



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
زینب رضی اللہ عنہا نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کو سرسبز فرماتے تھے کہ کسی عورت کے لیے جو اللہ اور آخرت کے دن پر ایمان رکھتی ہو وہ جاکر نہیں کہ کسی میت پر تین دن سے زیادہ سوگ منانے، صرف شوہر کے لیے چار مہینے دس دن کا سوگ ہے۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5335)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Ahsan express satisfaction with recent IMF package

Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday expressed satisfaction with the recent IMF package, which alleviated concerns of an immediate default. However, he emphasized that the deal should be considered as a temporary relief and merely a breather, rather than a lasting solution.

Religious minister urges unity among believers of all religions

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor on Monday said there was a fierce conflict between religious and secular sections of society in today's era. Talking to a 20-member delegation of Sikh community that called on him here in the ministry, he said believers of all religions should unite at one platform and highlight the virtues of their religions in appropriate manners on the globe. (Report on Page 3)

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10th Anniversary of CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chargée d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad Ms Pang Chunxue, and federal ministers cutting a cake marking the 10th anniversary of the signing of the agreement for CPEC on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

CPEC's 10 years transformed Pakistan's development landscape: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) played a key role in transforming the development landscape of Pakistan with the launch of several multi-billion dollar projects.

Addressing a ceremony here to mark a decade of the signing of CPEC, the prime minister said the mega project helped Pakistan progress in the region and the world.

PM Sharif said the country ushered in a new era of development with the completion of hundreds of projects under the umbrella of CPEC, including coal-fired power plants, the Orange Line mass transit project, and road infrastructure. "The CPEC is all about a story of hard work and untiring commitment between the leadership of Pakistan and China," he said.

Sharif recalled that in July 2013, then-Prime Minister



Nawaz Sharif visited Beijing, where he signed an agreement pledging to develop a long-term plan for the CPEC.

"On July 5, 2013, we witnessed the memorable signing ceremony of CPEC, where President Xi Jinping and PM Nawaz Sharif inked the milestone accord," he said.

Terming CPEC a "very transparent" project, the prime minister

said the Chinese government and companies made investments of \$25.4 billion investment in various projects.

He said thousands of Chinese workers along with their Pakistani counterparts worked day and night to create a history of commitment and exuberance of goodwill between the two sides.

He commended President Xi for his unstinting support of the

CPEC for the well-being of the people of Pakistan.

He also highlighted the dedication of Pakistan Muslim League leader Nawaz Sharif and his team including Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers, saying their great job would be remembered for all times to come.

Sharif expressed confidence that CPEC would make a big kickstart in various areas including agriculture, Special Economic Zones, Information Technology, and exploration of mineral resources.

He regretted that the previous government created misconceptions about the project which resulted in its slow implementation.

The prime minister thanked President Xi and the Chinese government for supporting Pakistan especially when it awaited the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He hoped that the agreement would be given final approval during IMF's board meeting on July 12.

Following the IMF deal, he said, Pakistan was secure after averting default and termed it an opportunity for the country to progress.

"We need to work hard and save the poor people from inflation. Affluent need to play a role in this regard," he said.

He pledged to fulfill the conditions of the IMF which were earlier violated by the previous government.

He also acknowledged the financial support by China including the rollover of its loans and mentioned the backing by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Islamic Development Fund in helping Pakistan overcome its financial crisis.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and Chinese Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue were present.

Three soldiers embrace martyrdom in suicide blast in North Waziristan



Adam Khan Wazir

RAWALPINDI: Three soldiers of Pakistan Army embraced "Shahadat", while three innocent civilians got critically injured when a vehicle borne suicide bomber exploded himself in general area Miran Shah, North Waziristan District on Wednesday.

According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release issued here, Subedar Sahib Khan (age 41 years, resident of Mianwali), Naik Muhammad Ibrahim (age 40

years, resident of Dera Ismail Khan) and Sepoy Jehangir Khan (age 24 years, resident of Mardan) embraced shahadat.

The suicide bomber intended targeting the security forces' post, however, timely interception of the suicide bomber on suspicion by on-duty soldiers prevented a major catastrophe.

Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve, the ISPR press release added.

Pakistan, Turkiye engage in 6th round of bilateral political consultations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 6th round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Turkiye is being held in Ankara on Wednesday (July 5).

Foreign Secretary, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan will lead the Pakistan delegation while the Turkish side will be led by Deputy Foreign Minister, Burak Akcapar, according to a spokesperson of the Foreign Office.

The two sides will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations encompassing the political, economic, security, social and cultural dimensions.

Review of the various institutional mechanisms including the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) and



the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) would be undertaken.

Developments in the region and cooperation at the multi-lateral fora would also come for discussion. These consultations would set the stage for the next round of the HLSCC, to be held in Islamabad.

Pakistan-Turkiye relationship is underpinned by abiding bonds of religion, culture and history. Regular high-level consultations remain a defining feature of this strategic partnership.

China denounces Quran desecration act in Sweden, says it opposes any form of Islamophobia

News Desk

BELJING: China has strongly denounced the Holy Quran desecration act in Sweden and said it, "Opposes any form of Islamophobia and acknowledges the important contribution made by the Islamic civilization for the world."

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning in a press briefing said that the faith and religious feelings of Muslims should be respected and so-called freedom of speech should not be used as a reason to incite civilization

attack different religious beliefs and provoke a clash of civilizations.

Mao said. China-proposed Global Civilization Initiative called for the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilizations, and let cultural exchanges transcend estrangement, mutual learning



clash and create a confrontation. Mao was responding to the Holy Quran desecration incident in Sweden which prompted strong criticism from Arab and Muslim countries.

She said that China has always advocated mutual respect, inclusiveness and understanding among different civilizations, and resolutely opposed extremist acts that

transcends clashes, and inclusiveness transcends any sense of superiority, Mao noted.

China is ready to work with the international community to promote the spirit of the Global Civilization Initiative and take concrete actions to promote dialogue among civilizations and jointly safeguard the diversity of world civilizations, Mao said.

Iran's accession vital step for Iran, SCO: ex-secretary-general



News Desk

BELJING: Former secretary-general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Bolat Nurgaliyev has said Iran's accession is an important step for both Iran and the SCO.

"When an international organization has many countries wishing to join, it can prove the increasing authority and attractiveness of the organization.

Therefore, the decision to admit the Islamic Republic of Iran as a formal member

of the SCO is not only an important step for Iran but also for the entire SCO," he told CGTN.

Terming China as the main advocate for the establishment of the SCO, he said that China has made significant and invaluable contributions to the establishment and formulation of operating principles for the organization.

"While commenting on Iran's admission into the SCO family, Director, Institute of Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences," Sun Zhuangzhi said that the principle of the SCO is very clear.

The organization is open and does not target third parties, nor will it establish military and political alliances.

PTI's own people exposed Panama conspiracy, only Nawaz Sharif can resolve country's problems: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf's own people had exposed the Panama conspiracy.

Addressing a press conference here, she said that characters behind that conspiracy pushed the country towards multiple crises by imposing an incompetent and inefficient person at the helm of affairs.

The minister said that the solution of Pakistan's problems lied only with Nawaz Sharif who served three times as Prime Minister.

"During the Nawaz Sharif era, the economy was stabilized, he gave the people a gift of China Pakistan Economic Corridor", she said adding that great injustice was done to the person who had done great service to the country as prime minister.



News Desk

Taking a jibe at Imran, she said the shadowy figures and characters who were burning the country today, stood on the container to stop the CPEC project in 2013-14.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said on that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif was disqualified under a conspiracy when "Panama verdict was changed to Iqama."

During the press conference, she played a video clip of senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf leader and legal wizard Hamid Khan who told a private TV channel that it appeared that the decision to disqualify Nawaz Sharif in Iqama case was done some-

where else.

She said similar statements had also been given by former interior minister and senior PTI leader Syed Ijaz Shah who were not related to PML-N in any way.

