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CM Bizenjo congratulates newly elected chairmen and vice chairmen

Manan Mandokhail, Sardar Muhammad Khondai, Imran Sumalani, Munir Baloch, Ali Khan Mandokhail

QUETTA: The ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) has emerged victorious in majority districts in the final phase of local bodies elections in the province. As per unofficial results, the BAP has won chairmen and deputy chairmen seats in Dera Bugti, Jhal Magsi, Barkhan, Awaran, Lasbela, Hub Zohab, Ziarat, Loralai districts. However, this time an alliance between Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (JUI) and Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) has emerged. The two parties alliance worked successfully in winning chairmen and deputy chairmen in Chaman, Killa Abdullah, Pishin, Sherani, Musakhail, Killa Saifullah, Hamar districts of Balochistan.

BNP won Noshki, Gwadar and Kharan seats

Balochistan National Party (BNP) has won Noshki, Gwadar, Kharan districts. However, National Party (NP) has won Panigur, Kalat and Mastung with the support of political allies. In Chaghi, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has won. The party has also won chairmen and deputy



chairmen seats in Khuzdar, Sobhat Pur, Sorab, Jaffarabad, Kech districts of Balochistan.

Muhammad Khan Lehri sweeps Naseerabad

Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind maintained his position by winning the elections of district Kachhi. However, Balochistan education minister, Mir Naseebullah, Mann also won district Kohlu's chairman and deputy chairman seats.

Similarly, Muhammad Hassani panel won district Washuk elections. In Naseerabad, Balochistan Irrigation, Muhammad Khan Lehri's panel won. In district Sibi, the Sardar Donki panel won the final phase of local bodies elections.



Jehangir Tareen's brother commits suicide

Pakistan urges Sweden to take legal action against man for desecrating Holy Quran

The joint session of parliament on Thursday passed a resolution condemning the desecration of the Holy Quran in Stockholm and urged the Swedish government to take legal action against the man who burned the holy book. The despicable act of the public burning of a copy of the holy book in Stockholm on the occasion of Eid ul Adha sparked worldwide protests and outrage. An Iraqi man set a copy of the sacred book ablaze outside a mosque in the Swedish capital on June 28.

Lawmakers unanimously pass resolution, express deep distress over incident.

The resolution was moved by Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbas on the situation arising out of the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden in the joint sitting of parliament, which was chaired by National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf.

Parliamentarians from the government and the opposition sides expressed deep distress over the incident, stating that Muslims worldwide were profoundly hurt by this disgraceful act.



They emphasized that no civilised society should permit the provocation and disrespect of religious sentiments under the guise of freedom of expression.

Joint session urges int'l community to take effective measures against such incidents.

They urged the international community to address this tragic incident and take effective measures to prevent similar occurrences.

"This House condemns the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden. The Swedish government should take legal action against the person involved in the incident," read the resolution.

Moreover, the resolution urged the Swedish government to assure that such incidents will not take place in the future.

It demanded that Islamophobic incidents should be dealt with like incidents against other religions and disapproved the desecration of sacred religious rituals books and personalities Web Desk

CJ BHC dismays over non appointment of doctor in Mach jail hospital

Imran Sumalani
MACH: Chief Justice Balochistan High Court (BHC), Mr. Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan dismays over the non-appointment of a doctor in the hospital ward of the Central Jail Mach. The top judge of the province paid a surprise visit to the Mach Central Jail on Thursday.

CJ BHC orders solutions to problems faced by prisoners

On this occasion, the judge of the High Court Mr. Justice Zaheeruddin Kakar was also with him. On reaching the Jail, the jail administration manager, Chief Justice visit the various depart-



ments of the Jail and during the briefing, the Chief Justice met the prisoners individually in the Jail and inquired about their problems

and the available facilities. The Chief Justice also inspected the welding workshop, tailoring workshop, furniture workshop,

computer workshop and literacy center in the jail premises and appreciated the arrangements made by the concerned staff for the education and training of the prisoners.

Prisoners in death cells informed CJ about their concerns about their appeals in the Supreme Court

Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan said that the education and training of prisoners during their release will be very helpful in playing the role of a responsible citizen in society, which will help them not only to improve their lives. Rather, they will be able to support their families. During the visit to the Mach

prison, the prisoners in the death cell informed the Chief Justice of their concern about their appeals pending in the Supreme Court of Pakistan for many years not being dealt with, which the Chief Justice assured them that he would contact the Chief Justice of Pakistan to hear their appeals at the earliest.

Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan expresses satisfaction with the cleanliness

The CJ BHC issued orders to the jail administration to solve problems of urgent nature faced by prisoners languishing in one of the country's ancient prisons. Expressed satisfaction with the cleanliness arrangements in the jail however, on the occasion of visiting the jail ward, he

was told that there is no doctor permanently posted in the ward and prisoners have to refer to the civil hospital for medical treatment.

CJ orders the health department to appoint a doctor in the Jail

Expressing non-satisfaction at the non-appointment of a doctor in the prison hospital, he ordered that the health department should be immediately contacted for the permanent appointment of a doctor and the permanent appointment of a doctor should be ensured as soon as possible. Chief Justice Balochistan High Court Mr. Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan also inspected the library in Mach Jail. On this occasion, he said that the prisoners are also a part of society, reforming them and making them useful citizens of the society is the need of the hour.

CM Bizenjo congratulates newly elected chairmen and vice chairmen

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo has congratulated the newly elected chairmen and vice chairmen during the final phase of local bodies elections in the province. Mr. Bizenjo took to the social media network Twitter and said that he was delighted to witness the peaceful conclusion of the final phase of local bodies elections across Balochistan. He said peaceful elections were held in 35 districts of the province. CM Balochistan expressed the hope that the newly elected chairmen and vice chairmen would play their due role in



the solution of problems faced by the masses. He said the provincial government made all necessary arrangements to make the elections

a success. The elections were held in a peaceful atmosphere and no untoward incident was reported from any part of the province.

Jehangir Tareen's brother commits suicide

Alamgir Tareen, the brother of seasoned politician, Jehangir Khan Tareen committed suicide on Thursday. Initially, police sources said Alamgir allegedly committed suicide at his residence in Lahore's Gulberg area. Later, the reports were confirmed by Jehangir's family members as well. Meanwhile, the police higher-ups said that further details will be available when they visit the

Dawood Ahmed



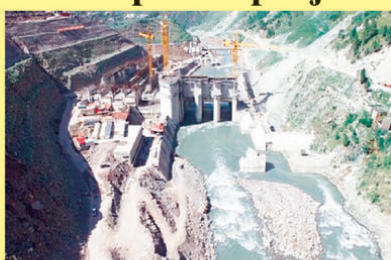
crime scene. Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of Jehangir Tareen's family. We request you all to kindly respect his family's privacy. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

SHO Ghulib Market Muhammad Irfan told reporters that Alamgir allegedly shot himself.

The police official added that the weapon was in police custody and that police had cordoned off Alamgir's Gulberg residence. SHO Irfan said the process of collecting evidence was ongoing, and said based on preliminary investigations, they could not determine the cause of the alleged suicide. "The police will be able to present a final report with the facts and reasons of the case after the initial investigation is completed," he added.

International court declares itself competent to hear India-Pakistan dispute over power projects in held-Kashmir: FO

The Foreign Office (FO) said on Thursday it had received the decision of the Per-manent Court of Arbitration (PCA) a non-UN intergovernmental organisation located in The Hague which declared the body competent to adjudicate on a dispute between Pakistan and India over the construction of two hydroelectric projects in occupied Kashmir, pursuant to the decades-old Indus Waters Treaty. The dispute pertains to concerns raised by Pakistan over India's construction of the 330-megawatt Kishanganga project on the Jhelum River and plans to construct 850-MW Ratle project on the Chenab River in occupied Kashmir. The Government of Pakistan is in receipt of the Award of the Court of Arbitration, addressing its competence and the way forward on the disputes between Pakistan and India concerning the Kishanganga and Ratle Hydroelectric Projects, amidst questions of the interpretation and application of the Indus Waters Treaty, the FO said in a statement today. The court had upheld its competence and determined that it would now move forward to address the issues in dispute, the statement added. It also mentioned that the Indus Waters Treaty "is a foundational agreement between Pakistan and India on water sharing" and that "Pakistan remains fully committed to the treaty's implementation, including its dispute settlement mechanism".



"We hope that India would also implement the treaty in good faith," the FO said. Pakistan initiated the legal proceedings on Aug 19, 2016, by requesting the establishment of an ad hoc arbitration court pursuant to Article IX of the Indus Waters Treaty. In its decision today, the arbitration court stated that the World Bank confirmed receiving the request on August 31, 2016. It noted that Pakistan sought the arbitration court's intervention to resolve issues concerning the interpretation or application of various parts of the treaty governing the design or operation of run-of-river hydroelectric plants on the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab Rivers and their tributaries. The country took this step after strenuously raising its concerns in the Permanent Indus Commission starting in 2006 for the Kishanganga project and in 2012 for the Ratle project and then seeking resolution in government-level talks held in New Delhi in July 2015. Pakistan's decision to initiate proceedings is in response to India's persistent refusal to address Islamabad's concerns. The treaty provides for two forums for settling the disputes — the court of arbitration, which addresses legal, technical and scientific issues, and the neutral expert, which addresses only technical issues. Pakistan requested the establishment of the court of arbitration because of systemic questions requiring legal interpretation Web Desk

Hanna Urak, lush green valley attracts tourists from across Pakistan

By: Abdul Shakoor Khan

AI and Climate Change completely missing in Balochistan budget

The future is all about the Artificial Intelligence (AI). The AI has the potential to significantly impact education and transform the learning experience for students across the globe.

AI-powered tutoring systems can provide interactive and adaptive support to students. These systems can assess students' knowledge, identify areas of weakness, and offer targeted guidance and resources to help them improve.

Experts say the AI has so far taken more baby steps. Still a lot needs to be done. The AI is going to dominate education, politics, economy etc. in the future.

Word of AI in the Balochistan Budget

Despite its need and importance, the Balochistan government has not allocated a single penny for the AI in its financial budget for the year 2023-24. The provincial government allocated more than Rs.100 billions for primary, middle and higher education sector. The finance minister Balochistan, Zamarak Achakzai did not utter a single word about the AI.

Besides AI, the government has not focused on the looming threat of climate change. Balochistan, the country's searise largest province is prone to all natural disasters because of its vulnerability to the global warming and climate change.

Rs. 71 crore allocated for Climate Change and more than Rs.73 billions for C&W department

The government allocated Rs.71 crore rupees to tackle the climate change, whereas, more than Rs.73 billion rupees were allocated for the communication and works department. The department is known for chronic corruption and most of the amount is likely to go into some narrow pockets.

Promotion of AI education provides an opportunity to our students to compete on national and international levels. Its promotion can open new vistas of opportunities for our students.

However, investment in the climate change department is extremely necessary in view of the province's vulnerability to the global warming. Devastating floods in the last year played havoc across Balochistan and life was completely paralyzed for a month.

The provincial government needs to change its priorities when it comes to AI and climate change since the former offers opportunities and the latter poses a serious threat to human life.

Corporate takeovers, mergers and state assets

The Inter-Governmental Commission on Financial Transactions Act, 2022 (the 2022 Act) amended the law enacted last year and has been recently put into effect by granting a concession for certain berths at Karachi port to UAE-based joint venture.

The 2022 Act states in the very preamble that it has been enacted to provide a mechanism to regulate commercial transactions under an inter-governmental framework agreement to promote, attract, and encourage foreign states to have economic and business relations with Pakistan.

The important element of the 2022 Act is that it allows the federal government of Pakistan to, among others, sell and grant concessions and other contracts in respect of state-owned assets under the 2022 Act has been enacted in a broad-brush manner. The provision, however, allows, but does not mandate, the federal government to make rules for carrying out the purpose of the 2022 Act.

Since the 2022 Act may prove pivotal for the federal government in the short run to raise funds and establish business relationships with other states, the principles of accountability, fairness, transparency, and due process are not only the 2022 Act seek to bar the jurisdiction of the courts to entertain any challenge under the 2022 Act (which is contestable), it further restricts the state-owned assets to have been overlooked in the 2022 Act.

When man first began to explore the world of the hereafter, his top three desires have been for flowing water, blowing in the wind, and pleasing serenity. Historic Hanna Urak Valley is a place where all four of these elements.

One has the impression that it is enjoying life in the hereafter and Allah has given him a piece of land as the prize for his good act while sitting beside the crystal clear water that cascades down from the enigmatic rugged mountains.

Urak valley, a picturesque landscape surrounded by rugged mountains

Urak Valley, a place of picturesque landscape surrounded by uneven terrain, is situated in the Quetta district of Balochistan province, has a population of about 24000.

The Hanna Land which was established by the British, is close to Urak Valley, and extends for meters from Quetta. The end of it has a small waterfall that serves as the entry to the nearby Wali Tangi Dam.

It is the ancestral home of the Pakhtun tribe, who are renowned for their kindness, bravery, and hospitality. The quality apple trees are grown here, and they are exported to a number of nations.

Daily 15,000 to 20,000 tourists visit Hanna Urak

Hanna Urak Valley now has the distinction of being the only tourist point in Balochistan with daily visits of between 15,000 and 20,000 tourists. The most vibrant evidence has been recorded at any of Balochistan's tourist points.

According to Mr. Muhammad Yunus, the landlord in Hanna Urak, around fifty to twenty thousand people from throughout the country and parts of Balochistan rush to Hanna Urak Valley daily to observe the natural beauty.

We have a deep connection to this place, and we always abide by the golden rules of hospitality when visitors arrive in our valley.

You cannot avoid visiting Hanna Valley at least once in a lifetime. It is a must-visit destination for Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan.

"We are tired of tough daily schedules", tourists

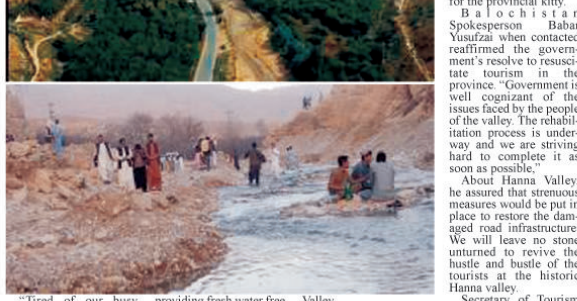
"Tired of our busy schedule and daily routine, we spare time and visit Quetta to experience scenic Urak valley, and its beautiful sight of the Landhi area of Karachi said.

The environment is pleasing, the people are friendly unlike some of the people of northern areas of the country where not only prices of the commodities are raised manifold during the tourist season, but the tourists are too maltreated.

My father Ghulam Gulshan Muhammad Sarangzai was the first member of the Pakistan People's Party from Balochistan, he said adding that we still have a membership card issued by the party.

Malik Nasir Khan former Councilor of Hanna Urak, said, "Provincial government waits for the scarcity of funds but do not pay heed to the tourism sector especially during the 'biggest tourist season' of the province Hanna Urak."

By allocating a sizable budget for the development of tourist points, it could generate millions of rupees only from Hanna Valley.



As ill luck would have it, like other parts of the province, floods in 2022 caused havoc in the Hanna Valley as well.

"The recent flash floods devastated 100 percent of apple orchards and agricultural land, swept away road and other infrastructure. Mr. Yunus landlord of Hanna said.

As road infrastructure has perished, it takes two hours to reach the Hanna valley from the entrance which used to take 30 minutes, he said lamenting that despite the passage of eight months, neither government nor private sector compensation to the victims were given nor steps were taken to reconstruct the infrastructure.

We had, on our own, established small swimming pools, parks, and other edible spots to attract the tourists, the Secretary of Tourism and Culture Manzoor Hussain said.

Balochistan has been specially blessed in terms of tourism. There are beautiful spots in the country and outside Pakistan, to visit Balochistan and enjoy the beauty of nature and ensure investment in Balochistan.

Resource allocation for tourism must have a priority of Balochistan's province, he said adding that the government is trying to equip the picnic points with all sorts of facilities and pay attention to such historical and cultural destinations of being the most popular tourist destination in the state.

Head Pakistan? The false narrative around SOEs

Pakistan is caught in the vortex of multiple crises: economic, political, governance and institutional. The political discourse has become increasingly divisive and intolerant and the trust deficit between the state and state institutions has reached new lows.

The threat of terrorism is getting worse and there are major geopolitical shifts, with China and the US competing for influence and resources, putting Pakistan in a difficult position. However, the most acute, most important, and most challenging issue is the crisis of political leadership.

They say politics is the art of making possible what is necessary. In Pakistan, politics is the art of acquiring the seat of power by any means possible and holding on to it for as long as possible.

Political leadership does not mean winning elections, holding large rallies, having street power or the art of wheeling and dealing. It is not being informed or having technical and management skills. Leadership requires empathy more than anything else. It requires a connection with the people to see into the future, finding and implementing solutions to the most pressing problems.

It means developing future leaders by empowering, encouraging and opening the doors for all who want to enter the political arena. It means to be at the forefront when it is time to stand up for the people's interests.

Do we see any one of these qualities in the current ruling class? Even though Pakistan has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources, it has never had a political leadership. The question is, why is that so? The answer lies in what the late Kofi Annan said, "Politics is too important to be left only to politicians. However, success depends on lively participation of organized civil society in political life."

system which acts as the springboard for entry into the political arena. But this will require making tough decisions, and the result is what we are seeing now — a politically naive leadership for the people, slogans, emotional narratives and a target for misuse of religious texts and symbols instead of having confidence in their strength, they wait for a strong man who will save them from the clutches of some vague, ill-defined evil forces.

The long-term goal should be to increase human capital, without which progress is not possible. The World Bank report, the Pakistan Human Capital Review — documents an alarming decline in the country's human capital crisis. Pakistan's Human Capital Index (HCI) is 0.46 and Nepal at 0.49. Even the most economically advanced groups in Pakistan have lower HCI compared to peer countries.

The current generation of politicians is also suffering from a crisis of confidence in their leadership. They, with their narrow agenda, can help the nation cross this dangerous river and leave a proud legacy for the people. Is this possible? Will Pakistan see its 100th anniversary as a fantasy world, a land of beacon of peace, a guiding light for those countries struggling to make it in this complex world? Or is this just wishful thinking? Only time will tell.

By: Dr Shahbaz Khan

Is there a leader who is up to this challenge? Is there someone who has empathy for millions in the country whose lives are no better than animals — who has the vision and ability to find solutions to complex problems? Is there someone who is confident enough to not be threatened by new emerging leaders and who will open the doors of opportunity for them? Is there someone willing to change the economic structure so that stakeholders reap the benefits, and become the role model for that? Who will lead by example — someone who will sacrifice for the greater good?

History has put this burden on the shoulders of the current leaders of the state institutions, the men who hold the future of this country in their hands. How they negotiate through this complex maze of problems and its outcome will determine their place in history.

How then should we push back against these managers? It is tempting to show that they live in a fantasy world, that lurking behind their ideology is a faulty premise, which raises doubts about their competence — and their connection with reality. But it is tempting to show that they live in a fantasy world, that lurking behind their ideology is a faulty premise, which raises doubts about their competence — and their connection with reality.

By: Sarmad Khawaja

Here's the more, and it further strengthens our case. Last year OGDC contributed Rs207 billion to the national exchequer and Rs821 billion in the last six years. These are colossal amounts. In perspective, consider this: the Rs250 billion the state-owned oil company gave to the government last year is about 70 per cent of the cost of servicing our external debt; it exceeds BISP's expense by Rs79 billion. And it is ample proof of the government's failure to manage its own resources.

Privatization Commission used a false premise of selling state shares of OGDC. As a result, just 67 per cent of our oil went into our ownership.

You might expect that Privatization Commission will pause for a moment and stick to its guns insisting that selling state companies is not the best way to raise funds for our development. But foolhardiness aside, it's important to realize that the case for selling state companies is really wrong on the merits.

It is the ideological premise of selling state companies is flawed. The first thing wrong with this is the premise that 'business is not the business of the state' has never been the case. Not one of today's Western economic powers practised free-market capitalism during its development. Take for example France. Its state-owned national

Chinese company adds visitors' attraction to picnic spot in Hala

ISLAMABAD: Pak Matiairi-Lahore Transmission Co. (PMLTC) has funded the installation of a retired F-7 fighter jet to enhance the appeal of the Mehran Paradise picnic point in Hala town, Matiari district, Sindh.

This was announced by Syed Gulfam Kazim, