

# QUETTA VOICE

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Friday 12  
August, 2022

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**Nepra raises power tariff for Karachi consumers by Rs11.10 for June on account of fuel cost adjustment**



**US dollar at Rs.218 in interbank as rupee continues to reassert**

## Qasim Suri fails to appear before FIA team in foreign funding case

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Former deputy speaker national assembly, Qasim Khan Suri, former Governor Balochistan, Syed Zahoor Agha and others failed to appear before the inquiry team of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday. The FIA Quetta's cyber crime office had summoned the former deputy speaker and central leader of Pakistan Tehrik e Insaaf (PTI) in a foreign funding case.

FIA cyber crime wing had summoned Qasim Suri, Syed Zahoor Agha, Wahab Agha, and Dawood Khan in the foreign funding case in Quetta. "I was in Islamabad and came to know about the notice late at night", Qasim Suri told



the Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. From 2011 to 2013, our joint account in Quetta received Rs.5.3 million from Islamabad. "We did not receive any foreign funding", Mr. Suri explained.

CBC director issues letter to PTI leaders

"The PTI leaders were summoned in foreign funding case by one of the inquiry officers", a letter addressed to the party leaders by the Assistant Director, Commercial Banking Circle (CBC) said. The AD is one of the members of the inquiry team established by the government to probe the foreign funding of the former ruling party.

The Daily Quetta Voice obtained a copy of the letter addressed to the PTI leaders.

FIA forms teams to probe foreign

funding of PTI

On August 5, FIA announced the initiation of investigation in the prohibited funding case and said that 5 different inquiry teams have been formed by FIA against Tehreek-e-Insaaf. Various inquiry teams have been formed and these inquiry committees will work in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Islamabad, and Quetta.

This notice has come after the election commission of Pakistan issued the much-awaited decision about the foreign funding case of the former ruling party i.e. Pakistan Tehrik e Insaaf (PTI). S Akbar Babar, one of the founding members of the PTI had challenged the foreign funding case. The verdict was announced after seven years by the ECP.

## Pakistan Navy rescues 9 crew members of sinking Indian vessel near Gwadar

Web Desk

The Pakistan Navy on Wednesday saved nine crew members of an Indian vessel after it drowned in the Arabian Sea near Gwadar, according to the Director-General Public Relations.

The ship namely "Jamna Sagar" sunk with 10 crew members aboard on Tuesday (August 9), the navy spokesperson said in a statement, available with Dawn.com.

"The navy immediately responded to the distress call and the Pakistan Maritime Information Centre requested a nearby merchant ship 'MT KRUIBEKE' to provide necessary assistance to the stranded crew of the drowning sailing vessel," the spokesman said.

"The merchant ship eventually recovered nine crew members and continued voyage to its next port Dubai and onward disembarked the



crew."

Separately, the statement said that one Pakistan Navy ship, along with two helicopters, reached the area and located the dead body of one crew member who had gone missing when the vessel drowned.

His body was recovered and handed over to Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) authorities for further proceedings, it added.

Earlier this year, the Pakistan Navy had intercepted and tracked an Indian submarine.

In a statement, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar had said that the Indian Navy had deployed its submarine against Pakistan with "ulterior motives".

"However, yet again through continuous vigilance and professionalism, Pakistan Navy has foiled [the] Indian submarine's attempt of

entering into Pakistani waters," he had said.

The area of Pakistan's territorial waters is 12 nautical miles while its seabed territory (EEZ) grew to 290,000 square kilometres in 2015. At the same time, one Pakistan Navy Ship along with two helicopters also reached the area and located the dead body of one crew member who was earlier missing at the time of the drowning of a sailing vessel. The dead body was recovered and handed over to PMSA authorities for further proceedings.

The successful search and rescue operation by Pakistan Navy is a practical manifestation of PN's resolve for the Safety of Life at Sea. Pakistan Navy always remained at the forefront in extending its support for any emergency search and rescue situation in its waters and beyond.



ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Dr. Riina Kionka calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## US dollar at Rs.218 in interbank as rupee continues to reassert

Business Desk

The Pakistani rupee continues to reassert against the US dollar. On Thursday, the rupee closed at Rs.218 per dollar in the interbank market. The rupee had suffered badly last month.

Meanwhile, in the open market, the rupee was being traded at 4:30 pm, according to data shared by the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP).

FAP Chairperson Malik Bostan attributed the rupee's continued recovery to several factors, including the expected release of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) tranche by August 19 to 24 which he said had created confidence among investors and ended the crisis the market was facing.

Alpha Beta Core CEO



Khurram Shehzad said discussions about the materialization of inflows had led to the PKR's recent gains.

"The IMF will hold its board meeting in 10-12 days, following which \$1.2 billion are expected to be received and there is news that a package of up to \$5bn can be received from friendly countries UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. China is also talking about further rollover of loans," he noted.

## Christian community protests against Mastung attack

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Christian community staged a protest demonstration outside Quetta Press Club against the Mastung attack. One person was



killed and three children were injured when armed accused opened fire outside the Christian Colony Mastung the other day.

The protesters were chanting slogans against the attack and demanding the arrest of the culprits behind the attack. They were also carrying placards inscribed with banners demanding security for themselves. The protesters said the Mastung administration had failed to provide security to the members of the Christian community. They demanded of the provincial government and the district administration to ensure the arrest of the culprits behind the attack.

The central leader of the Balochistan National Party (Mengal), Malik Abdul Wali Kakar also joined the protest and strongly condemned the incident. He said the BNP stands by the Christian community in this hour of trial.

"We demand the arrest of the culprits", Mr. Kakar told the protest demonstration. Besides men, women and children from the Christian community had also joined the protest.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo has already condemned the incident and directed the police to ensure the arrest of the culprits behind the attack. Mr. Bizenjo directed the police to submit a report about the incident.

## Hashmi condemns Gill's statement about State institutions

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Balochistan Awami Party's Founder Senator Saeed Ahmed Hashmi has condemned PTI leader Shabbaz Gill's statement against state institutions and said that weakening of institutions that are responsible for the security of geographical and ideological borders can cause irreparable damage to the state. In a statement issued here on Thursday, Senator Saeed Hashmi said that blatant false propaganda against martyrs of the helicopter crash is disgusting and needed to be stopped as soon as possible. He said that during its 4-year rule PTI leadership's apolitical thinking, power-hungry, and anti-state behavior has accomplished those tasks of internal and external enemies of Pakistan which they were thriving to achieve for the past 75 years.

