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forced their trust in the humanity. On his Twitter handle, the prime minister paid tribute to the services of late Edhi on his 7th death anniversary.



🥣 @daily_spokesman 📑

(Details on Page 8)



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ر صحح بخاری: مدیث نمر 5187 **Barkat Rice Mills**

NATHIAGALI: Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis and Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik signed a Memorandum of Understanding between Pakistan & Switzerland to promote cooperation in the field of natural disasters management. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnessed the signing ceremony on Saturday.



PM hopes MoU between Pakistan, Switzerland to help promote cooperation

Spokesman Report

NATHIAGALI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday termed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pakistan and Switzerland over disaster management as a vital step that would promote cooperation between the two countries to harness technology and expertise in future to tackle the natural catastrophe jointly.

Addressing the MoU signing ceremony, the prime minister said that they looked forward for the Swiss cooperation in terms of getting an advanced warning system and other gadgets

Court declares

Toshakhana

case against PTI chief

跨 City Desk

maintainable

to secure Pakistan as much as possible from natural disasters.

He reiterated that Pakistan was facing the impacts of global climate change, despite the fact that the country had very little carbon emissions.

The prime minister also expressed that they wanted to further expand bilateral ties with Switzerland in diverse fields including the tourism sector as Pakistan was blessed with natural beauty.

Appreciating the Swiss foreign minister's remarks about the peace in the region, the prime minister said that it was important to maintain peace in

Switzerland could play the role ciated with the natural catastroof catalyst to promote peace in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister of Switzerland Ignazio Cassis said that signing the MoU between the two countries was vital for collaboration against climate change.

He said Pakistan was rich in cultural heritage and breathtaking landscapes, but it had become prone to natural disasters, resulting in last year's floods, displacement of people with wide destruction.

The Swiss minister said these disasters required an urgent need for international cooperthis part of the world and that ation to mitigate the risks asso-

Earlier, the prime minister witnessed the signing of the MoU between the two countries by the visiting Swiss foreign minister and Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik to cooperate in the field of natural disasters. Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman, ministers, NDMA chairman and relevant authorities were present on

the occasion. The document between the two countries will also prove as a milestone in bringing the National Disaster Management at par with the international

standards under the vision of the prime minister.

It will also help promote cooperation between Pakistan and Switzerland in forecasting natural disasters, their impacts, swift response and rehabilitation

measures. Earliar: the prime minister received Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis. The Swiss foreign minister, accompanied by three members of the Parliament, is on a bilateral visit to Pakistan from 7-9 July at the invitation of the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing said in a press

IHC expresses displeasure over non-implementation of court orders for female teachers' service structure

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Additional District and Sessions Judge on Saturday declared the Toshakhana case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman as maintainable. The district and sessions court Judge Humayun Dilawar

announced reserved verdict on maintainability of the case and This issue revolves around the fixed it for hearing on July 12. The court rejected the chairman PTI's plea for adjourn-

ment of the case as well as another petition for declaring the case non-maintainable. The election commission's

lawyer Amjad Pervaiz earlier said that Barrister Ali Gohar appearing in the court in the case from the first day.

Barrister Gohar argued that it is discretion of the accused to choose the lawyer, which represents him. He pleaded to the court to grant time till Monday for arguments in the case.

ISLAMABAD: Senior judge at the Islamabad High Court (IHC), Justice Mohsin Akhter Kiyani the other day has expressed his displeasure and anger towards the Education Department for consistently failing to implement the court's orders..

correction of the service structure for female teachers of Islamabad Model Colleges, as ruled by Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani on June 10, 2022.

The service structure of female teachers, commonly known as the four-tier promotion formula, was disrupted in 2011 when the posts of teachers in BPS-16 were upgraded to BPS-17.

Despite their persistent efforts, the teachers of junior sections in model colleges were unable to obtain justice through various offices of the education department and finance divi-

Consequently, they approached the IHC in September 2020 and filed a writ petition, seeking rectification of the four-tier service structure.

Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani allowed the writ petition on June 10, 2022 and instructed the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and the Ministry of Finance to rectify the existing ratio of the fourtier formula within six months, setting a deadline for implementation on December 10, 2022.

However, to the disappointment of the female teachers, the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance failed to issue the necessary orders to rectify the four-tier formula in compliance with the court's verdict. As a result, the teachers were compelled to once again approach the IHC, this time filing a criminal original case against the respondents who did not adhere to the court's

During a hearing on Friday, Justice Mohsin Akhter Kavani expressed his dissatisfaction and cautioned the representatives of the respondents that if rectification orders were not issued by the next hearing, he would issue show cause notices to the secretaries of the Ministry of Federal Education and the Ministry of Finance. Additionally, Justice Kayani stated that he would summon both secretaries to court if the orders were not promptly issued.

Speaking anonymously, the teachers while talking to media persons voiced their concerns regarding the delay tactics employed by the education department. They alleged that the department consistently presented new explanations and excuses during each hearing, raising suspicions of ulterior motives behind the non-compliance with the court's orders.

Heavy rains claimed 76 lives, injuries to 133: NDMA

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Heavy rains have claimed the lives of 76 people and injured 133 across the country since June.

As per details, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) report stated that nine people have lost their lives and eight others injured in the heavy rains across the country in the last

NDMA data shows that so far 76 deaths and 133 injuries to people have been reported, which includes 15 women and 31 children, whereas 78 houses have so far been damaged as torrential rain continued to play havoc across the country.

Punjab has the most number of people who died where 48 people were in the heavy rains and 20 lost their lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), five were killed in Balochistan, the NDMA report read.

President talks to bereaved families of shuhada, pays tribute to sacrifices



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday talked to the bereaved families of Shuhada of Pakistan Armyon ment of shuhada with their phone and paid tribute to their services and sacrifices.

The president talked to

who were martyred on July 2 in Balochistan and sepoy Gul Rauf who embraced shahadat on June 20 in North Waziristan, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

On the occasion, the president appreciated the patriotism and sacrifices of the bereaved families and acknowledged the commitduties and motherland.

He also prayed for the high ranks of the departed souls and the families of Major Saqib for the bereaved families to Bajwa and Naek Ali Baqar bear the losses with fortitude.

Digital Radio Laboratory, will be back the glory of film: Marriyum



跨 City Desk

Information and Broadcastmovie magic back to Pakistan Pakistan," she said.

by introducing affordable cine-

In a tweet, she said that she was excited about the (first of many) groundbreaking of Cinema House and digital radio laboratory at Radio Pakistan Lahore.

"Reinvigorating the film entertainment industry and driving innovation to provide ISLAMABAD: Minister for every Pakistani world-class entertainment, Radio Pakiing Marriyum Aurangzeb stan is launching a National on Saturday said the cinema Digital archive and mapping of house and digital radio labora- the music melodies of Pakistan tory at Radio Pakistan Lahore and world-class podcast studiwould bring the splendour of os at Radio Pakistani across

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorist attack in Zahidan

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Zahidan on Saturday, resulting in the loss of lives of two Iranian security personnel.

In a statement, the Foreign Office said, "We express our deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the swift recovery of those



injured." "Pakistan

complete solidarity with the government and people of Iran in this common fight against the scourge of terrorism."

UN seeking extension of grain, fertilizer deals despite negative signals from Russia

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The food and fertilizer export deals brokered by the United Nations last year with Ukraine and Russia have played an "indispensable role" in supporting global food security and must continue, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Friday.

In a statement issued by his Deputy Spokesperson, the secretary-general reiterated "the importance of full and continued implementation" of the agreements signed last July in Istanbul, known as the Black Sea Initiative – allowing Ukrainian grain and foodstuffs safe passage to world markets - and the Memorandum of Understanding with Moscow over fertilizer

Russia is still weighing up if it will continue to be a part of the



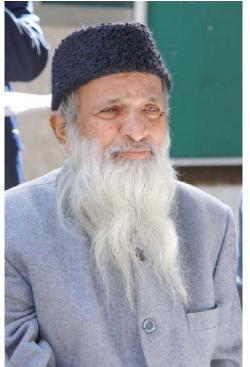
deal, agreed with Ukraine and administered along with the UN and Turkiye, past a deadline of 17 July.

Last May, Russia had agreed to a 60-day extension, and the UN has been leading negotiations to ensure its continuation. Moscow has said repeatedly during the lead-up to previous extension deadlines that it is not benefiting enough under the deal.

A Joint Coordination Centre in Istanbul with representatives from all parties administers the deal, but in recent weeks, shipping movements have declined along with vessel inspections.

The Spokesman

Protest rally KARACHI: Activists of Pakistan Sunni Tehreek hold protest rally at M.A. Jinnah Road lead by Sarwat Ijaz Qadri to condemn the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.



People like Edhi reflect real moral values of society: PM

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that people like late Abdul SattarEdhitruly reflected the moral values of a society and reinforced their trust in the

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister paid tribute to the services of late Edhi on his

Edhi worked for their objective with dedication and desire which later became a symbol of their

Abdul SattarEdhi had been one of those personalities who had devoted his life to serve humanity and spent his whole life in struggle, enthusiasm and dedication for his goal to serve humanity, the prime minister added in his tweet posted in Urdu ity," it added.

He also prayed for the high ranks of late Edhi.

Meanwhile: Foreign Office said in a tweet on Saturday"Today we honour the life and legacy of Abdul Sattar Edhi on his 7th death anniversary. A humanist and a humanitarian par excellence, Edhi will always are remembered for his selfless devotion and service to human-

Swiss Foreign Minister calls on Sherry Rehman

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis called on Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Saturday to discuss cooperation in climate disasters, emergency relief operations and rehabilitation measures

Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan George Steiner was also present in the meeting. Before the meeting, a memorandum of understanding was also signed between Pakistan and Switzerland on cooperation to deal with the effects of climate change, said a news

Expressing the joint commitment of the two countries to combat climate change and promote environmental cooperation, Sherry Rehman shed light on the environmental crisis facing the country and the challenge of climate finance and

Land

allot ment

people'in HOJK:

ISLAMABAD: The All

Parties Hurriyat Confer-

that the announcement

made by the authorities

to give land to around

2 lac "homeless people"

in Indian illegally occu-

of the territory.

pied Jammu and Kashmir

(IIOJK) is another attempt

to change the demography

According to Kash-

mir Media Service, the

APHC in a statement

issued on Saturday, said

the announcement has raised serious doubts and

concerns among the people

in the territory. It said, the

less people" and the inten-

tions behind this move are

ing discrepancies about the

suspect as there are glar-

whole matter.

identity of these "home-

ence (APHC) has said

APHC

跨 City Desk

to homeless



the government's active initia-

tives and plans. She said that July 7 was the hottest day on record according to United Nations Secretary-General (UNGA), adding that Pakistan will face water scarcity by 2025.

glaciers are melting speedily. We are currently witnessing heavy monsoon rains in

She said that around 33 million people were affected by floods last year, adding that and other projects," Sherry

The minister said, "Our the incumbent government has already launched several projects to mitigate the effects of climate change.

We are working on National Adaptation, Mitigation, Gender Action Plan, Gulf, Living India

The government has introduced National Clean Air Policy, Single Use Plastic, National Hazardous Waste Manage ment and other policies, she said adding that the country's Environmental Gender Action Plan is designed to mainstream

The minister apprised, "We intend to reduce our emissions by 50% by 2030." The international financial system is not effective in dealing with the challenges of climate change, she added.

Sherry Rehman said that Pakistan is still waiting for the commitments made in Geneva. COP28 President reiterates commitment to accelerate and scale up climate financing. Pakistan is looking forward to rekindling environmental cooperation and knowledge exchange with the Swiss government, the minister concluded.

SC won't allow police to make court premises hunting ground

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court, in its detailed order on PTI chief's arrest on the premises of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on May 9, said that granting relief to a suspect was a routine practice "to enforce his fundamental rights of access to justice and liberty by ensuring his unobstructed access to a competent court".

The Supreme Court on Friday night released the detailed order giving reasons for setting the PTI chief free.

The apex court also warned the law-enforcement agencies against arresting someone from within the premises of a court, especially after their surrender. The three-member SC bench, compris-

ing Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Athar Minallah, declared PTI chief's arrest illegal on May 9 and ordered his release from the custody of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

The PTI chief was taken into custody and was on an eight-day physical remand with NAB in connection with a £190 million Al-Qadir Trust (AQT) corrup-

Discussing PTI chief's case, the bench was of the view that "if the petitioner's arrest from the high court's premises is endorsed, his application for pre-arrest



bail filed in the AQT case before that court will be rendered futile notwithstanding the fact that he surrendered before the high court and invoked its jurisdiction".

This will not only deprive the petitioner of his right to access a competent court to safeguard his Fundamental Right of liberty but will also invite police officials/investigating agencies to treat court premises as hunting grounds for capturing accused persons, especially when the latter seek judicial oversight of their pending arrests," the judgement said, adding, "It would encourage police high-handedness and thereby expose courts to executive machinations in the future."

Such a narrow interpretation of the fundamental right of access to justice cannot be approved by this court and so is categorically rejected, the apex court ruled. with law.

The apex court ruled that it "treated the fundamental right of access to justice to encompass in it the right to invoke the court's jurisdiction for appropriate relief. Assuring a person unimpeded access to the court when he/she has commenced the process of availing a judicial remedy effectively blocks preemptive executive action that attempts to curtail that person's liberty and his/her right of access

Accordingly, the petitioner's arrest from the biometric verification room of the high court is declared to be invalid and unlawful on the touchstone of violating his fundamental rights under articles 4, 9 and 10A of the Constitution, the court

Subsequently, the apex court decided to reverse the clock and ordered the police to produce him before the high court so that his pre-arrest bail application in the AQT case may be heard by the high court for decision," the judgement said.

This court was of the considered view that only such a course of action would caution police officials and investigating agencies to abstain from similar conduct in the future, that infringes both the dignity, sanctity and safety of the courts and the fundamental right of the citizens of Pakistan to enjoy liberty in accordance

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1821 Kashmiris martyred in IIOJK since Burhan Wani's extrajudicial killing: report



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Indian troops have martyred 1821 Kashmiris, including 40 women, since the extrajudicial killing of popular vouth leader. Burhan Muzaffar Wani, in 2016 till date in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to a report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service on the occasion of Burhan Wani's martyrdom anniversary, today, of those martyred Kashmiris,

242 have been killed in fake encounters or in custody during the period.

The report said at least 29,984 people have sustained injuries due to the use of brute force including the firing of bullets, pellets and teargas shells on peaceful demonstrators and mourners by Indian military, paramilitary and police personnel in the occupied territory.

Burhan Wani was martyred along with his two associates by Indian troops in a fake encounter in Kokernag area of Islamabad district on this day in 2016.

His extrajudicial killing had triggered a mass uprising in HOJK and in the following just a few months, Indian troops had martyred over 150 innocent Kashmiris by firing bullets, pellets and teargas shells on peaceful protesters.

Sanaullah felicitates PM for relaunching of halted free laptop scheme

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior RanaSanaullah Khan on Saturday extended his heartiest felicitations to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and PM Youth Program team on the relaunch of halted free laptop scheme.

In a tweet, the minister said the initiative would open new avenues for technological advancement in the



ML-1 project like a backbone for Railways: **Minister**



跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that the Mainline (ML-1) project is like a backbone for

Presiding over a meeting at the PR headquarters here on Saturday, the minister reviewed various projects of the department. He said that the ML-1 project should be taken forward on priority basis.

The minister was informed that a delegation headed by Secretary/ Chairman Railway Sved Mazhar Ali Shah would leave for China on Sunday to discuss several issues includ-

ing ML-1 project with the Chinese

The meeting reviewed progress on connectivity from Karachi Port Terminal to Pipri Marshaling Yard.

The minister was undate branding of trains, railway stations and railway installations and it was informed that the branding would be done on 15 coaches, five railway stations and three billboards as an initial pilot project. The meeting evaluated importance and efficiency of production units of the railways.

The minister directed the PR administration to develop a strategy to make the production units of the railway as profitable and private investors should also be given opportunities to join railways production units.

A briefing on the business plan of the Pakistan Railways Freight Transportation Company (PRFTC) was given to the participants.

The minister ordered to take all possible steps to increase revenue of the PRFTC, saying that the Railway companies would have to increase revenue by getting business from private projects as well.

PTI leadership running away from accountability, says Kaira

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on **Kashmir Affairs** Qamar Zaman Kaira Saturday while criticizing the opposition



party said that PTI has "died on its own" before making any gains and its leadership was running away from accountability.

"Imran Khan was harming not only the country but also national institutions by spreading hatred for the sake of power", he said while talking to a private news channel.

He said Imran Khan used state institutions including NAB to target his opponents in the last four year's government.

Replying to a query, he hailed that since Bilawal Bhutto Zardari took over Foreign Ministry, he has been quite active on the international front, promoting Pakistan's relations with all the countries, adding, Pakistan's foreign policy has become quite active since the last one year.

Sheikh Rashid sees public support a must to sort out economic mess

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Saturday economic issues being faced by the country could not be resolved without the public support.

Taking to Twitter, he slammed the government for celebrating the loan deed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), saying it was the public who would repay the debts.

The former interior minister said the IMF team was holding meetings with major political parties to seek assurances on various matters, including giving right to vote to people. He called the \$3 billion standby agreement with the IMF a "temporary relief" that would not assuage the situation for public.

Pakistan had to repay \$91 billion dollars in three years and \$11 billion by December this year, he said, but lamented that the growth rate, exports and remittances of the country saw no growth. Mr Ahmed also saw next nine months tough for caretaker setup and new government.

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Exclusive Interview

Large Scanner install at all Major Airports and Sea Ports of Pakistan: Dr Rehmatullah Vistro

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Collector Customs Multan Based For South Punjab Rehmatullah Vistro said during a special interview he Said during Customs Teams successful Raids in South Punjab recovered smuggled goods through Afghanistan and Iran, including diesel worth Rs. 3 billion 80 cores. 200 smuggled non-custom paid vehicles worth crores of rupees. Foreign cloth. Crockery. Foreign brand cigarettes. Dry milk tires. mobile phones. Cosmetics. Electronics and other non-Costom paid items were seized

In South Punjab, the most smuggled items are diesel, petrol, cloth, tire, dry milk and dry fruit which the teams are active to prevent. He said that Pakistan Customs working on a Rs 10 billion Worth project to install large Scanner at all major airports and Sea ports of Pakistan to be launched by the World

Soon, scans will be installed at major airports and sea ports of Pakistan. After the scan is installed, the luggage will be scanned and when it reach to the passenger. Check will be done as per SOPs so other passengers will not have to stand in queues after bagging.



Dr Rahmatullah Vistro said that we new rules are made every year. should do our work with integrity. Talking about customs laws, Dr Rehmatullah Vistro said that duty-free goods and smuggled goods are dealt with under Worlds Customs Ordinance and Guidelines Customs Act, 1969, And for proper duty payment to them current proposal traders i.e. traders are also consulted and after all the feedback

Dr. Rahmatullah Vistro added that the customs inspectors interrogate the case, first the case goes to the session level courts, after that the case goes to the Appellate Tribunal and the collector appeals the customs people to discuss the point of facts & point of law. In case of non-payment of duty tax, the goods become the property of the govern-

ment, similarly tempered chassis Vehicles are either handed over to government departments or scrapped and auctioned for parts and other banned items are destroyed.

Dr Rahmatullah Vistro belongs to Naushero Feroze, Sindh province. He Completed MBBS in the 90s and practiced as a medical officer for eight and a half years. He said that he provid-

ed medical facilities to thousands of patients during his duty. One day during the practice of the clinic, I got an idea that something new should be done, something bigger than that, to serve the country and the nation more and to save time in the evening. There will be an opportunity to do more service and services can be done in all

areas of life. We should serve our coun-

In a very beautiful way about his family, he told that my elder son Shojain is a Deputy Secretary in Punjab Civil Secretariat and younger son Served As a Deputy Commissioner (DC) and one daughter is also a (CSS) officer and my son-in-law is from Sahiwal also a CSS officer, so my whole family is (CSS) family and all the children including me have a lot of passion to serve the country and the nation.

Even now, if I have time at home, I play cricket with my children. He said that treat everyone with love and respect, give respect and take respect, there is nothing else.

In South Punjab, the most smuggled items are diesel, petrol, cloth, tire, dry milk and dry fruit which the teams are active to prevent. He said that he is working on a Rs 10 billion project to install large scans at all major airports and ports of Pakistan to be launched by the World Bank.

Soon, scans will be installed at major airports and sea ports of Pakistan. After the scan is installed, the luggage will be scanned and when it reach to the passenger. Check will be done as per SOPs so other passengers will not have to stand in queues after bagging.

Rescue operation

FAISALABAD: Relatives and other people stand on the bank of River Indus during a search operation for recovery of two drowned children, as 3 children were drowned in River, in which one is rescued and other two are still being serched by volunteers.



Rescued over 12.8 million victims of different emergencies across Punjab saved many lives: Dr Rizwan Naseer

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

Services Department (ESD) Dr Rizwan Naseer acknowledged the contributions of Paramedics on the International Paramedics Day launched to acknowlvictims during any emergency and especommitment, courage, and compassion displayed by paramedics worldwide.

These views were expressed by the Secretary ESD Dr Rizwan Naseer in

ics Day. The ESD has rescued over 12.8 MULTAN: The Secretary, Emergency million victims of different emergencies across Punjab since its inception and saved many lives. Especially during COVID when no one was willing to come near the COVID victims Rescue edge the paramedics services who risk 1122 Emergency Paramedics providtheir lives to save the lives of emergency ed emergency care to over 23,000 to COVID victims and carried out dignicially pandemics like COVID. Today, we fied burials of over 4000 victims. He recognize and honor the unwavering commended Rescue Paramedics for this selflessness and bravery.

He said that this is a relatively young profession especially in Pakistan but it is growing rapidly with a very wide

his message on International Paramed- range of paramedics roles being carried out in different fields and we want to showcase this diversity in 2023. He also acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Dominique-Jean Larrey, the man often referred to as the 'father of modern-day ambulance services'.

> The Secretary added that tireless efforts to provide emergency medical assistance and stabilize patients are truly remarkable. Whether responding to accidents, medical emergencies, or natural disasters, they are at the forefront, making split-second decisions and applying their knowledge and training to save lives.

"We acknowledge the sacrifices you make, the long hours you work, and the emotional toll that comes with the job. Your ability to remain composed under pressure and bring comfort to those in distress is a testament to your exceptional character and dedication" he added.

On this special day, he extended his deepest gratitude to each and every paramedics who served their community and beyond. Their commitment to excellence in pre-hospital care is commendable, and he recognized the vital role they played in the healthcare

A burn center will be established in Faisalabad during this month: Faisal Farid

Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: The Secretary Labour & Human Resource Department Punjab Faisal Farid has said that an automated online system for the approval of Social Security grants to industrial workers is being launched to save them from procedural delays. A burn center will also be established in Faisalabad during this month.