She said that Nawaz Sharif was deposed as Prime Minister through a conspiracy but the country and the masses suffered the most.

The minister said that for the last one year, the coalition government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had been trying to revive the country's economy destroyed during 4 years misrule of the PTI.

The present regime was also striving to overcome unemployment, load shedding and terrorism which hit the country during Imran Khan's tenure, she added.

During the last four years, incompetent and inefficient rulers of the past pushed the country towards total destruction.

Shahadat anniversary

SWABI (KP): Commander Peshawar Corps along with Inspector General Frontier Corps (North) and Commander Force Command Northern Areas laid floral wreath at Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed's mausoleum in his native town.



Photo: ISPR

24th Shahadat anniversary of Captain Karnal Sher Khan observed

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: 24th Shahadat anniversary of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider was observed today.

Commander Peshawar Corps along with Inspector General Frontier Corps (North) and Commander Force Command Northern Areas

laid floral wreath at Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed's mausoleum in his native town Swabi (KP).

A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented guard of honour.

People from different walks of life, civil and military officials and relatives of Shuhada attended the wreath laying ceremony.

COP28 President to visit Pakistan on Sherry Rehman's invitation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The incumbent government will welcome the President of COP28 and UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology H. E. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, on July 6 as a distinguished state guest for a day-long official visit.

This is the outcome of an official invitation extended by Senator, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Sherry Rehman aimed to share the country's progress on climate and environmental goals ahead of the COP28 conference in UAE, and build common ground for the global stock-take ahead in the context of

Pakistan's accelerated climate stress, said a press release on Wednesday.

Minister Al Jaber will call upon Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during the official visit. The meeting will focus on Pakistan's climate adaptation challenges, specifically its vulnerability to climate-induced disasters, and the need for enabling greater international cooperation at the upcoming COP28 in UAE.

H. E. Mr. Sultan Al Jaber will be accompanied by the UAE Chief Climate Negotiator for both COP27 and COP28 Hana Sayed Mohammad Alhashimi, as well as Majid Al Suwaidi, the Director-General and Special Representative of COP28.

Saudi Arabia says teamwork with Russia is strong

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Russia-Saudi oil cooperation is still going strong as part of the OPEC+ alliance, which will do "whatever necessary" to support the market, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman told a conference on Wednesday.

OPEC+, a group comprising the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia which pumps around 40% of the world's crude, has been cutting oil output since November in the face of flagging prices.

Saudi Arabia and Russia, the world's biggest oil exporters, deepened oil supply cuts on Monday in an effort to send prices higher.

Yet the move only briefly lifted the market. On Wednesday, benchmark Brent futures were down more than 1% at \$75.30 per barrel, lower than the \$80-\$100 per barrel than most OPEC nations need to balance their budgets.

OPEC says it does not have a price target and is seeking to have a balanced



oil market to meet the interests of both consumers and producers.

The United States, the biggest oil producer outside OPEC+, has repeatedly called on the group to boost production to help the global economy and has criticised Saudi cooperation with Russia after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

But Riyadh has repeatedly rebuffed U.S. calls and Prince Abdulaziz said on Wednesday that new joint oil output cuts agreed by Russia and Saudi Arabia this week have again proven sceptics wrong.

"Part of what we have done (on Monday) with the help of our colleagues from Russia was also to mitigate the cynical side of the specta-

tor on what is going on between Saudi and Russia on that specific matter," Prince Abdulaziz said.

"It is quite telling seeing us on Monday coming out with not only our (oil cut) extension... but also with validation from the Russian side," he told a meeting of oil industry CEOs with ministers from OPEC and allies, known as the OPEC International Seminar.

OPEC has withheld media access to reporters from Reuters, Bloomberg and the Wall Street Journal to cover the event, which was partly broadcast online.

After the end of the broadcast, Prince Abdulaziz told the seminar that OPEC+ would do "whatever necessary" to support the market, according to a source who attended the meeting.

The International Energy Agency has said it expects the oil market to tighten in the second half of 2023, partly because of OPEC+ cuts.

Analysts at Morgan Stanley on Wednesday cut their oil price forecast, saying that while they anticipated a

decrease in stocks in 2023 they forecast a surplus in the first half of 2024, with non-OPEC supply growing faster than demand.

Additional oil cuts should be enough to help balance the oil market, United Arab Emirates' energy minister Suhail Al Mazrouei told reporters on Wednesday.

"This (the latest addition output cuts) is enough to assess the market and look at the market balance," Mazrouei told reporters.

He said the UAE would not be contributing to fresh cuts as it was already producing well below its capacity.

"There's a bigger thing... I'm seeing a lack of investments in many countries. We will have to invite maybe newcomers to come and join the group. The more countries we have... the easier the job... to ensure that the world has enough oil in the future," Mazrouei said.

"Imagine if we had 60% of the producers or 80% of the producers... We will definitely do a better job."

PM Shehbaz Sharif, son file acquittal pleas in money laundering reference

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son, Hamza Shehbaz on Wednesday filed a plea for acquittal in a money laundering case.

According to the details, Advocate Amjad Pervaiz, representing Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz, submitted the applications on their behalf. The legal team emphasized that the NAB reference was false and fabricated, lacking any substantial evidence.

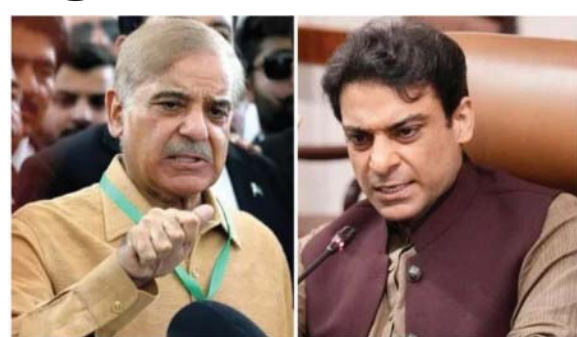
The plea stated that all their assets were duly declared as per the law and were transparent-

ly recorded in both the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the Election Commission.

The petitioner asserted that the NAB failed to provide any concrete evidence to support the allegations of money laundering.

Furthermore, the legal team argued that there was no possibility of proving the case against Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz. They strongly urged the court to acquit both individuals from the reference, considering the lack of substantial evidence against them.

It is pertinent to mention



here that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) declared Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his family members in a money laundering reference.

The NAB submitted supplementary report of the money laundering reference against the PM and his family in the accountability court. Judge

Qamar-uz-Zaman adjourned further hearing of the case until May 24.

Last year in October, an accountability court had acquitted Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz in money laundering case.

The judge of the special court Central-I Ijaz Hassan Awan announced the verdict related to the acquittal of Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz in the case.

In November 2020, the FIA had lodged FIR against Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz for alleged Rs25 billion money laundering.

Bushra Bibi skips ACE appearance in corruption case

News Desk

OKARA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's wife Bushra Bibi has skipped her appearance before the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) in development projects corruption case.

Bushra Bibi skipped ACE's appearance in the development projects' corruption case today. She was summoned to the ACE Okara office.

ACE Deputy Director Malik Tasawwur Hussain told the media that the investigators waited for Bushra Bibi till 4:00 pm. He added that the former first lady is accused of illegally awarding contracts to blue-eyed contractors for development projects in her village.

Hussain said that Bushra Bibi's no-show is considered as her absence. He added that the former first lady is going to appear before the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday in the same case.

Earlier, the call-up notice was also received by her lawyers Ali Bhutta and Owais. She has been summoned to the ACE Okara office. In case of her absence, legal action will be taken against the accused.

PTI chief nominated in GHQ attack, other cases

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan has been nominated in first information reports (FIRs) registered against May 9 riots and attack on military's General Headquarter (GHQ).

According to details, the former prime minister has been nominated in cases - May 9 riots, vandalism of state properties and GHQ attack - registered at police stations RA Bazar and New Town.

The case of attack on military's General Headquarter was registered in RA Bazar police station. 15 people including PTI leader Raja Bashaar were already nominated in the case.