PTI became part of 5th generation war against Pakistan

He said that instead of fulfilling the pledge of making the State of Madina, the PTI has become a part of fifth generation war against



Pakistan through their social media trolls, reached the nation with propaganda based on lies and lies, and the PTI has however succeeded in their nefarious aim of maligning the patriotic thinking of the majority of the youth that love and respect the state institutions, he added. Senior politician termed acts of PTI as a dangerous attempt to paralyze future youth leadership and weaken the country both internally and externally. Saeed Hashmi further said that in order to eradicate such heinous and negative thinking and for the security and survival of Pakistan, all the political leadership, civil society and intellectual class will have to overcome all their differences and promote unanimous and positive thinking.

## Nepra raises power tariff for Karachi consumers by Rs11.10 for June on account of fuel cost adjustment

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Thursday notified Rs11.10 per unit additional fuel cost adjustment (FCA) to K-Electric (KE) to be charged to consumers for the electricity they consumed in June.

The adjustment will be charged in the bills for August and September 2022, which will be applicable to all KE consumer categories except life-line consumers. In its brief, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com,

the power regulator said: "As per the mechanism provided in the determination, impact of change in KE's own generation fuel cost component due to variation in fuel prices, generation mix and volume shall be passed on to the consumers directly in their monthly bills in the form of Fuel Charges Adjustment (FCA)."

Similarly, it went on, the impact of change in the fuel component of Power Purchase Price (PPP) due to variation Web Desk

## Police vehicle attacked on Sariab Road Quetta

News Desk

Unknown miscreants lobbed a hand grenade at a police vehicle in Quetta's Sariab Road area on Thursday night.

Police sources said SHO Sariab was also inside the vehicle when attacked. However, the SHO remained unhurt in the attack.

The attackers fled from the spot unhurt.

## Rain, wind, thundershower expected in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD: Rain with wind and thundershower is expected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Punjab, Sindh, northeast south Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan during 24 hours.

However, heavy falls are likely at scattered places in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Upper Punjab and Kashmir, while at isolated places in south Balochistan during the period.

Temperature of some major cities recorded on Thursday morning: Islamabad and Karachi twenty-eight degree centigrade, Lahore twenty-nine, Peshawar thirty, Quetta and Muzafarabad twenty-five, Gilgit twenty-one and Murree eighteen degree centigrade.

According to Met Office forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, partly cloudy weather with chances of rain-wind-thundershower is expected in Srinagar, Jammu, Leh, Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian and Baramulla. Temperature recorded this morning: Srinagar, Anantnag and Baramulla twenty-one degree centigrade, Leh fifteen, Pulwama twenty and Shopian twenty-two degree centigrade. INP

## Afghan children enrolled in 30 government schools of Quetta

Musavir Khan Barrech, Muhammad Mudasar

Afghan refugees children have been enrolled in 30 government-run primary, middle and high schools in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province. The Balochistan education department and Mercy Corps, an international organization have financed and ensured the study of Afghan refugees children in Quetta.

"Afghan refugee children and our own children are getting quality education in these 30 schools", Arbab Talib, the acting commissioner of Afghan refugees said. The Balochistan education department and Mercy Corps organized a joint seminar to discuss the education of Afghan and host communities' children in the provincial capital.

"Quality education for Afghan refugees children" Director Education Balochistan, Wahid Shakir Baloch, Mercy Corps Team Leader, Dr. Saeedullah Khan, and other education experts addressed the seminar, which thoroughly discussed ways and means to promote education and ensure the provision of quality education to the Afghan refugee children.

"Government of Balochistan has extended all possible support to educate Afghan children", Wahid Shakir Baloch, the Director



of Education said. He said the quality of education in all 30 schools has improved and the teachers were rendering great services to educate students from marginalized communities.

Afghan Commissionate committed to supporting Afghan children

Speaking on the occasion, Arbab Talib stated that the Afghan Commissionate was committed to educating all Afghan refugees children in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. "Our objective is to make them useful citizens of the society", he said. Addressing the participants, Dr. Saeedullah Khan, team leader of Mercy Corps Balochistan, said that special attention was paid to the education of Afghan refugees and children of the host country. A special focus has been given to promoting girls' education, he stated. The girls are enrolled in primary, middle, and high schools of Quetta, he added. In addition, a better policy referral system has been established to address safety and psychological issues in educational institutions for Afghan refugees and host country boys and girls.

In Balochistan, government-run schools paint an abysmal picture. Most of the schools are deprived of basic facilities. The present government has announced the implementation of Article 25-A of the Constitution. The article calls for free and compulsory education for all kids.

## QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

## Balochistan Education Sector Plan, Go beyond words

Much has been said about the Balochistan Education Sector Plan (BESP) 2020-25 on the official level and among the academia and international donor agencies. Undoubtedly, some officers of the education department and donor agencies deserve appreciation for preparing the Plan.

The estimated cost of the five years BESP is Rs. 72 billion as per the data shared with journalists during a function in this regard in Quetta the other day. Attractive banners, books, and brushes with the best paper quality were given to the participants of the function held at Quetta's luxury hotel. As usual, very few individuals bothered to read the information in bags given to them by organizers of the function.

The Secondary Education Department had prepared the BESP 2020-25 in collaboration with European Union, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and UNICEF. Thanks to these organizations for extending support to the Balochistan government in improving the quality of education. Nevertheless, these international donor agencies should also go beyond words and ensure sustainable efforts to improve the state of education in Balochistan.

Most of the teachers, parents are unaware of BESP 2020-25. When educationists, academicians, bureaucrats, ministers, and representatives of donor agencies were addressing the BESP function, parents and teachers in remote remained unaware of the Plan. This daily asked some teachers and parents about the BESP 2020-25. They simply said, "What is this?"

Subsequently, the target group is unaware of the BESP 2020-25 and the multi-billion rupees spending on the Project. Most of the speakers spoke about the quality of education. In reality, speaking about the quality of education is like daydreaming in Balochistan, lagging behind other provinces of the country in terms of key social indicators.

Over 6,000 schools with one teacher in Balochistan. The education minister Naseebullah Marri lamented that 70,000 teachers and the quality still low. Palvasha Jalalzai, the education specialist of UNICEF put some critical questions about the one-teacher one-school, teachers training in Balochistan.

To be very precise, the government and donor agencies should come out of Quetta's only luxury hotel and mobile teachers, parents, political people, media, and religious scholars at the district level to improve the state of education in Balochistan.

## Energy shortage in Balochistan

Ajmal Khan



Poverty is not a static or fixed phenomenon. It is a multi-dimensional idea that encompasses quality in almost every sphere of life, ranging from caloric intake, life expectancy, living standards, literacy, and access to modern energy services. This type of poverty is always expressed from an income perspective. Sticking with the non-income dimensions of poverty, such as health, education and living standards, are as important as employment.

The two energy indicators of non-income dimensions, including electricity (no access to electricity) and cooking fuels (wood, dung and charcoal), constitute poverty. Goal no. 7 of SDGs contains universal access to modern energy services, increasing energy efficiency, and increasing renewable energy share. As we know, energy plays a vital role in the development process of a country, but in case of Pakistan, energy poverty is the largest single drain on Pakistan's economy.

When we talk about Balochistan, it is the direct and major victim of energy crisis, and has slowed down the growth of the province. Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan having an area of 347,190 km square and a population of 12,344,408 people. The major portion of the population live in rural areas, constituting 72.45%.

Only 36 Percent of Balochistan has access to energy. Balochistan is facing an

acute energy shortage that has stopped the development not only in the economic and agriculture sector, but also in every walk of life. According to a document submitted to the National Assembly of Pakistan, only 36% of Balochistan is electrified, while the remaining 64% of Balochistan still doesn't have access to energy. Due to the scattered population living in rural areas, it is impossible to electrify them. In 2018, the total demand of Balochistan was 1650 MW, but supply was limited to 600 MW, and in 2019 the demand has been raised to 2500 MW.

Energy Projects in CPEC: Energy is the prominent component of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Almost 70% of the CPEC projects were related to the energy sector, which comprises thermal, hydel, coal and wind. Unfortunately, Balochistan is being left out of these projects. Out of 13 mega projects related to energy, six projects are being located in Punjab, six in Sindh and one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Once again, the energy-

starved and downtrodden province has been ignored and not given its due share to fulfil its energy demands. The energy generated by these projects will not give any relief to the consumers in Balochistan.

The already installed transmission lines are inadequate, and the province does not have the capability and capacity to absorb energy beyond 500 MW. The two transmission lines worth \$4 billion will run from Matiari to Faisalabad and Lahore, respectively. These transmission lines are providing 4000 MW to Punjab. Looking at this picture, the overall situation in rural Balochistan is worse, where 85% of the population lives and some areas in Balochistan are not even linked with the national grid systems. This is an alarming situation where a major portion of the population still doesn't have access to electricity, and it will further deteriorate the growth of the province.

Energy Production in Balochistan: Balochistan is producing about 2422 MW of electricity using gas-based thermal.

Almost all the electricity generated in the province is being transmitted to other provinces. Electricity has been purchased by QESCO from two autonomous power producers include the Uch power plant and Habibullah Coastal Power plant. The province also receives electricity from Iran and provides it to the areas along the border. The federal government initiative to reduce load-shedding will not positively impact the province because the existing transmission lines are not that much capable of supplying any load beyond 600 MW. There is not a single 500 kV grid station in the province.

No doubt, it is impossible to provide and extend transmission lines to the far-flung areas because it will cost too much. The electricity demand in rural areas of Balochistan is very low and the houses in rural areas need only lighting for roomed huts built of mud. Furthermore, investors feel hesitant to invest in the province due to lack of infrastructure, revenue generation and security.

The Wind Corridor of Balochistan and Government's efforts: Besides solar energy, the wind energy is another essential source and Balochistan has been blessed with a high rate of wind speeds. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), in their shared data, suggested that the wind speed in the coastal area of the province is enough to generate electricity. In this

line, Pakistan Council of Renewable Energy Technologies (PCRET) has electrified 1600 villages along the coastal side of Sindh and Balochistan. A study suggested that the coastal belt of Pakistan can produce 30,000 MW through wind resources. To minimize the cost of these projects, the government should encourage local manufacturers of wind turbines.

In this regard, to overcome the energy poverty in Balochistan, the federal government can play a vital role in alleviating energy poverty by using renewable energy resources in electrifying the rural areas of Balochistan keeping in view the solar radiance and wind speed, there is a huge potential for renewable energy in the province. They should not electrify the far-flung areas with conventional grid-based methods because it will maximize their cost as the traditional modes of energy are expensive, and in the long run, it cannot meet the energy demand for sustainable development. The government should provide the due share in CPEC related energy projects to the province. Suppose the issues related to energy poverty are not taken seriously, the dream of achieving SDGs will never be achieved, and the already poverty-stricken province will observe more difficulties in the coming days.

The author is a research officer, member of Balochistan Think Tank Network.

## Climate change: common enemy of Pakistan and India

Imran Jan

There are situations where the enemy of your enemy is also your enemy. Nothing would fit that description better than climate change for Pakistan and India. Pakistan is the 8th most vulnerable and India the 7th most vulnerable country to the ravages of climate change. Climate change is a global threat. Nevertheless, how nations would guard against it makes it a very country-specific threat. The devastating results of it are very much specific to nationality, class and race. Poorer nations, lower classes and discriminated races are affected by climate change worse than others as if climate change had a human mind filled with all the prejudices our societies have conjured up, lived with and died for.

The news headlines or social media memes about this year breaking the previous records of excessive heat do not become obsolete and can be used every year. No need to delete those memes because the year ahead would be hotter than the one we are in right now and so on and so forth.

This March, heatwaves in India broke a 122-year record. A farmer in the Punjab region of India

interviewed by The New York Times said, "We used to wear jackets in March." Well, now they wear blankets of heat. Pakistan saw a cholera outbreak in Sindh this year while also grappling with multiple wildfires including in the supposedly cooler capital city of Islamabad. India is the major grain supplier of this region and supplies food rations to its farmers as well. With as much as 30% reduction in wheat yield, the longstanding concerns about food security have resurfaced in India and the region, including Nepal and Bangladesh, which rely on India for wheat imports.

