



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فتح مکہ کے دن فرمایا اب ہجرت (مکہ سے مدینہ کے لیے) باقی نہیں رہی، البتہ حسن نیت اور جہاد باقی ہے۔ اس لیے جب تمہیں جہاد کے لیے بلا یا جائے تو فوراً نکل جاؤ۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3077)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Ayaz Sadiq, Salman to participate in electioneering: Marriyum

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says both the PML-N leaders Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Khawaja Salman Rafique had resigned from their respective ministries to participate in the election campaign. They have resigned in line with the Election Commission of Pakistan's code of conduct, the minister said in a news statement. She said the by-polls were scheduled to be held in their constituencies shortly.



I resign from minister's office on personal reasons: Ayaz Sadiq

Federal Minister Ayaz Sadiq says due to my personal reasons, I am unable to continue holding the office. I would continue to work for the country and the party with the best of my abilities.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

President pays tribute to Madra-e-Millat

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Aif Alvi on Saturday while paying homage to the great contributions of Madra-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, said that the entire nation saluted her for her remarkable struggle during the Pakistan Movement. In a message on her 55th death anniversary, the president said that Fatima Jinnah's full support to the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah further intensified Pakistan Movement. Her leadership role in politics also encouraged Pakistani women, he said, adding Fatima Jinnah looked after her ailing brother in the best possible way. The president said Fatima Jinnah's contributions would always be remembered.

Health hazards

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday here chaired a high-level meeting regarding the cleanliness drive on the occasion of Eidul Azha.



Photo: PID

Untraceable numbers People receiving threatening calls: Asad

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) central leader Asad Umar said Friday that people including women having no political background are receiving threats from untraceable phone calls. Asad Umar made the statement while talking to ARY News programme Sawal Yeh Hai. He said that women who have no political background are among those people who received threats from untraceable phone numbers. The PTI central leader was unaware of the mystery of 'unblock phone'. When questioned about it, Umar said that he will ask Imran Khan about the story behind 'unblock phone'. The politician said that the establishment has always played a political role in Pakistan. Regarding Fawad Chaudhry's statement, he said, "Fawad Chaudhry told the reality regarding the Rana Sanaulah case. The case was filed by Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) against Sanaulah. Questions had also been raised in the federal cabinet meeting at that time regarding the case, however, it was not a political case." Asad Umar said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is acting partially. He added that a petition was filed in the Sindh High Court (SHC) against the violations made by the ECP. Earlier in the day, Imran Khan, while addressing a public gathering in Khushab, censured the current rulers for torturing, threatening and jailing senior journalists including Ayaz Amir and Imran Riaz Khan just to spread fear and suppress voices against them. "15 FIRs were lodged against me and terrorism cases were filed against my team. People are being threatened via unknown telephone calls."

Pak-Bahrain close ties lead to deeper coop: PM

Felicitates Turkish President Erdogan on Eidul Azha

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday while reaffirming longstanding fraternal relations between Pakistan and Bahrain, highlighted that close ties provided significant opportunities for deeper bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, in particular promotion of bilateral trade and investment. The prime minister held a telephonic conversation with King Hamad bin Isa Al

Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain and exchanged greetings on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. The prime minister also conveyed his

Nation salutes Fatima Jinnah for her remarkable contributions: PM

best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Reciprocating the warm eid greetings from the prime minister, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa extended best wishes to the people of Pakistan on this occasion. He expressed his resolve to broaden mutual cooperation for the benefit of the people of the two countries. Pakistan and Bahrain enjoy long-standing cordial relations, rooted firmly in shared faith, mutual understanding and commonality of interests.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday held a telephone call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan, conveyed warm greetings to the government and people of Türkiye on the happy occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. Reciprocating the warm Eid greetings from the Prime Minister, President Erdogan also extended best wishes to the government and people of Pakistan.

No differences within PML-Q: Ch Shujaat

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Saturday dispelled reports of any differences within the party and with Chaudhry Parvez Elahi. Talking to the media along with AJK President, Shujaat said that there could be ideological differences that could also occur between a father and a son, however, denied any split within the party. "Have I ever stated anything against Parvez Elahi or did he speak against me," Chaudhry Shujaat asked and dispelled rumours of any differences between them. He lamented that an unfortunate trend has been witnessed in the country's politics which saw audios being leaked to media on daily basis. "What image we are giving to the international world about our politics," the PML-Q chief said. While talking to media in Islamabad, he said that even a father and a son can have ideological differences. He regretted that in Pakistan "non-issues were made to look like issues". Chaudhry Shujaat asked whether somebody had ever heard him speak against his cousin and Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Chaudhry Parvez Elahi. "And neither has he (Parvez) ever uttered a word against me," he said. The PML-Q supremo said that he meets Parvez Elahi daily. While he added that the two will together offer



Eid-ul-Azha prayers. While talking about issues of Kashmir, he said, "we all should work together for Kashmir." According to a recent report, in a last-ditch effort to mend fences among family, PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain summoned a meeting of members of his family including Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to decide on supporting PTI or PML-N. According to sources, at least five meetings were held to end differences among the family after Parvez Elahi announced support for the PTI and Chaudhry Shujaat extended his backing to PML-N-led federal government. "During the meeting, Parvez Elahi and Chaudhry Wajahat asked Salik Hussain to leave the coalition government so that the party remains intact and pursue the same line," they said, adding that during the first three meetings, Salik Hussain sought time to leave the government. In two later meetings, they said that Salik suggested that

Masood Khan meets Joe Biden



NEW YORK: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan met President Joe Biden at Oval office, White House in Washington D.C. In a tweet, Masood Khan said Pakistan and the United States express the resolve to strengthen bilateral ties as they celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations. It was an honour to meet and greet President Joe Biden @POTUS at the Oval Office, White House, Pakistan and the US resolve to strengthen their ties, as they celebrate the 75th Anniversary of their diplomatic relations. #PakUS-At75. Agencies

People to enjoy relief in POL prices soon: Khurshheed

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshheed Ahmad Shah says the masses will enjoy relief after stabilization of petroleum prices in the international market. Talking to a private television channel, he said that country is facing a difficult phase in the economic and other sectors.

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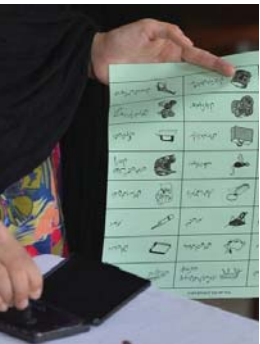
Muslim pilgrims gather atop Mount Arafat, southeast of the holy city of Mecca. This year, participation was capped at almost one million fully vaccinated worshippers. Photo media



Photo: PID

IS LG Polls- phase II

ECP seeks transportation plan from Sindh



Bureau Report

KARACHI: The election commission has demanded the transportation plan for the Sindh government as preparations for phase 2 of the local government elections in the province, has entered in its concluding stage.

The polling for remaining 16 districts of the province has been scheduled for July 24.

The local government elections will be held in Karachi and Hyderabad divisions' 16 districts including Dadu, Jamshoro, Thatta and Sujawal.

The election commission has presented its demand of over 5,000 vehicles for holding elections in the province, in a letter to the Chief Secretary of Sindh.

The electoral body has directed the government to submit its transportation plan for the 2nd phase of the local bodies election by July 14.

The vehicles will be required for sending electoral material and the staff to the polling stations.

The election commission has set up 9,000 polling stations for the second phase of the local elections.

In Karachi's seven districts 5,000 polling stations being established for the concluding phase of the local councils election.

The election commission in a letter to district returning officers (DROs) has directed that the election camps should be allowed at a fixed distance from the polling stations under the rules.

IS Situation to worsen

PTI's politics promoting hatred in society: Ahsan

Stresses on eradicating hate, extremism from society

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday said it was the need of the hour to end extremism, intolerance and hate from politics and society. Addressing a press conference here, he said the incident happened to him was a reflection of the training of PTI supporters imparted by Imran Niazi. "I am directly victim to hate when a youth had opened fire at me few years ago and the bullet is still in my body," he said.

"I always think to eradicate hate from the society as the seed of hate can not be easily weeded out from the society," he said and added intolerance and hate should be countered right now, otherwise, it would create anarchy. Ahsan Iqbal said that Imran was a player and the nation had expectations of sportsmanship from him, but, unfortunately, Imran's politics based on promoting hate and extremism. If Imran was sincere to his followers, he should not train them for hate or extremism, the

minister added.

"I am not new in politics as I have given three decades to it and people of Narowal elected me five times with a majority," he said and thanked people in and outside the country who supported him after the incident. The minister said people from all walks of life had condemned the incident. The minister said: "I have a right to take legal action against the family but I am not going for any legal action." He added that by following the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), he would not take any legal action against the family.

He appealed Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) workers to recognise the real face of their leader (Imran) who was using their innocent minds, adding they should also observe whether Imran was sincere to them or not. "Track record of Niazi shows that he used people," he said and added Imran started using people from Majid Khan, his cousin, who had introduced him in cricket and later on, Niazi ousted his cousin. Nawaz Sharif allotted a plot for the Shaukat Khanum Hospi-

tal and Shehbaz Sharif gave approval of the University in Mianwali, Ahsan Iqbal said.

The nation knew his services for the country and voters of his constituency (Narowal) had always supported and expressed their confidence over his services, he said and added: "Imran could not prove corruption of a single penny against him in projects during his four years of power. Ahsan Iqbal said that it was his faith that after politics of allegations and lies against his opponents, Imran Niazi would never come to power.

He appealed the PTI workers to get true information before blaming others and urged them to shun the path of hate and intolerance. To a question, the minister said Imran's government badly damaged the national economy, adding that the PML-N had to take difficult decisions to put the country on the way to progress and prosperity. He said several things had been improved and economy was now out of danger. He hoped that soon the country would be out of crisis.

IS Rains

MQM-P expresses outrage over Sindh govt

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) has slammed the Sindh government over the devastating situation in Karachi post-monsoon rains.

The MQM-P Rabita Committee expressed outrage over the lack of effective measures by the Sindh government to cope with the monsoon rains in the provincial capital Karachi.

The political party said in a statement that the flawed administrative infrastructure of Karachi was exposed after the recent spell of rainfall due to the blockage of sewerage lines which turned roads into swimming pools.

The MQM-P criticised that the highest taxpayers were bearing great loss due to the ineligible Sindh government. The political party expressed sorrow over the loss of precious lives in electrocution and other rain-related incidents.

At least nine people have died in rain-related incidents in Karachi since Friday.

The metropolis has been intermittently receiving light to heavy rainfall since yesterday under the influence of a monsoon system in the region.

At least six people in the city died by electrocution exposing the performance and safety measures of the sole power utility of Karachi.

In Shoe Market a 20-year youth died by electrocution, another young man namely Raqeeb 23 died by electric current in Manghopir area.

A woman Ruqayya Mubeen Shah, 38, was electrocuted to death at Mansehra Colony of Landhi, while working at home.

A child died by electric current Arsalan Homes in North Karachi area and an elderly man died by electrocution at a house in 100-Quarters in Korangi.

Moreover, a boy electrocuted to death near a petrol pump in Muhammad Ali Society.

The dead body of a boy along with father, swept away in floodwater in Gadap, was retrieved from water, while search for the father has been underway.

IS Eid-ul-Azha

CM Hamza for compact cleanliness steps



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz Sharif has directed for comprehensive arrangements for cleanliness and waste collection on Eid-ul-Azha. He also directed in time disposals of offals and other remaining of sacrificial animals in all big and small cities of the province. The Chief Minister said that he will personally monitor all arrangements to ensure a clean environment.

Govt to strengthen all institutions of country: Saad



LAHORE: Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique says the government is striving hard to strengthen all institutions of the country. Speaking at the occasion of his visit to Multan International Airport, the Minister said that country is facing hardships but government will overcome the issues. He also announced that the domestic and international flights will be increased at Multan International Airport.

Saad Rafique visited different departments of the airport and also presided over a meeting. He expressed satisfaction on the available facilities. Earlier, addressing a meeting at Pakistan Railways Headquarters, Khawaja Saad Rafique said that protection of passengers and provision of best facilities for them is top priority of the government and no negligence will be tolerated in this context.

Punjab by-polls may change the political landscape: Sh Rashid

Says nation not ready to see the faces associated with the incumbent government.

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed said on Saturday that the by-elections in Punjab can change the landscape of the politics. In his latest Tweet, the former federal minister said that the government was only ending their cases. Rasheed said that the inflation in the country has soared to 34 percent, adding that the poor doesn't want lectures but food.

The AML chief said that the prices of gas and electricity will increase further, adding that by withdrawing security, the government has proved its mental inferiority. Former Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid has intimated that the political landscape will change on July 17 while shedding light on the current political situation in Pakistan.

According to details, Sheikh Rashid said in his statement that anchorperson Imran Riaz will be released and will celebrate Eid at his home adding that whoever is caught by this government will become a leader. He said that this is a government of low capacity and low intellect, it has been suffering from mental inferiority, and the government has made Imran Riaz a leader. He also opined that Imran Riaz is a courageous journalist and the nation stands by him.

Sheikh Rashid also said that the nation is not ready to see their faces. Earlier, he said that 45 days after Eid-ul-Azha are crucial and underscored that the general elections are the only solution for the current crisis in the country. Agencies

IS Mature

PTI's politics saves Pakistan from Sri Lanka-like situation: Fawad

Says PTI's focus is to steer country out of crisis.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Saturday that the prudent politics of PTI and former PM Imran Khan has saved the country from a Sri Lanka-like situation. The PTI leader took to the Twitter to share a video of agitated mob entering presidential palace in Sri Lanka and prayed that the almighty Allah ease sufferings of the people of Sri Lanka.

The former federal minister also prayed for the safety of Pakistan, claiming if this situation is not here today, then the only reason is the mature politics of PTI and Imran Khan. "Our politics aimed at steering the country out of the crisis," he further added. Old Parliament building amid anger over the economic crisis that has gripped the Island nation. "Lots

of love and prayers for the people of Sri Lanka. May God ease their difficulties," he tweeted.

He also prayed for Pakistan, claiming if this situation is not here today, then the only reason is the responsible and mature politics of PTI and Imran Khan.

"Our politics aimed at steering the country out of the crisis," he further added.

The PTI has been demanding snap elections in the country since Imran Khan was ousted from the PM Office through a no-confidence motion in April.

The party is of the view that fresh polls are the only solution to the economic crisis the country is facing, however, the coalition government has refused to accept the demand.

The Opposition parties have multiple times linked Pakistan's situation to that of Sri Lanka amid sharp polarization in the country.

Climate change threatens well-being of urban residents': SC

Apex court says climate change must form basic determinant of urban planning and design

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Saturday said that urban planning and development authorities in the country must "seriously consider the climate change angle" and that it is an overarching constitutional obligation to consider and support adaptation, climate resiliency and sustainability.

This was included in an order issued by a two-member bench of the Supreme Court, comprising Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan. The bench gave the order on a civil petition filed by residents and businesspeople of the federal capital over a decision of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to first allow and then disallow the commercialization of residential properties of the petitioners in front of the Industrial and

Trading Center, in Sector G-9/4, Islamabad. In a note contained within the order, titled, "Urban Planning, Climate Change and the role of the CDA and other Urban Development Authorities," the judges said that the importance of regulating land use for orderly urban development cannot be understated.

The judges stated that public welfare today naturally encompasses the pressing issues of the time, such as climate change; environmental degradation; food and health safety; air pollution; water pollution; noise pollution; soil erosion; natural disasters; desertification and flooding having an appreciable impact on public health, food safety, natural resource conservation, environmental protection, social equity, social choice, etc.

"Any initiative to revise land-use regulations must be based on the aforesaid consid-

erations in order to ensure that urban development standards stay relevant to current issues of the community," they said.

Noting that vulnerabilities caused by climate change necessitated planned urban development, the SC said that climate change posed "a series of interrelated challenges to the country's most densely populated places: its cities."

The apex court further noted how critical infrastructure such as water and sewage systems, roads, bridges, and power plants, was ageing and in dire need of repairs or replacements altogether. Climate change-induced events such as rising sea levels, storm surges, heat waves, and extreme weather events will only serve to compound these issues.

"Climate change and its impacts threaten the well-being of urban residents," the top court said, adding, "The nation's economy, securi-

ty, and culture all depend on the resilience of urban infrastructure systems."

Climate changes affect the built, natural, and social infrastructure of cities, from storm drains to urban waterways to the capacity of emergency responders, the court noted, adding that the vulnerability of urban dwellers multiplies when the effects of climate change interact with pre-existing urban stressors, such as deteriorating infrastructure, areas of intense poverty, and high population density.

The order added that the National Climate Change Policy 2021 focused on adaptation and mitigation with a major emphasis on nature-based solutions including vegetative cover expansion, coastal resource management, and mangrove and natural reef ecosystem protection.

Despite that, the court said that infrastruc-

ture-based solutions for climate-proofing are required including stormwater drainage, water supply and treatment plants, as well as the protection or relocation of energy or solid waste management facilities, while some coastal cities may also need to plan for a rise in sea levels.

"Shutting eyes to the ominous signs of climate change will plunge us into a world that may not be able to sustain fundamental human values," the court stated, adding that it could even affect our basic physical and larger social needs including harnessing and consuming energy, water and food as well as habitation, travelling and communication potentialities.

While town planning in the early days of the country may not have been driven by climate considerations, it must now form a basic determinant of urban planning and design.

Eid-ul-Adha unites Muslim Ummah from Africa to subcontinent: FM

Says during this festive time, we must remember our Kashmiri brothers and sisters

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari while congratulating Muslims in Pakistan and across the world on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, said that this festival of happiness unite the Muslim Ummah from Africa to the subcontinent.

In his message issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House here on Saturday, Chairman Bilawal said that Eid-ul-Adha reminds us that determination and sacrifice for the greater good pave the way for success.

He said "No nation and society can achieve moral supremacy without the spirit of sacrifice."

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in his message on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha stressed that in



order to save the country from the problems we were facing, we must work together for the prosperity and development of the nation. He stated that it was crucial for us to put our ego, priorities, personal and group interests behind us.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said "During this festive time, we must remember our Kashmiri brothers and sisters who are facing the heights of Indian oppression in their fight for freedom."

He said that Pakistan would continue to provide moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiris. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has also appealed to the nation to take precautionary measures against COVID-19 on the occasion of Eid. APP

CTD Punjab arrests six alleged terrorists

Raja Furqan Ahmed

LAHORE: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on Saturday arrested six alleged terrorists across Punjab including two from Lahore and recovered ammunition from their possession.

According to the CTD officials, the arrested terrorists were identified as Wahid Bhatti, Jameel Ur Rehman, Mohammad Abdullah, Mohsin Khursheed, Imran Khan and Kashif Ali. The CTD teams arrested four terrorists from five districts of Punjab and two from the metropolis of Lahore.

The counter-terrorism teams also recovered arms, ammunition, and explosive material from their possession. While the investigation is underway with the suspects at an unidentified location.

VCIUB felicitates nation on Eid



Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University Bahawalpur Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob in his special message on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha has congratulated the people of the country, teachers and students.

He said that this Eid is a sacrifice and reminds us of the great sacrifice that Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) made to please Allah Almighty. The purpose of life is not only to live for ourselves but also to bring happiness to all human beings and to alleviate their suffering in order to gain the pleasure of Allah Almighty. The current economic challenges in the world are also facing our country.

The Vice Chancellor appealed to all the people of the country to dedicate themselves on the occasion of Eid with the spirit of sacrifice, selflessness, love and patriotism and work together to face the economic and social challenges facing the country. Allah Almighty will make us prosperous in this world and in the hereafter. May Allah be our supporter and helper.

IUB to conduct training courses



Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Training courses will be conducted to highlight leadership skills among the students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

In this regard an agreement was signed to train youth leaders. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and Hassan Bashir, Head, Youth Impact. Director Students Affairs Rizwan Majeed, Faculty Members Irtaza Nawaz, Shaheer Hassan Rizvi, Director IUB Students Societies Dr. Azhar Hussain, Focal Person Shoaib Manzoor were present on the occasion.

According to the agreement, full scholarships will be provided to the high potential students of Islamia University Bahawalpur. Youth Impact will be enhanced in their ability to develop social leadership and peace-building skills of the young students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. Youth Impact will connect youth with Youth Impact Mentors and a nationwide network of alumni for their personal and professional development.

FWMC completes cleanliness arrangements on Eid

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Waste Management Company (FWMC) has made cleanliness arrangements on Eid.

As many as 40 awareness camps are fully active in different areas of the city while cleanliness teams are also engage in washing of mosques and Eidgahs.

Chief Executive Office Bilal Feroz on Saturday visited awareness camps set up in Clock Tower Chowk, Tariqabad, D-ground, Gulbers and other areas, and distributed bags among people.

He appealed citizens to coordinate with the FWMC staff for disposal of offal of sacrificial animals and keep environment clean.

He said in order to register complaints people could contact helpline 1139.

51 prisoners released from central jail

FAISALABAD: As many as 51 prisoners were released from the Central Jail after 30 days remission on Eid-ul-Azha given by Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz.

Jail Superintendent Chaudhry Asghar Ali on Saturday said 43 prisoners were released under the announcement of the Punjab government while eight others involved in minor cases were released by the jail authority.

Eight held with narcotics, weapons

SIALKOT: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested eight accused and recovered narcotics and weapons.

According to police, officials conducted raids and arrested Yaqoob, Salman, Asad Mehmood, Ahsan, Hassan, Zulfikar Ali, Sikandar Ali and Binyamin besides recovering 2.5-kg hashish, 24 liters of liquor and weapons.

Police had sent the accused behind bars after registering cases.

Monsoon

KARACHI: People struggle to move forward in a flooded street after heavy monsoon rains a road in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Bushra, Adnan star in SeePrime's short film "Mujrim"

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: One of Pakistan's fastest growing digital media platforms; SeePrime, will be releasing its latest production 'Mujrim', directed by Seraj Us Salikin on their YouTube channel, on Friday July 8th, 2022.

The new short film written by Hammad Siddiq follows the story of a dacoit who has held an elderly woman hostage in her house. As the burglar begins to rob her of all her valuable items, the woman in return makes him an offer with a potentially deadly outcome.

Mujrim features big names from the Pakistani media industry and their star-studded cast consists of Bushra Ansari and Adnan Shah Tipu as the leading characters of this thriller.

Ms. Seemeen Naveed, the executive producer stated "The idea behind this short film is to bring into life the concept that we never know what cards the person in front of us hold. In a time and era where egos run high and underestimation of one another runs rampant, this film aims to reinvent



the age-old saying 'never judge a book by its cover' through a thrilling and drastic tale. As with all of SeePrime's shorts, we hope to provide content that sparks introspection and a positive change in our society."

"Mujrim" is set to release at 06:00 PM on Friday, July 8, 2022 - and will be available for viewing on SeePrime's official YouTube channel.

Multan Police finalizes security plan for Eid-UL-Azha

MULTAN: City police have finalized security plan for Eid-UL-Adha as more than 2344 police officials would be deployed on security duty to maintain law and order situation across the district.

According to police sources, a total of 1837 police gatherings would be organized in the district out of which 50 have been declared sensitive. The police have decided to make special arrangements at sensitive places in order to prevent in untoward incident.

As per directives of the City Police Officer (CPO) Khurram Shahzad Haider, special pickets have been set up in the city while Dolphin Force, Muhafiz Squad and Elite Force officials would continue patrolling in the city. The police have decided to ensure tight security arrangements at recreational points while the security arrangements would be monitored by the city police officer.

The CPO Khurram Shahzad Haider has urged masses to cooperate with police by informing police in case of any suspicious activity around them.

Ismaili community celebrates 65th anniversary of Aga Khan's Imam

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

THATTA: Over 3000 Shia Ismaili Muslims, followers of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan living in different areas of district Thatta and Sujawal are celebrating 65th anniversary of accession to Imam (Spiritual leadership) of the community known for promoting the concept of community development, pluralism and cosmopolitan ethics.

Reliable sources within the community revealed that different events are being held within the community to mark this historic occasion.

The celebrations that have begun from July 1st will continue till July 15 in different villages of Shia Ismaili community in both districts. Jubilant community members from vari-

ous areas shared their feelings about what they called an auspicious occasion of their lives.

Adel a youth from Hussain Abad village of Sujawal belonging to this community while talking to Spokesman said that they were busy cleaning and decorating village ahead of the mega event that would be held across the world where ever their community had been living to pay tribute to their spiritual leader for his relentless services to humanity adding that different communities of the country had sought inspiration from the work of Ismaili community in different sectors.

28 years Old Basit from Muhammad Abad Village of District Thatta said that their leader had always emphasised on unity, interfaith harmony and

living our lives as per the teachings of Islam adding that they were trying to give their complete efforts for the progress of Pakistan even in these hard times.

Prince Karim Aga Khan is grandson of Sir Sultan Muhammad Shah who played a pivotal role in Pakistan's independent movement and went on to become fist President of All-India Muslim League in 1906 and then of leagues of Nation in 1935 by securing majority votes. Besides being a highly influential Muslim leader Sir Sultan Muhammad Shah Aga Khan was 48th spiritual leader of Shia Ismaili Muslims and his grandson Prince Karim Aga Khan succeeded him as 49th spiritual leader of the community on 11th July 1957.

According to a survey conducted

by this correspondent around 4 Aga Khan Schools and 9 health facilities are being managed and administered by this community apart from it Aga Khan Agency for habitat has adamantly assisted district government Thatta in rescue operations during cyclone of 1999, heavy rains of 2003 and flash flood of 2010.

Former District Health Officer Sujawal Dr Shahenaz Hashmani confirmed that volunteers from Shia Ismaili Community rendered their services during COVID-19 Vaccination drive.

An official of the community organisation revealed that Ismaili scouts and girl guide planted around 300 saplings in different areas of District Thatta in coordination with district forest department.

All set for celebrating Eid across Sindh

SUKKUR: All is set for celebrating Eid-ul-Azha in Sukkur, Khairpur, Ghotki, Noshaheroferoze, Shikarpur, Jaccababad, Kashmir - Kandhkot, Noshaheroferoze and other districts of the northern Sindh on Sunday with religious fervor and enthusiasm.

The day will begin with special prayers in mosques for the peace and progress of Pakistan and the Muslim Ummah. The Sukkur residents have prepared themselves to offer Eid prayers in the morning. There are large congregations to be held in the Sukkur for Eid prayers. After offering the Eid prayers, the faithful will sacrifice animals to mark the 10th of Zilhaj.

Eid-ul-Azha is the festival of sacrifice to be celebrated at the end of the Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah and it commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's (A.S.) readiness to sacrifice his son

to show obedience to Allah.

There are 1143 Masjid, 63 Imam bargahs, 27 Eid congregations where the Eid prayers would be offered and 36 places where combined sacrifices of the animals would take place as well as 58 camps of hides collection through the Sukkur division. The local administrations have chalked out special security arrangements in their respective districts, especially for Sukkur on the Eid-ul-Azha to avert any untoward incident.

The Municipal administration in different talukas has also made special arrangements for the disposal of offal and other waste generated during the slaughtering of animals.

The Sukkur Municipal Corporation has made final arrangements in all six districts for the lifting of the offal and cleanliness of their respective areas during Eid-ul-Azha.

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G7 vs BRICS: The economic alliances

Ramzy Baroud

The G7 summit in Elmau, Germany, June 26-28, and the Nato summit in Madrid, Spain, two days later, were practically useless in terms of providing actual solutions to global crises — the war in Ukraine, the looming famines, climate change and more. But the two events were important, nonetheless, as they provide a stark example of the impotence of the West, amid the rapidly changing global dynamics.

While Nato will continue to fight for relevance, Russia, China, and others will invest in various economic, political and even military infrastructures, in the hope of creating a permanent and sustainable counterbalance to Western dominance.

China and others understand that the current conflict is not about Ukraine vs Russia, but about something far more consequential. If Washington and Europe emerge victorious, and if Moscow is pushed back behind the proverbial 'iron curtain', Beijing would have no other options but to make painful concessions to the re-emerging West. This, in turn, would place a cap on China's global economic growth, and would weaken its case regarding the One China policy.

This is precisely why Beijing did not join the chorus of western condemnations of Russia. Though the actual war in Ukraine is of no direct benefit to China, the geopolitical outcomes of the war could be critical to the future of China as a global power.

Indeed, the Brics are beginning to see themselves as a direct competitor to the G7. The fact that Argentina and Iran are applying for Brics membership also illustrates that the economic alliance is morphing into a political, in fact geopolitical, entity.

Russian oil revenue

Four months into the invasion of Ukraine, the Russian army continues to grind its way relentlessly through the Donbas region. Some Western commentators are calling for more weapons to be supplied faster to Ukrainian forces. According to Avril Haines, the US Director of National Intelligence, there is no prospect for the military conflict to end soon. It makes sense, therefore, to target the economics of Putin's regime and his ability to wage a prolonged war — or a repeated series of wars against Ukraine and potentially others. And here, Putin has a major strategic vulnerability: Russia's overdependence on fossil-fuel exports, which generate almost all of its foreign-currency inflows — nearly €100bn (\$104bn) in the first 100 days of the war.

Consider how the world would react if Russia were to use nuclear weapons against civilian populations anywhere. The horror of that atrocity would immediately result in every country with a conscience refusing to buy oil (or anything else) from Russia. Putin's revenue would collapse, the rouble would depreciate rapidly, and inflation likely would rampage across Russia. It is very unlikely the Russian regime would be able to continue fighting on that basis. Without exports, a country has no hard currency — and no way to buy supplies of any kind from abroad.

Why, then, is the world unwilling to take such measures immediately under current conditions, when Putin's forces are targeting and killing unarmed civilians on a massive scale? The list of atrocities is already long and appalling: the dead and tortured in Bucha, the bridge at Irpin, the railway station in Kramatorsk, the maternity hospital and theatre (clearly marked as sheltering children) in Mariupol, and most recently the missile attack on a shopping mall in Kremenchuk?

For some countries at least, enough Ukrainian children have already died. And Putin's aggression must come to an end eventually. So, why not stop buying Russian oil now?

The main reason is that limiting the quantity of Russian oil exports could backfire. The pressing task is to reduce Russian oil revenues, but such a measure, it is feared, could push up the world price of oil (which is priced in dollars) and boost Putin's dollar earnings, even if Russia's export volume falls.

To their credit, G7 leaders took on this issue directly by endorsing, at least in general terms, a potential cap on the price that Russia receives. Russian oil exports can continue but at a lower price than they would otherwise. In effect, the G7 is proposing to create what some are calling an Inverse-Opec — a coalition that would directly target and squeeze Putin's oil revenue. Some experts argue that oil prices will increase anyway or that the cap will lead to unintended side effects.

The price cap is a new idea, and any such policy innovation requires working out many details. There is also an international coalition to be built. But what is being asked of countries like India and China is quite reasonable: Demand a bigger discount on the oil they are already receiving from Russia. If a price cap doesn't work, there are two options. The first is to give up and let Putin win. The second option is what smart policymakers always do when the system is on the line — try again, adjust the approach, and bring more pressure. If you don't like the G7's plan for a price cap, now is a good time to put forward your own recommendations.

Absorbing energy transition shock

Owen Gaffney

Russia's war on Ukraine has sent shockwaves around the world. Oil prices have skyrocketed and food prices have soared, causing political instability. The last time food prices were this volatile, riots erupted across the Arab world and from Burkina Faso to Bangladesh. This time, the energy and food shock is happening against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic. When will the shocks end?

They won't. So, we can choose either resignation and despair, or a policy agenda to build social and political resilience against future shocks. Those are our options, and we had better start taking them seriously, because the shocks are likely to get worse. On top of geopolitical crises, the climate emergency will bring even greater disruptions, including ferocious floods, mega-droughts, and possibly even a simultaneous crop failure in key grain-producing regions worldwide. It is worth noting that India, the world's second-largest wheat producer, recently banned exports as part of its response to a devastating heatwave this spring.

But here's the thing: reducing vulnerability to shocks, for example, by embarking on energy and food revolutions, will also be disruptive. The energy system is the foundation of industrialised economies, and it needs to be overhauled to phase out fossil fuels within a few decades. Huge industries like coal and oil will have to contract, and then disappear. And agriculture, transportation, and other sectors will need to change radically to become more sustainable and resilient.

The challenge for politicians, then, is clear: to devise fair policies that protect people from the inevitable shocks.

One idea with significant potential is a Citizen's Fund, which would follow a straightforward

and fee-and-dividend equation. Companies that emit greenhouse-gas emissions or extract natural resources would pay fees into the fund, which would then distribute equal payments to all citizens, creating an economic cushion during a period of transformation and beyond.

This is not just an idea. In 1976, the Republican governor of Alaska, Jay Hammond, established the Alaska Permanent Fund, which charges companies a fee to extract oil and then disburses the proceeds equally to all the state's citizens. In 2021, each eligible Alaskan received \$1,114 — not as a "welfare payment" but as a dividend from a state commons (in this case, a finite supply of oil). The largest dividend ever paid was during Republican Sarah Palin's governorship in 2008, when every Alaskan enjoyed a windfall of \$3,269.

In 2017, James Baker and George Shultz, two former Republican secretaries of state, proposed a similar plan for the whole United States, estimating that fees on carbon emissions would yield a dividend of \$2,000 per year to every US household. With backing from 3,500 economists, their scheme has broad appeal not just among companies and environmental-advocacy groups but also (and more incredibly) across the political aisle.

The economics is simple. A fee on carbon drives down emissions by driving up the price of polluting. And though companies would pass on these costs to consumers, the wealthiest would be the hardest hit, because they are by far the biggest, fastest-growing source of emissions. The poorest, meanwhile, would gain the most from the dividend, because \$2,000 means a lot more to a low-income household than it does to a high-income household. In the end, most people would come out ahead.

But given that food- and energy-price shocks tend to hit low-income cohorts the hardest, why make the dividend univer-

sal? The reason is that a policy of this scale needs both broad-based and lasting support, and people are far more likely to support a programme or policy if there is at least something in it for them.

Moreover, a Citizen's Fund is not just a way to drive down emissions and provide an economic safety net for the clean-energy transition. It would also foster innovation and creativity, by providing a floor of support for the entrepreneurs and risk-takers we will need to transform our energy and food systems.

A Citizen's Fund could also be expanded to include other global commons, including mining and other extractive industries, plastics, the ocean's resources, and even knowledge, data, and networks. All involve shared commons — owned by all — that are exploited by businesses that should be required to pay for the negative externalities they create.

Of course, a universal basic dividend is not a panacea. It must be part of larger plan to build societies that are more resilient to shocks, including through greater efforts to redistribute wealth by means of progressive taxation and empowerment of workers. To that end, Earth4All, an initiative I co-lead, is developing a suite of novel proposals that we see as the most promising pathways to build cohesive societies that are better able to make long-term decisions for the benefit of the majority.

Our most important finding is perhaps the most obvious, but it is also easy to overlook. Whether we do the bare minimum to address the grand challenges or everything we can to build resilient societies, disruption and shocks are part of our future. Embracing disruption is thus the only option and a Citizen's Fund becomes an obvious shock absorber.

The writer is an analyst at the Stockholm Resilience Centre and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. Courtesy Gulf Times



NATO & New Middle East

Luke Coffey

One aspect of the recent NATO summit in Madrid that received less attention than it deserved was the publication of the new Strategic Concept, the policy guide for the Western alliance's leaders into the future. The last one was published in 2010 and was woefully out of date.

With the focus of NATO's leaders and policymakers concentrated on central and eastern Europe, Ukraine, and Russia, there is a risk that other regions of the world that are important to the alliance might be overlooked. One of these regions is the Middle East and North Africa.

Whether it is regional terrorism emanating from extremist groups or the threat of nuclear proliferation in Iran, NATO members share many of the same security concerns as the countries of the MENA region. Furthermore, many of the countries in this region have demonstrated a willingness to cooperate with NATO and have even contributed troops to NATO-led missions in the past. The alliance should be finding ways to build on these relationships.

Regrettably, there was barely any attention given to the MENA region in the newly published Strategic Concept. In fact, in a document that is just over 4,200 words long, only one paragraph of about 80 words was devoted to the MENA region. Furthermore, NATO's two main platforms on which it engages with the MENA region, the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul cooperation initiative, were not mentioned at all.

The former, launched in 1994, forms the basis of NATO's relations with its Mediterranean partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. Although talks generally take place on a bilateral basis, between NATO and a single Mediterranean partner (NATO+1), on occasion the forum meets as NATO+7, placing Israel at the same table as some of its regional neighbors, where it would otherwise not be.

The Istanbul initiative, launched in 2004, is the basis of NATO's relations with the Gulf states. Although all six members of the GCC were invited to join, only

Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE have done so.

First, NATO should appoint a special representative for the MENA region, where personal relationships are paramount. It should appoint a highly respected diplomat with knowledge of the region to be an enduring point of contact between the alliance and the region.

Second, NATO should actively push to enlarge the memberships of the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul initiative. In particular, it should include countries where US and European blood and treasure have been invested, such as Iraq and Libya. The more cooperation, the better. With the success of the Abraham Accords, NATO should also explore ways to bring Israel and Arab states together for more training exercises and security cooperation.

Finally, neither the Mediterranean Dialogue nor the Istanbul initiative has formally met during a NATO summit at the heads of government level. It was announced in Madrid that NATO will hold another summit next year. When this happens, NATO should include high-level meetings for both the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul initiative. This would send a strong message that NATO appreciates the geopolitical importance of the MENA region.

Even with all the challenges posed by Russia, NATO's lack of focus on the MENA region is puzzling. According to the 1949 North Atlantic Treaty, the alliance's area of focus is "the North Atlantic area, north of the Tropic of Cancer." Every country generally considered to be in the MENA region, minus Yemen, has territory north of the Tropic of Cancer — and therefore is in NATO's area of focus.

Furthermore, history and recent events show that what happens in the region can quickly spill over into Europe. Closer ties between NATO and the MENA region will make everyone safer and more secure. In many ways, the lack of attention paid to the MENA region in the Strategic Concept was a missed opportunity.

As NATO starts preparing for its next summit in 2023, policymakers must take appropriate steps now to get the MENA region on to the agenda.

The writer is a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. Courtesy Arab News

