Assistant Commissioner for the Industrial Area, Farwa Batool, according to the spokesman of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration.

On the occasion, Abdullah Mahmood inspected the route, assessing both the overall arrangements and security measures. The ADC also met with the mourners, who expressed their gratitude for the well-planned

arrangements.

The main procession organizers praised the efforts of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) staff for handling sanitation to ensure the route was clean.

Abdullah Mahmood emphasized that tight security measures were in place along the procession path to maintain order.

All necessary facilities were provided to volunteers to ensure their tasks were performed smoothly.

For the convenience of citizens, a plan was issued for alternative routes to minimize disruptions caused by the procession, he said.

## Police announces comprehensive traffic plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): In preparation for the 9th Muharram procession, Islamabad Police, under the orders of IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, has finalized a detailed security and traffic management plan.

The arrangements have been crafted under the supervision of DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza and Chief Traffic Officer Muhammad Sarfraz Virk.

The significant 9th Muharram Al Haram Procession will commence from Mian Imambargah in G/6-2, follow its designated route, and return to its starting point. To ensure the smooth flow of the procession, the traffic arrangements have been made.

The road from Fazal Haq Road, Polyclinic to Kulsom Plaza, will be closed to general traffic. Citizens are advised to use Jinnah Avenue from Kulsom Plaza to China Chowk instead. 7th Avenue will be off-limits for general traffic on both sides from Daman Koh Chowk to

Chand Tara Chowk Blue Area Out Loop and from 7th Avenue Chowk Suhrawardy.

Alternative routes include Urban Alternate Road, Jinnah Avenue, Suhrawardy Road, and Margalla Road. Sadar Road will be closed between Iqbal Hall and Melody Chowk on both sides.

Citizens can use Abpara Suhrawardy Road as an alternative. Municipal Road from Lal Masjid to Shahada Chowk and GPO Chowk on both sides will be closed. Shaheed Millat Road can be used as an alternative route.

Luqman Hakeem Road from Polyclinic to Iqbal Hall will be closed. Jinnah Avenue will serve as an alternative route. To assist citizens, traffic police will be deployed at key points to guide and provide alternative routes.

Citizens are urged to use alternate routes during the procession and cooperate with traffic police to ensure a smooth flow of traffic.

## Ambitious emerging technology education project to be launched

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to transform Pakistan into a global IT hub, the Ministry of Federal Education on the directions of the prime minister, is set to launch a landmark project aimed at equipping school children with cutting-edge skills in emerging technologies.

According to the statement of Education Ministry, the project, which will establish "Emerging Technology Centres" in 350 schools across Islamabad, AJK, and GB, is part of the government's strategic planning to strengthen its initiative to make Pakistan a global IT destination.

The centres will serve as conduits for introducing children to emerging technologies such as virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and data analytics, preparing them for the increasingly digital landscape they will encounter in their future endeavours.

The project aims to develop skills and capacity

in the IT sector, prepare students for a digital future, enhance Pakistan's export and capability in the IT sector, and make Pakistan a global IT destination, it added.

The Emerging Technology Centres will be divided into two facilities - Class A and Class B. Class A facilities will provide state-of-the-art spaces for co-working and will also function as co-working spaces during off hours to address the challenges faced by freelancers and professionals locally.

However, Class B facilities will provide STEM, entrepreneurship, and computer science education to 40,000 students in 320 middle, and high schools.

The project is set to revolutionize Pakistan's IT landscape and pave the way for a brighter future for the nation's youth. This project will be executed by highly trained 175 Tech fellows hired and trained by service providers through an open competitive process.



Public properties banned

KABUL (Ariana News): Leader of IEA has issued a decree ordering that buildings of government offices should not be used for personal purposes. Bakhtar news agency reported that if anyone lives in such buildings, they should be moved to another place. Earlier, the leader of the Islamic Emirate issued a decree to create a commission on reclaiming usurped lands. Hundreds of thousands of acres of usurped land have been reclaimed after the establishment of the commission.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Muharram 09 1446 — Tuesday, July 16, 2024

Flood flash wrecks havoc

FAIZABAD (Pajhwok): Rain-induced flash flooding washed away dozens of household animals, farmland, irrigation canals and a small hydropower dam in Juram district of Badakhshan. Maulvi M. Akram Akbari, Director NDM, said heavy rainfall unleashed flash floods in Sandar Dara Khastak area. He said preliminary figures suggested that the flooding killed 200 livestock, swept away farmland, irrigation canals, a small power dam and a number of residential houses.

FM to govt spokesmen: Follow policy, not whims

KABUL (Pajhwok): The acting foreign minister has directed Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) spokesmen to follow government policies, not their personal whims and wishes.