In August 2020, right during the height of the pandemic, the climate change driven extreme monsoon rains in Pakistan drenched Karachi in a 19-inch rain, which usually drowns a city with no functional drainage system. Thousands of homes of the poor were destroyed. More than 100 people were killed. The Marriott bombing in Islamabad killed about 54 people. The Mumbai terrorist attack killed 164 people. In 2015, the heatwave in Pakistan's Sindh province killed more than 1,000 people. Between 1998 and 2018, Pakistan has lost over 10,000 lives due to climate change. Pakistan has suffered

more than \$4 billion losses since 1998 due to climate related events.

The floods in Assam this year affected more than half a million people across 1,000 villages. The Modi-led government has tried to remove from Assam the Bangladeshi immigrants using faith-based discriminatory law called the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). I can confidently state that the Bangladeshi immigrants did not affect more than half a million people across 1,000 villages. According to the Assam state water resources department, every year Assam loses nearly 8,000 hectares of land due to the expanding Brahmaputra river caused by climate change. Karachi's severe monsoon rain of 2020 led to the submerging of the markets and warehouses, causing a damage of \$150 million. Karachi came to a standstill for about a week, which caused the country to lose \$449 million daily. Do the math. And that does not include the massive off the grid economy, which we all know is much larger than the official one.

Excessive heat has been found to bring the work performance down among people. India loses 259 billion work hours annually due to excessive heat. It translates as worth roughly \$622 billion Purchasing

Power Parity.

When I think about the heat, fire, glaciers and water, I want to let the Pakistanis and the Indians know not to fear the missiles we both have made but rather the cars we drive and the electricity we consume. Fear the fire and the water. One doesn't kill the other. They are both killing us. The chances of an Indian dying at the hands of a Pakistani are much smaller than from heat or by drowning. And vice versa.

This March, heatwaves in India broke a 122-year record. A farmer in the Punjab region of India interviewed by The New York Times said, "We used to wear jackets in March." Well, now they wear blankets of heat. Pakistan saw a cholera outbreak in Sindh this year while also grappling with multiple wildfires including in the supposedly cooler capital city of Islamabad. India is the major grain supplier of this region and supplies food rations to its farmers as well. With as much as 30% reduction in wheat yield, the longstanding concerns about food security have resurfaced in India and the region, including Nepal and Bangladesh, which rely on India for wheat imports.

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## It's come full circle

By Faizaan Qayyum

With one foot on a banana peel, we are standing at an abyss. PM Shehbaz Sharif and the PML-N face mortal political and economic challenges, and the government has shown little resolve to confront them head-on. Domestic petroleum prices are up more than 40 per cent within the last few days, and energy prices have quickly followed suit.

It is morbidly satisfying that Shehbaz Sharif and the PML-N - of motorway, flyover, and underpass fame - should face rising fuel prices in their ultimate battle for political survival. For decades, our cities have facilitated private car owners at the expense of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. The Shehbaz Sharif model of urban development, albeit with different speeds of execution, pervades other political parties and leaders as well; large-scale gray infrastructure like signal free corridors, flyovers, underpasses, and ring roads with obscene levels of service have become the norm in cities around the country. Cities, from Islamabad to Turbat, have become sprawling sites of speculatively held vacant plots in shady housing schemes.

This is our real tragedy. Our current economic crisis is our own Frankenstein's monster staring right back at us. Consider these examples: Capital Smart City Islamabad is approximately 40 kilometres from Blue Area. DHA City Karachi is over 60kms from Frere Hall. These and other projects exclusively target car owners; only the most influential five per cent of our urban population.

So what to do when the most influential people's financial and residential interests move 50kms from the city's economic hubs? Build expressways, signal-free corridors, ring roads, Lyari Expressways, and Leh Expressways to coddle them. These projects help the elite bypass the city's congestion, often by taking a longer route. Sometimes flyovers and underpasses help address particular points of congestion in the city's road network. As these projects materialize, the richest few begin to travel more and more to reach their workplaces, meet friends, or for other everyday tasks. Because there's no public transit - and whatever transit exists is class incompatible - people drive, often in their sparkling new SUVs.

The same logic has unfortunately extended to inter-city travel. We have prioritized motorways and highways over railways. Our railways network has shrunk from over 8500kms of tracks in 1950s to around 7,800kms today. This has been accompanied by a drastic drop in the railways' share of traffic: while the service carried over 86 per cent of all freight traffic in the 1950s, its current share stands at a meager 4-6 per cent. Similarly, Pakistan Railways has gone from the single largest carrier of passenger traffic in the 1970s to carrying less than 10 per cent of all passengers today.

This drastic decline is not coincidental. According to one estimate, the state spent three times as much on intercity road infrastructure than it did on railways. The uniformed state's patronage of entities has combined with private car owners' interests to completely overpower socioeconomic efficiencies associated with rail travel. All these developments are brazen examples of elite capture. Only around 10 per cent of all urban households own cars, and yet all of our cities have seen massive infrastructural investments that favour private car travel.

## Media and Planning

By Aurangzaib Kasi



The technology revolution has achieved a new stage of human development. It has astonishing and tremendous effects on human behavior, thinking and attitude. Unprecedented developments took place in the field of communication due to which, for the first time in human history, the field of information has achieved immense importance, therefore, the 21st Century is also called the century of Information Technology.

With the increase in the sources of information, consequently, research and analysis have become more important. The overflow of information has compelled people to differentiate between

relevant and irrelevant, positive and negative news. In this age of technology, the subject of information has become a science and now Information Literacy is included as a subject in the course of universities of the developed countries.

"We have to equip students, teachers, and officials to handle an overflow of information"

Today it is not enough to decorate our educational institutions, offices, homes, and libraries with electronic technology, rather we will have to equip our students, teachers, officials, and others with the capability to appropriately handle this overflow of information.

In comparison with the Information coming from the conventional sources i.e., the teacher, books, etc., today information is flooded in the market by the internet, as a result, it becomes very difficult for students

and others to distinguish between fake and real, wrong and right, good and bad news. It is the time when you need the adequate capabilities to select the news as per your requirements for the purpose. Information literacy is used as a proper method to practice access to information and analyze and organize it.

In this atmosphere of hybrid war, it is necessary for media workers in general while the media managers, in particular, to abundantly equip themselves with information literacy.

