

'No one can dare to ban PTI': CM Gandapur throws down gauntlet to PML-N govt

After the federal government announced taking adverse actions against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said Tuesday that "no one can dare to ban the PTI which secured highest number of votes" in the February 8 nationwide polls.



Xi Jinping the reformer

China's leader Xi Jinping is rolling out a set of new reforms that will determine the growth trajectory of the world's second-largest economy, as the Communist Party of China (CPC) leadership started a four-day policy meeting in Beijing on Monday morning. At the opening of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, Xi, as the general secretary of the Committee, delivered a work report on behalf of the Political Bureau and expounded on a draft decision on further comprehensively deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernization. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Martyrs

Pictures of soldiers were martyred in the attack.



Photo: ISPR

4 Pakistani killed in Oman Mosque attack



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Six people were killed, including four Pakistanis, and more than two dozen others were injured in an assault on a Shi'ite Muslim mosque in Oman late on Monday, law enforcement said, in a rare security breach in the oil producing Gulf state.

Pakistan's Foreign Office confirmed on Tuesday that the attack on a mosque in Oman had resulted in the deaths of four Pakistanis. Another 30 Pakistanis were injured in the attack.

"Pakistan strongly condemns the dastardly terrorist attack on Imam Bargah Ali bin Abu Talib in Wadi Kabir in Muscat, Oman that resulted in multiple casualties including the death of four Pakistanis," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The statement said that

the Pakistani embassy is in contact with authorities for identification and repatriation of the mortal remains of the martyred Pakistanis.

"It has also opened a helpline to respond to queries from the Pakistani community in Oman and to facilitate them. Ambassador Imran Ali is also visiting local hospitals to inquire about the well-being of injured Pakistani nationals," the statement added.

"Pakistan has offered all possible assistance to Omani authorities in the investigation and in bringing to justice of those responsible for this heinous crime in this holy month of Muharram."

Monday's mosque attack, which has yet to be claimed, came as Shias this week mark Ashura, an annual day of mourning that commemorates the seventh-century death in

Continued on Page 8

10 terrorists killed in Bannu Cantt attack, 8 soldiers martyred: ISPR

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: New details have been revealed about the attack on the Bannu Cantonment on July 15, revealing that a total of 10 terrorists involved in the attack were all neutralised. "In early hours of 15 July 24, a group of ten terrorists attacked Bannu Cantonment. The attempt to enter the cantonment was effectively thwarted

by the security forces personnel, which forced the terrorists to ram an explosive laden vehicle into perimeter wall of the cantonment," Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement. The statement said that suicide blast led to collapse of portion of the wall and damaged the adjoining infrastructure. ISPR also revealed that eight soldiers were martyred in the attack including Naib Subedar

Muhammad Shehzad (44 years, District Poonch, AJK), Havildar Zil-e-Hussain (39 years, District Khushab), Havildar Shahzad Ahmed (28 years, District Neelum, AJK), Sepoy Ashfaq Hussain Khan (30 years, District Muzaffarabad, AJK), Sepoy Sobhan Majeed (22 years, District Muzaffarabad, AJK), Sepoy Imtiaz Khan (30 years, District Karak), Sepoy Arsalan Aslam (26 years, District Baha-

walpur) of Pakistan Army and Lance Naik Sabz Ali (34 years, Lakki Marwat) of Frontier Constabulary. The statement added that the 'timely and effective response' by the security forces prevented major catastrophe, saving precious innocent lives. "The heinous act of terrorism has been undertaken by Hafiz Gul Bahadur group, which operates from Afghanistan and has

used Afghan soil to orchestrate acts of terrorism inside Pakistan in the past as well," ISPR said. "Pakistan has consistently raised its concerns with Interim Afghan Government, asking them to deny persistent use of Afghan soil by the terrorists and take effective action against such elements," it added. Earlier reports had indicated that the attack at 4:40 am and four soldiers were martyred.

President, PM, Chairman Senate and Chairman PPP condemn terrorist attacks in Bannu and D I Khan

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari strongly denounced the terrorist incident in Bannu Cantonment also on the Rural Health Care (RHC) in Dera Ismail Khan and paid homage to the martyred soldiers for thwarting the attacks. In a statement, the president highlighted that the nation's soldiers prevented a major loss through swift action. The president expressed that the entire nation was proud of the brave soldiers' sacrifice and paid tribute to the security forces for their role in foiling the terrorist

attack in Bannu Cantonment. The President reiterated his commitment to eliminate those engaged in such despicable activities. He offered prayers for the martyrs, seeking their elevation in paradise and requesting patience for their grieving families. Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif strongly condemned the cowardly attack by terrorists on the Rural Health Center (RHC) in Dera Ismail Khan and the terrorist incident in Bannu Cantonment. The Prime Minister is deeply saddened by the martyrdom of

two children, two female health workers, a watchman and security forces personnel. Naib Subedar Mohammad Farooq and Sepoy Mohammad Javed Iqbal, who martyred the terrorists in the attack. Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif prayed for forgiveness for the martyrs and patience for their families. And said Pakistan will kill the monster of terrorism. The Pakistani nation and the Pakistan Army are standing side by side to eradicate terrorism from Pakistan. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that the officers

and soldiers of Pakistan Army are working day and night for the security of Pakistan and the people and they are always sacrificing their lives for the sake of the country and the nation by putting their lives at risk. Gillani further said that whether it is the snow-capped mountains of Siachen or the hot desert of Cholistan, the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army are a leaden wall against the enemy for the country and the nation. We are proud of the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army who are always struggling to thwart conspiracies PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari strongly condemned the attack on DI Khan Rural Health Center and in Bannu Cantonment. He paid homage to 5 innocent martyrs including lady health workers and the martyred soldiers and said every drop of blood of our innocent brothers and sisters will be counted, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari further said that brutal and cowardly terrorists did not spare women health workers and children. We pay homage to security forces for ensuring timely response. We will behead the murderers of women and children and their guardians.

PML-N leader opposes govt decision to ban PTI

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Senior Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) leader on Tuesday opposed the government's decision to ban Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stressing that banning political parties is not a solution to any problem. Speaking at a press conference, Javed Latif said that the 'local political parties' serve the state and nation, arguing that if certain individuals threaten the state, they should not be considered a national party. He highlighted that parties



contributing to national prosperity should be recognized and that hidden forces weakening the state should be exposed. Latif criticized the judicial murder of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who fortified Pakistan's defense. He expressed concerns over the potential banning of PTI, noting that PTI's founder had previously banned a party without similar public concern. He warned that weakening national political parties undermines democracy and likened the current situation in Pakistan

to Kenya. Latif condemned the glorification of those who contributed nothing over four years and criticized the May 9 incident, questioning whether any national party or leader could be responsible for such actions. Latif called for a round table conference involving political leaders and institutions to address current issues. He demanded that those responsible for the May 9 incident be brought to justice according to the law, stressing that Pakistan cannot afford actions taken to appease specific interests.

Ban on PTI will be finalise after consultation with allies: Ishaq Dar



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday asserted that the decision to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will be made after consultations with allied political parties. Speaking to the media at an event held at Data Darbar, Ishaq Dar emphasized that the current inflation did not arise under the current government but was a consequence of the 2018 election being stolen and subsequent economic mismanagement by the PTI government. He asserted that the coal-

ition government avoided bankruptcy and is working to restore the country's economy and reduce inflation. Dar mentioned that major countries are restoring diplomatic relations with Pakistan, signaling economic recovery. He expressed optimism about overcoming economic challenges and reducing inflation soon. He also noted that the Election Commission has evidence of PTI being a foreign-funded party. Dar highlighted the importance of following the constitution and laws, and mentioned that Federal Minister of Information Attaulah Tara's recent statements would be discussed with allied parties before any decision is made. Dar reiterated the importance of national security and

Continued on Page 8

Karachi Bar Association to hold nationwide movement against ad-hoc judges appointment in SC

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Karachi Bar Association (KBA) has announced a nationwide movement to protest the appointment of ad-hoc judges in the Supreme Court of Pakistan. At a press conference, KBA Secretary General Ikhtiar Ali Channa condemned the appointment of retired judges as ad-hoc judges in the apex court. Such appointments on an ad-hoc basis are a violation of the national judicial policy, he added. "The appointment of retired judges as ad-hoc judges on the Supreme Court bench is a violation of Article 179 of the Constitution, which states that the retirement age for judges is 65 years," said Channa.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa has proposed four retired judges - Mushir Alam, Mazhar Alam Miankhal, Maqbool Baqar and Sardar Tariq Masood - for the appointment as four ad hoc judges for three years in the SC. Channa was of the view that such appointments would have a significant impact on the fabric of the judiciary and society at large. He demanded that the SC should instead appoint all senior judges from the high courts to the SC. The KBA also called for the top court to implement the directives given in the Al-Jihad Trust case. The association argued that the recent ad-hoc appointments go against the principles outlined in that landmark judgment.

Mourning procession

MULTAN: Shiite Muslims take part in a mourning procession in connection with Shahadat Imam Hussain A.S in the city.



Photo: Asim Tanveer

CM directs cabinet to monitor security arrangements on Ashura

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed provincial cabinet and the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order to monitor security arrangements for 'Ashura'.

The CM directed the law enforcement agencies to make foolproof security arrangements

for 9th and 10th of Muharram. The security plans and standards operating procedures (SOPs) should be implemented in letter and spirit, she instructed and directed to ensure close cooperation among law enforcement agencies.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that safety of the participants of 'Majalis' and processions was the responsibility of the government, all necessary measures should



be taken for the purpose, adding that no effort should be spared to maintain peaceful atmosphere in every city. Law enforcement agencies should be fully active and diligent, she said.

The CM said that a close watch should be kept on mischievous elements. All resources should be used to ensure law and order in the province. She also directed the authorities concerned to extend sufficient support for 'sabilis' and 'langar' of the mourners.

IIUI President ended nepotism, promoted merit: Spokesperson

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University (IIUI) spokesperson Nasir Farid praised the university's President, H. E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, for transforming the institution into a merit-based hub of excellence over the past four years, saying that Dr. Alotaibi eliminated nepotism and ensuring decisions were made solely on merit.

In a statement, Nasir Farid said that Dr. Alotaibi's principled decisions discouraged grouping and made it possible for deserving individuals to access their rights. He cited the frequent holding of selection boards, where employees and teachers were promoted on merit. He said that President IIUI's principled policy failed such elements whose agenda was personal interest.

He said that in the light of President IIUI's vision, the university achieved significant success in research, teaching quality and infrastructural development among other fields. Mentioning the strategic plan introduced by Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, he said that President IIUI saved the university from a serious financial crisis, the most mentionable is the support provided by Saudi Arabia due to his efforts amid tough financial circumstances. Nasir Farid said that as a result of the tireless efforts of the President of University, the salaries of the last two months were managed from the Saudi fund.



The spokesperson said that the universities across the country are currently suffering from severe financial crisis and the same situation has also affected the IIUI, but it is the result of Dr. Hathal's hard work and vision that even now the university is very competitive compared to other universities in the country and serving in better condition.

Speaking about a high-level meeting on admissions on Monday, the University spokesperson said that in this meeting, the Vice Presidents, Deans, Directors General and other senior officials of the University praised the leadership and vision of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi and said that in result of his hard work and vision, the university has achieved a prominent position in the global rankings. They also praised saying that during his four-year tenure, along with the increase in faculty blocks, labs and infrastructure, the university has gotten high profile faculty members from Saudi Arabia's Um ul Qura University, Madinah University and Imam Muhammad Ibn e Saud University, which they said is a matter of honor

and distinction.