He was addressing a meeting at Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA). Director Labour (East) Rai Yaseen and Director Labour (West) Ghulam Shabir Kaliyar was also present in the meeting.

The Secretary Labour & Human Resource Department Punjab pledged to do whatever possible to safeguard the rights of industrial workers in the province. Following the vision, a trans-



parent and automated system for expeditious approval of workers' applications for PESSI grants has been established and is expected to be launched during next week, he informed and added that in order to ensure transparency, several filters have been added in this system. Furthermore, medical

dispensaries at different industrial clusters of Faisalabad are being activated to provide better health facilities to the industrial workers nearby their work places. He also informed that a state of the art burn center will also be operational in coming month in Faisalabad. Earlier, the Vice Chairman PTEA

Muhammad Idrees briefly enlighten the core functions of the Association especially the efforts done to improve the application of International Labour Standards and ensure continuity of Pakistan's exports to the global market. He briefed that several programs have been initiated in collaboration with international institutions like ILO, GIZ & WWF. Major objective behind these programs was to improve the adherence to national laws and international labour and environment standards in textile factories, develop buyers' confidence that standards in these factories are being publicly monitored, reliably and accurately reported and to establish a coordination mechanism between textile Industries, related workers' organizations and Labour departments on ILS compliance and reporting.

Muslim Ummah will Never Tolerate insulting the Quran: Sardar Farhan

Asim Tanveer



MULTAN: Local Leader of Pakistan People's Party and ticket holder candidate of Provincial Assembly Constituency PP 215 Sardar Farhan Ali Dareshk has said that Sweden has desecrated the Holy Quran in the name of expressing freedom. On the occasion of Eid al-Adha, when he was offering the Eid prayer in the Jamia Masjid of Sweden, he said that the Muslim Ummah will never tolerate insulting the Qur'an. It teaches peace, brotherhood and respect for all religions.

We strongly urge the government to put diplomatic pressure on the United Nations to implement the existing laws at the international level so that no one can think of doing this kind of action in the future.

Sweden has committed terrorism by desecrating the Holy Quran: Mian Afaq



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Protest in Multan Against Quran Burning in Sweden. Protrst Organized by Central Anjuman Tajran Kariana Retailers Punjab, against the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, grocery traders throughout Punjab took out peaceful protests and rallies against the desecration of the Holy Quran. Under the leadership of Afaq Ahmed Ansari President Grocery Association Multan Sheikh Yunus Sheikh Muhammad Aslam Muhammad Qasim Rewidi Aslam Muhammad Faroog and others, a protest demonstration and rally was held at Ghanta Ghar Chowk Multan in which the participating grocery traders peacefully protested against Sweden.

On this occasion, Central President Mian Afaq Ansari Sheikh Yunus Qureshi Sheikh Aslam Aslam Khan Mohammad Farooq Mohammad Qasim Reori addressed the protesters and said that Sweden has committed terrorism by desecrating the Holy Quran. The house should be closed, the ambassador should be sent back, the diplomatic relations should be terminated. Europe is threatened by the teachings of Quran and Islam due to which it has lost its senses.

Traders of Multan protest against burning of Holy Quran in Sweden

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak has said that crackdown should be continued against wholesal-

ers and hoarders even during Muharram. Price control magistrates should improve their efficiency and give relief to the people, report should be submitted after completion of all measures regarding Muharram. These views were expressed by Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Khattak while presiding over the review meeting on the performance of the administration of the respective districts.

Commissioner Multan Division, Aamir Khattak, while cracking down on wholesalers, said that all the districts should also take action against the wholesalers. Practical measures should be taken for public relief by adopting an effective strategy to

implement the official rates. Talking about the arrangements for Muharram, Commissioner Multan said that during Muharram, no one will be allowed to cause division, the processions should start and end at the appointed time. Let's improve the security situation. Full arrangements should be made to deal with any emergency situation and beds should be allocated in all the hospitals across the division. Arrangements for Muharram should be finalized. By activating closed circuit cameras, control room, 1122, waste management company, WASA and other departments should assign their duties to their employees.





SERVI	SERVICES	
Namaz T	imings	
Fajr		
Zohr	12:13 pm	
Asr	5:12 pm	
Maghrib	7:21 pm	
Isha	9:03 nm	

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad	.1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police927	0601-20
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Women Police Stations

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Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalpindi	. 9270601-20	
FNOLIRY		

ENQU	IRY
Edhi Ambulance	11!
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	11
Railway Exchange	9270831-

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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

DEDADTMENTS

PEFARII	VILITI 3	
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	

Hassanabdaladmin sealed 14 illegal mini petrol outlets

ATTOCK: Taking action

👺 Raza Naqvi

on the directives of the deputy commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza, the local administration along with Police and Civil Defense teams launched a crackdown against illegal mini petrol outlets and oil agencies and sealed as many as 14 mini petrol pumps in various rural reas of Hassanabdal including Pathargarh, Pind Mehri, Sabazpeer, Jehanabad, Tandda, Mansoora, Bhalarjoggi and Kawwan. The teams also took the material into custody while separate cases have also been registered against the owners. The deputy commissioner directed officers concerned to prepare comprehensive lists of illegal mini petrol pumps and ordered stern action against the owners. The Assistant Commissioner Dr Sana Ramchand has said stern action would be taken against the people involved in running illegal petrol pumps and oil agencies adding that a zero tolerance policy was being followed against them as their units were being sealed and FIRs were also being registered against

AJK PM Ch Anwarul Haq pays rich tributes to Burhan Wani

👺 Δbdul Maieed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while paying eulogizing tributes to Shaheed Burhan Muzaffar Wani, has said that his martyrdom has infused new vigor and spirit into the Kashmiris' ongoing freedom movement.

In his statement issued on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of the charismatic freedom fighter, the AJK premier said that Burhan Shaheed was the proud son of soil who lived and died for the noble cause. Terming Burhan Wani as a hero of the Kashmiri nation, the PM said "We owe a debt of gratitude to martyrs who laid down their lives for the freedom of

The PM also expressed his gratitude to the Pakistani nation for its continued and consistent support for the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for the right to self deter-



mination.

'We are grateful to the Pakistani nation for its all out political, diplomatic and moral support and standing in solidarity with Kashmiris through every thick and thin", he said, adding that the day was not far when people of Kashmir would drive the Indian occupation forces out of Kash-

He said that the mass uprising which was triggered soon after the martyrdom of Burhan Wani forced the United Nations and the international media to break their

silence on Kashmir

He said that the Indians were baffled when the former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif paid tribute to this fearless freedom fighter at the floor of the Unit-

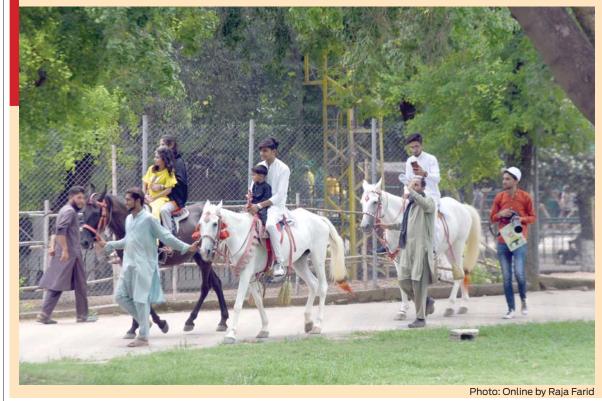
He said that Burhan Wani had now become a symbol of the resistance against the Indian occupation in Kashmir.

Reiterating Kashmiris' pledge to take the struggle to its logical conclusion, the PM said that Burhan Wani's mission would continue till the freedom of Kashmir.

While assuring the Kashmiri people and Hurriyat leadership of his government's all out support, the AJK premier said that along with the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the people of Gilgit Baltistan and Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder with Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for the right to self determination guaranteed to them by the international community.

Horse riding

ISLAMABAD: People are enjoying the horse riding at Lake View Park in Federal Capital.



'Books Fair' stall arranged by Doag **Students Society**

👺 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: A "Books Fair" stall by DOG Students Society (DSS) yesterday in Wana, District Lower South Waziristan, a large number of people from different walks of life participated in the book fair stall.

On this occasion, ANP senior leader Malik Anwar Wazir said that the youth of Doag is determined to build a private library, for which various people have collected up to 5000 books and at the same time around 20 poor students have been admitted in different schools.

He further said that the students are conducting door-to-door campaigns to



inform the students in time to get scholarships from the of the country so that the area, it is seen how the educastudents avoid wasting gold- tion system is there.

Malik Anwar said that to best schools and colleges check the development of an

However, to evaluate any educational system, it is seen how many libraries are functioning there and how many people are using it.

The ANP leader said that there are many people in the society who consider books as a part of their life and books add to our education and knowledge.

There are many books that not only introduce us to consciousness but also change the way we think and

understand. Malik Anwar said that new dimensions are given to our thoughts and ways of thinking, I also sent a gift of books for this cause and will work hard to collect

more books.

Muslims never compromise on the sanctity of the Holy Quran: Dr. Khurram

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: It is a natural phenomena that the Muslims all over the world would never compromise on the sanctity of the Holy Quran, said Dr. Khurram Tariq, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

function on "Yaum-e-Taqaddus-e-Quran" to condemn Muhammad (PBUH) the sacrilegious act of burnof a Masjid in Sweden by a to other religions provoke Muslim majority.



He was addressing to a Muslims by insulting their holy book and Prophet

He said adding that, ing the Holy Quran in front their ultimate objective is to disturb social harmony fanatic. He illuminated that between different religions. the Holy Quran is the most He was proud that despite sacred book for the 2 billion such hateful and nefarious Muslims across the world. acts, the Muslims Diaspo-He further said that the rain America, EU and other Muslims pay full respect to western countries never the holy books of Christians reacted violently. "They only and Jews despite marked staged peaceful protests in differences in their religious order to record their resentbeliefs. He melancholical- ment", he said and added ly expressed that unlucki- that similar is the case in the ly some fanatics belonging countries with dominating

PAC holds protest rally to mark Youm-e-Taqdees Quran

😂 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab arts Council organized a protest rally from Murree road to arts council to mark Youm-e-Taqdees Quran. The rally was led by Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad; Assistant

Director Arts Council Muhammad Suleman was also present on this occa-The participants of the rally

have demanded severe punishment for those who blaspheme the Qur'an in Sweden. Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said in his address to the participants of the rally that Islam is a universal religion, with reference to its beliefs, rules, traditions and values, its invitation is not for any nation, race or region, but for the entire human race. Desecration of the Holy



mutual respect, civility and decency is a bigoted and hateful act that cannot be tolerated in any way, he added. Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman

United Nations celebrated the International Day against Islamophobia in March this year and acknowledged that desecration of the Holy Quran, profane cartoons and derogatory remarks about Islam are hurting the sentiments of members of civil society.