An information literate person is supposed to have the capacity and capability to select suitable sources of information, which are beneficial and in accordance with the fixed targets. Information literacy is actually the ability to fully understand the whole system of information. In this atmosphere of hybrid war, it is necessary for media workers in general while the

media managers, in particular, to abundantly equip themselves with information literacy. Workers in the media industry must realize the challenges as well as the opportunities in the ever-changing situation of information.

As media managers of the government, it is our duty to understand the positive and negative aspects of the propaganda / information, so that we can adopt a competitive media plan to achieve our required targets of national interest and importance.

World powers taking a keen interest in Balochistan, especially Gwadar. At the end of the 20th Century, the situation of the world and particularly of this region became reshaped. After the fall of the Soviet Union and the freedom of Central Asian States, the regional scenario was changed and the geographical and strategic importance of the coastal

belt of Balochistan particularly Gwadar was enhanced by many folds. It is common to say that the power of the 21st Century will go to the country which controls the energy corridor. In this rapidly changing situation, all powers/forces are taking a keen interest in Balochistan and particularly Gwadar. The situation has created challenges and opportunities at the same time. The media has got important responsibilities to differentiate between wrong and right tendencies, help analyze the situation and promote a development-friendly action plan. To attain this purpose, a comprehensive media plan is required to be prepared and implemented.

The author is the Director-General Public Relations (D G P R) Balochistan. He can be reached at aurangzaibkasi1985@gmail.com

## Preparing for the grind

By Humayun Gauhar

Watching events unfold over the last few weeks has been painful, primarily because Pakistan's priorities are all wrong.

We are glued to our phones and television screens, anxiously waiting for more chaos and drama. With all these distractions like long marches, conspiracy theories, and mindless mudslinging, we are losing sight of reality. And the reality is that Pakistan is on the verge of bankruptcy, closer than it has ever been before. The education system not only lacks structure, it is completely outdated, and the water shortage is extremely alarming. While we are caught up in this political tug of war, Pakistan is rapidly nose-diving. Instead of focusing on the political circus, let's discuss the most pressing issue Pakistan currently faces.

The first course of action should be to stabilize the economy. Thankfully, the government slashed the subsidy on petroleum products. This is not a long-term solution, but it needed to be done in order to regain stability. While Pakistan must continue to engage with the IMF, it is also important to plead their case smartly during negotiations. One could argue that this deal fails to take context into account. With the withdrawal of

American forces from Afghanistan and the war in Ukraine which has sent the global economy into a tailspin, the IMF should seek to take context into consideration, especially for third world countries. However, one has to be realistic. The IMF will continue to be harsh on Pakistan unless we show evidence that we are working towards restructuring our economy.

In order to become a globally competitive economy, Pakistan must introduce market-orientated reforms. There is so much talk about Pakistan's weak export performance. Upon examination, it is clear that the export market is subpar due to deep structural issues. Pakistan's exports have continually fallen behind its South Asian competitors since the early 1990s. Since 1990, Bangladesh's exports have increased 6.2 times compared to Pakistan's, measured in terms of exports per capita.

To strengthen the export market, the current and future leaderships have to make unpopular decisions and stick to them. Over the years, governments have continued to dole out large export subsidies without a shred of evidence that these subsidies have helped boost exports. Going forward, governments have no choice but to bite the bullet and say no to special interests. For

example, instituting a land tax and rationalizing agriculture to create efficient farming choices can be done. However, sticking to the policy and carrying through requires courage from the government, and support from the public. To achieve long-term economic stability, Pakistan must have the will to put the interests of the people ahead of the privileged few. That means taking bold decisions, like removing land subsidies and charging for excessive water use.

We also know that the economy cannot be restructured if political instability continues. Now more than ever, principles need to be put above petty political feuds. Pakistan must take a leaf out of Bangladesh's book, as it shows that you don't need complete, but just semi political stability and continuity to achieve economic growth. For that to happen, Pakistan needs to get past the first hurdle. Political tumult and confrontation has done nothing but create hardship and upset. The people have had enough.

Pakistan needs to prepare itself for a hard grind. With the steep rise in inflation, there is bound to be more social unrest around the corner. It is highly doubtful that the politicians will tone down their rhetoric and work together.

Govt forms jirga for talks over law and order in swat, other areas

ISLAMABAD: Federal government has announced a Jirga for talks over worsening law and order situation in Swat, Miranshah and Mir Ali.

mentary parties. The political parties of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province would have representation in the Jirga.

prises of the PDM and other parliamentary parties after consultation with JUI leader Akram Durrani.

Shock, shame among some Muslims as Afghan accused of New Mexico murders

ALBUQUERQUE: Muslims in New Mexico interviewed on Wednesday said they felt shock and shame at the arrest of a Muslim immigrant from Afghanistan in connection with the murders of four Muslim men.

and Muhammed Afzaal Hussain, 27, on Aug. 1. Police said on Tuesday they were working with prosecutors on potential charges for the murders of Naeem Hussain, 25, a truck driver killed on Friday, and Mohammad Ahmad, 62, shot dead on November 7, 2021, outside the grocery store he ran with his brother in south-east Albuquerque.

around 4,000 in Albuquerque had work to do to prevent the violence they left behind in countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari welcomed Robert Dussey, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Togo, who is undertaking his first bilateral visit to Pakistan.

Overseas Pakistanis serve defamation notice to CEC, ECP members

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Pakistanis have served a legal notice to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja and other members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) over declaring them as non-Pakistanis.

should apologize to the overseas Pakistanis declared non-Pakistani and in case of refusal, defamation cases will be filed in courts against them, the notice served to CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja and ECP members said.

deemed it as a foreign fund. Shoaib said that he donated Rs10,500 to PTI in 2011. My company has been placed in the foreign funding list as a Canadian company, he added.

APHC-AJK organises rally in Muzaffarabad to pay tribute to Sheikh Aziz

MUZAFFARABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter held a rally in Muzaffarabad, today, to pay tribute to prominent Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Aziz on his 14th martyrdom anniversary.

The participants of the rally raised high-pitched slogans in favor of martyr Sheikh Abdul Aziz and other martyrs of Kashmir. The participants were holding banners with slogan paying tributes to Sheikh Abdul Aziz. They also shouted slogans against Indian military occupation and Narendra Modi.