Earlier in June, it was reported that the investigators had identified 41 people from the United Kingdom (UK),

States (US) and Canada who were directly involved in inciting and facilitating May 9 riots.

Sources told that most suspects were associated with a political party and its office bearers and workers. The identification of the suspects was made through photos and videos in which they chanted anti-Pakistan slogans and incited people to participate in anti-state activities.

Three out of 41 suspects included office bearers of a political party in the UK, whereas, 12 among them were residing in London and are usually seen standing outside Avenfield House.

In Canada, the suspects included eight office bearers of the political party who are also its supporters and financiers. One of the office bearers in Ottawa was found involved in planning to throw shoes on the government minis-

ters during their visits to the US and Canada.

In the United States, one of the six suspects was identified as an office bearer of the political party's New York chapter and the other five persons are activists.

Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan were arrested at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday.

The protests were held in remote and major cities of Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order.

Army installations and Corps Commander's house in Lahore came under attack during a protest by PTI workers. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Ali Nasir Rizvi sustained severe injuries while clearing.

Govt vows to promote religious tourism across country: Dr Ramesh

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Chairman of Prime Minister's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani on Wednesday said the government was committed to promoting religious tourism across the country.

Presiding over the 'Round Table Conference' under the auspices of Prime Minister's Task Force for Gandhara Tourism in honour of ambassadors of various countries here, the minister said that a three-day international conference will be held next week from July 11. The arrangements for holding the Gandhara Symposium in Islamabad have been finalized.

He apprised that the chief guest of the conference would be Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilaw-



al Bhutto Zardari while participants from Buddhist-majority countries including Korea, China, Sri Lanka and Thailand will be present on the occasions.

Dr Ramesh Kumar said the colorful cultural event of Gandhara Media Awards will be held on next week on July 12 (Wednesday) at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) auditorium, which is also a part of the global conference.

Mohsin Naqvi made an emergency visit to different parts of Lahore City

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab made an emergency visit of different parts of Lahore in torrential rain. Mohsin Naqvi by giving up all his other official engagements reviewed the situation arising out of torrential rain and issued on the spot directions to Commissioner Lahore division and MD WASA for water drainage work. Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the situation arising out of rain in Qaddafi Stadium, Gulberg, Liberty, Kalma Chowk Underpass, Garden Town, Ferozpur Road, Qartaba Chowk, Harbanspura Underpass, Lakshmi Chowk, Railway Station, Circular Road, Urdu Bazar, Islampura, Multan Road, Samanabad, Gulshan Ravi, Bund Road, Yateem Khana Chowk and Allama Iqbal Town.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi said that a record rainfall took place in few hours. We have made proactive administration, WASA and all resources are being utilised for water drainage. "I am myself overseeing water drainage work. I am concerned about the difficulties of citizens". Mohsin Naqvi

issued directions to the concerned officials for early water drainage at Harbanspura Underpass. Mohsin Naqvi directed to clear the Harbanspura Underpass as soon as possible.

CM was informed during the briefing on the occasion that water drainage work at Harbanspura Underpass will be completed in 2 hours. Caretaker CM lauded the performance of administration and WASA on early completion of water drainage work at Lakshmi Chowk. Mohsin Naqvi issued directions for drainage of stagnant water through a machinery on the road in front of Urdu Bazar and Islampura. Mohsin Naqvi met with the shopkeepers and residents in Islampura and asked them regarding water drainage.

The citizens complained about sluggish water drainage work in Islampura on which CM Mohsin Naqvi assured early completion of water drainage work and apprised them that he is in the field since morning. "Your difficulty is my difficulty and have issued direction to WASA to expeditiously complete water drainage work by utilising more resources". Mohsin Naqvi



also visited Garden Town, Gulberg and CBD Main Boulevard Underpass.

Mohsin Naqvi inspected Gulberg main pumping station in Gulberg for water drainage and expressed his indignation over showing sluggishness in water drainage work in the Kalma Chowk underpass going towards Liberty. Mohsin Naqvi ordered to take back water drainage work at CBD Main Boulevard from CBD. Mohsin Naqvi directed to hand over water drainage work to WASA.

Mohsin Naqvi asserted that WASA by assuming charge forthwith should complete water drainage work by night. Mohsin Naqvi directed to install more pumps for water drainage work

at CBD Main Boulevard Underpass. Mohsin Naqvi stated that clearance of all projects of Lahore will be conditional with WASA certification in future. Mohsin Naqvi expressed satisfaction over water drainage work in the whole city. Mohsin Naqvi said that water standing in this waterpass tantamounts to negligence. Mohsin Naqvi directed Provincial Housing Minister Azfar Ali to get the work done under his supervision.

Mohsin Naqvi directed Chief Traffic Officer Lahore to make sure all shifts remain present in the field adding that all necessary steps should be taken to maintain traffic flow in the city. Traffic Wardens should perform their duties in a proactive manner in order to help the citizens. Mohsin Naqvi directed to immediately get out stranded in the rain water and no stone should be left unturned in helping the citizens. Provincial Ministers Amir Mir, Azfar Ali Nasir, Secretary Housing, Commissioner Lahore, Deputy Commissioner Lahore, MD WASA and officials of CBD were also present on the occasion.

A meeting held under the chairmanship of DC Tank



Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: In the light of the orders of the provincial government, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Tank Muhammad Shoaib in connection with the arrangements for Muharram.

In which Sunni and Shia Ullamas of the entire district, guardians of Imambargahs, Sunni and Shia elders, business community, political and social personalities participated.

Deputy Commissioner Tank Muhammad Shoaib told all the participants on this occasion that any kind of unnecessary announcements, unnecessary activities, unnecessary use of loudspeakers will be completely banned and strict action will be taken against those who incite the public, provocation and those who violate the restrictions on the part of the administration on unnecessary statements based on religion.

All the participants assured to spend Muharram with dignity and respect and expressed their full cooperation.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Tanveer Khan, Assistant Commissioner Aminullah, Additional Assistant Commissioner Jamshed Alam, Additional Assistant Commissioner Shahab Ahmed Khan and DSP Asghar Ali Shah were also present on this occasion.

Provision of facilities, employment priorities of QWP: Sherpao

Bureau Report



PESHAWAR: Provincial Chairman of Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Sikander Hayat Khan Sherpao has said that the provision of education, health facilities and employment to the youth are the priority of their party.

He expressed these views while addressing a gathering in Union Council Mirza Dher.

On this occasion, the PTI and JUI-F affiliated workers Rahimullah, Tahsinullah, Haji Farhad Gul, Sajjad Gul, Sajid Gul, Qari Fayyaz, Abdul Wadood, Manzar, Qasim Jan, Saddam Hussain, Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, Fuji Khalid Khan, Ghofran Khan, Hayat Khan, Kashif Khan, Tajum-al Shah, Karamat Shah and Ishaq Khan along with their families and associates announced to join the Qaumi Watan Party after expressing their full confidence in the leadership and policies of Sherpao.

Sikander Sherpao recalled that whenever the Qaumi Watan Party got the opportunity, it employed youth to stand them on their own feet.

Expressing concern over price-hike, he demanded the government activate the price control mechanism to control inflation.

Shafiq Shaheed Facilitation Center inaugurated in Ghulam Muhammadabad

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: In the light of the instructions of the Inspector General of Police Punjab and Deputy Inspector General of Police Traffic Punjab ensured the public in continuing to identify the facilities. A Car Driving Training School and Licensing Test Center established in Ghulam Muhammadabad by Chief Traffic Officer Faisalabad Maqsood Ahmed Lone also accompanying with

Circle DSPs Khalid Aleem, Malik Muhammad Javed, Nawaz Ahmed Kamokha, Ejaz Shah and DSP Patrolling Malik Muhammad Amin. This driving school and test center is officially named "Shafiq Shaheed Facilitation Center" after Shaheed Traffic Warden Muhammad Shafiq of City Traffic Police Faisalabad. The families of the martyrs and local dignitaries also participated in the opening ceremony. The inauguration was done by Muhammad Ahad Shafiq (son of Shafiq Shaheed) and prayers were also be offered.