Muslims. Discrimination is being allowed through Islamophobia, which the United Nations needs to take action against, he added. A large number of artists from Rawalpindi Islamabad participated in the rally, including Anjum Khabibi, Afzal Latifi, Manoor Khan Afridi, Ali Shan, Rahat Ahmad Khan, Aamir Chaudhry, Basitullah Chaudhry, Arshad Khan, Shama Adil and others

Expressed the condolences

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: Azad Kashmir's former Information Minister Raja Mushtaq Ahmad Minhas, former government adviser Raja Muhammad Yasin Khan, Muslim League (N) leader Farhan Azam visited the house of former Director General Information Raja Azhar Iqbal Khan's mother expressed heartfelt condolences to the brileved family. Department of Information Director Information Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas, Director Mirza Muhammad Bashir Jaral, Deputy Director Poonch Saadullah Bhatti, Information Officer Bagh Sardar Parvez Khan, Information Officer Raja Muhammad Sohail Khan, Assistant Director Khawaja Imranul Haq. Former Assistant Director of Advertisements Syed Basharat Hussain Kazmi, Former Assistant Director of Advertisements Abdul Majeed Tahir, Advertising Officer Sagheer Ahmed Assistant Director Maqsood Mirpur and other senior information officials also went to his house in Bandala Piana and offered Fatiha.

Former Secretary Government of Azad Kashmir Raja Muhammad Razzak, Divisional Director Local Government Raja Muhammad Fayaz, Central Chairman Zakat Council Chaudhry Muhammad Siddique, Former Director Information Chaudhry Muhammad Rasheed, Central Leader of PTI Iqbal Haider and other people also went to his house and offered Fatiha. He recited and expressed his condolences.

Bazal Ali Naqvi paid tribute to Burhan Wani Shaheed

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government Minister Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi has paid tribute to Burhan Wani Shaheed in wonderful words and said that every youth of Kashmir has become Burhan Wani. Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi expressed these views in his special statement on the occasion of Burhan Wani Shaheed's anniversary. Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi said that the situation in Occupied Kashmir has become very serious. It is where killings, atrocities and human rights violations by the Indian Army are at their peak, but despite this, it is extremely difficult for the international authorities, international community and human rights organizations to remain silent spectators. It is sad. He said that the Indian occupying forces are martyring innocent Kashmiris day and night in the name of so-called security and search operations, which we are deeply concerned about. They are killing Kashmiris by making them targets of their terrorism. He said that India has shut down internet and other media services in Occupied Kashmir to cover up its actions so that the lamentations of the oppressed Kashmiris could not reach the world. Government Minister Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi said that it is the primary responsibility of all of us to convey the voice of oppressed and subjugated Kashmiris to the halls of the world because they are constrained and besieged while we are free. He further said that the immigrant community is playing its full role in giving self-determination to the Kashmiris, but the current dire situation of Occupied Kashmir requires that the immigrants should be more active while creating unity within themselves. Use your influence and influence to bring the voice of your oppressed Kashmiri brothers and sisters to the world and give them the right to self-determination as per the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Sarikistan National Council condemn Raiz Pirzada Statement

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the opposition of Saraiki province, a protest demonstration was held by Saraiki parties against Federal Minister Riyaz Pirzada at Northern Bypass Multan, an effigy was burnt. Chairman Pakistan Saraikistan Sain Zahoor Dahreja. Party Deputy Secretary General Malik Javed Chand Advocate. Khawaja Shoaib-ul-Hasan, Sabir Ghlo, Malik Iqbal Nandla, Mujahid Kheda, Kamran Khan Baloch, Abdul Razzaq Zahid, Arif Gulshan, Muhammad Sohail Khan, Zain Sahoo, Mumtaz Dharija, Hasnain Pahor were present in the protest demonstration.

Malik Zubair Vance, Sharif Khan, Ashraf Khan and others were participants. Addressing the protest demonstration, the Saraiki leaders said that Riyaz Pirzada is flattering the throne of Lahore to install his ministry and he told Asif Zardari that if a new province is created, the Saraiki will have to be represented in the Senate. We say if the senate is one's father's estate, When other nations are represented in the senate, are the people of Siraiki and Wasaib any one's lack or majeure?

On this occasion, Zahoor Dharija explained that this is the same Riyaz Pirzada who had said in a speech in the assembly during the PPP era that if water is not given to Saraiki province and Cholistan, we will seek help from India. The same Riaz Pirzada joined the (N) League and tried to divide the Saraiki nation and left Shosha of Bahawalpur province. Now it is necessary to clarify that Riaz Pirzada has also opposed Bahawalpur province and even said That the people of this region should not be given a province or representation in the Senate. Zahoor Dharija said that we fully condemn such traitors and make it clear that we will take the province in any case. A lot of slogans were raised against Riaz Peer-

Hajra Yamin upcoming drama serial 'Shanaas' trailer unveils



KARACHI: Green Entertainment has released the captivating trailer for its upcoming drama serial, 'Shanaas'. Written by the talented Adarsh Ayaz and directed by visionary Yasra Rizvi, the show will start airing on Tuesday, July 11th at 9 p.m. The series is an emotionally charged thriller promising to take audiences on a gripping journey as it explores the depths of family bonds and uncovers long-held secrets.

Produced by Q&K Productions in association with Multiverse Entertainment, 'Shanaas' features a talented ensemble cast, led by the versatile Hajra Yamin in the role of Aneesa. Accompanying her are esteemed actors Sania Saeed, Shamim Hilaly, Arez Ahmed, Shahzad Nawaz, Adnan Shah Tipu, Adnan Jeelani and Kashif Hussain, who deliver captivating performances and add depth to their respective characters.

Showcase announces all-new drama series Daurr'

№ News Desk

KARACHI:-Renowned director & producer Wajahat Rauf announced his highly anticipated drama series "Daurr" featuring a stellar cast comprising of Ushna Shah, Amna Ilyas, and Zhalay Sarhadi alongside an ultra-talented supporting at a press conference held recently.

Since its announcement earlier this year Wajahat Rauf's "Daurr" which is based on the novel "Eye On The Prize" by Safinah D. Elahi and adapted to TV screen by Mohsin Ali, the drama audiences are eagerly awaiting the upcoming drama series as it not only looks immensely promising but is expected to pull high ratings on its release.

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World food prices fall again in June

■ he FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of commonly-traded food commodities, averaged 122.3 points in June, down 1.4 percent from May and 23.4 percent from its peak in March 2022. The FAO Cereal Price Index declined 2.1 percent from May. International coarse grain quotations in June decreased by 3.4 percent, driven mostly by increased maize supplies from ongoing harvests in Argentina and Brazil and improved output prospects in key producing areas of the United States of America.

International wheat prices dropped by 1.3 percent, as harvests began in the Northern Hemisphere, influenced by ample supplies and a lower export tax in the Russian Federation, along with improved conditions in the U.S. International rice prices declined by 1.2 percent amid subdued demand for non-Indica varieties and efforts by Pakistan to attract export sales.

The FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index declined by 2.4 percent from May, as lower world prices of palm and sunflower oils more than offset increases in quotations for soy and rapeseed oil, influenced by weather conditions in major growing regions.

The FAO Dairy Price Index declined by 0.8 percent in June, led by lower international cheese prices, even as world butter prices rose, driven by active demand for spot supplies, mainly from the Middle East.

The FAO Sugar Price Index declined by 3.2 percent, its first drop after four consecutive monthly increases, mainly triggered by good progress of the sugarcane harvest in Brazil and sluggish global import demand, particularly from China.

The FAO Meat Price Index was virtually unchanged in June, with poultry meat prices rising on the back of high import demand from East Asia amid ongoing supply challenges linked to the widespread avian influenza outbreaks. International pig meat prices also rose, while those of bovine and ovine meats dipped due to increased exportable availabilities from Oceania.

The higher forecast almost entirely reflects better prospects for global wheat production, now pegged at 783.3 million tonnes, buoyed by improved outlooks in several countries, including Canada, Kazakhstan and Turkiye. However, global wheat production is still seen falling below last season's output by 2.3 percent,

Global coarse grain output for the year is now forecast to grow by 2.9 percent from 2022 to 1 512 million tonnes. Likewise, world rice production in 2023/24 is expected to rise by 1.2 percent above the 2022/23 reduced level, to 523.7 million tonnes.

World cereal utilization in the season ahead is expected to expand by 0.9 percent to 2 805 million tonnes, led by expected increased use of coarse grains, especially of maize for animal feed.

FAO raised its forecast for world cereal stocks by the close of 2023/24 seasons to 878 million tonnes, some 2.3 percent higher from the previous season. At this level, the global cereal stocksto-use ratio would remain unchanged at 30.6 percent, "indicating comfortable supply prospects in the new season."

FAO's latest forecast for world trade in cereals in 2023/24 points a likely 0.9-percent contraction from 2022/23 with volumes of wheat seen declining from record levels.

High food prices, economic downturns, conflict, droughts and the impending risk of El Niño weather patterns in several regions are aggravating food security concerns in many parts of the world. A total of 45 countries around the world are assessed to need external assistance for food, according to the latest Crop Prospects and Food Situation report, a quarterly publication by FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), also published

Pakistan's fundamental setback — lack of Vision

impeding its progress and independence and nationhood. potential for growth. The country's inability to embrace forward-thinking ideas and develop a clear strategic direction has resulted in a stagnant economy, limited technological advancements, and a struggling education system. The absence of visionary leadership and a culture of risk aversion have contributed to a dearth of groundbreaking initiatives and creative solutions to pressing issues. Without a strong emphasis on research and development, coupled with a nurturing environment for entrepreneurs and innovators, Pakistan has failed to keep pace with global advancements and harness its human capital effectively.

For a nation to advance, it is imperative to possess a well-defined understanding of its long-term aspirations. Devoid of this lucidity, the ability to construct a consistent plan of action and execute the policies necessary to achieve the desired goals becomes unattainable. The purpose of a national vision is to furnish unmistakable guidance and foster a collective perception of the future. Pakistan, indeed, was established upon such a vision—the & quot; Pakistani Dream & quot;—an aspiration for a society characterized by affluence, fairness, acceptance, and dynamism. This vision occupied a central position during the Independence Movement, albeit experiencing a gradual erosion of clarity as time elapsed. Nonetheless, it constituted the bedrock vision for the nascent nation, nurtured by the leaders of that era and

plagued by a lack of vision, tions of our populace in their struggle for

Pakistan is currently facing serious challenges on various fronts. These include the combination of low growth and high inflation, which is one of the major factors leading to the perpetuation of poverty and unemployment. Energy shortages have posed great problems to the citizens as well as businesses and agriculture. Social indicators reflect serious deficiencies in education, health and

ty and social services. law-and-order situation in the country poses a critical threat to security as well as the economy. The decade-long struggle against terrorism and extremism continues to impose immense social, economic, and human costs.

population, gender equi-

The lack of vision in Pakistan has been a persistent challenge that has hindered the country's progress and development on multiple fronts. Pakistan has often been plagued by a short-sighted approach to governance and decision-making. Many

policies and strategies are geared towards immediate gains and political expediency rather than long-term sustainability. This shortsightedness prevents the country from formulating and implementing coherent and comprehensive visions for economic, social, and technological development. Frequent changes in polit-

ical leadership, coups, and a lack of conti-

akistan has long been elucidated through the trials and tribula- nuity in policies have further hampered the development of a consistent and forward-looking vision for Pakistan. The absence of stable governance and a consensus on long-term goals often leads to disruptions in the implementation of plans and strategies.

The lack of emphasis on research and development (R&D) has resulted in a dearth of innovative ideas and technological advancements. Pakistan's spending on R & amp;D is significantly lower compared to other countries, limit-

ing its ability to foster innovation and develop cutting-edge solutions to pressing challenges. The education system in Pakistan has struggled to provide quality education and promote critical thinking and creativity. Rote learning and a focus on memori-

zation rather than practical application have stifled the development of an innovative mindset among students. The education system also lacks adequate resources and infrastructure to support scientific research and experimentation. Insufficient collaboration between academia, industry, and government institutions impedes the exchange of knowledge and hinders innovation. The siloed approach prevents the pooling of resources, expertise, and ideas, resulting in fragmented efforts and missed opportunities for breakthrough innovations.