Shaukat Javed Mir, President of Refugees Action Committee Gohar Kashmiri, Muzamil Aslam, Muhammad Younis Mir, Qari Maqbool Rehman and others addressing the rally said today is the fourteenth martyrdom anniversary of Sheikh Aziz which is being observed as a commitment and pledge that the struggle for freedom will continue till complete success.

Provision of basic facilities to masses top priority: Revenue Minister

MUZAFFARGARH: Punjab Minister for Revenue Nawabzada Mansoor Ahmad Khan said that all basic facilities including education, health and infrastructure would be provided to end the backwardness of the district.

Revenue department was being developed on modern lines; rural revenue centers had been established at the mouza level, while the centres would be upgraded soon and all the facilities would be provided to save the people of remote areas from traveling to Muzaffargarh city, he added.

PDMA cautions against flooding in Chenab River

LAHORE: Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued flood alert in Chenab river advising concerned departments to keep alert to tackle any emergency situation.



HYDERABAD: Opposition leader Sindh Assembly and PTI leader Haleem Adil Shaikh talking to newsmen after hearing in Session Court Hyderabad.

ECP decides to re-verify voters aged 100 and above

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to carry out a door-to-door re-verification of voters aged 100 and above.

its field officials to ensure the errors in the list are rectified before their publication on August 25.

active electoral strength. Following are Islamabad with over 0.9 million voters.

Pakistan sees consistent drop in COVID-19 cases

KARACHI: Pakistan's coronavirus cases have consistently registered a downward trend over the last five days, data from the National Institute of Health (NIH) showed Sunday morning.

Rain in Lahore inundates low-lying areas

LAHORE: Rain in different areas of Lahore has inundated the low-lying areas as the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) predicts more rains in parts of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Dr Riina Kionka, the Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail at Finance Division.

Imran to be held accountable as threats to institutions doom to fail: Uzma Bukhari

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan and his accomplices would have to surrender themselves before the law of the land as their threats to institutions were doomed to fail.

used that money for destabilising the country, sabotaging China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and harming Kashmir cause.

Pakistani IT companies can benefit from Saudi Vision 2030: report

RIYADH: In line with the Saudi Arabia's plan to modernise its economy under the mega-investment plan and Vision 2030 programme, Riyadh is working to develop new cities in the Kingdom that offer "huge investment opportunities" for Pakistani companies especially IT companies, Arab News reported.

operating in the region." She further added in order to enhance the export of services in the coming years, Pakistani IT companies are also keen on exploring the opportunities emerging in the Kingdom and other Gulf countries.

Arabia away from oil dependency and establish it as a global investment powerhouse with a sophisticated digital infrastructure.

service for the Saudi Tourism Development Fund in October last year. She further added in order to enhance the export of services in the coming years, Pakistani IT companies are also keen on exploring the opportunities emerging in the Kingdom and other Gulf countries.

The IT exports of Pakistan have been growing after the coronavirus pandemic. The country's IT and IT-enabled exports hit their record high of \$2.6 billion in the fiscal year 2021-22, according to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan.

Advertisement for PTI featuring a photo of Imran Khan and text: 'کمزور قلات ڈویژن بمقام خضدار' and 'PRQ NO.211.11.08.2022'.

## Sana Sanaullah doubles down on Imran Khan's arrest, disqualification

ISLAMABAD: The PTI leadership will also be arrested if an investigation proves that Shahbaz Gill's anti-military narrative was determined by them, says Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah.

He also said that PTI Chairperson Imran Khan will be disqualified thanks to his misdeclaration in the Toshakhana case.

On August 9, the Islamabad police officers arrested Shahbaz Gill for "inciting the public against state institutions", according to the spokesman of the Islamabad police.

On August 10, a court in Islamabad granted a two-day physical remand of the PTI leader to the federal capital's police. Speaking to the media before his court appearance, Gill said that he was not "ashamed" of his statements.

Speaking in a private TV channel Sanaullah said, "Even in his speech today, Imran Khan supported Shahbaz Gill's narrative."

The minister said, "A narrative was hashed out, which was given a go ahead in a political meeting of the party. Later, they liaised with a news channel, ARY, to air it."

He was referring to the anti-military rhetoric that permeated social media platforms after six personnel of the armed forces embraced martyrdom in a helicopter crash in Balochistan.

He said the narrative attracted the Pakistan Penal Code's sections 120, 124 and 131 accordingly, a case was registered against him [Gill] and he was arrested later on.

The minister said no other PTI leader has so far been arrested. However, as soon as the inquiry is com-

plete and evidence points to them, they will be arrested and action taken against the channel as well, he said.

He said the state sought legal advice after Gill's statement circulated on social media and then it lodged a complaint that resulted in his arrest. Gill is in a lockup and he has been offered all legal rights as per rules, he said.

Responding to a query about his claim regarding the "planned social media campaign", Sanaullah said six people have been identified. The investigation process related to 78 others is still underway, he said, adding that a letter has been written to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) for 120 others.

There is no doubt that this trend was created and driven by the PTI, he asserted. The minister said they [the PTI-affiliated people] have also levelled an accusation regarding the drone that even Afghanistan has avoided.

Rana Sanaullah said Imran Khan is creating rifts in the nation and misleading the youth of this country. "Imran Khan said that he can sit with the killers of Pakistani citizens but not with his opponent politicians," he said.

He said Imran Khan himself spawned hatred in the country and he has been spreading since 2014.

Sanaullah further said Imran Khan cannot escape lifetime disqualification in the Toshakhana case, until the Supreme Court's verdict that disqualified Nawaz Sharif for life is valid.

The PTI, he said, wants neutrals not to remain neutrals. INP



LAHORE: A vendor is selling National flags alongside a road at Baghbanpura area ahead of upcoming 75th Independence Day, in Provincial Capital.

### Gunmen kill two women in Mardan

MARDAN: Two women were killed while three others were injured when unidentified men entered their home and opened fire at them at Katlang Kanj area of Mardan on Thursday.

Those killed were identified as Tahira, daughter of a man named Sabir and his daughter-in-law Shagufta while three brothers namely Islam, Ihsan and Amir were injured in the attack.