Speaking on this occasion, Chief Traffic Officer Maqsood Ahmed said that the public services are our priorities & dedicatedly this phenomena of positive reinforcement will be continued for the entire satisfaction. He further illuminated that, This project has been completed in a very short period of time and the efforts of the In-charge Establishment City Traffic Police Rana Ali Raza and his team are commendable.

He also informed that, their policy is to provide maximum number of facilities on the doorstep.

Women's University Multan Announced the Admissions for the Session 2023-24

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Women's University has announced the admissions for the session 2023-24, according to the spokesperson, Associate Degree Programs (ADP two-year) BS four-year, BS Post-ADP, BA, BSc two-year MPhil, in the autumn session. Admissions will be made in PhD programs and diploma, 28 subjects for undergraduate and post graduate, 22 subjects for MPhil and 14 subjects for Ph. D. Diplomas in Modeling and Sculpting and Ceramics will be conducted. The last date for submission of applications has been fixed on August 18. Candidates will have to apply online. All the admission details have been released on the university website.

Train operation of Pakistan Railways continues for the passengers

Kashif Minhas

LAHORE: Despite the Heavy Monsoon rain in Lahore, the train operation of Pakistan Railways continues for the passengers.

The current monsoon rains session are continuing. Due to heavy monsoon rain in Lahore, According To Rescue officials today 7 people died due to House Roof

Collapse. Walls and electric Shock and other incidents. According to the Records of Meteorological Department Punjab Rainfall in Today Lahore city broke the record of last 30 years. The maximum rainfall of 292 mm was recorded in Lahore due to the monsoon rains of the current season. The Meteorological Department has predicted more monsoon rains in the month of July.

Passing out parade

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah distributes certificates among the position holders at the 117th passing out parade at Shahid Hayat Police Training College, Saeedabad.



Photo: APP

Adam Mickiewicz University, UAJK forge historic agreement for academic exchange

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: In a significant development, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, and the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) have entered into a groundbreaking Cooperation Agreement aimed to strengthen scientific research endeavors and forge closer ties between the academic communities of both institutions.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Dr. Abdul Rauf Janjua, Director ORIC-UAJK, and Mr. Sowa Powel, Exchange Officer, International Centre, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi,

Dr. Ruta Korytowska Karolina, and other high-ranking officials from both universities at the King Abdullah Campus.

The Cooperation Agreement encompasses various initiatives, including the exchange of academic staff, the organization of engaging summer courses, and facilitating student participation in diverse postgraduate programs. This partnership aims to foster intellectual growth by encouraging the exchange of knowledge and experiences among professors, researchers, and students from both universities.

Notably, the agreement enables joint consultations, reciprocal visits, and thought-provoking lectures by representatives from each university, creating a vibrant platform for shar-

ing insights and expertise. It also offers young academic staff members' invaluable opportunities to present their research findings at conferences and symposia, fostering a dynamic academic environment.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi expressed his optimism, stating that the cooperation agreement between Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir heralds a new era of collaboration, enriching the academic landscapes of both nations.

Dr. Abbasi anticipated that this momentous partnership would pave the way for groundbreaking research, unparalleled educational opportunities, and cultural exchanges that

would shape the academic trajectory of students and scholars.

It is worth mentioning that UAJK is the first university in the country to sign an MoU with a leading Polish university, showcasing its commitment to expanding international collaborations and providing students and faculty with international exposure and quality research ventures.

During their three days visit, the delegation from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań engaged in various academic activities, including seminars, meetings with students, and interactions with faculty members from different disciplines, exploring avenues for future collaboration in areas such as linguistics, geology, and others.

Custom intelligence operation 6.6bn smuggled items recovered: Faiz Ahmad Chadhar

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Acting on the special instructions of Director General Faiz Ahmed Chadhar, strict monitoring of smuggling routes was increased. Additionally, there was success in making cases based on specific information. Among the seized goods are non-customs paid vehicles (51 units), cigarettes (6,768,200 sticks), scrap, dry milk (38 tons), harmful drugs, raincoats, shopping bags (43 tons), cloth (151 tons), blisters (543,996 pouches), Diesel (427,208 litres), pan-prag, unhealthy Chinese salt, tires (6,535 units), mobile phones, engines, auto parts and other items are included.

this year is 48% higher than last year. Following the special instructions of Director General Faiz Ahmed Chadhar, strict monitoring of smuggling routes was increased.

Director Multan Asif Abbas Khan

congratulated the staff on this occasion. The director said that the smuggling network has been broken in southern and central Punjab and no concessions have been made or will be made to achieve this goal. Director General Faiz Ahmed Chadhar attributed this year's excellent performance to the tireless work and efforts of Multan Directorate Officers Director Asif Abbas Khan, Additional Director Dr. Mumtaz Ali Raza Chaudhary, Deputy Directors Atrat Hussain Shah, Muhammad Ali Asif and Ali Tauqeer and staff.

And encouraged the staff and advised them to perform their duties with more courage and diligence in the future.

Three minors among them two brothers drown in Pindigheb

Raza naqvi

ATTOCK: 5th July Three minors among two brothers drowned in a temporary pond in village Parna in the limits of Pindigheb Police station on Wednesday, police sources said. According to Police sources, three children students of Govt primary school Nathial in union council Ikhlash were going home after attending their school. When they reached near their house near Parna- rain water was accumulated in a ditch which was recently dug with excavator for some construction work and turned in to pond due to water accumulation. As they went into the water to beat the heat, they lose control and all of sudden drowned.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:20 am
Zohr	12:12 pm
Asr	5:12 pm
Maghrib	7:22 pm
Isha	9:05 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883

Environment & Climate Change Documentary Series

News Desk

KARACHI: The second season of the documentary series, 'The Voices from the Roof of the World (VRW)', has been selected to participate in the prestigious TV Series Festival Berlin.

The series, produced by Emmy award winner Andrew Tkach, captures the spirit and resilience of the remote communities in the Himalayas who call this region their home, providing an intimate portrayal of their daily lives, traditions, and struggles.

'Voices from the Roof of the World' is a joint initiative of the Aga Khan Development Network agencies: Aga Khan University, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Aga Khan Foundation, and the University of Central Asia. Through this series, select young Asian filmmakers have been trained, mentored and supported to produce groundbreaking environmental films.

The TV Series Festival Berlin is recognized as a leading international platform that celebrates exceptional television series and documentaries. The first season of the 'Voices from the Roof of the World' exploring local climate change solutions in mountainous areas had also won recognition at the TV Series Festival Berlin last year.

Sajid Turi Explores Tourism Opportunities with Chairman of State Tourism Agency

Spokesman Report

BAKU: Federal Minister Sajid Turi along with Secretary overseas Pakistan and human resources development Zulfikar Haider, and Zulfikar Ahmad secretary workers welfare fund held a fruitful meeting with Chairman of the State Tourism Agency, Azerbaijan, Fuad Naghiyev, in Baku to discuss extensive tourism prospects for both countries. The meeting predominantly focused on exploring tourism opportunities in the picturesque northern areas of Pakistan, while also shedding light on religious tourism in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh.

During the meeting, Minister Sajid Turi extended warm invitation to Chairman Fuad Naghiyev to witness Pakistan's firsthand by visiting the coun-

try. This visit will aim to deepen bilateral cooperation between the tourism authorities of Azerbaijan and Pakistan and foster cultural exchange.

The conversation further delved into discussions surrounding the potential for tour operators in Azerbaijan to explore the incomparable beauty of the northern regions of Pakistan. Recognizing the mutual benefits of such collaboration, Minister Sajid Turi accentuated the importance of strengthening ties between the tourism sectors of both nations.