Amir Khan Muttaqi issued the instructions at a meeting here on Sunday with spokespersons for different ministries, media representatives and writers.

He told the spokesmen: "You must learn how to address issues, how to talk and learn when you should remain silent and control your words."

The government spokesmen must talk about what was in the interest of Islam, the Afghan nation and IEA, the acting minister stressed.



He commented: "Subject your thoughts and passions to government policy and obey the ones who follow IEA instructions."

MoHE, NDC sign MOU



KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) and the National Development Company (NDC) signed a memorandum of understanding to establish joint cooperation between the two institutions.

Officials in these institutions said that the purpose of the memorandum is to use the experiences of the National Development Company in the field, and the National Development Company can also use the cadres of this ministry in the country's national projects.

The head of the National Development Company said that this operational institution, which works in the construction, production, mining, and agriculture sectors, can be a partner for building capacity in advancing the work and raising the knowledge level of academics in the field of operation.

Abdul Rahman Attash, CEO of the National Development Company, said: "There should be some kind of understanding

between the National Development Company and the Ministry of Higher Education so that we can establish a kind of coordination between them in terms of the theory of higher education and in terms of the programs of the National Development Company."

The acting Minister of Higher Education also considers the understanding between this Ministry and the National Development Company valuable in the progress of the country.

The acting minister of Higher Education, Neda Mohammad Nadim, said: "The National Development Company has many facilities and it needs specialized people to advance the work through them and develop the work in a standard way, and we are fully cooperating with them."

The head of the faculty of Agriculture of Kabul University, on behalf of the officials of the agriculture faculty and universities of the country, said that for the

progress of agriculture in the country, they must focus on various projects of agriculture and water management in different places.

Safiullah Johar, the head of the faculty of agriculture, said: "The National Development Company is a hope for all Afghans. This company conducts its research work in the university, and the students who graduate from the university are familiar with those works. God willing, there are good laboratories."

In the joint meeting of the Ministry of Higher Education and the National Development Company, video information packages related to the agricultural, production, commercial, and mining complexes related to the national development projects in various parts of the country, including the Qush Tepa Canal, were displayed, and in them the current and future programs of the National Development Company were explained to the subscribers.

Badri meets Chinese envoy

KABUL (Ariana News): Acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum Hedayatullah Badri met with the Chinese ambassador to Kabul, Zhao Xing, and stressed the need to accelerate Mes Aynak copper and Amu Darya basin oil projects.

During the meeting, the two sides also exchanged views on strengthening investment cooperation in the fields of economic and trade between China and Afghanistan, Zhao said on X.

Badri expressed his willingness to continue maintaining close contact with me in these fields, Zhao said.

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum also said in a statement that extraction acceleration of Mes Aynak copper and Amu Darya basin oil projects was also emphasized in the meeting.

Experts say that the lack of standard equipment and machinery has created problems in mining, but the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum should try to ensure that standard work is done in this sector.

According to experts, the country's mines should not be controlled by a particular country.

Currently, foreign companies from various countries are working in the country's mining sector, but Chinese companies are more active than other countries.

Hebatullah meets with officials

KABUL (Ariana News): Maulawi Hebatullah Akhundzada, the supreme leader of IEA, met with Acting Defense Minister Mohammad Yaqub Mujahid, Acting Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, and intelligence chief Abdul Haq Wasiq in Kandahar.

Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Islamic Emirate, said on X that during the meeting, the security officials briefed Akhundzada on progress made by their institutions.

Mujahid added that the leader of the Islamic Emirate praised their efforts and gave recommendations in various fields. According to him, the meeting discussed the problems of the security institutions and the leader of the Islamic Emirate issued instructions for their resolution.

China announces \$13.7m to aid Afghan returnees

KABUL (TOLONews): Zhao Xing, the Chinese ambassador in Kabul, announced a donation of 100 million Chinese yuan (around \$13.7 million) to address the challenges faced by Afghan returnees from neighboring countries.

Abdul Rahman Habib, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Economy, said that Zhao Xing made this statement during a meeting with the acting Minister of Economy Din Mohammad Hanif.

According to Habib, in the meeting they discussed strengthening bilateral economic and trade relations, the construction of the Wakhan corridor, the economic and transit importance of the Wakhan corridor, the initiation of road construction for the Mes Aynak copper mine in Logar province, and China's investment in Afghanistan's infrastructure sectors.

The Ministry of Economy spokesperson said: "The Chinese ambassador met with the acting minister of economy, during which the ambassador assured the delivery of 100 million Chinese yuan to address the challenges of Afghan returnees. Part of this money will also be used to



assist flood victims."