The spokesperson of the University also said that on Monday, in the male campus and female campus, four labs established with Saudi funding that was hailed by HEC and the universities across the country. Nasir Farid said that due to the problems faced by universities across the country, there is a decrease in admissions, but due to the university's best ranking, international identity and teaching performance, compared to all universities, still the first priority of the candidates is International Islamic University.

Referring to the University President's vision of using technology and adopting modern teaching methods, the University spokesperson said that the university has entered a new era of digitalization by utilizing the campus management system while Dr. Hathal's distance and online educational reforms have brightened the university's future.

He said that during the presidency of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, the cornerstone of his policy was priority of students centric approach, he abolished the atmosphere of politics from the university and for the first time

in the history of the university, in the hostels, modern turnstile gates were installed and students were able to get hostel seats on merit. He said that for the students, President University has established international quality food streets in male and female campus by taking special measures.

The spokesperson of the University said that Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi gave priority to research and activated the journals of all the departments. He said the IIUI President personally guided the IIUI researchers and promoted the research relevant to the present challenges and societal issues to serve the country.

Nasir Farid said that the students who graduated from the International Islamic University are serving in renowned institutions around the world but they were never contacted before Dr. Hathal's tenure. The IIUI President activated the Alumni office and established a network of distinguished alumni resulting in collaborative agreements and academia-industry linkages. He further said that a clear example of the same efforts is the visit of Saudi Industry Specialists a few days ago where they gave job letters to 21 students of the Faculty of Engineering & Technology on the spot after interviews. The spokesperson said that the entire university has appreciated the services of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, expressed satisfaction on his performance and expressed gratitude for his efforts.

Funeral prayer of Javed Iqbal offered for martyred soldiers in DI Khan attack

Waqar Paracha



KHAN-EWAL: The funeral prayer of Javed Iqbal, a soldier of Pakistan Army while fighting terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan, was performed.

According to the details, 22-year-old soldier Javed Iqbal was martyred by the firing of terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan while fighting with the terrorists. His body reached his village Chehak Khanewal and the funeral prayer was performed with full military honors in the ground near Lahore Mor Rescue Office. Shaheed's father Iqbal said that my son was very good and brave. My son sacrificed his life while fighting with terrorists and made me proud. I am very happy with my son Javed Iqbal. Allah Almighty gave my son the status of martyrdom. Floral wreaths were placed on Sepoy Javed Iqbal's grave by senior officers. A large number of political & social figures and citizens participated in the funeral prayer.

All security agencies are high alert on 9th and 10th Muharram: Maryam Khan



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: All security agencies including administration and police are on full alert on 9 Muharram. Commissioner Maryam Khan and RPO Captain R. Chaudhary Sohail visited Mumtazabad Majlis and Procession Routes, Muharram Control Room and took a briefing. Assistant Commissioner City Seemal Mushtaq gave a briefing on law and order. On this occasion, Commissioner Maryam Khan said that all Muharram processions and meetings are being held in a peaceful environment. The police and the admin-

istration are keeping a close watch on the security situation. Those who try to disrupt the peace will be dealt strictly. RPO Multan Captain R. Sohail Chaudhary said that CCTV cameras have been installed at sensitive places in all the districts. All the organizations are fully prepared to deal with any emergency through the control room. They are in full contact with the organizers of the mourning processions and the peace committee members. Expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and He also met with members of the peace committee.

Vohra Condemns the terrorism attack in Bannu and D. I Khan

Correspondent

FAISALABAD: Central President Cloth Board Ittehad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra while condemning the terrorism in Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan has said that 8 youths of Pakistani forces and 2 in Dera Ismail Khan have been killed. The youths were martyred while 5 citizens were also martyred and some were injured. Pakistan forces killed 10 terrorists in Bannu and 3 terrorists in DI Khan. He has further said that the



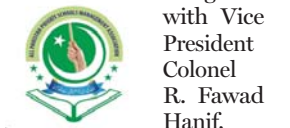
government should leave no stone unturned in identifying the terrorists. Naseer Yousuf Vohra paid tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan forces and civilians and prayed for the recovery of the injured.

Abrar Khan says Hussainism is the name of a system

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association North Punjab President Abrar Ahmed Khan said that Hussainism is a thought and the name of a system. Today we have to revive Hussain's character again. Today, pay homage to Hazrat Imam Hussain (A. S.) and his entire family in such a way that the message of Hussain (A. S.) settles richly in our hearts and its demonstration is seen practically in our lives.

All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association North Punjab President Abrar Ahmed Khan



along with Vice President Colonel R. Fawad Hanif, Divisional President Qazi Noorul Hasan, President Women Wing Mrs. Sakina Taj, Rawalpindi District President Abrar Ahmad Advocate, Tehsil General Secretary Adnan Nisar expressed their view on Ashura Day. They said that The war of Hazrat Imam Ali (AS) was not to gain power, but to raise the values of religion. Hazrat Imam Hussain (A. S.) went through every trial and gave every kind of sacrifice for the exaltation of Deen Mustafavi.

” اور اللہ کی رسی کو مضبوطی سے تھامے رکھو اور تفرقہ میں نہ پڑو۔“
(آل عمران - 103)

یوم عاشور

انسانیت کی خدمت ہے حسین کا پیغام
باہمی محبت، مذہبی رواداری اور امن ہے اسلام

درس محمد ہے کہ ہم ایک قوم کی طرح کھڑے ہوں
ایمان اور مقصد میں ہمیشہ متحد ہوں

- دشمن کے وار سے بچیں
- مذہبی ہم آہنگی اور رواداری کے ساتھ ایک دوسرے کا احترام کریں
- محرم میں آس پاس کے ماحول پر نظر رکھیں
- کسی بھی مشکوک شخص کے بارے میں حکام کو مطلع کریں
- سوشل میڈیا کا ذمہ دارانہ استعمال کریں

یاد رکھیں! کسی کے مذہبی جذبات کو ٹھیس پہنچانا اخلاقی اور قانونی طور پر ممنوع اور قابل گرفت جرم ہے

شہدائے کربلا کی تعلیمات - امن و محبت اور برداشت

www.moib.gov.pk
GovtofPakistan



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr3:29 am
Zohr12:14 pm
Asr5:11 pm
Maghrib7:18 pm
Isha8:58 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-89266316
Wapda Islamabad9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi0331-5022125

IRSA releases 312,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 312,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 304,300 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1523.07 feet and was 125.07 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 164,100 cusecs and 185,400 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1195.50 feet, which was 147.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 28,600 cusecs and 15,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 196,400, 189,800, 139,300 and 81,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 65,800 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 19,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Ashura teaches, great sacrifices for big causes: A. Aleem Khan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Isteqam-e- Pakistan Party & Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan has said in his message on "Ashura" that the martyrdom of Shahudia-e-Imam Hussain (RA) is a great and universal lesson for the Muslim Ummah. He added that Hazrat Imam Hussain (R. A) stops us to bow before falsehood and gives courage to speak the truth in any ways. Abdul Aleem Khan said that the grandson of the Prophet (PBUH) created the history of courage and bravery in Karbala which humanity will always be proud of because he is a torchbearer for everyone. Abdul Aleem Khan further said that "Ashura" teaches us that great sacrifices have to be made for great purposes and we have to pledge mutual unity, interfaith, harmony and



brotherhood on this day. President IPP Abdul Aleem Khan prayed that Allah Almighty may give us the opportunity to follow the teachings of Imam Hussain (R. A) in real sense and this day of 10th Muharram has great significance in this regard.

Meanwhile, President Isteqam-e-Pakistan Party Punjab Rana Nazir Ahmed, MPA and General Secretary Shoaib Siddiqui and Central

Additional General Secretary Mian Khalid Mehmood have also offered their gratitude to the "Ehl-e-Bayt" who conveyed us the message that we should be guided by the sacrifices of the martyrs of Karbala. They added that the Prophet's family sacrificed their lives for the survival of Islam and it was the best and brightest example of attaining the will of Allah Almighty. Provincial President Rana Nazir

Ahmad Khan, while paying his regards to the martyrs of Karbala, said that Imam Hussain and his companions were martyred in the field of Karbala and made mankind proud to bear any kind of evil doings. General Secretary and MPA Shoaib Siddiqui said that without a doubt, the philosophy of "Islam lives after every Karbala" guides our practical life eternally for improvement, while the incident of Karbala teaches us that will of Allah is in the way adopted on 10th Muharram ul Haram. Central Additional General Secretary Mian Khalid Mahmood said in his message that humanity will always be indebted to the eternal sacrifice of the Prophet's grandson for Islam. He said that today we all have to promote brotherhood and religious tolerance so that we can establish peace in the country.

Awaiting for Bus

ISLAMABAD: A large number of citizens waiting for Metro Bus at a station in the Federal Capital.

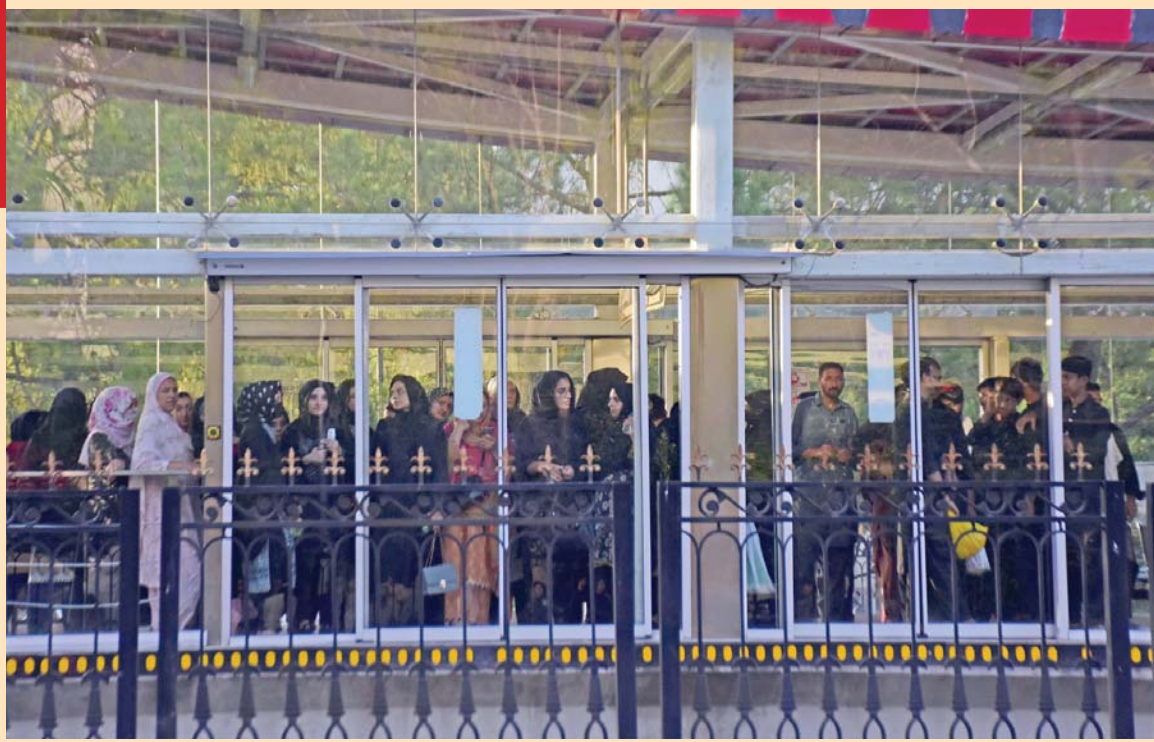


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Khanzada vents indignation over paucity of medicine, facilities in Tehsil headquarters hospital

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Member district monitoring committee and former provincial Minister Jahangir Khanzada has expressed indignation over paucity of health facilities and medicines at tehsil headquarters hospital (THQ) Hazro.