This significant gathering follows in the footsteps of the recent visit by Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Shareef to Azerbaijan, showcasing the growing priority placed on bilateral tourism ties. The exchange of ideas and experiences the two nations to enhance the overall



Minister Sajid Turi and Chairman Fuad Naghiyev shaking hands during their meeting in Baku.

tourism sector by sharing best practices and promoting socio-economic growth through increased international tourism. Furthermore, Minister Sajid Turi underscored the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to promoting tourism with the vision of the Pakistan People's Party.

The government's steadfast dedication towards tourism development mirrors its efforts in job creation, infrastructure development, and sustainable tourism practices.

This meeting between Minister Sajid Turi and Chairman Fuad Naghiyev signifies a progressive step in strengthening the bond between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. As both nations boast rich cultural heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and numerous historical attractions, exploring tourism potentials will undoubtedly pave a path for long-lasting cooperation and exchange.

Group photo

ISLAMABAD: Former Information Minister Mr. Nisar Memon, Mr. Naved Aftab Ahmad, Mr. Rai Riaz and Mr. Nawaz Chaudhry Former ambassador Posing a group photo on the occasion of wedding ceremony of G A Sabri's son.



For economic recovery, the direct flights should be started quickly, Ahsan Bakhtawari

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan is lagging far behind the world in the race of development, which is mainly due to the lack of connectivity at the regional and international level. Pakistan needs to be connected to the region through rail, road and direct air links. PIA has failed to connect Pakistan to the world, the government should announce a fast-track privatization program without wasting more money and capital. Despite its effective presence in various regional and international blocs, Pakistan has not yet been able to benefit at the commercial level.



Work is required on an emergency basis to start direct flights.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, he said that Pakistan has lagged far behind in the race of development at which the world is moving forward. In today's world, no country can develop alone, but now interests can be protected through blocs and regions and this is the

main source of economic development. Regions like the European Union and ASEAN are great examples in this regard. These regions have accelerated economic growth by improving connectivity through rail, direct air links and road.

He said that Pakistan is an important member of several regional and international groups including SAARC, D-8, ECO, SCO, OIC. Due to the lack of railway, road and direct air links of Pakistan with all these countries, despite political activity, Pakistan has not been able to benefit from these groups at the commercial level. He said that in order to advance the current debt-ridden economy of Pakistan, the series of direct flights with different countries of the

world should be carried forward rapidly.

He said that the current ruling party PML-N has paid special attention to the Motorway network in each of its terms, but now this project should be used for the promotion of mutual trade. For which their scope needs to be extended to the neighboring countries of Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and Turkey. Pakistan has already established a strong connection with China through CPEC. He said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's declaration yesterday also talked about improving regional connectivity, which is welcome. Pakistan should play a proactive role in implementing this point of the declaration.

Coordination meeting between the Director NHA and Beat Commander Beat02 M14



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Today on directions of Sector Commander M14, coordination meeting was held b/w the Project Director NHA Malik Ajaz and Beat Commander Shahid Iqbal Khan at NHA office Pindighep. The participants discussed the matters regarding accumulation of rainy water at locations (67,77,81,89), accumulation of rainy water in under passes, road repair/maintenance work in the AOR of Beat-02 M14. They were also sensitised about the potential threat due to opened U-Turns, illegal cuts, illegal paths, Installation of fence(kund wire) in the area of Beat-02(M-14) and were requested to close the same on urgent basis to avoid any untoward situation.

Women's palliations strongly condemned the desecration of the Quran in Sweden

Abdul MajeedTahir

ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson Women's Commission AJK Mrs. Rehana Khan ' former AJK Minister Mrs Shamim Ali Malik and city president of the Muslim Conference Women's Wing Ms. Abida Munir Qureshi strongly condemned the desecration of the Quran in Sweden and said that this incident has seriously hurt the feelings of the Muslims of the Islamic world. The audacity to desecrate the Holy Quran is condemnable and shameful. The purpose of events like the desecration of the Holy Quran is to create outrage and outrage among Muslims. They did not adopt the attitude, but under a systematic conspiracy, anti-Islamic forces are desecrating the religion of Islam, the Holy Qur'an and the prophet of the end of time, Muhammad ﷺ, and then show their indifference to it, which inflames the feelings of Muslims. In a joint statement they urged the United Nations and OIC and other international powers should take immediate action on this important religious issue and urge the Swedish government to apologize to the Muslims of the Islamic world, otherwise, if the Muslims also start insulting other religions, a world war will break out. In this regard, the United Nations should take practical measures to prevent such incidents. He said that it is the duty of Muslims to honor the Holy Qur'an and the Last Prophet peace be upon him Muhammad ﷺ. They neither avoid nor tolerate it. They demanded the government of Pakistan and the world of Islam to take an immediate joint action plan against the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

UNDP hosts second consultative session on HIV in KPK

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) hosted the second consultative session at the KPK, FC premises. The event, dedicated to formulating an engagement strategy to confront HIV stigma and discrimination within law enforcement agencies, brought together an assembly of approximately seventy officials. Representatives from the National Highways & Motorway Police (NHMP), Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), KP Police, Frontier Corps (FC), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), along with esteemed individuals such as Dr. Yasir Hayat, Dr. Inam of UNICEF KP, Mohammed Shafiq of URDO, Safraz, Arzo Khan, Heer, and Zaheer Khattak, CEO of URDO were among the participants.

Consensus among major parties on APC on political harmony

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards fostering a peaceful and violence-free electoral process, Pakistan's major political parties reached a consensus on organizing an All Parties Conference (APC) to address the growing problem of politically motivated extremist language that may incite hatred and violence.

The consensus was reached at a dialogue titled 'Common Resolve for Political Harmony,' organized by Communications Research Strategies (CRS), a pioneer in strategic communications and research-based interventions in Pakistan.

Senior parliamentarians and politicians representing seven prominent political parties, including PML (N), PPP, PTI, ANP, NDM, and MQM, emphasized the need for an all-parties conference (APC) or any other mechanism that would enable constructive

dialogue among political forces.

Advisor to the Prime Minister, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Senator Afrasiab Khattak, Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Information Secretary PTI Raouf Hassan, Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar, SAPM Romina Khurshid Alam, MNA Sabir Qaimkhani, Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmad, member CEC PPP, and Information Secretary ANP (Punjab), Nadeem Sarwar represented their parties. Zafarullah Khan former Executive Director Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Affairs and constitutional literacy advocate, moderated the dialogue.

Welcoming the participants Aniq Zafar, CEO of CRS, highlighted the emerging situation in the country where political discourse was becoming increasingly harsh, with the potential for violence by non-state actors against political forces. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the participants stressed the importance of exploring



a common ground through Charter of Democracy (CoD) 2 to address key structural issues that hindered political and economic growth in the country.

One of the primary objectives discussed during the conference was to develop a well-thought-out national consensus against extremism and terrorism, leaving no room for soft

corners for existing or new terrorist groups. The participants strongly advocated against using such groups for political engineering and called for the immediate de-weaponization of society to curtail the potential threat of violence during upcoming elections.

Additionally, the seminar shed light on the 'economy of terrorism,' which

perpetuated the menace of terrorism in the country. Participants acknowledged the need to investigate and address the financial sources that fueled terrorist activities, emphasizing its impact on foreign and strategic policy choices.

To strengthen the political process, participants expressed interest in

establishing a 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission.' Such a commission could play a vital role in facilitating reconciliation and resolving past conflicts, contributing to the overall stability and inclusivity of the political landscape.

In conclusion, the representatives jointly agreed to share the outcomes of the seminar with the leadership of all political parties through a formal letter. They also advocated for the timely convening of an all-parties conference (APC) before the elections for a comprehensive debate on the code of conduct for the next elections, ensuring that all voices are heard and represented.

This concerted effort towards inclusive dialogue and cooperation among political parties reflects a shared commitment to a free, fair, and peaceful electoral process in Pakistan, ultimately fostering national unity, stability, and progress.

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DG ISPR responsibly defended Army's mature response on May 9 - I

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in Pakistan has emerged as a pivotal institution, playing an instrumental role in disseminating accurate information, managing crises, and shaping public perception about the country's armed forces.

The foremost role of ISPR is to ensure the effective dissemination of information about the efforts, achievements, and sacrifices made by the Pakistani armed forces. By providing accurate, timely, and transparent updates through press releases, social media, and other communication channels, ISPR bridges the gap between the military and the public. The institution plays an essential role in keeping the citizens well-informed about ongoing military operations, counter-terrorism efforts, and disaster management initiatives. During times of crisis, ISPR assumes the responsibility of managing the situation through strategic communication. Whether it is a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or political unrest, ISPR acts as a central hub for coordinating the response, providing updates to the media and the public, and dispelling rumors or misinformation. Its calm and composed handling of critical situations often minimizes panic and ensures effective crisis management. ISPR frequently organizes events, campaigns, and military parades to promote national unity and patriotism in Pakistan. Through initiatives like Pakistan Day celebrations, armed forces

festivals, and tributes to national heroes, ISPR fosters a sense of pride and unity among the citizens. Such events showcase the diversity of Pakistan and highlight the sacrifices of its armed forces in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty. One of the most significant tasks undertaken by ISPR is countering the narrative of extremism and terrorism. The institution actively challenges extremist ideologies through its public messaging and aims to eliminate misconceptions that are propagated by extremist groups. By highlighting success stories of the military's fight against terrorism, ISPR creates a counter-narrative that reinforces the image of Pakistan as a resilient and committed nation in the global fight against terror. ISPR significantly contributes to promoting Pakistan's image on the international stage. It plays an active role in arranging visits of foreign dignitaries to Pakistan and facilitating international media to cover military operations and exercises. Through its proactive engagement on social media platforms and press conferences, ISPR ensures that Pakistan's perspective is effectively communicated to the global community.

The role of ISPR in shaping Pakistan's image cannot be overstated. The institution's contributions in information dissemination, crisis management,

national unity promotion, countering extremism, and international engagement have been remarkable. By maintaining transparency, ensuring accurate reporting, and projecting a positive image, ISPR serves as a pillar of strength for Pakistan's armed forces. Moving forward, it is crucial for ISPR to continue adapting to the rapidly evolving communication landscape and effectively utilize modern media platforms to further enhance Pakistan's image at home and abroad.

Major General Ahmed Sharif, the current Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), has played a remarkable role in shaping the image of the Pakistan Armed Forces and ensuring effective communication with the public. Under his leadership, the ISPR has become one of the most dynamic and influential public relations organizations in the country. Major General Ahmed Sharif's tenure as the DG ISPR has been marked by his commitment to transparency, accountability, and professionalism. He has effectively utilized various mediums, including social media, to disseminate information about the armed forces' activities and achievements. His proactive approach towards communication has bridged the gap between the military and the public, fostering a great-

er understanding and appreciation for the sacrifices made by the armed forces. One of the noteworthy achievements of Major General Ahmed Sharif has been his efforts in countering misinformation and propaganda against the armed forces. Through strategic communication campaigns, he has successfully debunked fake news and clarified misconceptions, ensuring that the public receives accurate and reliable information. His ability to counter negative narratives has helped to maintain the public's trust and confidence in the armed forces. Furthermore, Major General Ahmed Sharif has greatly emphasized the importance of promoting a positive image of the Pakistan Armed Forces. He has actively promoted the achievements and contributions of the military, emphasizing their role in safeguarding national security and ensuring peace and stability in the region. By highlighting the professionalism and dedication of the armed forces, he has inspired a sense of national pride and unity among the Pakistani population. In addition to his communication skills, Major General Ahmed Sharif has also played a significant role in enhancing the internal cohesion and morale of the armed forces. He has implemented various initiatives to provide support to the troops and their families, ensuring their well-being and motivation. His dedication to the welfare of the armed forces has fostered a strong sense of camaraderie and loyalty within the military ranks.

To be Continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

10-year celebrations of CPEC

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad Ms Pang Chunxue, and Federal Ministers cutting a cake marking the 10th anniversary of the signing of the agreement for CPEC. Islamabad, July 5, 2023

The minister is set to embark on a four-day official visit to China from July 8 to attend a special commemorative 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to be held on July 11 to mark the 10-year celebrations of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

The CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development and regional connectivity.

Under the 10-year celebrations, several events are being conducted by the CPEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Planning Ministry which includes international Conferences, academic sessions, cultural shows and others across the country.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal reviewed progress over the special 12th JCC to be held on July 11.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Ministry of Planning and Development Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Chief Economist of Pakistan, who is also the Executive Director of the CPEC, Dr Nadeem Javaid and representatives from all the relevant ministries and divisions were also present.

The upcoming visit of the planning minister will underscore the importance of Pakistan and China's relationship and their commitment to further strengthening their strategic partnership.

During the visit, the minister will hold meetings with key Chinese officials which include China's National Development and Reform Commission NDRC and others. the 10th year celebration.

It is noted that since the government came into power in April last year, CPEC has been revived which remained halted by the previous government.

Several projects of power, infrastructure, water and others have been completed in Gwadar which are ready for the groundbreaking.

While chairing the meeting to review progress over the special 12th JCC, the planning minister directed the relevant stakeholders to finalize the arrangements for the event.

The minister also asked the relevant ministries to share their pending issues so that they can be taken with Chinese authorities during the visit.

The minister said that the 12th JCC is a special event aimed to commemorate the decade of CPEC celebrations, adding he appreciates the contribution of Chinese officials and workers to execute the CPEC during this whole journey which started in 2013 and continues.



Amjad Rasmi

'Multan, Mini petrol pump mafia is a challenge for the administration'

It is the responsibility of the government and its administrative bodies, including the police and bureaucracy, to ensure the safety of the lives and properties of citizens. Implementing this policy practically requires the administration to fulfill its role so that the public remains assured. However, the law enforcement in Multan has failed miserably in protecting the lives and properties of its citizens.

Every day, incidents of theft, robbery, blackmailing, and other crimes are increasing in number in various sectors. The condemnation of these events is not enough. Moreover, there are crimes occurring here that are facilitated and tolerated by the inefficiency and negligence of the administrative authorities.

In Multan city and its suburbs, there are thousands of illegal petrol kiosks and fuel stations scattered all over. These establishments pose a serious threat to human lives. According to a cautious estimate, the number of illegal fuel pumps in Multan and its suburbs has exceeded two thousand, which are becoming the cause of accidents every day.

Ground realities make it evident that the administration of Multan, along with public representatives, is complicit with the owners of illegal petrol agencies and unauthorized petrol pumps. This nefarious practice thrives on the support of District Officers, defense officers from the D&I department, and the Labor Department. Due to the lack of any security measures on these illegal fuel agencies, numerous major accidents have resulted in

the loss of precious lives.

Despite the registration of accidents and complaints, the authorities have been unable to control the illegal agencies and petrol pumps in Multan city. The root cause of this issue lies in the negligence, incompetence, and corruption of the DC Multan and the responsible officials. A government report was submitted two months ago, highlighting that there are more than two thousand unauthorized petrol-selling shops and units in Multan city. This report has been presented to the authorities, but no practical and concrete actions have been taken against the mafia involved in the illegal fuel trade.

In the city, individuals named Chaudhry Sarwar Suraj Maini and Sheikh Farooq, along with Gilani, are involved in the illegal selling and transportation of Iranian and local petrol in the areas of Chowk Shujaabad Road, Chen Mari, Farooqpora.

These people have also set up several illegal petrol pumps, and these individuals are also selling petrol on the units present in the city. They have no fear of the Multan administration; every complaint against them is ignored by the authorities. The residents of the city are extremely disappointed with the performance of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the city. At present, in Multan, Iranian petrol and illegal petrol pumps have taken the form of a mafia due to the lack of proper

legal action against this mafia. The continuous increase in the number of these illegal petrol pumps and petrol selling shops is due to the absence of strict and effective legal action against this mafia.

A few days ago, Control Price Magistrate Nauman Abid Bhutta checked the rates and quantity of petrol at these petrol pumps and it was revealed that there is adulteration in the petrol being sold here. Impure and adulterated petrol and diesel are damaging car engines, and pollution is increasing. The sale of petroleum products in the outskirts of Multan is being done at rates higher than the prescribed prices by illegal agencies. The petrol being sold here is substandard, contaminated, and harmful to car engines, posing a danger to the lives of those who buy petrol without proper SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) and licenses. The owners of these petrol pumps have no safety measures in place, neither for themselves nor for others.

To obtain a license for a petrol pump, a provisional certificate is issued for two years. Before issuing this NOC (No Objection Certificate), the aforementioned authorities inspect the location to determine if it is suitable for a petrol pump and if it poses a risk to the population. Most of these illegal petrol units are installed on public footpaths. Besides safety measures, petrol pumps are usually built on land covering an area of five or more

kanals. To prevent fire hazards, petrol tanks, including sand buckets and carbon dioxide reserves, are installed underground. Most petrol pumps have an automated system to prevent fires, but these illegal petrol selling agencies lack all these facilities. The number of shops engaged in illegal petrol sales has increased due to the influence of the current SOLE DEFENCE officer.

They have an automated system for fire prevention, while the agencies involved in the illegal sale of counterfeit petrol at these money petrol pumps are deprived of all such facilities. The current situation has seen an increase in women-owned shops selling illegal petrol. In Multan, multi-national and national petroleum units are being rapidly established, mostly being set up by untrained individuals in Chowk Shaheedan, Timur Road, City Station Road, and Al Jilan Road. Even the marketing staff of multi-national companies are being coerced by these unlawful elements, otherwise no reputable multi-national company would associate itself with such counterfeit and low-quality fuel. The common people are being affected by these fake and spurious monogrammed grams and are unknowingly buying adulterated oil. Corrupt drivers of government vehicles are selling petrol at these mini illegal petrol pumps. We, the residents of Multan, demand from the authorities that a strict ban be imposed on these mini petrol pumps on a permanent basis, as it is in the best interest of the country and the nation.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Fatima Jinnah, first lady dentist and presidential candidate

Fatima Jinnah, a prominent political figure in the history of Pakistan, was born on July 31, 1893 in Karachi to Poonja Jinnah. Fatima Ali Jinnah, later known as Fatima Jinnah and Mother of the Nation, was the younger sister of the founder of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah. She was the youngest of her eight siblings. Fatima had six siblings, Muhammad Ali, Ahmad Ali, Bunde Ali, Rahmat Ali, Maryam, and Shireen Jinnah. She belonged to a prominent Gujarati family. Along with his brother Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (ra), she played an important role in the freedom struggle of Pakistan for the establishment of an independent Muslim state of Pakistan and dedicated his life to the service of the Pakistani nation. His achievements will always be remembered in the history of Pakistan. His father, Poonja Jinnah, ensured that all his children were endowed with a good education. After the death of his father in 1901, she lived with his brother for the rest of his life and supported him in independence.

Fatima Jinnah received her early education at the Bandra Convent School in Bombay and later completed her dental degree from Dr. Ahmed Dental College, Calcutta. After completing her education, she went to England with her brother Muhammad Ali Jinnah (ra). She actively participated in political activities during the freedom struggle and became a prominent figure among the women of the subcontinent. She always emphasized on supporting the rights of women so that they continue to play an active role in the development of the country. Fatima Jinnah raised her voice for the rights of women and worked tirelessly to improve their socio-economic conditions. Fatima Jinnah always advocated for women's education and empowerment. Mother of the nation, Fatima Jinnah was a prominent advocate of women's rights and social issues. Fatima Jinnah was an influential Pakistani political figure and activist.

In 1965, he contested for the post of President of Pakistan for the first time representing the joint opposition parties against the then President of Pakistan General Ayub Khan. Although she did not win the election, her campaign played an

important role in mobilizing opposition support. She mobilized the opposition against Field Marshal Ayub Khan's government. She toured various cities of the country and addressed public gatherings and mobilized support for the cause of Pakistan. She became a symbol of the struggle for democracy and civilian rule. Fatima Jinnah's services to Pakistan go far beyond her involvement in the freedom movement and political campaigns. He devoted his life to social work in the fields of education and health care. After studying dentistry, he established many institutions including

Fatima Jinnah Dental College in Karachi. She was the first Muslim woman to practice dentistry. However, his most important contribution was in the political arena aimed at establishing an independent Muslim state.

She believed in gender equality and challenged social norms by encouraging women to actively participate in the workforce and politics. Fatima Jinnah's efforts laid the foundation for women's empowerment in Pakistan. Mother of the Nation Fatima Jinnah She left behind a remarkable legacy. His unwavering commitment to the nation and his resilience in the face of adversity will continue to inspire generations of Pakistanis. He is an iconic figure symbolizing perseverance, courage and dedication to the ideals of freedom and equality. Her contribution to Pakistan's history Tehreek-e-Pakistan, his emphasis on education, and his advocacy for gender equality, democracy has left infinite marks on the nation. Fatima Jinnah's unwavering determination and selfless service continue to inspire people to strive for a better future.

Fatima Jinnah died on July 9, 1967 and was buried in Karachi. It is important to recognize and respect the immense services of this extraordinary woman who played a significant role in shaping the destiny of Pakistan. She will be remembered as a symbol of courage, resilience and dedication to the ideals of democracy.

Writer is senior analyst and he can reached on javedullahraja@gmail.com

Uzbekistan's Presidential Elections - 2023: early voting in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On July 3-4, 2023, the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan organized early voting in the Presidential Elections of Uzbekistan in Lahore and Karachi. The voting process was organized in accordance with the Electoral Code.

This political event was attended by citizens of Uzbekistan living in these cities and adjacent territories.

In the polling stations voters have got acquainted with the candidates and their pre-election programs.

The updated Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been distributed among citizens, the new version of which was approved at a national referendum on April 30, 2023.

The citizens of Uzbekistan noted the importance of large-scale reforms carried out in the country in all spheres of life, their social oriented nature, highly appreciating the priority of protect-

ing the interests of the citizens in the structure of relations between society and state.

"Today we participated in an important political event and voted for the future of our Uzbekistan. We are confident that the President-elect will serve for the further development of our Motherland", said young compatriots Kamila and Alina Saed.

"Despite the fact that we are abroad, our country ensures the observance of our constitutional rights. We feel our involvement in the reform processes in Uzbekistan, the significance of our choice. This pleases us. Such relations with citizens living abroad increase their sense of personal responsibility for the future of the Motherland", said Mrs. Jamila Arifbaeva.

The citizens also expressed hope that the results of the Presidential Elections will form a solid foundation for the intensive implementation of the goals for the construction of a New Uzbekistan.

"Elections are the event for common political decision of the people, the beginning of a new stage in the development of statehood. Therefore, it is necessary to take the elections seriously. Citizens of Uzbekistan in Pakistan carefully monitor the election campaign of all candidates, their proposals for the further development of our country. The election platform of all candidates is aimed at ensuring the uninterrupted continuation of the reforms carried out in the country. They differ only in the mechanisms for achieving a common goal. Based on this, today we made our choice—we voted for the candidate whose proposals are close to our ideas about the future. We are confident that the election results will serve to continue the processes of renewal and development of Uzbekistan,"—Albina Kurtbedinova said.

Citizens of Uzbekistan can also take part in the Presidential Elections and vote on July 9 (Sunday) at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad.



Kashmiri diaspora in all around the world fully support the Kashmir freedom movement

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The leaders of Tehreek e Kashmir Britain, Europe, Spain, and Scotland have said that the Kashmiri diaspora in Europe and all around the world fully support the Kashmir freedom movement and stand united with brethren of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

The Kashmiri leaders including Tehreek Kashmir UK President Raja Faheem Kayani, President Tehreek Kashmir Scotland Bailie Hanif Raja, Vice President Tehreek Kashmir Europe Mahmood Ahmed Sharif, President Tehreek e Kashmir Spain Shafiq Tabassum were addressing the reception hosted by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) yesterday said that we have succeeded in bringing together the representatives of all parties under one umbrella.

Regarding the freedom movement of Occupied Kashmir, a 26-day historical march was



held in all regions of Europe, in which the atrocities on Kashmiris were highlighted by putting up pamphlets, banners, and digital SMDs regarding Kashmir. However, they stressed that the time has come that if the voice of Occupied Kashmir is to be raised, then one hundred thousand people should protest on the streets of London so that the voice reaches the United Nations and the

European Parliament. They further added that, in the digital era, Kashmiris have to adopt digital methods to raise their voice. In Europe, Kashmiris have reached first the local governments and then the parliament, to raise their voice for Occupied Kashmir. Students and professors of universities in Europe have been asked to visit Kashmir so that they can understand the reality. Six of the 16

parliamentarians who wrote a letter to the European Union 18 years ago were from Spain, with whom we are in touch, but the delegation of the APHC needs to meet the European Parliament because the APHC can play an important role. In his address, Raja Faheem Kayani, the President of Tehreek Kashmir UK, highlighted the unwavering dedication to the Kashmir cause despite the

constraints of limited resources. President Tehreek Kashmir Scotland and Deputy Lord Mayor Scotland Hanif Raja while speaking said that Azadi Base Camp has to play its part. We had established Tehreek e Kashmir UK for a sacred cause. Mehmood Ahmed Sharif, Senior Vice President of Tehreek e Kashmir Europe, while speaking, said that every one of us has to play our part, there is a need

to work for the cause of Kashmir in foreign countries. President Tehreek-e-Kashmir Spain Shafiq Tabassum while speaking said that we will reach the parliamentarians there and inform them about the Kashmiri cause and inform them about the situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The senior leader of the APHC, and former convener of the APHC, Mohammad Farooq

Rahmani, while speaking, said that overseas Kashmiris and Pakistanis are playing a very lively and effective role in other foreign countries including the UK. The issue of Kashmir is a humanitarian one and needs resolution on an urgent basis.

Altaf Wani, the senior leader of the Hurriyat Conference, expressed his views and said that the European Union has not yet come up with a lively stance regarding Kashmir.

On this occasion, Senior Hurriyat Leaders: Altaf Ahmad Bhat, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Muhammad Rafiq Dar, Ghulam Mohiuddin Dar, Imtiaz Wani, Adv Pervez, Raja Khadim Hussain, Haji Sultan Butt, Sheikh Abdul Majid, Mushtaq Ahmad Butt, Gulshan Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmad Dar, Zahid Safi, Dad Yusufzai, Abdul Majeed Lone, Shaikat Hussain Butt, Muhammad Shafi Dar, Syed Mushtaq, Kifayat Hussain Rizvi, Raja Bashir Usmani were also present.

Aasma Butt congratulates China on 102nd anniversary of Communist Party

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Ismail Butt congratulated the current President of China Xi Jinping and the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China on the 102nd anniversary of the Communist Party of China. And said that the Communist Party of China has an important role in the development of China. For successful governance, developed countries should adopt China's strategy.

Aasma Ismail Butt said that on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of the Communist Party of China, the platform of the Feder-

ation congratulates the current President of China Xi Jinping and the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China And She express good wishes. Aasma Ismail Butt said that the Communist Party of China (CCP) is the founding and sole ruling party of the People's Republic of China. Which was founded in 1921 in Shanghai, China. On October 1, 1949, Chinese Communist leader Mao Zedong announced the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Thus we got a best friend in the case of China. The number of members of the Chinese Communist Party is more than 98 million, which shows the popularity

of the Chinese Communist Party among the people. The Communist Party of China is the second largest political party in the world in terms of membership. Which is the best example for other democratic countries. Aasma Ismayeel Butt said that The current President of China, Xi Jinping, is also the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China. Who was elected the President of China for the third time due to his excellent performance. President Xi Jinping is equally popular not only in China but also in Pakistan. China has raised flags of success all over the world. Developed countries should follow China's successful principles.

Serena Hotels & Pakistan Disabled Foundation celebrate 25 years of enabling people with disabilities

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels with The Pakistan Disabled Foundation celebrated the silver jubilee of the organisation, which has been instrumental in enabling the disabled communities in Pakistan by ensuring that they know their rights and privileges and become a source of achievement towards the said philosophy and put into practice, it is the first and foremost responsibility of those disabled, themselves to get the disabled community fully acquainted with the training, education, and socialization to plead and protect their rights, privileges, facilities, and securities with full of command and confidence in themselves.

The opening sessions



commented on the fifth of July, hosted in the Islamabad Serena Hotel.

The Chairman of the Pakistan

Disabled Foundation, Mr. Shahid Ahmed Memon, welcomed the guests with a speech on the achievements and milestones of the foun-

ation. Mr. Hassan Murchie, a fellow advocating for People with Disabilities from South Africa, further expanded upon the importance of such initiatives.

Shields were gifted after the session finished for the special guests. The first business session started at 3:30 and was presided upon by Dr. Habib Bukhari, a second business session with the media was held at 5:00, followed by a Hi-tea for the participants.

Serena Hotels is an equal employer and has inclusive employment for people with disabilities in all its properties and celebrates this commitment of the Pakistan Disabled Foundation wholeheartedly while being an inclusive employer.

Shrines of the Saints are glory of Multan and identity of the Sraiki belt: Amir Khattak

Report & Pictures By Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the chairmanship of Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak, a review meeting was held on the decoration and restoration of shrines. Commissioner Aamir Khattak while ordering to make PC one of the scheme for restoration of Shah Shams Darbar in its original condition, said that work should be started on the decoration and opening of Musa Pak. In the restoration of the shrines, the original infrastructure should not spoil the centuries-old image. The shrines of the saints are the glory of Multan and the identity of the region. People from all over the world come to the doors of the saints to seek spiritual peace. Centuries-old Darbar buildings,



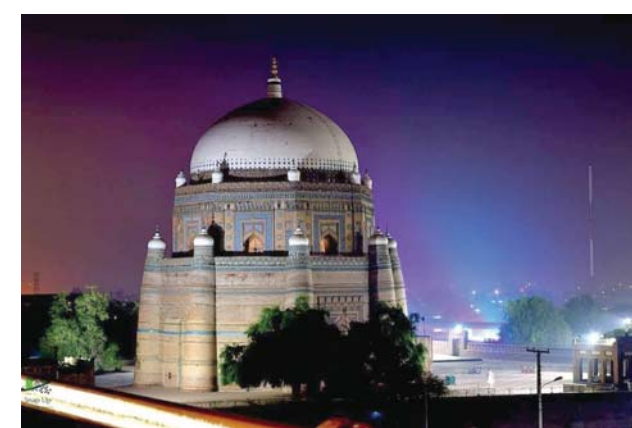
Its architectural style is of special interest to tourists. Water filtration plants at shrines should be functional. He said that anti-dengue surveillance should be accelerated. Cotton farmers across the division

should be compensated according to their cultivation, no farmer will be exploited. Commissioner Amir Khattak said that price control should be observed in the magistrate field across the division and cheap prices of food items. Make



sure the supply. Later, Commissioner Aamir Khattak presided over the review meeting about the development schemes. And directed to complete all fully funded schemes within three months. While giving a briefing

in the meeting, the administrator of Awqaf Zia Al-Mustafa said that the upgrading of 4 shrines of the city of Auliya worth 78 million rupees is in progress. 90% of the Rs 30 million scheme of Hazrat Shah Shams Reh Mazar



has been completed. 13 million rupees scheme of Hazrat Bahaudin Zakaria Reh Mazar has been completed 85 percent. 75 percent of the work of Hazrat Shah Rukn Alam shrine scheme of 7 million rupees has been completed.

90% of the 23 million scheme of Bibi Pak Daman Shrine has been completed. DC Multan Umar Jahangir, Director Development Rubina Kausar in the meeting Officers of the concerned departments were also present.