Meanwhile, the Japanese ambassador, in a meeting with Hedayatullah Badri, announced a \$10 million aid package from Japan to provide alternative crops for farmers and health services for addicts in Afghanistan.

The spokesman for the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Homayoun Afghan, wrote that Hedayatullah Badri, the acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum, had separate meetings with Takayoshi Kuromiya, the Japanese ambassador to

Afghanistan, and Khawaja Awadov, Turkmenistan's ambassador in Kabul.

According to the spokesman, these meetings discussed the expansion of Afghanistan's relations with these countries, recent progress on the TAPI project, and resolving challenges of the Qashqari block project in the Amu Darya oil basin, as well as the initiation of the Mes Aynak copper mine project in Logar.

Homayoun Afghan, the spokesman for the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum,

added: "In this meeting, the TAPI project was regarded as an important for Afghanistan and the involved regional countries, and it was assured that this project would be prioritized by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum."

Meanwhile, officials of the Islamic Emirate have consistently emphasized that Afghanistan has an economy-focused policy and that economic integration among neighboring and regional countries with Afghanistan is beneficial for all nations.

Donate blood to hospitals instead of self-harm, says Shiite clerics

BAMYAN CITY (Pajhwok): Shiite mourners must donate blood to hospitals instead of self-flagellation, a number of Shiite scholars said on Monday.

A Shiite religious scholar and follower of Muhaqiq party, Nimatullah Sadiqi, told Pajhwok Afghan News, from Islamic point of view, harming oneself or others is un-Islamic and is considered an inappropriate act, so no one should shed his blood, which is also haram in Islam.

"Islam is the religion of thoroughly love, brotherliness and welfare, so Imam Hussain (RWA) revolted against violence, oppression and to ensure all human rights in the society."

Sadiqi believed Shiite mourners should donate blood to patients in need in

health centres instead of striking themselves with chains and swords.

He urged Shiite mourners to help others like orphans and solve problems of people, something Islam insisted on.

"Mourners should know that self-harm and hurting others and violence have no place in Islam, so the believers should avoid such actions".

About the great sacrifice of Imam Hussain (RWA), religious scholar Hujjatul Islam Ahmad Salehi said that Imam Hussain wanted to end oppression, corruption and indecent acts from society.

"Any kind of extremist act will increase the gap between the people, self-flagellation has nothing to do with the revolution of Karbala".

In the memory of Karbala martyrs, he requested more welfare activities such as construction of schools, clinics, bridges, creating education opportunities, alleviating poverty and blood donation to patients instead of shedding own blood.

A number of mourners said they performed self-flagellation to express their love with the martyrs of Karbala.

Nadir, a resident of Bamyan city, said striking oneself with knives to express love was not right and they should mourn to please the martyrs of Karbala and Almighty Allah.

He said he had witnessed many self-floggers falling unconscious due to heavy blood loss, which was dangerous.

"It is better to donate

blood to a patient who needs it instead of shedding blood on the ground".

Abdul Sattar, another mourner, said whipping oneself with knives was less-practiced during Muharram processions.

He believed if the youth were made aware of the dangers associated with self-flagellation, they would never repeat it again.

A number of other people and religious scholars requested the people to avoid walking aimlessly in streets and playing loud sounds until late at night.

Governor Maulvi Abdullah Sarhadi said that elaborate security measures had been put in place around mosques and other places for Muharram days to prevent any untoward incident.

Development schemes worth \$76 million executed

JALALABAD (Pajhwok): Development projects costing \$76 million completed in eastern Nangarhar province by domestic and international organizations last year, officials said.

The projects included the construction of footpaths, roads, water canals, schools and health centres and some other public welfare projects.

Besides cooperation between government relevant authorities, the directorate of Economy was established to bring more cooperation between governmental and foreign institutions, said Mawlawi Attaurrahman Fateh, head of the provincial Economy Department.

Amid at improving the social and economic well-being the people, a total of 211 different uplift projects were launched at the cost

of over \$76.4 million dollars during the past one year, of which 121 were completed while work on 90 projects was underway, he said.

He added the projects funded from the national budgeted, 13 development projects were implemented at the cost of 302 million afis in Nangarhar last year, but 145 more projects worth over 3 billion Afis were suggested for this year, their works will start after their approval.

Mawlawi Fateh said 157 organizations operated in Nangarhar out of which 47 were international but the remaining 110 of them are domestic organizations.

Fatih said: "The Economy department monitored the activities of both domestic and international organizations, praised that worked well but advised

those with faults, we have good relations with such organizations."

Fatih said, in order to meet the needs of people in different areas, we prepared a written the provincial profile in the form of a book and shared it with the institutions. We have also prepared another similar draft of needs and shared with the ministry of economy for its approval.

