

**People like Edhi reflect real moral values of society: PM**

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that people like late Abdul Sattar Edhi truly reflected the moral values of a society and reinforced 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. (Details on Page 8)



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

Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that the Mainline (ML-1) project is like a backbone for the railways. 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. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**MOU**

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.



Photo: Online

**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

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 this part of the world and that

Switzerland could play the role of 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 cooperation to mitigate the risks asso-

ciated with the natural catastrophes. 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. Earlier, 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 release.

**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 Army on phone and paid tribute to their services and sacrifices. The president talked to the families of Major Saqib Bajwa and Naek Ali Baqar

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 commitment of shuhada with their duties and motherland. He also prayed for the high ranks of the departed souls and for the bereaved families to bear the losses with fortitude.

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



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday said the cinema house and digital radio laboratory at Radio Pakistan Lahore would bring the splendour of movie magic back to Pakistan

by introducing affordable cinema access. 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 every Pakistani world-class entertainment, Radio Pakistan is launching a National Digital archive and mapping of the music melodies of Pakistan and world-class podcast studios at Radio Pakistani across Pakistan," she said.

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

**Court declares Toshakhana case against PTI chief maintainable**

**City Desk**

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 fixed it for hearing on July 12. The court rejected the chairman PTI's plea for adjournment 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.

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

**Spokesman Report**

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. This issue revolves around the 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-

sion. 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 four-tier 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 decision. During a hearing on Friday, Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani 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**

**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 24 hours. 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.

**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 exports. 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 Turkey, 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.

## 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.



Photo: Online

## 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 youth 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 Koker-nag area of Islamabad district on this day in 2016.

His extrajudicial killing had triggered a mass uprising in IIOJK 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.

## People like Edhi reflect real moral values of society: PM

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that people like late Abdul Sattar Edhi truly reflected the moral values of a society and reinforced 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.

He said that people like late Edhi worked for their objective with dedication and desire which later became a symbol of their contributions.

Abdul Sattar Edhi 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

language.

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 be remembered for his selfless devotion and service to humanity," it added.

## Sanaullah felicitates PM for relaunching of halted free laptop scheme

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan on Saturday extended his heartfelt 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 country.



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



## 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 the railways.

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 Syed Mazhar Ali Shah would leave for China on Sunday to discuss several issues includ-

ing ML-1 project with the Chinese authorities.

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

The minister was updated on 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.

## 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 release.

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



the government's active initiatives 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.

The minister said, "Our glaciers are melting speedily. We are currently witnessing heavy monsoon rains in

Lafore." She said that around 33 million people were affected by floods last year, adding that

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 and other projects," Sherry

Rahman.

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

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.

## Land allotment to 'homeless people' in IIOJK: APHC

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that the announcement made by the authorities to give land to around 2 lac "homeless people" in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is another attempt to change the demography of the territory.

According to Kashmir 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 identity of these "homeless people" and the intentions behind this move are suspect as there are glaring discrepancies about the whole matter.

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

## 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, comprising 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) corruption case.

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.

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 to justice".

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 declared.

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 with law.

## PTI leadership running away from accountability, says Kaira

## 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.

IS 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-Custom 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 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.



Dr Rehmatullah Vistro said that we 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

new rules are made every year.

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-

try and nation more and more.

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.

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## 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.



Photo: Online

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

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Secretary, Emergency Services Department (ESD) Dr Rizwan Naseer acknowledged the contributions of Paramedics on the International Paramedics Day launched to acknowledge the paramedics services who risk their lives to save the lives of emergency victims during any emergency and especially pandemics like COVID. Today, we recognize and honor the unwavering commitment, courage, and compassion displayed by paramedics worldwide.

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

his message on International Paramedics Day. The ESD has rescued over 12.8 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 1122 Emergency Paramedics provided emergency care to over 23,000 to COVID victims and carried out dignified burials of over 4000 victims. He 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

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 system.

# 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 Farooq 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 wholesalers 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.



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# Pakistan's fundamental setback — lack of Vision

Pakistan has long been plagued by a lack of vision, impeding its progress and 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.

elucidated through the trials and tribulations of our populace in their struggle for independence and nationhood.

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 economic, and human costs.

community 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 & D is significantly lower compared to other countries, limiting 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 memorization 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.