Flanked by city PML President Malik Ansar Ahmed, Mr Khanzada visited various departments and wards of the hospital including OPD, Emergency, Medical Wards,

medicine counter and testing rooms. On this occasion, men as well as women patients and their attendants burst out against paucity of medicine, facilities as well as absences of doctors during their duty. A patient complained that the medical officers after marking their attendance sneaked in to their private clinics located adjacent to tehsil headquarters hospital and carried out their private practice there during official hours. He added that in case of surprise visit, the staff informed them

and they rushed back on foot by claiming that they went for food or tea. During his interaction with the patients and their attendants, he was also informed that the post of surgeon has been vacant for a long and in case of fatal emergencies and road accidents, patients are referred to the district headquarters hospital Attock in which most of the critical patients succumbed to injuries on their way to hospital. Later Mr Khanzada visited the OPD and through data register at the OPD

center, he made calls from his cell phone to the patients who visited the hospital and get feedback from the about the facilities and treatment at the hospital during their visit. On this occasion, Mr Khanzada expressed his indignation on the state of the affairs in the hospital. Subsequently the Medical Superintendent tehsil headquarters hospital (THQ) Hazro Dr Shoukat has issued show cause notice to five doctors among them two female for their poor performance.

Bilawal emphasized timeless message of Imam Hussain against tyranny and injustice

ISLAMABAD, JUL 16 (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has emphasized the timeless message of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), who stood against tyranny and injustice with unparalleled courage and unwavering faith.

"This day serves as a reminder for all of us to uphold the principles of truth, justice, and righteousness, even in the face of adversity," he said in a message on the Youm-e-Ashura.

He said that the sacrifices made by Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions are a beacon of light for all of humanity, adding that their struggle against oppression and their commitment to uphold the values of Islam inspire us to continue our fight for justice, equality, and the protection of human rights.

Bilawal Bhutto called for unity among the Muslim Ummah and urged all communities to promote peace and harmony.

He stressed the importance of rejecting violence and extremism, and instead, embracing the true spirit of Islam which teaches love, tolerance and brotherhood.

Bilawal Bhutto prayed for the peace, stability and prosperity of Pakistan.

He expressed hope that the lessons of Karbala will guide us in creating a just and equitable society, where the principles of Imam Hussain (RA) are upheld and cherished.

Ashura holds great significance in Islamic history: Chaudhry Zulfiqar

Bureau Report



MULTAN: On the occasion of Aashura, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, Group Chairman of S. M. Foods and Volka Foods International, shared a message:

The sacred day of Ashura holds great significance in Islamic history. On this day, in the field of Karbala, the grandson of the Prophet (PBUH), Imam Hussain (RA), made a great sacrifice to uphold Islamic values in the battle between truth and falsehood. This struggle was for the supremacy of Islam, marked by Imam Hussain's principled stance, unwavering bravery, and sacrifice. His stand against the tyrant ruler of his time, Yazid, was not for power or revenge but to protect justice, Islamic values, and to guard Islamic society against corruption and oppression. This courageous act teaches us never to bow down to tyranny and wrongdoing and to always raise our voices against injustice and oppression, regardless of the cost.

The companions of Imam Hussain (RA), who stood by him on this tumultuous day, teach us the importance of loyalty, righteousness, and supporting those who fight for truth and justice. The Battle of Karbala teaches us the value of selflessness and sacrifice for the greater good. Despite being outnumbered and outpowered, Imam Hussain (RA) refused to abandon the principles and values of Islam. He sacrificed his life, along with his family and companions, to preserve the true teachings of Islam. This reminds us that we should forsake personal comforts and desires for the greater good and the betterment of humanity. Today, the message of Imam Hussain (RA) resonates among Muslims worldwide.

On the occasion of Ashura, we should also remember the importance of dialogue and understanding between different schools of thought. Let us renew our commitment to the fundamental principles of Islam, such as compassion, tolerance, consultation, and social justice. Let us embrace the teachings of Imam Hussain (RA) and strive to emulate his courage and steadfastness in our lives.

I appeal to all of Pakistan, especially the people of Multan, to unite, put aside our differences, and work together for the progress of Pakistan. Let us stand as one, upholding the values represented by the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (RA). May Allah grant us the wisdom to learn from Imam Hussain's (RA) sacrifices and to move forward with courage, steadfastness, and bravery. Ameen!

Food Department Officers should ensure the supply of flour across the province on youm-e-ashura at all costs: Bilal Yasin

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Food Minister and Incharge of Ashura Arrangements Lahore, Bilal Yasin, has ordered the continuation of field operations by the department. Food Department officers should ensure the supply of flour across the province on Youm-e-Ashura at all costs. Strict action will be taken against anyone selling flour at prices higher than the fixed rates in any district. Flour dealers and retailers across the province will display flour prices prominently. The Punjab Food Authority's field operations will be kept fully active. Food safety teams will ensure effective monitoring of food quality at cooking centers. District administration and Food Authority teams will be responsible for ensuring the arrangements and quality of food, milk, and water. Bilal Yasin further said that all security and administrative measures have been completed on time regarding Youm-e-Ashura. Administrations and police officers of all districts will be present on the routes of processions and majalis. Members of peace committees will also review arrangements in their respective areas. I am personally monitoring security and other arrangements in Lahore Division.

Sanam Javed moved to KP House on CM Gandapur's orders

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Sanam Javed has been shifted to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad on KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's orders.

"KP CM was in touch with Javid's father and husband," said Focal Person to CM Gandapur on Digital Media Yar Muhammad Khan Niazi, adding that the PTI activist along with her family would remain at the KP House in the federal capital.

The spokesperson's remarks come a day after the prominent PTI campaigner got relief in her months-long legal woes after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered her release and stopped the police and other law enforcement agencies from arresting her.

It is pertinent to mention here that PTI activist Sanam Javed was booked and arrested in another case on 9th May days after she obtained bail in other cases on Saturday.

According to the details, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) took Sanam Javed into custody from a prison in Gujranwala after its Cyber Crime Cell lodged a case against her.

According to the FIA Cyber Crime Cell, the PTI activist had posted 'inciting' remarks on 9th May, asking the people to come out and 'attack' the Jinnah House.

Muharram procession concluded peacefully at Imam Bargah Shaheen Bagh

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The 9th Muharram procession of Alam-o-Zuljannah was taken out from different residence Adalat shah, molana Imran bukhari village Sheen Bagh Attock amid tight security on tuesday morning. The azadars recited Nohas in groups and also performed Zanjeer zani and Matum. Sabeels of water, milk and Nayaz stalls were set up by Malik Hameed Akbar Malik shahzad Akbar and locals at different point for the mourners, while a special mobile medical team from DHQ hospital and Rescue 1122 provided treatment to the mourners. The procession after passing through its traditional route ended peacefully on Imam Bargah Hussainia Sheen Bagh latter a Majalis was held at the imam Bargah Sheen Bagh in which zakreen Mola Imran Bukhari, Murtaza Ashiq, Tahir Abbas and sakhawat Hussain highlighted the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain A. S and the brutality of Yazediati at Karba-



la. They said "Hazrat Imam Hussain A. S is the symbol of a unique philosophy and way of life which draws a line of demarcation between noble and civil forces" Karbala is an incident that gives

the message of upholding righteousness and truth to the mankind for their eternal success, they added. On the Occasion DPO Dr ghayas Gul, SDPO sadar circle Sana Ullah, SHO cant

Mujahid Abbas, SHO city Muhammad safdar CSO Taimoor Khan and other law enforcement agencies were also present. As many as 96 procession and 684 majalis had so far been held peacefully at various part of the dist and no untoward incident was reported. Police source said. Besides the department of fire brigades, civil defense and bomb disposal squad, all hospitals and Edhi centers have been put on high alert during ashura. Directives have been issued to make all necessary arrangements at the emergency ward of hospitals and to ensure the presence of ambulance and medical staff along the routes of Aushura processions.

ASHURA: According To police source, The remaining 49 processions would be taken out and 70 Majalis would be held on Ashura (wednesday). Major procession will be taken out form Inambargah Hussainia Kamalpur Syedan, Attock cantonment, in morning that will end at Karbala Haleem Shah in the evening.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: spokesmanislambad@gmail.com
 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

King of the World is Not Safe in His Fortress

During Obama's visit to Kenya, a boy as young as 7 years old asked him, "Are you the king of the world?" Whether one likes it or not, the President of the USA does wield considerable power and authority, capable of lifting a compliant country from ashes to prosperity or, conversely, reducing a non-compliant country to ruin with total impunity.

Currently, we have two notable examples. The USA and the West are supporting Ukraine against Russia, effectively preventing an early victory for the latter largely due to the actions of the "King of the World," Joe Biden.

The second examples World King's unquestionable authority is his decision to support, abet and protect Israel and to give it free hand to carry out genocide in Palestine and exterminate Palestinian infants, children, women, elderly and young alike with total impunity.

But this "king," who decides the fate of other countries, was nearly killed in his own country, in an highly guarded public event, by gunfire of a 20-year-old boy, like a lame duck.

Fortunately, the would-be "king of the world," Donald Trump, was attacked—not by a Muslim, Black, Asian, or Hispanic terrorist or criminal—but by a young twenty-year-old white boy.

In his recorded video message, the attacker claimed he hated the conservative party and Donald Trump, but ended with a taunting smile, saying, "you got the wrong guy." While the first part of his message seemed straightforward, the second part will only be fully understood after thorough investigation.

This incident tells a serious story: the

so-called king of the world, who determines the fate of other countries and societies with the stroke of a pen—either allowing them to live and prosper or destroying them—was not safe in his own country.

Had the attacker been of foreign origin, that country of his origin might have been attacked immediately or faced retribution later, much like Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan, whose leaders were chased and hunted like wild animals.

Leaders from around the world wasted no time in issuing condemnations, setting aside their business, no matter how important, to save themselves and their countries from the potential wrath of the US if they had delayed their statements.

The most important question for American social and education scientists, thinkers, and philosophers is this: Why would a young 20-year-old boy, who has freedom of expression and speech guaranteed by the First Amendment of the US Constitution, and the power to vent his hatred, grudge, or dislike through any form of media, resort to the extreme act of using a gun to try to kill a presidential aspirant, fully aware that he would be killed in no time, either before or after his attack?

On the strength of logic and reasoning, many motives could be attributed to the boy's extreme actions. The increasing polarization of American politics and anti-establishment sentiments may have fueled his behavior. Mental health issues and identity crises could have contributed to his violence. Social isolation and

the influence of radical content in the media may have played a role in curating such extremist behavior. Rapid cultural shifts and the prevalence of gun culture in America may also have been factors.

These reasons may be right or wrong, but this incident has brought to light deeper fault lines in the US's socio-cultural fabric and the failure of its education system to instill tolerance and respect.

Regardless of the reasons, this attack is going to change the US and the rest of the world in several ways. In the US, this incident will likely lead to heightened security measures for political figures and increased surveillance, especially of expats. The immigration and naturalization policy may be tightened to slow down cultural and social changes. Security protocols at airports, train stations, and bus stops in the US and around the world may be further revised to high-security alerts, making travel to the US even more difficult.

This incident has brought to the surface deeper fault lines in the US's social and cultural aspects and highlighted the failure of their education system, which allowed such hatred to develop in a 20-year-old boy who was not a hardcore criminal, terrorist, or addict, but was willing to take the life of his own life and the life of his own would-be president and would-be king of the world.