Over 13,500 laborers were provided long and short term employment opportunities in Nangarhar last year and hundreds of more people including women were trained for vocational professions.

The government had also attracted humanitarian aid for the repatriates and held more meetings with the official of relevant organizations for better handling the issues of returnees.

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Borders, Ethnicities, and Tribes said of more than 2,200 ethnic disputes in the country have been resolved.

Mohammad Ali Jan Ahmad, the Deputy Minister of Borders and Tribal Affairs, told TOLONews that these disputes have been resolved since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, and the interim government is committed to resolving ethnic disputes in the country.

He said: "So far, we have resolved more than 2,221 ethnic disputes, in which hundreds of people were killed, people suffered financial losses, and some were disabled. Alhamdulillah, we have resolved these in our three-year plan."

According to Ahmad, since the re-establishment

of the Islamic Emirate, no girl has been given in baad (practice of giving girls to resolve disputes) across the country, and no one will be allowed to do so. The Deputy Minister added that perpetrators of such acts will be referred to judicial and legal authorities.

Mohammad Ali Jan Ahmad added: "The Sheikh has ordered that henceforth, women and girls should not be given in baad to anyone, as it is against Sharia rules."

Experts said the resolution of disputes is essential for the solidarity of the country's citizens.

Abdul Hadi Quraishi, a political affairs expert, said: "If these problems are not resolved, ultimately, it will lead to disunity among the people in the region, as it creates division and under-



mines unity."

According to the information from the Ministry of Borders, Ethnicities, and

Tribes, most disputes in the past three years have been resolved in the provinces of Nangarhar, Nuristan,

Badghis, Jawzjan, the southeastern region, and northern provinces of the country.

1 or 2 teachers run a school in each Faryab district

MAIMANA (Pajhwok): Residents of different districts in northern Faryab province say schools in their areas lack teachers an issue admitted by local education officials.

Residents say one or maximum two teachers run a school of 250 to 300 students, which they term "a huge injustice".

Jalaluddin Pahlawan, head of village council of Tort Atta in Dawlatabad district, said the primary girls' school here was established 13 years ago and since then one teacher had been teaching more than 300 students.

He said: "In addition to the lack of teachers in this school, it also lacks building and students are studying in people's homes or under tents. Fortunately, the construction of a building began last week, but more importantly, we need more teachers."

Mullah Saifullah, administrative chief for Dawlatabad district, said not only the educational and administrative affairs of Tort Atta school were run by one teacher, but there were other schools in the district where 250 to 300 students were taught by one teacher. The Education Department

should pay serious attention to the shortage of teacher posts, he said.

Meanwhile, Abdul Qadir Basharat, the district education director, said the Dawlat Mohammad Azadi Primary School with more than 300 students was run by one teacher.

The school was established eight years ago and was renovated and inaugurated two weeks ago, but there is no guard to take care of the school.

Bibi Qudrat, a teacher at Tort Atta Girls' School, says she has been carrying out the heavy responsibility of educational and adminis-

trative affairs for about 250 students since 2014 until last year.

She said voluntary teachers were only present during class hours, but she was responsible for official and administrative works, arranging results and taking care of school supplies and documents without any privileges or overtime.

Khal Mohammad, Bibi Qudrat's brother, says he cooperates with his sister in arranging the school's administrative documents and has set aside a living room for school affairs to ensure that children's education is properly managed.

Azizullah Zahid, a teacher at Makhdoom Gholi Primary School in Qarmaqol district, said the school had eight classrooms and more than 500 students.

"Although I have no additional privileges except salary, I am trying as a principal, teacher, delivery man and school employee, so that people's children are not deprived of science and knowledge, but I am not satisfied with the knowledge of students," he said.

He added students were taught 12 subjects for 34 hours a week and this required at least nine teachers,

but in some areas only one teacher taught these subjects to 150 students.

Awaz Gildi, a teacher at Qarmaqol Primary School, said 420 students were taught in nine classes by one official teacher and five volunteers, but the students' academic level was zero.

"Volunteer teachers have less responsibility, they are absent during hot and cold days, most of the days three to four classrooms are without teachers and students return home without learning their lessons."

Najmuddin, the father of a student, said his son was fifth grade at Qarmaqol

school, but he could not even right a simple letter.

He urged the government to improve appoint teachers in their area school and improve the quality of education.

Meanwhile, Maulvi Mohammad Tahir Javad, director of the education department, acknowledged to Pajhwok Afghan News that 44 primary and secondary schools in the province were managed by one or two teachers and the education department had a shortage of 1,345 teachers.

Jawad, who has just been appointed as the head of the education department, said

they inherited the issue of teachers' shortage from the previous government.