The prevailing culture in Pakistan tends to be risk-averse, with a general resistance to change and new ideas. This hampers innovation and entrepreneurship, as individuals and organizations are often reluctant to take risks and venture into uncharted territories. Fear of failure and a lack of support mechanisms for startups and innovators further discourage risk-taking and inhibit the development of a vibrant innovation ecosystem.

Thus, Pakistan's progress and development require a clear and forward-looking national vision that encompasses economic, social, and technological goals. To overcome the challenges faced by the country such as economic instability and energy shortages to deficiencies in education and healthcare and pave the way for a prosperous future, Pakistan must prioritize long-term sustainability over short-sighted gains. It is crucial to invest in research and development, foster innovation, and promote collaboration between academia, industry, and government institutions.

The education system should focus on nurturing critical thinking and creativity, while the prevailing culture should encourage risk-taking and support entrepreneurship. By embracing a comprehensive and coherent national vision, Pakistan can chart a path towards a prosperous, equitable, and dynamic society, realizing the aspirations of the " Pakistani Dream" that inspired its founding.

The writer is a student in the school of Politics and International Relations at Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad.

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Malaika Sarwar

Persecuted Pakistani minorities seek safety amidst skepticism and closed doors

the vast tapestry of there. Hence, Muslims should High Commissioner for Refugees humanity, diversity should be celebrated as a source of strength and unity. Unfortunately, within the borders of Pakistan, a somber truth has emerged-a tale of discrimination, violence, and persecution faced by the minority communities. From the sacred city of Peshawar to the sprawling regions of Sindh, the echoes of despair resound as Sikhs are senselessly taken from us, and Hindus endure the harsh sting of false accusations met with police brutality.

Challenges Faced by Vulnerable Minorities:

As these vulnerable individuals, driven to the brink of desperation, yearn for asylum and protection, they find themselves facing an arduous journey laden with skepticism and misconceptions. The international community, misguided by a belief in Pakistan's purported freedom and opportunities, often dismisses their pleas as mere economic migration, trapping these oppressed souls within the confines of a hostile environment.

Disparity in Treatment:

Non-Muslim countries welcome Muslim refugees, providing them shelter and offering them citizenship. However, some Muslims who migrate to these non-Muslim countries end up disturbing the peace there. The majority of Muslims aspire to settle in America, Europe, Canada, or Australia, as they believe they can't contribute to their own countries and face a lack of justice

express gratitude to non-Muslims who assist them during challenging times. It is worth noting that I have never observed oppressed Muslims receiving asylum or citizenship from Saudi Arabia, Gulf countries, or any affluent Muslim nation. Conversely, in wealthy Muslim countries, Muslim refugees are often mistreated. When it comes to equal rights, they seem to be more prevalent in stan's minority community paints a non-Muslim coun-

The Consequences of Seeking Asylum: Pakistani

law presents double-edged sword to those daring enough to denounce their homeland in

subsequent loss of their nationality. Despite these dire circumstances, countless Pakistanis, propelled by the flame of hope, pursue asylum abroad, where the opportunity for a new beginning beckons. Astonishingly, once they find solace in the welcoming arms of another nation and acquire citizenship, they dare to return to the very soil from which they fled.

The Imperative of Thorough Assessment:

Amidst the complexities of this humanitarian crisis, it is imperative that countries, including the esteemed United Nations

(UNHCR), adopt a comprehensive approach to asylum and citizenship. Vigilance must be exercised in scrutinizing the veracity of claims put forth by individuals seeking sanctuary, distinguishing between genuine refugees and those driven by ulterior motives.

Pakistan's Marginalized Minority: The harrowing plight of Paki-

disturbing picture of marginalization

and forced exodus. Constrained by the shackles of oppression, these courageous souls are compelled to seek beyond refuge their homeland's borders, to voice

search of safety. It threatens them their dissent and seek a semblance with accusations of treason and the of justice. Astonishingly, the number of Pakistanis seeking asylum now exceeds that of individuals from war-torn Afghanistan and strife-rid-

The Government's Indifference: Amidst these tumultuous times, one is left to ponder the enigma of Pakistan's government, seemingly disconnected from the plight of its citizens. The absence of accurate data regarding the number of Pakistanis living abroad with asylum or refugee status stands as a glaring testament to the disregard the Pakistani government has for its own people.

In the face of persecution and

discrimination, the communities in Pakistan, driven to the edge of despair, cling to the faint rays of hope offered by foreign lands. However, their journey towards asylum is fraught with challenges. The international community must recognize the genuine plight of these individuals and provide them with the necessary support and protection they deserve.

It is crucial for countries, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to adopt a comprehensive approach to asylum and citizenship, carefully scrutinizing claims to distinguish between genuine refugees and those with ulterior motives. Additionally, efforts must be made to address the disparities in treatment faced by minority communities in both Muslim and non-Muslim countries. Pakistan's government must take responsibility for the well-being and rights of its citizens, including the marginalized minorities. Accurate data collection and proactive measures are essential to address the issues faced by those seeking asylum and to ensure justice prevails. By acknowledging and addressing the challenges faced by minority communities in Pakistan, the inter-

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national community can play a vital

role in fostering a world where diver-

sity is celebrated, discrimination is

eradicated, and all individuals can

find safety, justice, and unity.

Multan police in pursuit of crimes

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

officers are to their job. When morale is high, police officers are more likely to be effective in fewer disciplinary issues. However, maintaining and improving morale can be challenging for police agencies, especially during difficult times such as budget cuts, increased workload or negative media attention. Most Whenever information about imports is Punjab police officers see significant challenges on the job in the wake of high-pro- special tasks have been assigned to police file incidents involving law enforcement. teams to trace and arrest gangs involved in

feeling among officers that police are mistreated by the media. Newspaper employees and owners want to know the details of every crime. On the other hand, the media fails to provide accurate information to the public. Newspapers and TV channels continue to try to create a daunting in the investigation by publicizing

are friends with police employees and reporters. So not everyone accurately points out the accused. In this way the direction of the investigation is turned in the wrong direction.

According to us, the standard for evaluating the performance of any institution is not the individual, but the collective dedication and results of the department. It is not fair to blame the entire department because of a few corrupt police officers.

The Multan police have released a performance report of the last six months. Which shows that Multan police is in pursuit of crimes and criminals.

Under the supervision of CPO the Multan

orale is an essential factor crime. They have arrested 78 members of 28 in any police agency's gangs, seizing stolen property worth more success. It's a measure of than 2 crore rupees. According to the police how satisfied, motivat- record Multan police have arrested 58 suspects ed and committed police involved in murder, 157 attempted murder cases, 18 robberies, 26 blind murders, 139 dacoities, 1697 robberies, 63 cases of rape, 69 their duties, have a better attitude and have cases of child abuse, 274 cases of abduction, 41 cases of human trafficking, 811 vehicle thefts,

and 77 cases of cattle theft. Mobile units, Dolphin Force, and the Security Squad have increased their surveillance. received, the police teams are activated. Here Among those challenges is a widespread dacoities, robberies, thefts, and motorcycle

crimes. The Multan police are taking all possible and necessary measures to control crime and establish peace and security in the city.

According to the documents the Multan police handed over more than 500 stolen mobile phones worth 2 crore rupees to their respective owners. SSP

details of the accused. Sometimes the suspects Operations Multan, Muhammad Imran, handed over the recovered mobile phone to their owners.

> Under the supervision of SSP Operations Multan, Muhammad Imran, Inspector Naveed Iqbal and Front Desk Officer Muhammad Asim were assigned a special task related to this matter. The police teams successfully traced and recovered more than 500 stolen mobile phones worth 2 crore rupees using advanced technology.

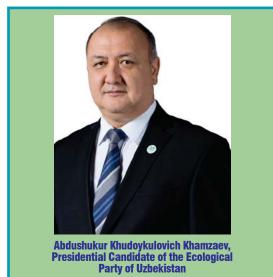
Stolen goods worth more than 4 crore rupees were recovered during six months, which can be called encouraging performance of Multan police. There is no doubt that the shortage of police personnel is being met with police have taken action against criminal the help of modern technology. This is the elements during the past six months to control need of the hour.

B Uzbekistan to go to early presidential elections today

Apart from incumbent President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, 3 more candidates are vying for post of head of state









Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan will go to early presidential elections today on

According to the Election Commission, all banners, posters, billboards and other advertising material were removed on Saturday so that voters can use their right to vote without any influence.

On April 30, Uzbek citizens voted on constitutional amendments which provide for the extension of the presidential term from the current five to seven years and also allow incumbent President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to be elected again after two consecutive terms.

Following the vote, Mirziyoyev announced early elections, which the Election Commission decided to hold

Apart from Mirziyoyev, three more candidates are vying for the post of head

They included People's Democratic Party's Ulugbek Inoyatov, Environmental Party's Abdushukur Khamzayev, and Social Democratic Party Adolat (Justice) leader Robakhon Makhmudova, who also serves as the first deputy chairman of the Supreme Court.

More details of other candidate are

Ulugbek Ilyasovich Inoyatov, Presidential Candidate of the People's Democratic

Ulugbek Ilyasovich Inoyatov was born on August 6, 1962 in Tashkent in a family

of a white collar worker Ethnic nationality-Uzbek.

University degree. He graduated from Tashkent Polytechnic Institute in 1985 and Tashkent Financial Institute in 1998. He is an engineer-economist, Doctor of

Pedagogical Sciences and professor. He began his career in 1985 as a teach-

From 1993 to 1999 he worked as a of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanideputy dean of the Tashkent Architec-

ture and Civil Engineering Institute, and from 1999 to 2011 he was the director of the Tashkent Finance and Economics College.

He was rector of Tashkent State Pedagogical University since 2011, minister of public education since 2013, and rector of

Namangan State University since 2018. He was Chairperson of the Central Council of the People's Democratic Party

of Uzbekistan since 2019. In 2019, he was elected to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis.

U. I. Inoyatov is currently Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of

the Oliy Majlis.

U. I. Inoyatov has proven to be a potential leader with theoretical and practical experience. He is the author of more than 100 scientific papers. A number of his proposals on improving the quality of education and preparing young people for the profession are widely used in the development of the educational system

of our country. U. I. Inoyatov is a responsible and dedicated individual with extensive experience in state and public administration, domestic and foreign policy, judicial law and social protection issues as a party and faction leader.

U. I. Inoyatov was awarded the Shukhrat (Glory) Medal in 2006.

He is married, has a son, a daughter and six grandchildren. His wife, L. I. Inovatova, is a teacher.

Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, Presidential Candidate of the Movement of **Democratic Party of Uzbekistan**

Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev was born on July 24, 1957 to a family of doctors in Zomin district of Jizzakh

Ethnic nationality-Uzbek. University degree. In 1981 graduated er at the Tashkent Polytechnic Institute. from the Tashkent Institute of Engineers

zation. Candidate of Engineering Scienc-

es, Associate Professor.

In 1981, he began working as a junior researcher at the Tashkent Institute of Engineers of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization, after which he served as a senior lecturer, associate professor, and vice rector for academic affairs. In 1990 he was elected a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic and worked as the chairman of the Credentials Commis-

In 1992 he was Khokim of Mirzo-Ulugbek district in Tashkent, from 1996 to 2001 Khokim of Jizzak province and from 2001 to 2003 Khokim of Samarkand province.