The small but eye opening incident may intensify deeper political polarization, as each side blames the other for fostering a toxic environment. This could also spark national conversations on mental health,

leading to increased funding and support for mental health services. Additionally, there might be a reevaluation of the role of media and social platforms in spreading radical ideologies, leading to stricter regulations and oversight.

The education system could see reforms aimed at promoting tolerance, inclusivity, and conflict resolution to prevent radicalization among young people. Globally, the incident could affect perceptions of US stability and the effectiveness of its democracy, potentially weakening its moral authority on the world stage.

Countries might reassess their relationships with the US, considering the internal vulnerabilities exposed by such incidents, leading to shifts in alliances and diplomatic strategies. The attack could influence global counterterrorism strategies, emphasizing the need to address internal threats and domestic radicalization.

For Trump, the incident could garner increased sympathy and support from his base, energize his supporters, and potentially attract undecided voters who see him as a strong leader facing unfair attacks. Conversely, it might also highlight the deep divisions and volatility within the country, raising concerns about his polarizing effect.

For Biden, any missteps in addressing the incident could be detrimental to his campaign, intensifying the political climate, making security, stability, and national unity even more central issues in the election.

For the rest of the world, the message is clear: their "king" is not safe even in his own highly guarded fortress.

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC

Pakistani universities join international alliance for agricultural technology development

In a significant move towards advancing agricultural technology through international collaboration, four Pakistani universities including Quaid-i-Azam University, Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Sindh Agriculture University, and Ayub Agricultural Research Institute have joined the Silk Road Agricultural Education and Research Innovation Alliance at the 9th Silk Road Agricultural Education and Research Cooperation Forum held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from July 9-12.

This collaboration aims to foster cooperation between leading institutions in China and Pakistan, focusing on the exchange and joint development of new food crops, vegetable varieties, and medicinal crops. Abdul Ghaffar Shar, a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at Northwest A&F University in China, a founding institution of the alliance, shared insights with China Economic Net.

He noted that last year, the alliance provided the Pakistani universities with wheat and vegetable varieties such as cabbage, carrot, and tomatoes for further research at their demonstration parks.

Additionally, new varieties of linseed will be exchanged later this month during a mutual visit. To date, researchers involved in this agricultural cooperation program have selected 19 stress-resistant wheat strains and identified a new wheat variety suitable for broader cultivation in Pakistan.

This new variety is projected to improve wheat production and physiological salt stress tolerance by 27%, reduce costs by 13%, and increase farmers' income by approximately 25%. Innovations such as nanobiochar, new nutrient solutions, and bio-organic fertilizers have also been introduced, enhancing crop quality and output.

"This year, model farms for sesame contract farming have been established in various locations across Pakistan and are expanding significantly, greatly enhancing Pakistan's export potential," added Abdul Ghaffar Shar.

Initiated in 2016, the agricultural alliance has now admitted 14 new members from China, Nepal, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan during this year's conference. With over 60 institutions from 13 countries participating, the alliance's membership has grown to 120 institutions from 19 countries, paving the way for Pakistani universities and research institutions to form global partnerships.

Province, Independence or Accession - III

Provinces, integral to a country's administrative structure, play a crucial role in driving regional development, enhancing local governance, and bolstering national unity and prosperity. Provinces offer a wide array of benefits—from economic opportunities to cultural preservation and efficient governance—that enrich the socio-economic landscape and reinforce the national fabric.

Provinces act as economic hubs by utilizing local resources, industries, and workforce strengths. They promote regional specialization, attract investments, and stimulate employment, significantly contributing to the national GDP. Provinces also take a leading role in planning, developing, and maintaining critical infrastructure like roads, bridges, utilities, and public amenities. This infrastructure backbone enhances connectivity, supports trade and commerce, and facilitates the seamless flow of goods and services within the region and beyond.

Furthermore, provinces foster an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and innovation. They provide support to local businesses, incubators, and research facilities, cultivating a culture of creativity and technological advancement that drives economic diversification and global competitiveness.

Additionally, provinces play a vital role in preserving and promoting diverse cultural traditions, languages, and historical landmarks that define their unique identities. They celebrate cultural festivals, promote artistic expression, and preserve intangible cultural heritage, adding richness to the

national fabric and nurturing pride and identity among local communities. Provinces empower citizens to engage actively in local governance, decision-making, and community projects. They facilitate grassroots participation, civic education, and volunteerism, strengthening social cohesion and fostering inclusive development that aligns with the aspirations and needs of diverse populations.

Provinces oversee the provision of essential services such as education and healthcare, tailored to local demographics and socio-economic conditions. They prioritize investments in schools, hospitals, and social welfare programs, ensuring equitable access to high-quality education, healthcare services, and social safety nets for all residents. Provinces decentralize administrative functions to improve efficiency, responsiveness, and accountability in public service delivery. They customize policies and initiatives to address regional priorities, streamline bureaucratic processes, and allocate resources effectively based on local needs and challenges.

Additionally, provinces coordinate disaster preparedness, environmental conservation efforts, and sustainable development initiatives that are specific to their geographic and environmental contexts. They implement strategies for disaster mitigation, safeguard natural resources, and promote environmentally sustainable practices that enhance resilience against natural disasters.

Provinces also represent diverse regional interests in national legislative and policy-making bodies, fostering balanced representation, consensus-building, and democratic governance. They advocate for regional priorities, advocate for fair resource allocation, and promote national unity by bridging regional disparities and fostering solidarity.

To be continued

Why bureaucracy is so powerful in Pakistan?

The power of bureaucracy in Pakistan can be traced to several interconnected factors. These include the relatively lower education levels of politicians, the strategic use of bureaucracy by the government to marginalize the opposition, and the reliance on bureaucratic structures to manage administrative functions since the country's inception.

One significant reason for the power of bureaucracy is the educational disparity between politicians and bureaucrats. Politicians, especially in developing countries like Pakistan, often come from varied educational backgrounds, with many lacking in-depth knowledge of governance and public administration. In contrast, bureaucrats are typically well-educated, often possessing advanced degrees in public administration, economics, or law. This educational gap means that politicians frequently rely on bureaucrats for expertise and guidance in policy formulation and implementation. Consequently, bureaucrats hold substantial sway over the administrative machinery, making crucial decisions that shape public policy and governance.

Another critical factor is the strategic use of bureaucracy by those in power to undermine the opposition. Governments, especially those with tenuous grips on power, often employ bureaucratic channels to suppress dissent and neutralize political adversaries. Bureaucrats, wielding significant administrative control, can influence electoral processes, manipulate public resources, and enforce regulations selectively to favor the ruling party. This manipulation consolidates the power of the ruling elite while simultaneously enhancing the authority of the bureaucracy, which becomes an indispensable tool for political maneuvering.

The historical context of Pakistan's formation also plays a crucial role in the entrenchment of bureaucratic power. At the time of its independence in 1947, Pakistan inherited a robust bureaucratic framework

from the British colonial administration. This system was designed to be efficient and authoritative, aimed at maintaining order and implementing policies across the vast and diverse territories of the subcontinent. Post-independence, the nascent Pakistani state, grappling with numerous challenges such as partition-induced displacement, economic instability, and security threats, relied heavily on this bureaucratic apparatus to ensure continuity and stability. Over time, this reliance on bureaucracy became institutionalized. Bureaucrats, due to their expertise and continuity in service, emerged as the de facto managers of the state. Politicians, often transient and focused on short-term electoral gains, depended on the stable and permanent bureaucracy to implement their policies. This dynamic entrenched the bureaucratic elite, making them a powerful and indispensable component of the governance structure.

Institutional weaknesses in Pakistan further exacerbate the dominance of bureaucracy. The political landscape is often characterized by instability, frequent changes in government, and a lack of cohesive long-term vision. In such an environment, the bureaucracy, with its permanence and institutional memory, becomes the backbone of the state apparatus. However, this also means that bureaucrats can operate with significant autonomy and, at times, impunity, as political oversight is often inconsistent or ineffective.

The power of bureaucracy in Pakistan is a multifaceted issue rooted in educational disparities, political strategies, historical contexts, and institutional weaknesses. Politicians' reliance on bureaucrats for expertise and administrative control, combined with the strategic use of bureaucracy to marginalize opposition, has entrenched bureaucratic power. Additionally, the historical reliance on a robust bureaucratic framework to manage the state's affairs has institutionalized this power, making bureaucrats pivotal players in Pakistan's governance landscape. Addressing

Writer is student at University Of Sargodha.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)



Abdul Basit Alvi



M Azam Tariq

Xi Jinping the reformer

✉ Xinhua

BEIJING: China's leader Xi Jinping is rolling out a set of new reforms that will determine the growth trajectory of the world's second-largest economy, as the Communist Party of China (CPC) leadership started a four-day policy meeting in Beijing on Monday morning.

At the opening of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, Xi, as the general secretary of the Committee, delivered a work report on behalf of the Political Bureau and expounded on a draft decision on further comprehensively deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernization.

The ongoing session is considered on par with other reform-themed "third plenums," including the one in 1978 when Deng Xiaoping kick-started China's reform and opening-up drive.

In the run-up to the current plenum, Xi has been busy promoting reform, urging efforts to "emancipate the mind, liberate and develop social productive forces, and unleash and enhance social vitality," so as to "provide strong impetus and institutional guarantees for Chinese modernization."

This has raised expectations for a new round of profound reforms, dispelling concerns about whether China's reform is "stagnating," or whether the Chinese economy is "losing steam."

Since Xi assumed the top office more than a decade ago, China has entered a "new era." The country's economic strength has grown, and its international prestige has continued to rise. Reform is the hallmark of this era.

Nevertheless, faced with a myriad of old and new challenges, China is now in a critical period for accelerating its reform pace.

Reform Will Not Stop, Opening-Up Will Not Cease

Xi is regarded as another outstanding reformer in the country after Deng Xiaoping.

The two leaders faced the same mission — to modernize China, but against strikingly different backdrops.

When Deng launched reform and opening-up in the late 1970s, China's per-capita GDP was less than 200 U. S. dollars. His cause of reform and opening-up started almost from scratch.

In 2012, when Xi was elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, China had become the world's second-largest economy, with a per-capita GDP of over 6,000 dollars. But growth was shifting gears and many advantages, including low labor costs, had started to diminish.

Instead of resting on the laurels of his predecessors, Xi was committed to carrying on reform, though he knew how hard it would be.

"The easy part of the job has been done to the satisfaction of all. What is left are tough bones that are hard to chew," he said.

Over the past decade, more than 2,000 reform measures have been rolled out, enabling the country to eliminate extreme poverty, promote integrated urban-rural development, fight corruption, support businesses, boost innovation, and push forward a "green revolution."

Owing to these reform measures, the Chinese economy has not only sustained robust growth but also more than doubled since 2012, cementing the country's global status as a major growth contributor.

Yet extra effort is required as China now faces people's ever-growing needs for a better life, and is confronted with major challenges such as downward economic pressure following the COVID-19 pandemic and risks associated with the real estate sector, local government debts, and some small and medium-sized financial institutions.

Seeking a better future for the country and its people, Xi highlighted reform and opening-up as "an important means" to realize Chinese modernization and extend the country's development miracle.

He reiterated the significance of reform at a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee in January. Weeks later, at the annual sessions of the nation's top legislature and political advisory body, he stressed the need to deepen reform in various sectors.

"Reform is the driving force for development," Xi said in May when he inspected east China's Shandong Province. During that trip, he also convened a symposium to seek opinions from business leaders and scholars on how to further deepen reform.

"It's quite clear that reform

holds a significant weight in Xi's mind, and I think he has a good understanding of all reform-related issues," said Huang Hanquan, head of the Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research who attended the symposium as a guest speaker.

Earlier, Xi had told members of the U. S. business, strategic and academic communities who visited Beijing this spring that China was planning and implementing "a series of major steps to comprehensively deepen reform." China will steadily foster a market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business environment, Xi said, adding that this will create broader development space for U. S. and other foreign businesses.

Xi's commitment to reform has been consistent all along.

In 1969, when he was not even 16, Xi was sent to Liangjiache village in northwest China's Shaanxi Province to do farm labor. There, he experienced hunger. The young man's aspiration at that time was to ensure that all fellow villagers could have enough to eat.

Xi's strong advocacy for reform also stems from the people's aspirations for a better life. The reform measures he introduced as the Party chief of Liangjiache, which included the use of biogas and the opening of a blacksmith shop and a grocery store, all aimed at improving the villagers' lives.

Xi's commitment to reform was influenced by his father, Xi Zhongxun, an old revolutionary as well as a champion of reform and opening-up. In 1978, the senior Xi was appointed as a major official of south China's Guangdong Province. He helped build up the country's first special economic zones including Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shantou.

Also in 1978, Xi Zhongxun entrusted the junior Xi, who was then studying at the prestigious Tsinghua University, to conduct a field study on the household contract responsibility system initiated in east China's Anhui Province. The younger Xi took a lot of notes that filled an entire notebook, and he has kept that notebook to this day.

Xi's reputation as a reformer was reinforced as his political career advanced. In the early 1980s, he initiated reform experiments in the impoverished county of Zhengding, Hebei Province, commencing with the rural land contract system trial — the first of its kind throughout the northern province.

An article published in the China Youth magazine in 1985 described the county's transformation in detail. It cited a county Party secretary from a neighboring province who paid a visit to Zhengding as saying: "Here, you don't hear people chanting 'reform,' but reform is happening everywhere."

"Looking back at those years, one of the things we achieved was liberating our thinking," said Xi while reflecting on the reforms he led in Zhengding.

After Zhengding, Xi was assigned to work in Xiamen, a special economic zone in Fujian Province, where he spearheaded the establishment of China's first joint-venture bank — Xiamen International Bank. After ascending to the position of governor of Fujian, Xi led reforms in collective forest tenure, which were later introduced to other parts of the country. This initiative has been reputed as another revolutionary step in China's rural reforms after the household contract responsibility system.

During his tenure as the Party chief of east China's Zhejiang Province, Xi proposed an initiative to promote development through industrial upgrading. He actively supported private businesses, and encouraged businesspeople to "come directly" to his office to seek help. He also brought reforms in Zhejiang far beyond the economic and political spheres, to cover the cultural, social and ecological aspects.

Xi's name as a reformer appealed to some prominent international figures. In September 2006, Henry Paulson, then U. S. treasury secretary, visited China and chose Hangzhou, capital city of Zhejiang, as his first stop. He regarded Xi as the "perfect choice" for his initial meeting in China, describing the latter as "the kind of guy who knows how to get things over the goal line."

Paulson later recounted that during another meeting with Xi in 2014, the Chinese leader stated, "My concern is mainly reform and related issues."

In 2007, as Shanghai's Party chief, Xi foresaw the need for reforms to transition the city's economy to innovation-driven

development, enhance its competitiveness as an international financial center, and reinforce its role as a leader in the country's reform and opening-up.

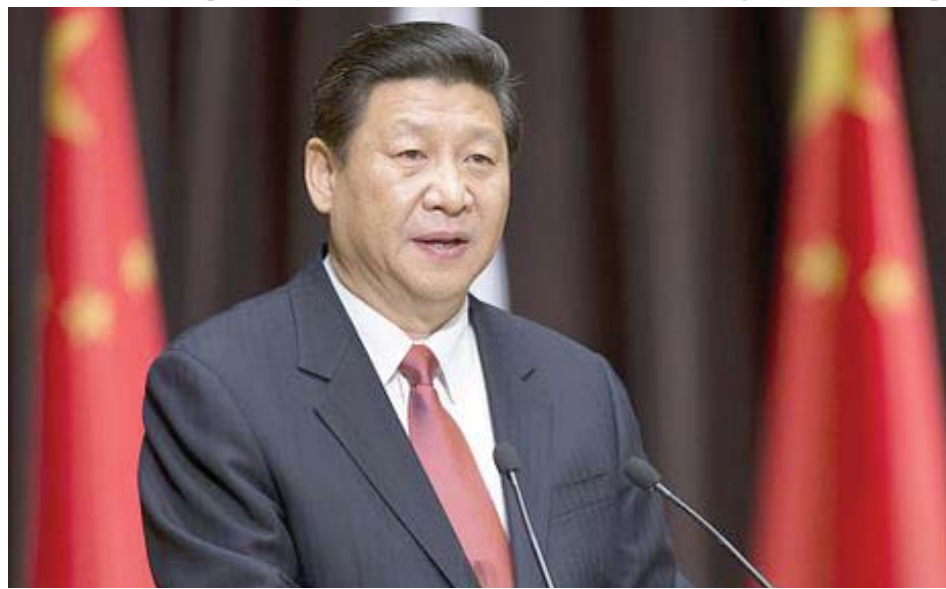
After assuming the Party's top post in 2012, Xi's first domestic inspection took him to Shenzhen, following in his father's footsteps. There, he laid a flower basket at the bronze statue of Deng Xiaoping in Lianhuashan Park, declaring a firm commitment to reform: "Reform will not stop, and opening-up will not cease!"

The Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, convened in 2013 under Xi's leadership, is heralded as a milestone, much like the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee in 1978 that ushered in the era of reform. The 2013 event marked the dawn of a new era of reform.

During this session, Xi listed a series of challenges for China's further development, including corruption, unsustainable development and environmental issues. He stressed that "the key to addressing these problems lies in deepening reform."

The session approved a decision on "some major issues concerning comprehensively deepening the reform." A Spanish newspaper commented that Xi had initiated the most profound economic, social and administrative reforms in China in over 30 years.

More than a month later, China announced the decision to establish the Central Leading Group for Comprehensively Deepening Reform, which Xi personally



headed. This marked the first time in the Party's history that a leadership body exclusively dedicated to reform was established at the central level. Later, this group evolved into the Central Commission for Comprehensively Deepening Reform, still with Xi as its director.

"On difficult and important reforms, Xi made the final decisions," said a person close to the decision-making process. The official also disclosed that Xi meticulously reviewed each draft of major reform plans, making edits word by word.

Venturing Into The Mountain Despite Knowing There Are Tigers

The reforms led by Xi have been based on thoughtful considerations derived from his many years of practice, with a whole set of top-level designs.

He has invoked the ancient Chinese idiom of "discarding the outdated in favor of the new" to call for action, believing that reform and innovation are inherent cultural genes of the Chinese nation.

Xi has been clear-headed regarding the direction of reform. He has cautioned against copying the political systems of other countries, once saying that reform denying socialist orientation would only lead to a "dead end."

"What cannot be changed must be resolutely kept unchanged," he stated, stressing the necessity to uphold the Party's overall leadership in advancing reforms.

For what needs to be changed, Xi has demanded firm actions, urging the creation of conditions for reform even when they do not yet exist. The must-do tasks included eliminating all drawbacks that restrict the vitality of business entities and hinder the full play of the market.

With unprecedented scope, scale and intensity, Xi's reforms have covered the fields of economy, politics, culture, society, ecology, Party building, national defense and the military, among others.

He has developed a methodology for reform in the new era, which stresses properly handling the relationships between emancipating the mind and seeking truth from facts, between advancing as a whole and making breakthroughs in key areas, between top-level design and "crossing the river by feeling the stones," between being bold and maintaining a steady pace, as well as balancing reform, development and stability.

He has stressed pursuing reform in a systematic, holistic and coordinated way and respecting the pioneering spirit of the people. Officials have also been told to "establish the new before abolishing the old" and ensure proper timing and intensity of reform to good effect.

"He corrected the mentality of measuring the success of development simply by GDP growth and enabled the reform to truly touch the vested interests of some people," said an official from Shaanxi.

He recalled that Xi demanded multiple inquiries to stop illegal villa construction by developers in collusion with local officials in the nature reserves of the Qinling Mountains. This also reflected the local resistance encountered by the reform in the ecological field back then.

Xi has been pushing through reform in adversity and had to break the blockades of vested interests. "We need the courage to 'venture into the mountain despite knowing full well there are tigers' and continuously move the reform forward," he said.

Less than 20 days after assuming the top office, Xi oversaw the formulation of the "eight-point decision" on improving Party and government officials' work conduct, to address chronic issues in the bureaucracy such as official privileges, extravagant banquets and other forms of waste of taxpayers' money. This move was later hailed as a "game changer" for China's governance.

On that basis, Xi initiated an

relationships trumping legal principles.

He once lashed out at the phenomenon where "money can buy exemption from punishment and even buy life." On another occasion, he said: "The socialist market economy is an economy based on credit and the rule of law."

He has instructed the formulation and revision of a series of laws, including the Anti-Monopoly Law, which provides the legal basis for the fair competition review system.

The legal system for intellectual property rights was also improved. In a typical case, U. S. basketball legend Michael Jordan won a lawsuit in 2020 in Shanghai, with a Chinese company ordered to cease using "Qiao Dan," the Chinese translation of "Jordan," in its name and product trademarks.

Xi's reforms have not only led to economic transformation. He has asserted that the essence of modernization lies in the modernization of the people. Fostering "cultural confidence and national pride" among the Chinese people has become a key objective of the reform.

In 2012, Xi incorporated "cultural confidence" into a keynote report to the 18th CPC National Congress. He later integrated this concept into the "Four Confidences" of socialism with Chinese characteristics, describing cultural confidence as a "more fundamental, deeper and more enduring force."

Xi's reforms also signify a reworking of Marxism to adapt

products is enjoying rising popularity at home and abroad. These include energy-saving home appliances, smart electronics, sports gear made from new materials, and large passenger planes.

Overcapacity in certain sectors was effectively tackled. For instance, by the end of 2022, the steel industry had eliminated outdated and excess capacity totaling around 300 million tonnes, exceeding twice the size of the entire crude steel production of India that year.

To push forward the supply-side structural reform, Xi led by example with great foresight. A decade ago, most cars on China's roads were gasoline vehicles. In 2014, during an inspection tour of SAIC Motor, a major Chinese carmaker, Xi emphasized the significance of developing products that cater to diverse needs and highlighted the importance of new energy vehicles in strengthening China's position in the automotive sector.

In the following decade, Xi became a big fan of electric cars, visiting automotive companies, touring laboratories, and showing great interest in trying new home-developed models. He encouraged carmakers to focus on product quality and cultivate market competitiveness.

The new energy industry is, in fact, part of Xi's vision of "new quality productive forces." This new phrase first mentioned by Xi during last year's local inspections has quickly become a buzzword for the Chinese economy, but Xi had started relevant practice since a much earlier date.

Back in the 1970s in the Liangjiache village of Shaanxi, Xi became the first person across the province to introduce the use of biogas-generating facilities, which could be categorized as "new quality productive forces" at that time, to give fellow villagers a clean replacement of firewood and kerosene used for cooking and lighting.

A firm believer in Marxism, Xi regards the notion of productive forces as "the ultimate cause of all social and political changes."

Developing new quality productive forces, which feature innovation and high quality, is a call to action by China's policymakers to ride the new wave of tech revolution unfolding in such areas as artificial intelligence, synthetic biology, nanotechnology, and quantum information through reform. It also aligns with the innovation-driven development strategy proposed by Xi.

He likened China's lack of strong innovation capability to the Achilles' heel of an economic giant. "Only reformers can advance, only innovators can thrive, and only those who reform and innovate will prevail," he said.

Under his guidance, reform in the science and technology realm was advanced with unprecedented intensity. Spurred by a slew of pro-innovation measures, a new system for mobilizing resources nationwide was leveraged to facilitate key technological breakthroughs, the country's first group of national laboratories set up, and enterprises' principal role in innovation reinforced.

The effects are evident, with China's ranking in the Global Innovation Index, published by the World Intellectual Property Organization, jumping from 34th in 2012 to 12th last year.

Data issued in 2023 showed that China in 2022 overtook the United States for the first time as the No. 1 ranked country for contributions to research articles published in the Nature Index group of high-quality natural science journals.

Despite years of U. S. suppression and chip sanctions, Chinese telecom giant Huawei managed to launch its new high-end smartphones in 2023. Many saw it as proof that the attempted containment of China's tech sector by some Western countries would hardly work.

Yet, there is still much work to be done. Xi has cautioned: "Basic research is the source of sci-tech innovation. Although China has made significant progress in basic research, the distance between us and the international advanced level remains evident."

He has called for further institutional reforms to strengthen basic research, as well as support for original innovation and faster development of strategic, cutting-edge and disruptive technologies. **Unleashing The Power Of The Market**

When Xi assumed Party leadership, two decades had passed since the concept of building a socialist market economy was established.

However, doing business remained a challenging endeavor. In 2014, a lawmaker attending local "two sessions" revealed that a single investment project, from

acquiring land to completing all administrative approval procedures, required more than 30 government approvals and over a hundred stamps. The entire process took a minimum of 272 working days.

Xi strongly opposes cumbersome government approvals. While working in the city of Fuzhou, Fujian, he pioneered a mechanism that enabled all procedures for investment project approval to be completed in a single building.

As the country's top leader, he advocated that "the market plays the decisive role in resource allocation and the government plays its role better."

Over the years, the State Council, or the Chinese cabinet, has canceled or delegated to lower-level authorities the power of administrative approval for over 1,000 items, and slashed the number of investment items subject to central government approval by over 90 percent.

"Let the vitality that creates wealth burst forth, and let the power of the market be fully unleashed," said Xi.

The results of the reforms are remarkable, as China was ranked by the World Bank as one of the top 10 economies with the most notable improvement in business environment for two years in a row.

In 2019, construction started for Tesla's Shanghai Gigafactory in January, and by December the automaker already started delivering the first batch of China-made Model 3 electric cars built at the factory. Such fast development won praise from Tesla CEO Elon Musk. In May this year, the U. S. company's first overseas Megapack factory broke ground in Shanghai, once again standing as a strong testament to the "China speed."

Well-acquainted with the challenging situation faced by private enterprises, Xi has instructed the establishment of a private economy development bureau under the country's top economic planner to provide assistance to private enterprises facing difficulties.

Xi also emphasized the need to promote financial reforms to facilitate financing for private enterprises. He stressed the importance of encouraging private capital to enter industries and sectors where entry is not explicitly prohibited by laws and regulations.

Under Xi's instruction, the system of a negative list for market access was comprehensively implemented, allowing entry into areas not explicitly prohibited by the list. By the end of 2023, the number of registered business entities nationwide reached 184 million, more than three times the figure in 2012.

From 2012 to 2023, the number of private enterprises in China more than quadrupled, and the proportion of private enterprises in the total number of enterprises increased from less than 80 percent to over 92 percent.

During that period, privately-owned banks received approval for establishment, a high-speed rail controlled by private capital began operation, private investment was permitted to enter the oil and gas exploration and production sector, and a private rocket company achieved success in launching a rocket from the sea.

Xi also initiated market-oriented reforms for state-owned enterprises (SOEs). In 2017, China Unicom, as the first centrally-administered SOE in the telecommunications industry to open up to private capital, introduced 14 strategic investors, including Internet titans Tencent, Baidu, JD.com and Alibaba, in the "mixed-ownership reform."

A three-year action plan for SOE reform further converted SOEs into limited liability companies or companies limited by shares. Some 38,000 SOEs established boards of directors.

International media have noticed that China's reform has been advancing in step with changes in the situation. A trade war waged by the United States, the global pandemic, and increased geopolitical tensions have tested the resilience of China's economy. The country is also transforming its economic development model.

Xi has led China to accelerate building the new development pattern, which takes the domestic market as the mainstay while allowing domestic and international markets to reinforce each other.

A key support for this strategy is the establishment of a unified national market. To achieve this, a series of reforms are being implemented to eliminate local protectionism and dismantle regional barriers.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
81,155.60	79,944.09
Day's High	Day's Low
81,428.43	80,743.46
Index Value	Change
16,507,980,616	+1211.51
Percentage	Time
+1.52%	15 Jul, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,164.90	-18.06
Percentage	Time
-0.22%	16 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,835.19	+623.47
Percentage	Time
+1.55%	16 Jul, 1:00 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
41,275.08	+84.40
Percentage	Time
+0.20%	16 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.65	186.45
Bahrain Dinar	741.15	749.15
Canadian Dollar	203.75	205.75
China Yuan	38.35	38.75
Danish Krone	40.05	40.45
Euro	301.2	303.1
Hong Kong Dollar	35.70	36.05
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.43
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.25	917.35
Malaysian Ringgit	58.95	59.75
New Zealand \$	169.24	171.24
Norwegians Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	722.87	730.89
Qatari Riyal	76.39	77.09
Saudi Riyal	73.6	74.3
Singapore Dollar	202.25	204.25
Swedish Korona	26.4	26.7
Swiss Franc	309.05	311.55
Thai Bhat	7.5	7.65
U.A.E Dirham	76.5	77.25
UK Pound Sterling	355.15	358.65
US Dollar	279.15	280.65

Khurshid Barlas efforts to grow the country's economy are commendable: Director General BOI

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Founder Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas and Fahad Barlas met Senior Director General of Board of Investment Zulfiqar Ali and Director Irfan Ullah Khan in their office along with Fahad Barlas Convenor Exhibition.

Chairman Khurshid Barlas told in the briefing. That on May 11, 2024, Pakistan Investment Conference and Smart Expo was inaugurated by Khalid Majeed, Consul General of Pakistan posted in Saudi Arabia.

More Pakistani and Saudi delegates participated in the expo than expected. An investment of 19 million dollars was received in the conference.

Now, under the auspices of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, God willing, the second Pakistan Investment Summit and Smart Expo is being held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on November 2, 2024 at Jeddah Hilton Hotel.

A large number of different business community related to tourism, minerals, medical, civil aviation industry, construction material, private developer, education and other sectors will participate in the conference.

Board of Investment Senior Director General Zulfiqar Ali assured Khurshid Barlas. That they will also be a part of this exhibition and will support you in a vigorous way. Finally, Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas also presented the shield to Senior Director General of Board of Investment Zulfiqar Ali.



Glasses

People select glasses at a glasses mall of Danyang City, east China's Jiangsu Province.



Photo: Xinhua/Li Bo

People sitting in federal, provincial govts are duffers: Shabbar Zaidi

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: People sitting in the federal government and Sindh are "duffers", former Federal Board of Revenue chairman Shabbar Zaidi has said as he lamented the state of Karachi where more than 25 million people live.

"They are duffers as they don't understand that by unintentionally committing genocide they destroyed the economy," he said while appearing on News Insight with Amir Zia aired on Aaj News on Tuesday.

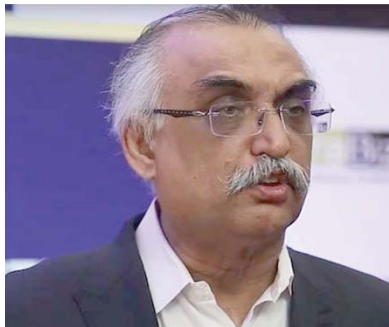
Zaidi was responding to a question related to an "economic genocide of Karachi" which he used in the recent past about Pakistan's financial hub.

He clarified that he did not support it, but warned the stakeholders that the city was heading towards such a situation.

He interpreted Article 2C of the UN convention on genocide, saying that managing economics in a way that leads to genocide. This case was raised by Bangladeshis in 1971, he said and wondered about the lack of resources in Karachi.

"I am saying economic genocide is not happening, but we are heading towards it. There is a perpetrator of this genocide. Tell me which city has six cantonments and Rangers have been in the city for the past 20 years. Tell me in which city water is sold by hydrants. Tell me which city has 80% of its roads broken," Zaidi said.

He asked whether the Sindh govern-



ment had any plan to send Rangers back. "We are the only city where there is the least allocation per person from the provincial budget," he said.

According to the former FB chairman, Pakistan would not progress until Karachi progresses. "Because of enmity with Karachi, they unintentionally damaged Pakistan."

He went on to add that exports of Pakistan and Vietnam were \$10 billion in 1990, but "today Vietnam's exports stand at \$600 billion and Pakistan's at \$30 billion." He claimed that such kind of situation is genocide. "If today I file cases under Article 2C, I will win. But I don't want to win. I want to show them they are duffers by living with them."

God forbid, Zaidi added that if the economic genocide case were filed, then the first culprit would be the party with the highest number of seats in Karachi.

Zaidi was of the view that the whole country was giving tax on consumption but not on salaries. "Basic law of tax says the consumption tax is equal for poor and rich. Tax should be more on salary not on consumption," he said.

According to the former FBR chief, the tax recovery on salary was not difficult. "The incompetent governments in the world increase indirect taxes and direct taxes get less."

He added that tax was considered an urban subject in the country and asked how many butchers and raw milk sellers paid taxes.

"The biggest problem of Pakistan's taxation is that we think tax can be collected from big cities, not from small cities."

He went on to add that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who has been head of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, can ask all the shopkeepers to come into the tax net as the country is going through difficult times.

"Either the shopkeepers are dishonest or the government is a hypocrite."

When asked, Zaidi called for friendship with India to improve the economic situation. "First of all, India is not our enemy. You should tell the public about law and order. Tell them what is happening. The state has no enmity with India."

He added that India did not break the pact as the neighbouring country scrapped Article 370 of its own Constitution.

IMF deal to improve funding for Pakistan: Moody's

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: Global rating agency Moody's on Tuesday said that Pakistan's recent staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will improve funding prospects for the cash-strapped South Asian nation.

The Shehbaz Sharif-led government and the IMF reached a three-year, \$7 billion aid package deal on Saturday, providing much-needed respite to the nation. This agreement marks a critical step towards stabilizing Pakistan's economy, which has been under severe strain.

Moody's commented that the new IMF programme would enhance Pakistan's (Caa3 stable) funding prospects. However, Moody's cautioned that the government's ability to sustain reform implementation is crucial for Pakistan to continually unlock financing throughout the IMF programme's duration, thereby easing government liquidity risks durably.

The agency outlined that



the new IMF programme entails comprehensive reforms, including measures to broaden the tax base, remove exemptions, and adjust energy tariffs promptly to restore the energy sector's viability. Additional reforms include improving the management and privatization of state-owned entities (SOEs), phasing out agricultural support prices and associated subsidies, and gradually liberalizing trade policy.

Moody's also acknowledged potential challenges, noting that social tensions arising from the high cost of living could impede reform implementation, especially with higher taxes and future adjustments to energy tariffs. "Moreover, risks that the coalition government may not have a sufficiently strong electoral mandate to continually implement difficult reforms remain," the agency added.

Chinese automaker FAW sees 9 millionth Jiefang truck roll off line



Xinhua

CHANGCHUN: FAW Jiefang, a truck subsidiary of China's leading automaker FAW Group, saw its 9 millionth vehicle roll off the production line on Tuesday, bringing the group's total vehicle output to 60 million.

FAW Jiefang produced 143,300 trucks in the first half of this year, up 4.11 percent year on year, and sales went up 15.4 percent to 151,800

during the same period.

Committed to strengthening its core technologies, FAW Jiefang will continue to improve innovation and its services, said Qiu Xiandong, chairman of the company.

Founded in 1953 and headquartered in northeast China's Jilin Province, the state-owned FAW Group is known as the bedrock of China's auto industry. The first Jiefang truck rolled off assembly line in 1956.

IMF raises China's 2024 economic growth forecast to 5 percent

Xinhua

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday revised China's 2024 economic growth up to 5 percent in an update to its World Economic Outlook (WEO), from the 4.6-percent forecast in April.

The revision is primarily attributed to a rebound in private consumption and strong exports in the first quarter, according to the update.

"In China, resurgent domestic consumption propelled the positive upside in the first quarter, aided by what looked to be a temporary surge in exports belatedly reconnecting with

last year's rise in global demand," it said.

The IMF maintained its forecast for global growth in 2024 at 3.2 percent, noting that Asia's emerging market economies remain the main engine for the global economy.

Global activity and world trade firmed up at the turn of the year, with trade spurred by strong exports from Asia, particularly in the technology sector, the WEO update noted.

World trade volume is expected to grow by 3.1 percent in 2024 and 3.4 percent in 2025, each 0.1 percentage points higher than the April projection.



"Asia's emerging market economies remain the main engine for the global economy. Growth in India and China is revised upwards and accounts for almost half of global growth," IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said in a blog.

The revision for China's growth

prediction was announced in late May by the IMF's first deputy managing director, Gita Gopinath, during a news briefing in Beijing following the conclusion of the IMF team's 2024 Article IV Consultation for China.

The update also noted that the momentum of global disinflation is slowing, signaling bumps along the path. "Upside risks to inflation have thus increased, raising the prospect of higher-for-even-longer interest rates, in the context of escalating trade tensions and increased policy uncertainty," it said.

"Further challenges to disinflation in advanced economies could force

central banks, including the Federal Reserve, to keep borrowing costs higher for even longer. That would put overall growth at risk, with increased upward pressure on the dollar and harmful spillovers to emerging and developing economies," Gourinchas said.

The IMF chief economist said it is "concerning" that a country like the United States maintains a fiscal stance that pushes its debt-to-GDP ratio steadily higher, with rising risks to both the domestic and global economy. "The increasing U. S. reliance on short-term funding is also worrisome," he said.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

Commerce Desk

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

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

Five Pakistan cricketers roped in for CPL 2024

Sports Desk

LAHORE: A total of five Pakistan cricketers were roped in for the upcoming Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2024 after the player auction took place on Monday.

The 12th edition of the CPL will run from August 29 to October 6 and will feature six teams competing for the silverware.

Although the six CPL 2024 franchises had already completed most of their recruitment through retentions and pre-signings, Kyle Mayers was the first to be signed in the players' draft, joining St Kitts and Nevis Patriots.

However, it was the United States of America (USA) international Aaron Jones, who headlined the players' draft as the right-handed batter, a Barbados passport holder, was picked by St Lucia Kings as a local signing.

Guyana Warriors, the defending champions, focused more on all-rounders as they roped in Raymon Reifer and Ronaldo Alimohamed.

Earlier, they retained Pakistan internationals Saim Ayub and Azam Khan and South African veteran Imran Tahir, who played a pivotal role in leading the side to their maiden title.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda Falcons, which emerged as a new



team, picked the most players in the draft including the Pakistan trio of Mohammad Amir, Imad Wasim and Fakhar Zaman.

Pakistan Cricketers to participate in CPL 2024

Guyana Warriors: Saim Ayub and Azam Khan.

Antigua and Barbuda Falcons: Mohammad Amir, Imad Wasim and Fakhar Zaman.

CPL 2024 squads

Barbados Royals: Rovman Powell, Jason Holder, David Miller, Quinton

de Kock, Maheesh Theekshana, Alick Athanaze, Naveen-ul-Haq, Obed McCoy, Kevin Wickham, Keshav Maharaj, Kadeem Alleyne, Rahkeem Cornwall, Isai Thorne, Nathan Sealy, Nyeem Young, Rivaldo Clarke, Ramon Simmonds.

Guyana Amazon Warriors: Imran Tahir, Shimron Hetmyer, Saim Ayub, Shai Hope, Romario Shepherd, Azam Khan, Gudakesh Motie, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Keemo Paul, Dwaine Pretorius, Kevin Sinclair, Raymon Reifer, Ronaldo Alimohamed, Shamar Joseph, Kevlon Anderson, Matthew Nandu, Junior

Sinclair.

Antigua and Barbuda Falcons: Imad Wasim, Brandon King, Fabian Allen, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Amir, Chris Green, Fakhar Zaman, Roshon Primus, Justin Greaves, Hayden Walsh, Jahmar Hamilton, Teddy Bishop, Kofi James, Shamar Springer, Kelvin Pitman, Jewel Andrew, Joshua James.

St Kitts and Nevis Patriots: Kyle Mayers, Wanindu Hasaranga, Rilee Rossouw, Evin Lewis, Sherfane Rutherford, Sikandar Raza, Nuwan Thushara, Andre Fletcher, Tristan Stubbs, Dominic Drakes, Mikyle Louis, Odean Smith, Joshua da Silva, Veerasammy Permaul, Ryan John, Ashmead Nedd, Johann Layne.

St Lucia Kings: Heinrich Klaasen, Faf du Plessis, Alzarri Joseph, Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Noor Ahmad, David Wiese, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Matthew Forde, Aaron Jones, Khary Pierre, Khari Campbell, Johann Jeremiah, Shadrack Descarte, Mikkel Govia, McKenny Clarke, Akeem Auguste.

Trinbago Knight Riders: Kieron Pollard, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Nicholas Pooran, Tim David, Akeel Hosen, Jason Roy, Dwayne Bravo, Josh Little, Waqar Salamkheil, Jayden Seales, Ali Khan, Mark Deyal, Keacy Carty, Terrence Hinds, Nathan Edward, Shaquere Parris.

Former Pakistan cricketer slams Shaheen Afridi over alleged altercation with Yousuf



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former Pakistan Test cricketer Atiq-uz-Zaman commented on the reports regarding Shaheen Afridi's altercation with batting coach Mohammad Yousuf during the team's tour to Ireland and England before the T20 World Cup 2024.

Atiq, a qualified coach, expressed his disappointment with Shaheen Afridi and emphasized that the pacer should have put his head down and tried not to bowl no-balls in the nets.

"If Mohammad Yousuf bhai said that, Shaheen Afridi shouldn't have made the comments he did. I'm not sure if he made them or not, as these are just rumours. If he did, I'm really disappointed because Yousuf Bhai is a bigger name than Shaheen Afridi," said Atiq-uz-Zaman.

"So, he got to understand that there is something called respect. If the coach instructs you, you should just put your head down and try not to bowl no-ball in the nets," he added.

According to recent reports, Shaheen engaged in a heated argument with batting coach Mohammad Yousuf during the team's tour ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Sources asserted that the incident occurred during Pakistan's net practice at Headingley when Shaheen engaged in a verbal exchange with the former batter.

The batting coach pointed towards Shaheen Afridi's continuous no-balls in the nets, they added.

However, the pacer got furious and told Mohammad Yousuf to let him practice and not intervene in his bowling.

According to sources, Shaheen later apologised to the batting coach while the team management also reprimanded him for his misconduct.

However, the incident was termed the heat of the moment and the chapter was closed after Shaheen Afridi apologised to Mohammad Yousuf.

Head coach Gambhir wants senior India trio to play Sri Lanka ODIs



Sports Desk

LAHORE: India's newly-appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir wants senior players Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah to feature in the upcoming ODI series against Sri Lanka, Indian media reported Tuesday.

India will tour Sri Lanka for a three-match ODI and T20I series. The upcoming white-ball tour will mark Gautam Gambhir's first assignment after being appointed as India's head coach, preceding Rahul Dravid, who stepped down after guiding the team to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 glory.

According to the itinerary announced by the SLC, India will touch down in Sri Lanka on July 22 while the T20I series is scheduled to commence on July 26 with the second and third T20Is set to be played on July 27 and 29 respectively.

All three T20Is will take place at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Pallekele before the action shifts to Colombo, where the ODI series will take place.

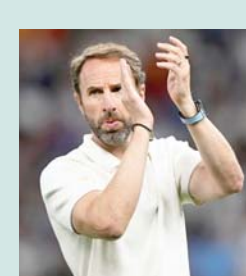
The three-match ODI series between India and Sri Lanka will kick off on August 1 while the remaining fixtures will be played on August 4 and 7. All three ODIs will be held at the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium.

Earlier, reports emerged that Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah would skip the ODI series against Sri Lanka to stretch their break from cricket after leading India to the T20 World Cup 2024 glory.

However, Gambhir is eyeing to bring the senior trio out of vacation as India will have a six-week break before hosting Bangladesh for a home Test series.

It is worth mentioning here that India all-rounder Hardik Pandya will miss the Sri Lanka tour due to personal reasons.

Gareth Southgate quits as England manager after Euro heartbreak



Gareth Southgate said on Tuesday he was resigning as England manager, two days after they lost to Spain in the Euro 2024 final.

"It's time for change, and for a new chapter. Sunday's final in Berlin against Spain was my final game as England manager," Southgate said in a statement.

Names immediately bandied around as 53-year-old Southgate's successor are Newcastle manager Eddie Howe, and two former Chelsea handlers, Graham Potter and Mauricio Pochettino.

Football Association CEO Mark Bullingham said Southgate had "made the impossible job possible".

Southgate took over in 2016 when England's fortunes were at a low ebb, having exited the Euros after defeat to Iceland and then Sam Allardyce had to resign over a scandal.

In the last four tournaments, Gareth Southgate led England to three semi-finals and two finals.

Prior to his appointment, the Three Lions had reached just three major tournament semi-finals and one final in their history, when they won the 1966 World Cup. But despite changing the fortunes of the England team, Southgate was unable to land a first trophy for 58 years as England lost 2-1 to Spain on Sunday.

"Gareth has made the impossible job possible and laid strong foundations for future success," said Bullingham in a statement.

"In the 25 tournaments post 1966 before Gareth took charge, we had won seven knockout games.

Bowlers star as Sixers down Strikers in low-scoring contest

Sports Desk

LCOLOMBO: A combined bowling effort led Dambulla Sixers to defend a low total against home side Colombo Strikers in the 20th match of the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024 here on Tuesday.

Despite the 28-run victory, the Sixers crashed out of the playoffs race as they finished at the bottom with six points in eight matches.

Meanwhile, defending champions Kandy Falcons, who also boast alike record in the ongoing tournament, advanced into the next stage of the LPL 2024, owing to a superior net run rate.

Put into bat first, Dambulla Sixers recovered from a disastrous start to register 123 runs on the board.

The Sixers had lost half of their side inside eight overs with just 38 runs on the board.

Following the slump, Mohammad



Nabi joined forces with Chamindu Wickramasinghe and launched an astounding recovery.

The duo batted sensibly and added 62

runs for the sixth wicket before Binura Fernando dismissed Nabi in the 16th over.

The veteran all-rounder remained the

top-scorer for the Sixers with a 33-ball 40, laced up with four fours and two sixes.

Wickramasinghe soon followed in his senior's footsteps and perished in the 18th over after scoring an important 26 off 29 deliveries.

Fernando led the bowling charge for the Strikers with 3/15, followed by Mtheesha Pathirana and Dunith Wellalage, picking up two wickets each.

Chasing a modest 124, the Sixers' batting unit unfolded on a paltry 95 despite skipper Thisara Perera's fighting knock.

Perera waged a lone battle after coming out to bat at No.7 with the Strikers reeling at 48/5.

He scored a gutsy 30 off 31 deliveries with the help of one four and three sixes and was the last batter to be dismissed.

Nuwan Pradeep was the star with the ball for the Sixers with his three wickets while Chamindu Wickramasinghe bagged two.

England unveil Playing XI for second West Indies Test

Sports Desk

LAHORE: England have announced their Playing XI for the second Test match against the West Indies, scheduled to commence at Trent Bridge on Thursday, 18 July.

The hosts, who lead the three-match series 1-0, made one change to their Playing XI as Durham pacer Mark Wood replaced James Anderson, who concluded his decorated career on a winning note as England crushed West Indies by an innings and 114 runs in the first Test at Lords.

Wood, who has 108 international wickets to his name in the longest format, will pair up with in-form Gus Atkinson and Chris Woakes to form England's fast bowling unit, bolstered by their all-rounder captain Ben Stokes.

Youngster Shoaib Bashir will lead



England's spin bowling attack with Joe Root providing the cover.

England started their busy summer season on a high as Gus Atkinson's

heroics with the ball gave them a confidence-boosting victory.

The debutant pacer dismantled the West Indies batting lineup in the first innings with a seven-for. The touring side, as a result, only managed to register 121 runs on the board.

England batters banked on the momentum provided by Atkinson and scored 371 runs in response with Zak Crawley, debutant wicketkeeper batter Jamie Smith, Joe Root, Ollie Pope and Harry Brook scoring half-centuries.

Atkinson continued from where he left off and backed his seven-for with a five-wicket haul to steer England to a massive victory in the series opener.

England Playing XI for second West Indies Test: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (c) Jamie Smith (wk), Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Mark Wood, Shoaib Bashir.

Kylian Mbappe officially unveiled at Real Madrid

Sports Desk

MADRID: France's superstar striker Kylian Mbappe on Tuesday, was officially unveiled as the Real Madrid player here at a packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Mbappe, who underwent his medical screening earlier on Tuesday morning, was roped in by the Spanish club on a free transfer from Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) after his deal with the 12-time Ligue 1 champions ended. He was presented a No. 9 shirt by Real Madrid president Florentino Perez.

"Wow," Mbappe said in Spanish to thousands of fans flocked in at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

"For years I've dreamed of playing for Real Madrid and today my dream has come true," said Mbappe.



"I'm a happy boy. I'm going to give my life for this club," he

added. Notably, Real Madrid have

been after Kylian Mbappe since 2017 but failed to reach an agree-

ment with the World Cup-winning player on numerous occasions.

Mbappe had verbally agreed to move to Real in February this year and consequently announced in May that he would leave Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at the end of the Ligue 1 season.

"Real Madrid have reached an agreement for the player to be at Real Madrid for the next five seasons," the club said in a statement.

Mbappe, who is estimated to earn 35 million euros (\$38 million) a season, according to reports in Spain, said the move was "a dream come true".

"So happy and proud to join the club of my dream [Real Madrid]. Nobody can understand how excited I am right now. Can't wait to see you, Madridistas, and thanks for your unbelievable support," Mbappe added.

Alert

KARACHI: Security personnel stand guard along a street during a procession on the eighth day of the Islamic month of Muharram ahead of Ashura in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Muharram 9 processions being taken out across Pakistan

Nimra Khan

ISLAMABAD: The 9th of Muharram to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions is being observed with due solemnity and respect across the country.

Majalis will be held in all small and major cities while processions of Tazia and Alam will also be taken out in some cities.

Islamabad Police has finalized a detailed security and traffic management plan for 9th of Moharram.

The main 9 Muharram Al Haram Procession will commence from Main Imambargah in G/6-2, follow its designated route, and return to its

starting point.

To ensure the smooth flow of the procession, the traffic arrangements have been made.

The road from Fazal Haq Road, Polyclinic to Kulsom Plaza, will be closed to general traffic.

Citizens have been advised to use Jinnah Avenue from Kulsom Plaza to China Chowk instead.

Sadar Road will be closed between Iqbal Hall and Melody Chowk on both sides.

Citizens can use Abpara Suhrawardy Road as an alternative.

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

Two soldiers martyred in terrorists attack on DI Khan's RHC: ISPR



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Two soldiers have been martyred in an exchange of fire with terrorists while responding to a clearance operation in Dera Ismail Khan's Kirri Shamozai rural health centre (RHC), the military's media wing said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the martyred soldiers are Naib Subedar Muhammad Farooq, 44, a Narowal district resident, and Sepoy Muhammad Javed Iqbal, 23,

a Khanewal district resident.

The terrorists attacked the RHC on July 15/16 night and opened indiscriminate fire on the centre's staff.

Five civilians including two lady health workers, two children, and a watchman martyred in the attack.

"Security forces in the vicinity were immediately mobilized for clearance operation in RHC and in ensuing fire exchange, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists as a result of which three terrorists were sent to hell," the statement said.

NA Speaker & Deputy Speaker condemn terrorist attack on Imam Bargah in Muscat Oman

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on Imam Bargah Ali bin Abu Talib in Muscat, Oman, which resulted in multiple casualties including the death of two Pakistanis. In his message the Speaker said, "This cowardly act of mass shooting is extremely reprehensible. I am deeply saddened to learn about the martyrdom of multiple people including two Paki-

stan and a large number of wounded ones.

I on behalf of the Parliament of Pakistan and of myself extend sincere condolences to the families of the deceased and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured. "Terrorism in any form and anywhere is totally unacceptable. It's a global challenge and requires collective action to eliminate it," he added. Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with the people, parliament and government of the



Sultanate of Oman in this hour of grief.

National Assembly, Syed Mir Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Deputy Speaker of the

shooting incident in the premises of a mosque in Wadi al-Kabir, Muscat, Oman, which tragically claimed multiple precious lives, including the lives of 2 Pakistanis. He emphasized that such violence is unacceptable and against humanity. He also conveyed heartfelt condolences from the Parliament of Pakistan to the victims' families and assured them of Pakistan's solidarity. He urged Pakistani authorities to assist the Omani Authorities in relief efforts.

Ambassador Asim, colleagues join Bastille Day

Spokesman Report

PARIS: Ambassador of Pakistan in France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad and colleagues at the Embassy of Pakistan on Sunday joined the French people and other friends in the celebrations of the Bastille Day.

In a message posted on X, the ambassador said "Pakistan and France are great and good friends. We are committed to continue working together to further strengthen and diversify our multifaceted partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation in all domains."

He also wished peace, progress and continuing prosperity for the French



people.

The day marked a glorious milestone in the inspiring history of France and an occasion to commemorate and honour the resilience and determination of the French people in their efforts to shape the nation's

Raouf Hasan gets emotional while sharing 'story of PTI'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTI Secretary Information Raouf Hasan got emotional on Tuesday while sharing the ordeal of his party MNAs who were allegedly compelled to not submit affidavits to the party after the Supreme Court awarded the former ruling party reserved seats.

"We received 37 - out of the 41 - affidavits which we have submitted to the Election Commission of Pakistan. Two of our members are in Dubai and another is in Saudi Arabia. They are sending the affidavits from there," he said while appearing on Aaj News show Spotlight with Munizae Jahangir.

"One was in process, so 40 are taken care of," he said. Hasan went on to claim that



there were people who phoned their members and intimidated them. "Some people were arrested. They have arrested a child," he said.

"Muzammil, 17, has been arrested. His father, Ameer Sb, was told that they would torture him if he submitted the affidavit," Hasan said and claimed that the teenage boy had been tortured. "Honestly, the man is very

brave. Hats off to him. He reached the end and deposited the affidavit," Hasan said as he got emotional while speaking about the situation.

When asked, Hasan said that the PTI/MNA was aware of the fact that his son was in the custody of people who arrested him. "This is the story of PTI," Hasan said.

Iranian envoy expresses condolence on security forces' martyrdom in Bannu

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam on Tuesday expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the government and people of Pakistan following the martyrdom of security forces in Bannu.

In his message, Dr. Moghadam prayed to Allah Almighty to bless the souls of martyrs and console the families who lost their loved ones. He further said, "My prayers go out for the safe recovery of the injured."

Decision to ban PTI to be taken after consulting with allied parties: Asif

Bureau Report

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday said the decision to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will be taken after consulting with allied parties in parliament.

The effects and implications of the ban would be discussed, he said and added that the activities in which the PTI had been involved was against integrity and sovereignty of the country.

Addressing a press conference at his residence here, he said that the aim of the PTI was not integrity, independence and prosperity of the country, but its aim was only to gain power.

"Being a political worker, my top priority is Pakistan, if there is Pakistan, then we are", he said and added that, "The first priority for all of us is Pakistan". The minister said that there was



a supreme court judgment given by former chief justice Umar Ata Bandial that the bills passed to stop the no-confidence motion were unconstitutional and the Article-6 imposed on all of them, including the then speaker, president and the PTI founder, adding that the judgment supported my narrative. He said the May 9 incident was a direct attack on the existence and

integrity of the country, adding that the state institutions were criticized, the blood and sacrifices of the martyrs were insulted.

The minister said the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to protect the beloved country are the real heroes and nation should remember their sacrifices. He said there was only one solution to the problem of terrorism that all the institution should fight together against terrorism besides putting aside personal interests, and work together for development and prosperity of the country. Khawaja Asif said PM Shehbaz Sharif had invited the PTI for talks several times but the PTI denied.

To a question, he said economic stability would put the country on the path to progress and development when the Constitution and the law would be honoured.

Interior Minister condemns Bannu terrorist attack, pays tribute to martyred security forces

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday strongly condemned the cowardly terrorist attack on the Bannu Cantonment and paid tribute to the security forces for foiling the assault.

In a statement, the interior minister expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the eight security personnel who were martyred in the attack.

He described the brave men as the pride of the nation and said their great sacrifices would always be remembered.

"The enemy is making a heinous conspiracy to destabilize Pakistan but we will end the scourge of terrorism with the strength of unity and agreement," the interior minister said.

Naqvi praised the courage and resilience of the security forces, stating that they had foiled the terrorists' nefarious intentions by sending 10 of them to hell.

He said the martyrs are the pride of



the entire nation and the government stands with their families.

The interior minister prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured security personnel and reiterated the government's commitment to combating terrorism and safeguarding the country's territorial integrity.

The sacrifices of the martyrs will always be remembered and the nation salutes to the bravery and professionalism of the security forces in thwarting the conspiracy of terrorism, he expressed.

Ban on PTI will be finalise after...

Continued from Page 1

stated that any actions against Pakistan's security are unacceptable. He also mentioned that PTI was

previously engaged in dialogue to resolve issues and emphasized that the law and constitution must be upheld, with punishments meted out accordingly.

4 Pakistani killed in Oman ...

Continued from Page 1

battle of Imam Hussain.

"The Royal Oman Police have responded to a shooting incident that occurred in the vicinity of a mosque in the Al-Wadi Al-Kabir area" of the capital, police said in a statement.

The force gave an initial toll of four killed and "several" wounded.

Pakistani ambassador Imran Ali visited some of the wounded in hospital, the embassy posted on social media platform X.

In a video message, Ali urged Pakistani residents to cooperate with Omani authorities and avoid the area around the mosque which was hit.

"I have visited three or four hospitals. By the grace of God, all those injured are safe," Ali said.

"We are in touch with Omani authorities as well as hospitals. Our officers are on standby for emergency blood donations in the embassy," he added, saying a hotline has been set up to assist the wounded and their relatives.