Both the dead as well as the injured were shifted to Mardan Medical Complex. INP

### Death toll in Hyderabad gas leakage climbs to five

HYDERABAD: Four people, who had been injured in a blast from gas leakage at Hyderabad's Pathan Colony a few days ago, have also died, taking the death toll to five on Thursday.

They were under treatment at a hospital in Karachi.

Those who lost their lives in the incident were 65-year-old Ratan, 60-year-old Sawatri and their young daughter and another person. INP

### China delays bid by US and India to sanction JeM commander at UN

UNITED NATIONS: China Wednesday delayed a proposal by the United States and India, seeking to sanction a top Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) commander at the UN Security Council, diplomats said.

India and the United States wanted Abdul Rauf Azhar to be subjected to a global travel ban and asset freeze. Such a move has to be agreed by all 15 members of a Security Council sanctions committee.

"We placed a hold because we need more time to study the case. Placing holds is provided for by the Committee guidelines, and there have been quite a number of similar holds by Committee members on listing requests," a spokesperson for China's mission to the United Nations said.

The US Treasury designated Azhar in 2010, accusing him of urging Pakistanis to engage in militant activities and organise suicide attacks in India.

The United States respects other countries' needs to verify that a sanctions proposal meets their "domestic evidentiary threshold to justify a listing at the UN," a spokesperson for the US mission to the United Nations said on Wednesday.

"The United States values cooperation with our Security Council partners to effectively use this tool in an apolitical way to stop terrorists from exploiting the global order to do their misdeeds," the spokesperson said. INP

### People involved in child abuse do not deserve any exemption: CM Punjab

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Thursday said that the working parameters of Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) need to be extended to all districts of the province.

According to details, the chief minister made these remarks during a meeting with the child protection bureau's Chairperson Sarah Ahmad. During the meeting, Sarah Ahmad briefed CM Pervaiz Elahi on the performance of CPWB in the province.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister praised the bureau's role in protection of children's rights, saying that it was the provincial government's responsibility to improve the child protection mechanism.

He stressed the need to extend child protection units to all districts of the province. "Elements involved in abuse of children do not deserve any concession," CM Elahi said, calling for indiscriminate legal action against such people.

The Punjab chief minister also praised the performance of Child Protection and Welfare Bureau, vowing to support the CPWB at any cost. INP

### FO slams Modi govt's plan to mark Aug 14 as 'Partition Horror Remembrance Day'

ISLAMABAD: Strongly condemning the government of India's decision to observe 14th August, Pakistan's Independence Day, as Partition Horror Remembrance Day, the Foreign Office (FO) said on Thursday that by doing this Narendra Modi-led BJP government was denying the role of Hindu extremists in the partition.

In its statement, the FO said that unfortunately BJP's agenda was to create divisions. "And through this agenda, the party is trying to distort history," it said in its reaction. In a statement issued in Islamabad, the Foreign Office said "It is deplorable that the BJP government, as part of its divisive political agenda, is wantonly attempting to play with the sentiments of the people through distorted interpretation of history." The FO said, "True to its characteristic revisionist agenda, the BJP-RSS led dispensation has again sought to hypocritically and one-sidedly invoke

the tragic events and mass migration that occurred in the wake of Independence in 1947."

The statement stressed that if the Indian leaders genuinely cared about agony, suffering, and pain, they must work to improve the conditions of the Muslims and other minorities in India.

The FO said the last seven decades had been replete with undeniable proof that India's espousal of secularism was a sham.

"The fact is that today's India is an undeclared 'Hindu Rashtra' that has no place or tolerance for other religious minorities, especially Muslims who are faced with discrimination, persecution and political and socio-economic exclusion," it said.

It said, "The government of India is advised to desist from politicizing the events related to Independence and instead sincerely honour the memories of all those who sacrificed for a better future for all." INP

### PM Shehbaz, Modi likely to meet at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is expected to have official and scheduled meetings with the heads of major countries, including his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, by the middle of next month, according to diplomatic sources.

The meetings will take place during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit scheduled to be held on September 15 and 16 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the historical and cultural centre of Muslims.

The other regional leaders expected to meet PM Shehbaz Sharif include country heads of China, Russia and Iran.

Diplomatic sources in the federal capital confirmed that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attended a meeting of the SCO FMs on July 28, where it was

reflected in the decisions that all the heads of the member countries will participate in the summit meeting of the organisation in personal capacity. "There are no plans of any meetings between Indian and Pakistani prime ministers in September," Bilawal told WION News, adding that both India and Pakistan are part of the SCO and the two countries are only engaged in the context of the broad-based activities of the organisation. The foreign minister said, "India is our neighbouring country. While one can decide on a lot of things, one cannot choose its neighbours, therefore, we should get used to living with them." Bilawal recalled that after 2019, constructive dialogue with India became difficult, while statements based on Islamophobia by Indian officials are further creating hurdles in dialogue. INP

### Sheikh Aziz a true leader who never compromised on Kashmir freedom

ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Shaikh Abdul Aziz was a true and honest leader of Kashmiris' freedom struggle who preferred martyrdom but never compromised and bowed before Indian illegal occupation and its might policies.

A report released by the Kashmir Media Service, on the occasion of 14th martyrdom anniversary of Shaikh Abdul Aziz, today, said that he devoted his whole life for the right to self-determination of Jammu and Kashmir as per UN resolu-

tions and freedom from Indian illegal occupation.

The report said the martyred leader, who spent most of his life in jail, fought selflessly for freedom of Kashmir till his last breath and he continues to inspire the Kashmiri people. It said that Shaikh Aziz was a passionate advocate of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to Pakistan.

"Shaikh Aziz and other martyrs are symbols of resistance against brutal Indian illegal occupation. Kashmiris will never forget the sacrifices of their martyrs like Shaikh Aziz. Kashmiri people value the sacrifices of their martyrs above all other things," it said. INP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Dr. Riina Kionka called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar at Ministry of Law.

## President, PM express resolve to build an inclusive society in line with vision of Quaid-e-Azam

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have expressed the government's resolve to achieve the noble objective of building an inclusive society in line with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

In their separate messages on the occasion of National Day of Minorities, they resolved to make all efforts to safeguard minorities rights and work for their well-being as their rights have been enshrined in the Constitution.

The President lauded the role being played by minorities, especially in the fields of education, health and social welfare.