In addition to his work in the executive branch, he participated actively in the law-making process as a member of the Oliy Majlis from 1995 to 2003.

Sh. M. Mirziyoyev was appointed Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2003 and held this post until 2016. Since 2016 he has faithfully and selflessly served our country as President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Thanks to the efforts of Sh. M. Mirzivovey, the country's GDP has reached the historic figure of \$80 billion in the last six and a half years, exports have increased 1.5 times and foreign investment has tripled. As a result, the purchasing power of the population and average monthly wages have almost doubled.

As a result of the reforms implemented under Sh. M. Mirziyoyev, the enrollment rate in preschool education increased from 27% to 72%, in higher education from 9% to 38%, and 700,000 additional places in schools were created.

Sh. M. Mirziyoyev became the founder and author of a new reform to lift the population out of poverty in our country. Entrepreneurs were supported and their free activity was ensured. As a result, the number of economic agents doubled to

As a result of the reforms implemented by Sh. M. Mirziyoyev to ensure freedom

of expression and a policy of openness, an atmosphere of freedom has emerged in our society, and citizens' rights to information are strictly enforced.

Sh. M. Mirziyoyev was awarded the orders "Mekhnat shukhrati" (Glory of Labour) and "Fidokorona hizmatlari uchun" (For Disinterested Services) for his many years of effective work in public and administrative authorities, for his great contribution to the development of our country and increasing the prosperity of our people.

Married, has two daughters, a son and six grandchildren. His wife, Z. M. Mirziyoyeva, is chairperson of the board of trustees of the Zamin Foundation.

Abdushukur Khudoykulovich Khamzaev, **Presidential Candidate of the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan** Khudoykulovich Abdushukur

Khamzaev was born on December 10, 1973 in the Uzun district of Surkhandarya province in an intellectual family. Ethnic nationality-Uzbek.

University degree. He graduated from the Samarkand Agricultural Institute in 1995 and from the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Uzbekistan in 2013. Doctor of agricultural sciences, professor.

A. Kh. Khamzaev started his career as an agronomist in the cooperative-run farm "Namuna" in Uzun district. From 1996 to 1999, he completed postgraduate studies at the Samarkand Agriculworked as an assistant, senior lecturer, an intellectual family. deputy dean for academic affairs and vice-rector for spiritual and educational work at Samarkand Agricultural Institute. From 2017 to 2022, he worked as the director of the Forestry Research

Since 2022, he has been the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Central Council of the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan.

In 2017-2022, under A. Kh.

Khamzaev's leadership, the scientific potential in the field of forestry was significantly increased by establishing 4 new scientific centers and 5 experimental stations. He is also the author of about 20 crop varieties and 16 inventions.

As a party leader, A. Kh. Khamzaev, has contributed significantly to the substantial increase in the number of party members and primary party organizations, and to the broad-based promotion of the party's programmatic goals.

A. Kh. Khamzaev has been educating himself abroad in the fields of agriculture, forestry and ecology. On his initiative, cooperation has now been established with more than 10 leading foreign educational and scientific organizations

A. Kh. Khamzaev actively participates in the legislative process. In particular, he was directly involved in the preparation of the draft laws on "Seed Production", "Forests" and "High Mountain Pastures". At the same time, as Chairperson of the Expert Council of the State Committee on Forestry, he participated in the preparation of about 20 draft normative legal documents. He is married and has two sons and a daughter. A. Kh. Khamzaev's wife is a housewife.

Robakhon Anvarovna Makhmudova, Presidential Candidate of the Social Democratic Party Adolat of Uzbekistan

Robakhon Anvarovna Makhmudova was born on November 9, 1958 in tural Institute. From 1999 to 2017, he Fergana district of Fergana province in

Ethnic nationality-l

uated from the Law Faculty of Tashkent State University.

She began her career in 1976 as a secretary of the Fergana Regional Court. In 1979-1983 she was a notary of the State Notary's Office № 1 of Fergana city, 1983-1987-deputy head of the Department of Justice of Fergana region, 1987-1990head of the Party Committee of Fergana region, 1990-1999 she was the first deputy head of the Department of Justice of Fergana region, from 1999 to 2001 she was a judge of the Fergana Regional Court, from 2001 to 2004 she was a judge of the Fergana Regional Court, from 2004 to 2008 she was a judge of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, from 2008 to 2013 she was a judge of the Fergana Regional Court, and from 2013 to 2017 she was a lecturer at the Fergana Law College.

In 2017-2020, R. A. Makhmudova worked as the head of the People's Reception Office of Fergana region, and since January 2020, as the Chairperson of the Committee on Science, Education and Health of the Senate of Oliy Majlis. Since July 13, 2020 she has been working as First Deputy Chairperson of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan-Chairperson of the Judicial Panel for Administrative Cases.

During her career, R. A. Makhmudova has actively participated in reforms in the field of administration of justice, judicial system and ensuring the independence of courts in our country. She has authored a number of resolutions of the Plenum of the Supreme Court on liberalization of criminal sanctions and ensuring fair sentencing.

As an experienced lawyer, R. A. Makhmudova effectively advocates for the preservation of the rule of law, the protection of women's rights, and the improvement of reconciliation institu-

A. Makhmudova is the author of University degree. In 1983 she grad- more than 140 scientific and popular articles and about 10 guidance manuals for judges.

In 2020 she was awarded the Order "Fidokorona hizmatlari uchun" (For Disinterested Services). Judge of the first qualification category.

Married, has a son, a daughter and six grandchildren. Spouse, T. Makhmu-

The New Constitution is the Legal Basis of the Electoral System



Farangiz Avazbekova, PhD in Legal Sciences

lections are one of the main features of a democratic State through which the development and prospects of the country are revealed. This is the basic form of expression of the will of the people, the direct participation of citizens in the management of the affairs of the state. On the other hand, the promotion of active citizenship through participation in elections is evidence of the growth of our people's political thinking, social activity and electoral culture.

As a result of a consistent, step-bystep modernization of the political, state and legal sphere, Uzbekistan has created an electoral system that meets the highest democratic requirements. In particular, over the past five years the electoral legislation has been consistently improved and the quality of the electoral process has risen to a new level.

At the same time, the electoral legislation was improved on the basis of internationally recognized principles, recommendations of high-profile international organizations and public

opinion and was harmonized with the democratic reforms in the country.

Chapter XXII of our updated Constitution strengthened the basic provisions on the electoral system. In particular, according to our Basic Law, citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan have the right to elect and be elected to representative bodies of state power. Every voter has one vote. The right to vote, equality and freedom of speech are guaranteed by law.

Citizens declared legally incompetent by a court, as well as persons held in places of detention under a court sentence for grave and especially grave crimes, may now be deprived of the right to participate in elections only in accordance with the law and on the basis of a court decision. In all other cases, it is established as a constitutional norm that citizens' electoral rights may be restricted neither directly nor indirectly.

The strengthening of such norms related to election processes based on the improvement of the Constitution serves to ensure that the election is conducted in accordance with the principles of legality, openness and transparency, in line with the democratic standards universally recognized in the world, the guarantees of citizens' suffrage and their participation in the state and society governance.

Importance of codification of national electoral legislation

The peculiarity of our national elecoral legislation is codification of all

norms concerning electoral processes. In particular the Electoral Code reflected legal norms related to creation of conditions and mechanisms ensuring realization of suffrage by the citizens along with strengthening the system of socio-economic, political, ideological and legal guarantees of suffrage.

Until the electoral legislation was adopted in the form of a Code, five laws were simultaneously in force in this

system. Some norms of these normative legal documents contradicted each other and there were various legal colli-

This situation has led to various ambiguities as election commissions, especially members of precinct election commissions in remote areas, do not know how to act in a particular situ-After the adoption of the Code not only the domestic election specialists

widely recognized that some gaps and problems waiting to be solved as well as various ambiguities and obscurities in the national election legislation and practice have been eliminated. Our national electoral system is adapted to world demands and trends.

but also international experts have

With the introduction of the Code, some 30 laws have been repealed, and subsequent amendments and additions to legal instruments, as well as some instruments, have become invalid. This improved Electoral Code, adopt-

ed in a detailed, compact and holistic manner in accordance with international electoral standards, included dozens of new rules and regulations, which had not been in our nationwide elections until now, and some existing bureaucratic procedures were abolished.

Every voter is given attention and care

The uniqueness of State policy in our country lies in the fact that citizens of Uzbekistan are protected by the State, regardless of where they live, and are aimed at ensuring their rights and freedoms and legitimate interests. In the 2019 elections, the opportunity to vote for the first time for all our citizens of voting age living abroad was a practical expression of such high attention.

Previously, only Uzbeks officially registered at consulates participated in such political events. The Election Code for the first time regulated the procedure for including

the citizens of the Republic of Uzbek-

istan residing in foreign countries in ly express his/her will due to health the election roll regardless of whether they are registered with the consulates of the diplomatic missions or not, as well as the legal basis for voting through mobile ballot boxes where the voters live or work in foreign countries was strengthened.

The communication system saylov. mfa.uz been launched, which allows our compatriots to electronically submit applications for inclusion in the electoral rolls at polling stations organized by diplomatic missions and consular offices abroad.

In order to prevent such negative situations as insult and backslapping during the electoral process, the legislation specifically states that "more than half of the precinct election commission members cannot be recommended from one organization".

However, in such institutions as hospitals, health resorts, military units and diplomatic missions abroad the difficulty of forming the members of the polling station in such order based on the requirements of their strict internal procedures has caused problems in practice.

Therefore, according to the amendment, this provision no longer applies to polling stations organized in the presence of diplomatic institutions in foreign countries, military units, health resorts, hospitals and other stationary medical institutions and places of detention.

In addition, the Electoral Code contains all the mechanisms for persons with disabilities to exercise their rights to participate in the socio-political life of the country by voting. That is, on the election day it was confirmed that the technological equipment at the polling stations-tables, booths and ballot boxes should be installed taking into account the needs of wheelchair users.

At the same time, if a voter cannot come to the polling station to freecondition or disability, he/she is given an opportunity to exercise the right to vote outside the polling station in his/ her place of residence.

This, in turn, as an important aspect of modern electoral legislation, enables our citizens with disabilities, as members of our society, to participate in political and public life directly or through their freely elected representatives on an equal basis with others and have the opportunity to vote and be elected.

Our electoral legislation takes into account the rights and freedoms of every voter, and every person with political rights can freely exercise his or her electoral rights, which is one of the most important guarantees of his or her participation in public administration.

A single e-list of voters

Ensuring the conduct of election on the basis of the principles of multi-party and alternative, openness and transparency, in accordance with the requirements of democratic elections, depends on the digitalization of processes, taking nto account modern trends.

In particular, the Electoral Code stipulates that the voter's list on the national scale must be formed in electronic form. This list is compiled, supplemented and updated using the electoral management information system.

In its turn, the single e-list of voters is a state information resource containing information about voting citizens, their addresses of permanent and temporary residence in accordance with the datapases of government authorities.

It is through the further improvement of the single e-list of voters and the information system for managing the election process that the names and numbers of citizens' permanent and temporary residences, regions, streets, houses and apartments will be clearly defined electronically.

It is not just a database of voters, but also a tool that serves to ensure the principle of equality of elections. Thanks to this information system and a single electronic voters list, it will be possible to verify that citizens will vote nly once.

According to the procedure, the single electronic list of voters will be delivered online to the relevant precinct commissions at all polling stations. Nevertheless, each precinct election commission will refine the list by bypassing the residents living in the precinct.

In accordance with the law, the list shall include the names of citizens who have reached the age of 18 before or on election day and are permanently or temporarily residing in the territory of the given polling station at the time of drawing up the list of voters. Each voter may be included in only one elector-Before the establishment of such a

system, one could observe cases of violation of the principle of equal suffrage of citizens, i.e. one vote in elections, as a result of cases when one voter voted from his seat on both the permanent list and the temporary list. On this basis, a single e-list of voters

provides our citizens with certainty and convenience in the exercise of their political rights, such as participation in the government through elections, the realization of the principle of equal suffrage.

In short, Uzbekistan's current electoral legislation complies with universally recognized international standards and criteria for free and fair elections.

The legal basis of our country's electoral system are being gradually improved based on our national values, as a result of studying the international principles, the legislation and practice of advanced foreign countries, and the analysis of the experience of the elections held in our country during the years of independence.

Rates of ET taxes revised by Punjab Cabinet



跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government has approved several amendments in the property tax and motor vehicle tax rates across the province. According to the details, the Punjab caretaker Cabinet has approved these proposals sent by the Secretary Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department in the recent meeting. According to the details, the Cabinet has accorded permission to the department to conduct a fresh survey for assessment of property tax in Punjab.

Director General Excise & Taxation Muhammad Ali, giving more details, said that the new survey was planned to be conducted from July to December this year, while the assessment of property tax based on the current survey has been extended till December 31, 2023. He expressed hoped that from January 1, 2024, property tax would be assessed according to the new survey. Earlier, the survey of immoveable properties for property tax was conducted in 2014. "Among other amendments, the registration fee for 1501 to 2000cc vehicles has been reduced from 3% to 2%."

DG Excise further said that the government has extended the 95% tax exemption for electric vehicles till 2025, while the token tax on seven-seater vehicles would be charged according to their engine capacity, which was earlier charged on the fix Rs. 2500. The cabinet has also given permission to revise the rate of transfer fee for vehicles after 2004. Through another amendment, the cabinet has approved to increase the vend fee of alcohol from Rs 1,600 to Rs 2,500 and the beer from Rs 85 to Rs 300 per litre. Similarly, the LPG levied on the manufacture of beer has been increased from Rs 12 to Rs 25 per liter and after a gap of 18 years, the fee levied on the manufacture of alcoholic products and its raw materials has been increased from Rs 600 to Rs 1200.

Govt revises vehicle registration, transfer fees



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Excise and Taxation Department Punjab has revised the vehicle registration and transfer fees in line with the budget announced by the caretaker government,

According to details, the Excise department reduced the registration fee for 1501-2000cc vehicles by one percent, taking it to 2pc from previous 3pc.

Meanwhile, the government has extended 95pc discount in motor vehicle tax for electric vehicles till June 2025. It has also announced new withholding tax on registration of vehicles above 2001cc.

Private vehicles previously subject to a token tax of Rs 2,500 per seat will now be taxed based on the engine capacity of the vehicles.

Transfer fees

Moreover, the department has also revised the transfer fees for motorcycles. cars, rickshaw and commercial vehicles.

The fee for motorcycle has been increased from Rs150 to Rs500 while it has been jacked up to Rs2,500 from Rs1,200 for vehicles up to 1000cc.

For up to 1800cc vehicles, the fee was increased by Rs3,000 to Rs5,000 while above 1800cc the excise department will collect Rs10,000 as compared to previ-

The transfer fee for commercial vehicles has been increased by Rs1,000 to Rs5,000.

Northern regions have vast opportunities for tourism and business, Ahsan Bakhtawari

Saif ur Rehman

GILGIT/ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the northern regions of Pakistan are full of tourism and business opportunities. ICCI International Tourism Summit organized by Islamabad Chamber will be a milestone for the development of the region and promotion of tourism. This 3-day summit is a historic opportunity to highlight the beauty of the Northern Territory to the world and attract local, foreign tourists and investors. Investors benefit from the vast deposits of high-quality marble and granite found in

The government should improve the air link to connect the northern regions with Pakistan and the world, and Skardu Airport should be modernized. Motorways should be constructed and the road network should be widened at the local level. He expressed these views while addressing the opening session of the first ICCI International Tourism Summit held on Saturday. A large number of ambassadors and business community from several coun-



tries including Malaysia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Nepal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria participated in the summit. He said that there is a lot of potential for tourism and business in the northern regions of Pakistan.

This 3-day summit is surely a historic opportunity to tap the unexplored potential of the northern regions of Pakistan and attract local, foreign tourists and investors. It is a fact that we have beautiful tourist destinations like Switzerland, one can come and visit these places freely. He said that there are vast investment oppor-

tunities in the northern regions. Large deposits of marble and granite of high quality and unique colors are available in these areas, but huge quantities of marble and granite are being wasted due to non-use of modern technology. Ghazar, Skardu, Hunza and Gilgit districts are rich in deposits of precious stones

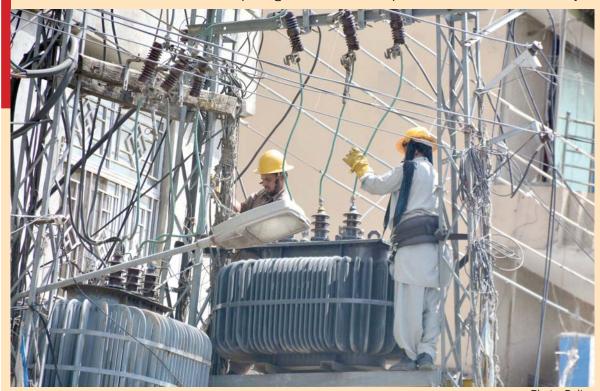
Apart from this, there are serpentine deposits in Skardu district. At present they are being mined through blasting technique which not only destroys these natural resources but also stone for the promotion of tourism and busiwastes more than 75% of the total production. ness in the northern regions.

The best varieties of fruits are grown in these areas, besides controlling wastage of fruits, the production can be further increased by using modern techniques. Value addition is a very important factor for producing other products from fruits. This will greatly help in increasing the export of fruits and their products to different countries of the world.

The government of Pakistan is taking various measures to promote tourism, but more facilities should be provided to local and foreign tourists by developing international standard tourist destinations. The number of direct flights should be increased for easy access to these areas and the Skardu Airport should be fully modernized to provide better services to the tourists. The road network should be further improved by constructing motorways and creating more recreational areas at various places. He said that I am grateful to the entire team of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry who worked day and night to make excellent arrangements for the visit and stay of the delegates. This conference will be a mile-

Hard Work

RAWALPINDI: Worker of WAPDA are repairing electric wires on a pole at Dhoke Hassu area in City.



A review meeting about cotton situation was held at civil secretariat, Lahore

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Secretary Agriculture, Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahoo has said that in order to ensure the availability of quality pesticides to the cotton farmers, action has been taken against those who involved in the sale of fake and substandard pesticides and operations should be expedited on the basis of secret information. He further directed to registered cases under MPO against those involved in sale of adulterated pesticides. He was presiding over the review meeting regarding the current situation of cotton held at Civil Secretariat, Lahore today.

In the meeting, Director General Agriculture (Pest Warning) Punjab Rana Faqir Ahmed, Director General Agriculture (Crop Reporting) Punjab Dr. Abdul Qayyum, Director Agriculture (Extension) Headquarters Lahore and other officers participated while Additional Secretary Agriculture (Task Force), Punjab Muhammad Shabbir Ahmad Khan, Director General Agriculture (Extension), Punjab Dr Muhammad Anjum Ali including all his divisional Directors participated online in the meeting.



Secretary Agriculture regarding the situation of cotton said that in some areas of cotton the attack of whitefly, jassid and thrips has been observed, but till now, it is below Economic Threshold Level (ETL). He further said that special attention is being paid to pest scouting of cotton this month because the attack of harmful insects is likely to increase due to increase in heat and humidity. Therefore, the pest warning staff is working in the field along with farmers.

On this occasion, Secretary Agriculture, Punjab instructed Director General Agriculture (Pest Warning) to share all the reports with Agriculture Extension Rana Faqir Ahmed while briefing the and prepare a comprehensive monitor-

ing IT based report. He further said that the cotton crop has entered a critical phase and the next two months are very important for cotton.

Secretary Agriculture, Punjab directed all divisional Directors to increase surveillance and field inspection. In addition, divisional expert groups are directed to visit hot spot areas of cotton and provide technical guidance to farmers. On this occasion, Secretary Agriculture Punjab directed the Additional Secretary Agriculture (Task Force) to prepare and submit a report related to the business volume in the facilitation centers established to support the farmers, marketing of cotton and operational ginning factories.

Industries Minister chairs meeting to resolve farmers problems

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: A meeting of the committee established to address farmers' issues was held at the DC Office in Faisalabad, chaired by Provincial Minister of Industry and Trade, Agriculture SM Tanveer and Commissioner Saulat Saeed.

During the meeting, updates on the progress made in resolving these issues were shared. It was highlighted that effective ing sugarcane dues. Regular meetings of the Agricultural Advisory Committee are also being held to maintain close communication with

Addressing the meeting, Provincial Minister SM Tanveer emphasized that the welfare of farmers and finding solutions to their problems is of utmost impor-



efforts of the commissioner in addressing division-level issues faced by farmers and highlighted that steps are being taken to address provincial-level concerns as well. He commended measures are underway to the committee's establishensure the availability of ment for contributing to high-quality fertilizers and an increased rate of probseeds at fixed rates. More- lem-solving for farmers, over, efforts are being made which has been well-reto provide canal water to ceived by the farming farmers and resolve pend- community. The minister expressed satisfaction with the performance of the relevant departments.

Agri Director Ch. Abdul Hameed provided a briefing on the measures being Representatives taken. from various farmer-related departments, including livestock, irrigation, industries, and agricultural marketing participated in the meeting.

Zero load-management being carried out across all regions: **IESCO** spokesperson

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Saturday said that zero load management was being carried out across the Company's regions owing to the availability of the required electricity quota from the national grid system.

In a statement issued here,

the spokesman of the Company said that as many as 170 MW of electricity was being supplied to IESCO against the current demand of 1705

He said that operation staff was available in their respective fields to address individual complaints. The consumers can lodge their complaints at helpline 118 or phone number 051-9252933, he told.

First Saudi at Paris Fashion Week underlines dramatic changes

News Desk

PARIS: Mohammed Ashi's haute couture show-his first as part of the official roster after years of dressing top celebrities-is "the peak of my career," he told AFP at a cocktail soiree at the Ritz Hotel in Paris this week, part of a lavish Saudi PR campaign throughout this fashion season.

shi forged his own path, having left the kingdom three decades ago, but his promotion to the top league is neatly timed as Riyadh announces its own fashion week in October and says new freedoms will create retail opportunities worth \$32 billion a year.

Fashion is just one strand of

ruler Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman divert its oil wealth into movies, sports, video games and tourism, while overseeing dramatic social changes within the kingdom.

Many worried it was all just a smokescreen to defuse criticism of his human rights record, especially after the gruesome murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

But the changes ran further and deeper than almost anyone

"For the first two years, I almost didn't believe it was real, but then I realised, wow, it IS real," said Yousef Akbar, 37, who began a strategy that has seen de facto his eponymous fashion label in



Australia in 2017 and has dressed the likes of Nicole Kidman and

"I really never thought when I happen. When I started my brand

life would be there since I'm a fashion designer," added Akbar. who now also runs his business

The Saudi elite already spent vast sums on international luxury brands for events behind closed

But the Saudi Fashion Commission claims new freedoms around public dress and a growing path. private sector will see retail sales surge by 48 percent to \$32 billion uled reform process which is about between 2021 and 2025.

It wants a lot of this money to stay in the country, creating a Saudi 100 brands programme to

incubate local designers. CEO Burak Cakmak says there are stable foundations for a home-

in Australia, I thought my whole grown industry.

"Just because the country wasn't exposed to the rest of the world doesn't mean they are starting now," he told AFP in Paris. "I had an event for a brand this week that's been running since the 70s.

Having repressed practically all opposition to his rule and stripped clerics of their power, there are few obstacles in Prince Mohammed's

"It's a well-planned, long-schedto change the society completely,"

"The Saudi people don't tend to

be revolutionary and for the vast majority there are indeed new and big opportunities now, especially for women."

World Cup 2023: PM Shehbaz forms committee to decide on Pakistan's India visit

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday constituted a 14-member committee, headed by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, to decide the Pakistan cricket team's participation in the World Cup to be held in India this year.

The committee, headed by the foreign minister, includes the interior minister, the law minister, the Inter-Provincial Coordination minister, the information and broadcasting minister, the adviser on Kashmir affairs, the adviser on Establishment, the foreign secretary, PSPM and representatives of secret agencies and sensitive departments.

The committee has been authorised to consider Pakistan's participation in the World Cup, say sources.

The committee would present its ipation of the Pakistan team in the ODI who will then take the final decision.



recommendations regarding the partic- World Cup in India to PM Shehbaz,

The development comes days after the PCB wrote a letter to Pakistan prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and the interior and the foreign ministry to seek an official clearance to travel to India for the ODI World Cup in October-No-

In the letter, the PCB shared Pakistan's schedule with the government, which says the team will play its nine league matches in five cities, including the big clash against India in Ahmedabad on October 15.

The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 will begin on October 5 with holders England taking on New Zealand at the world's biggest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad, which will also host the

Pakistan will clash with arch-rival India on October 15 in the tournament in Ahmedabad.

Polo

CHITRAL: Players are competing each other's during Polo match at the world highest Polo



Photo: Online

Abdullah Mohsin called on Wahab Riaz

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Various issues related to the promotion of rugby in Pakistan were discussed in the meeting.

Chairman Pakistan Rugby Union (PRU) Fauzi Khawaja, President PRU Arif Saeed and Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan were also present in the meeting.

It may be noted here that the UAE rugby team is in Lahore these days for the 2-match Asia Division One Series against

Talking on this occasion, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that holding of international sports competitions in Pakistan is a positive development. "We are grateful to the UAE team for visiting Pakistan for 2-match Asia Division One Series".

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz further said that effective endeavours will be made to organise more international rugby competitions in Pakistan.

Shandur polo attracts tourists on second day in droves

👺 Bureau Report

SHANDUR: Shandur polo event attracted a large number of tourists and local residents on the second day here Saturday amid great fun and excitement.

Known as Game of Kings, the free-style polo is a unique sport of Pakistan that was played in the world's highest polo ground at Shandur pass in the second week of

July every year. Located in the lap of the Hindukash mountains in the Upper Chitral district, Shandur polo ground where a three days polo festival is currently underway on some 12,000 feet height, attracted domestic and foreign tourists, adventure sports lovers and the local population on the second day and applauded the experienced and young players of Chitral and Gilgit Baltistan with cheering hands.

The spectators are overwhelmed by the cultural folk music, shandur lake, paragliding, rocks climbing, mountaineering and delectable foods.

"I have heard a lot about Shandur polo festival and today my dream to watch my favourite free-style polo matches in the world's highest polo ground came true," said Ali Khan, a resident of Peshawar while talking to APP.

"The horse riding skills and sportsmen spirit demonstrated by the players impressed me the most," he said.

Shandur polio had been played between Chitral and Gilgit Baltistan teams since 1930. In 1935, UK administrator for northern areas, Evelyn Cobb ordered the construction of a polo ground at Shandur and later on it was formally organized under the government's patronage since 1982. The polo event was won 13 times by Gilgit-Baltistan and 16 times by Chitral, Shahzada Sikandar Ul Mulk (Captain of Chitral Polo team) has a unique distinction for winning it 13 times for his team followed by Raji Rehmat of Gilgit by seven times for his team as captain.

Before Shandur polo, preliminary matches were played at GB and Chitral in which the best players and horses were selected for the mega event. Each team consists of six players with two to four reserve players.

Besides freestyle polo, tourists enjoyed paragliding, rocks mountaineering, music, cultural dances and local sports.

KP Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) in collaboration with Pakistan Army, District Administrations of Chitral Upper and Lower, Police and other relevant departments organized the event.

Shahidullah Khan, Commissioner Malakand said that the KP government and relevant departments deserved appreciation for the successful holding of Shandur polo festival this year.



He said preparations for the event Omar said that he took keen interest in were started six months ago, adding the federal government has been requested for construction of the Mastuj Road for better road connectivity to Shandur

He said Malakand division was most suited for adventure and mountains sports and the provincial government, and rabab took tourists over the moon. tourism department and KPCTA are working together to make this mountainous region a hub of tourism.

Meanwhile, the paragliders exhibited a spectacular show of para trooping and performed various daring tricks in the sky, making the event memorable.

Children from Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral performed on national songs, whereas traditional dances were exhibited by the boys of Kalash valley.

Traditional music of Gilgit Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa besides the popular Shandur song of Zek Afridi enthralled spectators on drums beats.

Impressed by paragliding, another tourist of Nowshera district, Khayam Shandur.

adventure sports including mountaineering, hiking, rocks climbing and traditional food besides polo matches here.

Enjoying the pleasant but relatively cool nights at Shandur, he said cultural and musical shows with traditional 'tabla

He suggested using of digital technology to showcase Shandur polo abroad to earn valuable foreign exchange for the

Saad Khan, spokesman of Cultural and Tourism Authority KP told APP that stalls were established to promote the artwork of Chitral and Gilgit Baltistan's artists.

Director General, KP Culture and Tourism Authority, Bakhtiar Khan said that tourism police were deployed to assist and guidance of tourists at Malakand and Hazara divisions including Shandur.

He said elaborate arrangments regarding food, accommodation and security were made for facilitation of tourists at

Zaka Ashraf backs Babar Azam & Co for Sri Lanka Tests



LAHORE: The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Zaka Ashraf on Saturday, spoke to the national men's cricket team captain Babar Azam and extended well wishes ahead of their Test tour of Sri Lanka.

According to the details, the newly-appointed Management Committee Chairman Zaka Ashraf had a telephonic conversation with Babar Azam and extended well wishes for their first World Test Championship (WTC) assignment and Asia Cup.

"Extend my best wishes to the entire team," Ashraf told Babar.
"We are hopeful that the team will triumph in the tour of Sri Lanka and the Asia Cup," he added.

Babar Azam congratulated Zaka Ashraf on assuming the charge of PCB management committee chairman and vowed to lift the national cricket team to glory in the Asia Cup.

Pakistan won the Asia Cup in your previous tenure and by the will of Almighty Allah, we will win it again," said Babar Azam. We will leave no stone unturned to take the Pakistan team to new heights. We will take the field with great energy, Paki-

stan captain added. Pakistan's Sri Lanka Tests-bound contingent is due to depart for Sri Lanka tonight where they will play two Tests from July

It is worth mentioning Pakistan will start their tour of Sri Lanka with a two-day warm-up match, scheduled on July 10

The first Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka is scheduled to commence on July 16 while the second will embark on July 24. Pakistan squad: Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan (vc & wk), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Huraira, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Noman Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi and Shan Masood

Itinerary of Pakistan's tour of Sri Lanka:

9 July - Pakistan land in Colombo

11 and 12 July - Warm-up game 16-20 July – First Test at Galle International Cricket Stadium 24-28 July - Second Test at Singhalese Sports Club, Colombo.

Shahid Afridi pens heartfelt note for daughter Aqsa on wedding



LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain and star all-rounder Shahid Afridi penned heartwarming wishes for his eldest daughter Aqsa Afridi after her Rukhsati last night.

The firstborn of the veteran cricketer, Aqsa Shahid Afridi tied the knot with Naseer Nasir Khan in a glitzy ceremony, attended by the stars of the cricket world, including former cricketers Moin Khan, Arshad Khan, Mohammad Akram and Waqar Younis.

National cricketers including Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Imam ul Haq, Shan Masood and Shaheen Shah Afridi, who are currently in Karachi for the training camp and couldn't fly to Islamabad for fellow Haris Rauf's wedding, were also seen gracing the private affair in the city, to extend their wishes to the newlyweds.

On Saturday afternoon, Shahid Afridi took to his social media handles with some inside glimpses from the event, as he penned a heartfelt message for his girl. "Meri pyari beti (My darling daughter) - it seems like yesterday when I cradled you in my arms - and on that day, I promised myself I would never leave your side," he wrote in the caption.

"Although you're about to begin a new chapter in your life, you'll always have my heart because I'm the man who loved you first," Afridi added.

"May Allah keep you both under His Divine protection and give you the chance to create a beautiful life together. Ameen," wished the doting father in the end.

It is pertinent to mention here that the eldest daughter of Shahid Afridi, Aqsa got Nikahfied to Naseer Nasir Khan in

On the other hand, his second eldest daughter Ansha got married to star cricketer Shaheen Shah Afridi earlier this year.

Hasan Ali heaps praise on Sarfaraz Ahmed, Mickey Arthur

A Sports

captain Sarfaraz Ahmed and Mickey Arthur for shaping the careers of play-

ers including him and Babar Azam. The right-arm speedster who stepped foot in international cricket in 2016 under the leadership of as the national team's head coach, lauded the duo for having confidence in the young players.

"You ask any player who made debut when Arthur was head coach, he will call him the best coach," he said.

"He used to tell us our importance by calling us champion, tiger, lion, and match winner. He used to support us a lot and that is how players were built ed Hasan.

during his time," he added.

Notably, Pakistan lifted their first-ev-LAHORE: Right-arm pacer Hasan er Champions Trophy title during Ali heaped praise on former Pakistan Arthur's tenure and Sarfaraz's captaincy. Hasan Ali played a pivotal role in the team's historic triumph.

He was the leading wicket-taker of the tournament and was also named the Player of the Tournament.

Hasan then shared that Sarfaraz Sarfaraz Ahmed and Mickey Arthur Ahmed, during his captaincy stint, kept faith in a pool of 15 to 18 players and those players performed and won matches for the country.

> "Saifi bhai, then captain, held a meeting in 2018 and told us that we are his main players. The players then used to be selected from a pool of 15 to 18 players. Those players performed for the team and we won matches," stat-

Sarfaraz is considered one of the most successful Pakistan captains, having won two ICC titles - Champions Trophy and U19 World Cup - and leading his side to 11 consecutive T20I series victories.

Hasan Ali continued his praise for former head coach Mickey Arthur by giving an example of how he constantly supported Babar Azam in Test cricket which eventually made him equally brilliant in the longest format.

"After every Test, there were talks about dropping Babar in the next series. But Arthur always said that Babar is a match-winner. He believed in him and see how he became a top batter across all formats," he highlighted.

"You can't take proper outcome from players until you give them proper chances," he concluded.