He said they were trying to resolve challenges plaguing 44 primary and secondary schools in all districts by hiring teachers.

He had also raised the issue of shortage of 1,345 teachers with the leadership of the Ministry of Education and hoped this problem would be resolved.

According to the Faryab Education Department, there are more than 500 schools in the province, of which 155 need building and another 200 need to be repaired.





ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of Argentina, Mr. Sebastian Sayus, presenting his diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Cement dealers go on countrywide strike

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Cement dealers in Pakistan begin their countrywide strike on Monday for an indefinite period against higher withholding tax on cement in the federal budget 2024-25.

The government has increased the withholding tax to 2.5 percent for non-filers under Section 236H of the Finance Act 2024 which has made the cement business unsustainable given the current market conditions besides the new turnover taxes imposed on dealers and retailers.

All Pakistan Cement Dealers Chairman Sajid Chaudhry highlighted concerns that taxes and PoS measures have badly distributed their business. He criticized the requirement for Point of Sale machines, arguing that such demands are impractical for many dealers and retailers, who lack the necessary resources and education. The association urged the government to intervene, suggesting a presumptive tax regime as a solution. They warned that failure to address these issues could force many businesses to shut down, worsen unemployment, and hurt the economy.

The federal government in budget 2024-25 has also imposed a higher FED on cement to Rs4 per kg compared to Rs2 in the previous fiscal year. Meanwhile, the exports of cement witnessed an increase of 40.46 percent during the first eleven months of the financial year 2023-24, as against the exports of the corresponding months of last year.

The cement exports from the country were recorded at US \$236.797 million during July-May (2023-24) against US \$168.583 million during July-May (2022-23), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

## 35 MNAs submit affidavits to ECP

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Following the Supreme Court's (SC) decision to allot reserved seats to the PTI, as many as 35 party members of the National Assembly (MNAs) have so far submitted to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) their affidavits of allegiance to the party.

Sources told that the party's nine members of the provincial assembly (MPAs) from Sindh and over 100 MPAs from Punjab too had submitted their affidavits. They further disclosed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Omar Ayub Khan and Ali Asghar were yet to submit their affidavits. On the other hand, 92 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPAs in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly have so far signed their affidavits.

The PTI will get 21 seats reserved for women and three seats for women. The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) and the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) had already been allotted one seat each in the assembly, while the PTI-P, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Awami National Party (ANP) were not entitled to these seats, they added.

## Credentials presented by envoys to President

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Diplomatic credentials were presented by envoys of seven countries including Zimbabwe, Tajikistan, Rwanda, Argentina, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Botswana to President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday during a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President Zardari received credentials from the Ambassador-designate of Zimbabwe, Titus Mehliwa Jonathan Abubutu; the Ambassador-designate of Tajikistan, Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir; the High Commissioner-designate of Rwanda, Ms. Harerimana Fatou; the Ambassador-designate of Argentina, Sebastian Sayus; the Ambassador-designate of Myanmar, Wunna Han; the

Ambassador-designate of Cambodia, Sok Chea; and the Ambassador-designate of Botswana, Dr. Batlang Comma Serema.

Later, the envoys of the seven countries also held separate meetings with the President. Speaking to the envoys, Asif Ali Zardari said that Pakistan had great investment opportunities and foreign countries should benefit from its investment-friendly environment.

Foreign investors should explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's agriculture, livestock, Information Technology, energy and mining sectors, he highlighted. President Zardari stated that Pakistan wanted to broaden cooperation with all friendly countries in diverse fields, especially trade, investment,

and culture.

He remarked that Pakistan attached great importance to expanding economic cooperation and further maximising trade volume with friendly countries to its fullest potential. He also called for increasing contacts among the business communities to boost economic and trade relations.

President Asif Ali Zardari congratulated the envoys on their appointment as ambassadors to Pakistan and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually beneficial cooperation. Earlier, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Armed Forces presented guard of honour to the envoys upon their arrival at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## KP govt decides to starts 'Schools Khana Program'

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government, as an important welfare initiative, has decided in principle to start free meal program (Schools Khana Program) in public sector primary schools under which free meals will be provided to children in primary schools in urban areas of all divisional headquarters of the province. This decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Monday.

Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Faisal Khan Tarakai, Advisor to the Chief Minister on Finance Muzamil Aslam, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah and other senior officials of the concerned departments, besides the Chief Executive Officer of the private welfare organization Allahwale

Trust, Shahid Lone and other staff attended the meeting.

It was decided in the meeting that initially, the initiative will be started on pilot basis in Abbottabad and Swat which will later be extended to other divisional headquarters of the province. Under the proposed program, around 70,000 children will be provided with free and quality food daily. The program has been estimated at Rs 50 crore annually which will be borne by the provincial government.

It was further decided that a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the Social Welfare Department and the said private welfare organization for the implementation of the proposed program. In the meeting, it was decided to form a committee consisting of the officials of the Department of Education and Social Welfare to make progress in the implementation of the program, which will

finalize all the details in this regard and submit it to the provincial cabinet for final approval.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the proposed program is another important welfare initiative of the incumbent provincial government, under the program free and quality food will be provided to the children of government schools. It will also help to increase enrollment in government schools and the provincial government will provide funds for this purpose on priority basis.

He said that spending maximum resources on people is part of the vision of Imran Khan and PTI and the incumbent provincial government will also start more such welfare projects as per the vision of Imran Khan. He directed the concerned authorities to finalize the action plan as soon as possible for practical progress in the implementation of the proposed program.

## IMF loan accord lifts PSX to new high

ISLAMABAD (INP): The latest loan agreement agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) triggered brisk buying at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday, lifting the index to new heights. The benchmark KSE-100 index soared by 1,230.05 or 1.52 percent to 81,174.14, compared to the previous close of 79,944.10 points.

The stocks had Friday witnessed a volatile session after the decision of the Supreme Court on reserved seats, decreasing by 48.26 points or 0.06% to close at 79,944.10 points. Pakistan Stock Exchange remained under pressure during the outgoing week ended on July 12, 2024 as the investors opted to book profit on available margins. The benchmark KSE-100 index declined by 268.69 points on week-on-week basis and closed at 79,944.10 points.

Trading activities remained dull as average daily volumes on ready counter decreased by 0.3 percent to 438.83 million shares during this week as compared to previous week's average of 440.31 million shares while average daily traded value on the ready counter increased by 13.7 percent to Rs 20.77 billion during this week

against previous week's Rs 18.28 billion. The foreign investors remained net buyers of shares worth \$3.959million during this week. Total market capitalization increased by Rs36 billion during this week to Rs10.630 trillion.

Sector-wise, auto assemblers, automobile parts & accessories, and woollen were amongst the top performers, up 7.0 percent/5.2 percent/5.0 percent WoW, respectively. On the other hand, miscellaneous, vanaspati & allied industries, and RIET were amongst the worst performers with a decline of 13.8 percent/3.7 percent/3.5 percent WoW. Flow wise, major net selling was recorded by Individuals and Mutual Funds with a net sell of \$2.58million and \$2.48million, respectively. On the other hand, Foreigners absorbed most of the selling with a net buy of \$3.96million.

Company-wise, top performers during the week were NBP (up 13.6 percent), FFBL (up 12.0 percent), UNITY (up 10.6 percent), ABL (up 10.3 percent) and PKGP (up 10.1 percent), while top laggards were SCBPL (down 8.1 percent), TRG (down 7.7 percent), THALL (down 6.2 percent), YOUW (down 5.1

percent) and KTML (down 4.8 percent).

## PTI founder arrested

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Investigation police have formally arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan, in connection with the Jinnah House attack case on May 9.

The police reached Adiala Jail to execute the formal arrest. According to the police, the PTI founder will be investigated under sections related to inciting against the state. The police stated that PTI founder Imran Khan has been arrested in 12 cases related to May 9 riots, including the Jinnah House attack. The police requested the Rawalpindi court to transfer the suspect to Lahore, but the court denied the transfer due to security concerns.

The police announced that the PTI founder would appear via video link before the Lahore Anti-Terrorism Court on Monday (today), where a request for his remand will be made for further investigation regarding the Jinnah House attack.

## Marwat's non-bailable arrest warrant issued

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: A Rawalpindi civil court has issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for former PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat in a case related to illegal constructions.

As per details, the warrant was issued in response to a complaint filed by the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) regarding unauthorized building activities near the Thalian Motorway Interchange. The court ordered to arrest Sher Afzal Marwat and present him before the court on July 30.

The RDA had registered a case against Marwat for constructing buildings without permission, violating development regulations. The allegations against Marwat include building structures on a plot without obtaining the necessary approvals, in violation of the RDA's bylaws.

On July 13, the party suspended the basic party membership of Sher Afzal Marwat on directives of PTI founder Imran Khan, over 'violation' of discipline and policies. Sher Afzal Marwat's membership was suspended after he failed to satisfy the party leadership against show-cause notices issued to him.

An inquiry committee was formed after the PTI founder had authorised the party leadership to take action against those who violated the policy. Sher Afzal Marwat has been suspended due to his consistent violation of party discipline and damaging statements against the leadership, a notification issued by PTI Secretary-General Omar Ayub read.

The notification added that Sher Afzal Marwat's actions caused harm to the party and its leadership, and he has been unable to provide satisfactory explanations for his behavior. Earlier, the PTI issued a show-cause notice to Sher Afzal Marwat for making irresponsible statements. The notice was issued by PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan and asked Marwat to explain his statements within three days, which have been deemed damaging to the party's reputation. The notice states that such statements are against the party's discipline and violate the clear instructions of the party's founder, Imran Khan, who has emphasized the importance of responsible behavior. Marwat was warned that failure to respond or provide a satisfactory explanation may lead to further disciplinary action.

## LHC CJ sends proposal to form larger bench

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Justice Farooq Haider of the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday forwarded his recommendation to LHC Chief Justice (CJ) Miss Aalia Neelum to form a larger bench on the petition filed against the federal government's decision to give an intelligence agency the power to tap phone calls of politicians and others.

Naming the federal government, the Interior Ministry, the Ministry for Information Technology and others as respondents, the Judicial Activism Panel, in its petition, said the government's decision was not only against the constitution but also against the court's verdict. "Before tapping phone calls, it is necessary to seek permission from a court," the petitioner said, adding, "The government does not have the authority to allow any agency to do so until and unless the court grants permission for that."

It was in fact, the petitioner argued, not only the breach of country's laws, but also of international laws. "Therefore, it is prayed to the court to declare the government's decision null and void." Four days ago, the federal government's decision to allow the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency to tap phone calls was challenged in the Lahore High Court.

On July 9, the government authorized the ISI to tap phone calls on the grounds that it was necessary for national security and crime prevention. The authorization was given under Section 54 of the Pakistan Telecommunication Act.

## Judge dismisses Trump's classified documents case

WASHINGTON (AFP): A Florida judge appointed by Donald Trump has dismissed the criminal case against the former president on charges of mishandling top secret documents, ruling that Special Counsel Jack Smith was unlawfully appointed.

The decision is a major victory for Republican presidential candidate Trump, who had been accused of endangering national security after leaving the White House. The decision comes days after an assassin's bullets flew by him during a campaign rally, streaking the Republican presidential candidate's blood across his face and prompting his security agents to swarm him, before he emerged and pumped his fist in the air, mouthing the words "Fight! Fight! Fight!"

Hours after the incident, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said it had identified the shooter in the assassination attempt as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Pennsylvania, US media reported.

Federal Judge Aileen Cannon made her ruling after lawyers for the 78-year-old argued for a partial stay of proceedings to allow for an assessment of

a Supreme Court ruling that a former president has broad immunity from prosecution. "Former president Trump's motion to dismiss indictment based on the unlawful appointment and funding of Special Counsel Jack Smith is granted," Aileen wrote in her order.

In a 93-page opinion, Cannon said Smith's appointment and funding usurped the role of Congress. "The court is convinced that Special Counsel Smith's prosecution of this action breaches two structural cornerstones of our constitutional scheme — the role of Congress in the appointment of constitutional officers and the role of Congress in authorising expenditures by law," she concluded.

She did not make a ruling on the merits of the case. But the fact she came to a decision after being accused by critics of slow-walking the case, opens the door for prosecutors to appeal and potentially have it re-heard by another judge. The clock, however, is ticking down to the November election.

The ruling provides further momentum for Trump who is set to be anointed as his party's official election

candidate at the Republican National Convention this week. Trump called for all court cases against him to be dropped, after the judge dismissed the case against him. "This dismissal of the lawless indictment in Florida should be just the first step, followed quickly by the dismissal of all the witch hunts," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

He was facing 31 counts of "willful retention of national defence information", each punishable by up to 10 years in prison. He also faced charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice and making false statements. Trump allegedly kept classified documents — which included records from the Pentagon and CIA — unsecured at his Mar-a-Lago home and thwarted efforts to retrieve them.

The material included secret nuclear and defence documents, according to prosecutors. Republicans contended the prosecution was unfair and selective after a federal prosecutor in February opted not to pursue charges against President Joe Biden who kept some classified material at his home after leaving the vice presidency in 2017.

## Car bomb targets cafe in Somalia's capital, kills 9

MOGADISHU (AFP): A car bomb has exploded outside a cafe in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, killing at least nine and injuring several others as patrons were watching the final of the Euro 2024 football tournament on TV, the government said. The al-Qaeda-linked armed group, al-Shabab, has claimed responsibility for Sunday's deadly attack via an affiliated radio station, saying the bombing targeted a place where security and government workers meet at night.

Mohamed Yusuf, an official from the national security agency, told AFP news agency on Monday that nine people have been killed in the incident, raising the official death toll of five given by the authorities late on Sunday. "Nine civilians were killed and 20 others wounded in the explosion," he said.

"There were many people inside the restaurant, most of them youth who were watching the football match... but thanks to God, most of them made their way out safely after using

ladders to climb up and jump over the backside perimeter wall," Yusuf added. Images posted online showed a huge fireball and plumes of smoke billowing into the night sky as the explosion ripped through the popular restaurant in the centre of the city.

Police officer Mohamed Salad had rushed to the scene a few minutes after the blast and told AFP that several bodies were discovered under the debris. The bomb also destroyed 10 cars and damaged several buildings nearby in a well-guarded area near the presidential palace. Despite losing large swaths of territory to government forces and their allies, al-Shabab has frequently launched raids and deadly attacks targeting the government.

Al-Shabab has been fighting to topple the fragile central government in Mogadishu for more than 17 years, carrying out numerous bombings and other attacks in the capital and other parts of the country. Somalia's federal government depends on the

support of foreign troops to stay in power.

The government has joined forces with local armed groups to fight the group in a campaign supported by an African Union force and US air raids. But the offensive has suffered setbacks, with al-Shabab earlier this year claiming it had taken multiple locations in the centre of the country.

Somalia last month called for the African Union to slow the planned withdrawal of its forces from the troubled country. UN resolutions called for troop numbers in the AU peacekeeping mission, known as ATMIS, to be reduced to zero by December 31 with security handed over to the Somali army and police. The third and penultimate phase was to see the departure of 4,000 ATMIS soldiers — out of a total of 13,500 — by the end of June. But Somalia's government said it wanted to see only 2,000 soldiers leave in June and the remaining 2,000 in September.

## 100 hurt as BD students protest govt job quotas

DHAKA (AFP): Violent clashes between people loyal to Bangladesh's ruling party and demonstrators protesting against job quotas for coveted government jobs have wounded at least 100 people, police say. The quota system reserves more than half of well-paid civil service posts, totalling hundreds of thousands of government jobs, for specific groups.

Critics say the system benefits children of pro-government groups who back Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who won her fourth consecutive term in a general election in January that was boycotted by the opposition. Bangladesh's top court last week temporarily suspended the quotas, but protesters have promised to continue their rallies until the parts of the scheme they oppose are scrapped completely.

Police and witnesses said hundreds of anti-quota protesters and students backing the ruling Awami League party battled for hours on Monday on the Dhaka University campus, hurling rocks, fighting with sticks and beating each other with iron rods. Some carried machetes while others threw petrol bombs, witnesses said in a report by the AFP news agency. "They clashed with sticks and threw rocks at each other," police official Mostajirur Rahman told AFP.

Nahid Islam, national coordinator of the anti-quota protests, said their "peaceful procession" was attacked by people carrying rods, sticks and rocks.

"They beat our female protesters. At least 150 students were injured, including 30 women, and conditions of 20 students are serious," he said. Injured student Shahinur Shumi, 26, said the protesters were taken by surprise.

"We were holding our procession peacefully," she said from her hospital bed at Dhaka Medical Hospital. "Suddenly, the Chhatra League [ruling party's student wing] attacked us with sticks, machetes, iron rods and bricks." Local media reports said the protests by thousands of students across Bangladesh began on Sunday night and continued into Monday after Hasina said the quotas were a matter for the top court.

Hasina also reportedly compared the protesters to Razakar fighters, who collaborated with the Pakistani army during the war for independence. Students on Sunday night marched in a dozen universities and continued into early on Monday, protesting against Hasina's comments and the quota system. Police on Monday said hundreds of anti-quota students from several private universities joined the protests in Dhaka and halted traffic near the United States embassy for more than four hours. "Some 200 students squatted and stood on the road," deputy police commissioner Hasanuzzaman Molla told AFP.

During a news conference at her official residence, Hasina, 76, criticised those opposing the

quotas for the descendants of the country's freedom fighters, local media reports said. But the protesting students said only the quotas supporting ethnic minorities and disabled people — which reserve 6 percent of the government jobs — should remain. "We want a reform of the quota system," a female student from Dhaka University said, asking not to be named for fear of reprisal.

## Qureshi indicted in May 9 case

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Anti-Terrorism Court, Lahore, on Monday indicted PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the case registered with the Shadman police station on the charges of carrying out arson on May 9, 2023.

ATC Judge Khalid Arshad held proceedings of the case in the Kot Lakhpat Jail where Shah Mahmood Qureshi was also present. The court framed charges against Qureshi who denied them and pleaded his innocence. The court adjourned hearing of the case until July 22 for recording the statements of prosecution witnesses. Earlier, the PTI leader was brought from Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi, to Lahore amid tight security. The Shadman police had registered arson and other cases against Qureshi.