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Analysis  
Malaika Sarwar

## World food prices fall again in June

The 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 Türkiye. 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 stocks-to-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 to 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 Thursday.

## Persecuted Pakistani minorities seek safety amidst skepticism and closed doors

In the vast tapestry of 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

there. Hence, Muslims should 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 non-Muslim countries. **The Consequences of Seeking Asylum:**

Pakistani law presents a double-edged sword to those daring enough to denounce their homeland in search of safety. It threatens them with accusations of treason and the 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

High Commissioner for Refugees (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 Pakistan's minority community paints a disturbing picture of marginalization and forced exodus. Constrained by the shackles of oppression, these courageous souls are compelled to seek refuge beyond their homeland's borders, to voice their dissent and seek a semblance of justice. Astonishingly, the number of Pakistanis seeking asylum now exceeds that of individuals from war-torn Afghanistan and strife-ridden Myanmar. **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. **Conclusion:**

In the face of persecution and

discrimination, the minority 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 international community can play a vital role in fostering a world where diversity is celebrated, discrimination is eradicated, and all individuals can find safety, justice, and unity.

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Amjad Rasmi

## Multan police in pursuit of crimes

Morale is an essential factor in any police agency's success. It's a measure of how satisfied, motivated and committed police officers are to their job. When morale is high, police officers are more likely to be effective in their duties, have a better attitude and have 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 Punjab police officers see significant challenges on the job in the wake of high-profile incidents involving law enforcement. Among those challenges is a widespread 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 details of the accused. Sometimes the suspects 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 police have taken action against criminal elements during the past six months to control

crime. They have arrested 78 members of 28 gangs, seizing stolen property worth more than 2 crore rupees. According to the police record Multan police have arrested 58 suspects involved in murder, 157 attempted murder cases, 18 robberies, 26 blind murders, 139 dacoities, 1697 robberies, 63 cases of rape, 69 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. Whenever information about imports is received, the police teams are activated. Here special tasks have been assigned to police teams to trace and arrest gangs involved in 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.

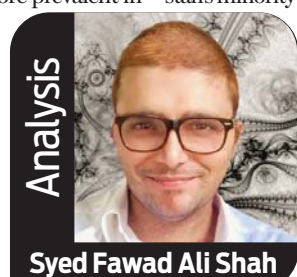
According to the documents the Multan police handed over more than 500 stolen mobile phones worth 2 crore rupees to their respective owners. SSP Operations Multan, Muhammad Imran, handed over the recovered mobile phone to their owners.

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 the help of modern technology. This is the need of the hour.



Analysis  
Zain-ul-Abideen Abid



Analysis  
Syed Fawad Ali Shah



**Rates of ET taxes revised by Punjab Cabinet**



**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 hope that from January 1, 2024, property tax would be assessed according to the new survey. Earlier, the survey of immovable 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 previous Rs3,000.

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 these areas.

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 wastes more than 75% of the total production.

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 milestone for the promotion of tourism and business in the northern regions.