He said 11th August is celebrated as Minorities' Day in Pakistan to acknowledge the invaluable contribution made by our minorities to the development of Pakistan and to reaffirm our commitment as a nation to safeguard their rights.

In his message, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said freedom of religion and sanctity of the person and properties of minorities have been statutorily formalized in our constitution.

He said National Day of Minorities serves to highlight the contributions that our non-Muslim Pakistani citizens are making to the national development.

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Mufti Abdul Shakoor has said that Islam is a religion that respects humanity.

In his message on the occasion of National Minorities Day, he said according to the eternal teachings of Islam, there is no rule against the basic principles of humanity.

The Minister said that Islam never encourages forced conversion of followers of other religions.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed the coalition government's resolve for the betterment and welfare of our minorities and their fullest inclusion in the national life and development.

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### Nine of a family hospitalized after eating unhygienic food in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR: At least nine members of the same family were hospitalized after eating unhygienic food in Bahawalpur on Wednesday night.

According to details, condition of nine persons deteriorated after eating unhygienic food in Bahawalpur. Rescue teams with the help of local residents shifted the affected persons to hospital.

Rescue sources informed that three women and two children were among the affected persons. They also informed that all the patients were in stable condition. INP

### Policeman martyred in firing incident in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: Some unidentified miscreants opened fire and martyred a policeman in Subhan Sher area of Peshawar on Wednesday night.

According to details, some unidentified gunmen opened fire at a police check post in Subhan Sher area of the city due to police official Rakhmeen Khan embraced martyrdom.

A heavy contingent of police reached the spot after the firing incident and cordoned off the area. Police have also launched a search operation to arrest the culprits involved in the incident. INP

### Three killed, 10 injured in van, truck collision in Khairpur

KHAIRPUR: At least three persons were killed and 10 other were wounded in a collision between a van and truck in Khairpur in the wee hours of Thursday. According to details, the accident occurred at the Mehran National Highway where a van going to Khairpur from Karachi was hit by a truck, killing three persons on the spot and injuring 10 other.

Rescue teams reached the spot and shifted the dead and injured to hospitals in Gumbat and Thari Mirwah. INP

## PTI workers apologise for posting anti-army posts

ISLAMABAD: A number of workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), who had earlier made anti-army statements on social media, confessed to their mistake and apologised for doing that.

Muhammad Shabbir, a worker of the PTI, who had earlier made anti-army statements while talking to media on the premises of the Supreme Court's Lahore registry, expressed regret over his mistake.

He in a video message said: "My name is Muhammad Shabbir. I am a resident of Baghbanpura [Lahore]. I have been associated with the PTI for the last 10 years, and I like Imran Khan. Mian Mahmood-ur-Rasheed and Mian Hamid have promised to appoint me as the additional general secretary of Shell Petrol."

He added, "A few days ago, I went

to the Supreme Court's Lahore registry with my PTI friends and recited a poem on their insistence which I deeply regret. Forgive me for God's sake whoever is hurt by the poem. I will not make the same mistake again."

Another PTI worker, Syeda Tayyeba Bukhari of Gujranwala, the founder of Markhor Media Network page, also confessed to mistakenly share an anti-army post on Twitter and distanced herself from the narrative of the party leadership. She apologised for sharing anti-army post on social media and said that it would not happen again.

Similarly, Muhammad Azam of Pattoki also confessed to uploading an anti-army post on social media. "In future, I will not post anything that spreads hatred," he said. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyung Aurangzeb talking with media persons after the Digital Photographic Exhibition ceremony in connection with 75th Independence Day at Pak-China center in Federal Capital.

## Three women among four murdered in Punjab cities

NAROWAL, ATTOCK, JHELUM, Hafizabad: Four persons including three women were murdered in different incidents of honour killing, domestic violence and enmity in different cities of Punjab, police said on Thursday.

A 22-year-old woman named Samra was shot dead by her father and uncle for marrying as per her will in Shahpur Jattan village in Narowal, according to police.

The woman's father Allah Ditta and uncle Boota called her back home from Attock on some pretext and shot her dead with the help of two other accomplices.

On receiving information, the police reached the spot. They took the body into custody and shifted it to the hospital.

It is to be noted here that the woman had settled in Attock after contracting love marriage a few days ago. Kot Nainan police registered a case on behalf of the state after the woman's family refused to pursue any

legal proceedings.

The police also arrested the woman's father Allah Ditta, however, her uncle managed his escape good along with accomplices.

Raids were being conducted by police for their arrest till the filing of the report. In Jhelum, a man shot his wife dead over domestic issues, and later he also shot himself and got injured, according to police.

He was rushed to Rawalpindi in critical condition, while the dead body of her wife was shifted to a civil hospital for post-mortem after collection of evidence from the crime scene.

The incident took place in the Chautala police precincts. The accused was identified as Muhammad Ali and the deceased as Shakeela Bibi. In Hafizabad, a 17-year-old girl was found murdered under mysterious circumstances. The incident occurred in Shori Maneka area of Hafizabad where Humaira Bibi found dead with a bullet wound in her neck. INP

## AJK cabinet approves amendment of Section 12 of Zakat, Ushr Act 1985

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir cabinet on Thursday approved the amendment of Section 12 of the Zakat and Ushr Act 1985 and the Draft of the AJK's Social Protection Policy.

The meeting presided over by Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan was attended by Ministers, Chief Secretary and other pertinent officials of the Government. On the occasion a six-member committee under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan was formed regarding the payment of pension and other due to the retired/deceased employees of the Population Welfare Department. The committee, comprising of Chaudhry Muhammad Rasheed, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Sardar Muhammad Hussain Khan and three government secretaries, has been assigned the task to prepare and submit a report in this regard in a month. Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan

paid rich tributes to Kashmiri people who have been engaged in a freedom struggle. Kashmiri people, he said have been scripting a new history of resistance and resilience in the face of India's barbarism and brutality.

He, however, maintained that atrocities unleashed on Kashmiris by India's fascist regime could not dampen their spirit and passion for freedom. While reiterating his government's support and commitment to the Kashmir cause, the PM said, "The people of Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and Gilgit-Baltistan stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for right to self-determination."

The PM said that it was high time that the international community should come forward in a big way to help stop persecution of Muslims in the Occupied Kashmir and play its effective role to resolve disputes in line with wishes and aspirations of Kashmiri people. INP