**Hard Work**

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

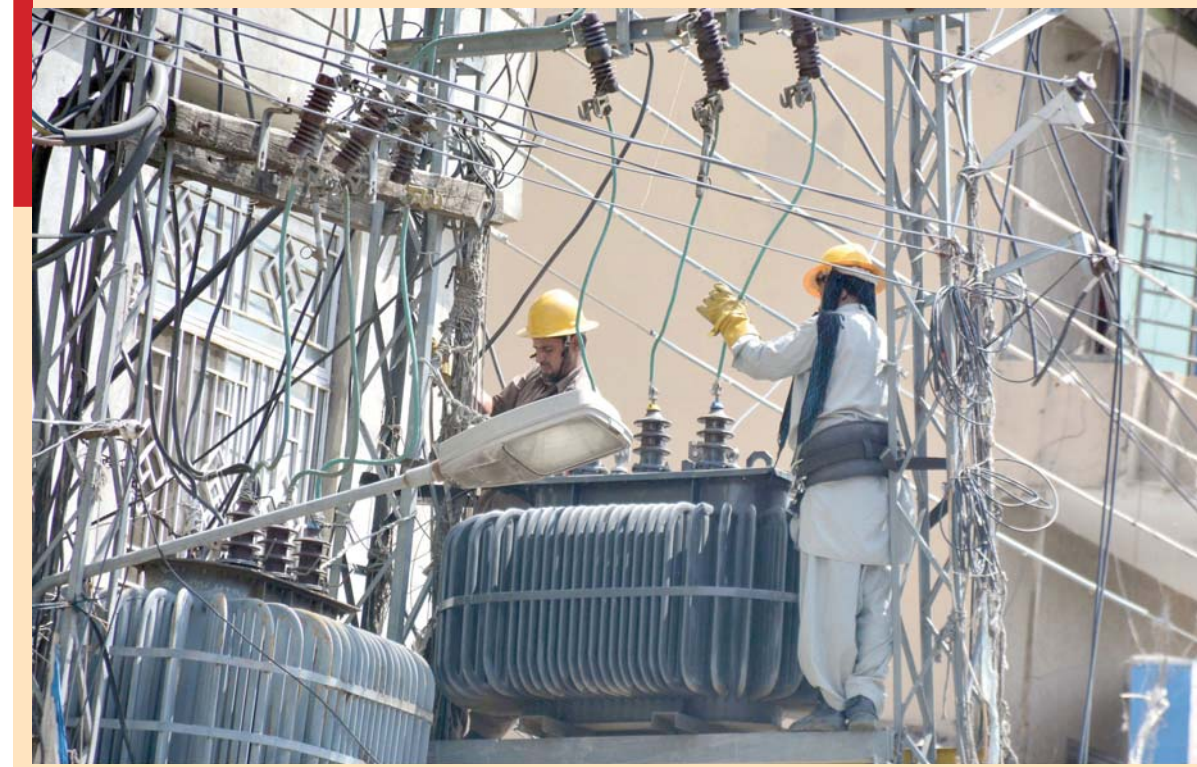


Photo: Online

**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 Sault Saeed.

During the meeting, updates on the progress made in resolving these issues were shared. It was highlighted that effective measures are underway to ensure the availability of high-quality fertilizers and seeds at fixed rates. Moreover, efforts are being made to provide canal water to farmers and resolve pending sugarcane dues. Regular meetings of the Agricultural Advisory Committee are also being held to maintain close communication with farmers.

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



importance. He acknowledged the 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 the committee's establishment for contributing to an increased rate of problem-solving for farmers, which has been well-received by the farming community. The minister expressed satisfaction with the performance of the relevant departments.

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

**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.

Rana Faqir Ahmed while briefing the



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 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.

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

**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 MW.

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.

shah 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 a strategy that has seen de facto

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 expected.

"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 his eponymous fashion label in



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

Rita Ora. "I really never thought when I

was growing up that this would happen. When I started my brand

in Australia, I thought my whole life would be there since I'm a fashion designer," added Akbar, who now also runs his business from Jeddah.

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

But the Saudi Fashion Commission claims new freedoms around public dress and a growing private sector will see retail sales surge by 48 percent to \$32 billion 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-

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 path.

"It's a well-planned, long-scheduled reform process which is about to change the society completely," said Koelbl.

"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

## 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



recommendations regarding the participation of the Pakistan team in the ODI World Cup in India to PM Shehbaz, who will then take the final decision.

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-November.

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 final.

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

## Zaka Ashraf backs Babar Azam & Co for Sri Lanka Tests



## Spots Desk

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, Pakistan 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 16 to July 28.

It is worth mentioning Pakistan will start their tour of Sri Lanka with a two-day warm-up match, scheduled on July 10 and 11.

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 Huraiera, 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 Singhaiah Sports Club, Colombo.

## Shahid Afridi pens heartfelt note for daughter Aqsa on wedding



## A Sports

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 December last year.

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

## Polo

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



Photo: Online

# 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 polo 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 Mulik (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 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, 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

## 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 Pakistan.

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.

# Hasan Ali heaps praise on Sarfaraz Ahmed, Mickey Arthur

## A Sports

LAHORE: Right-arm pacer Hasan Ali heaped praise on former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed and Mickey Arthur for shaping the careers of players including him and Babar Azam.

The right-arm speedster who stepped foot in international cricket in 2016 under the leadership of Sarfaraz Ahmed and Mickey Arthur 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

during his time," he added. Notably, Pakistan lifted their first-ever Champions Trophy title during 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 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," stated Hasan.

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.

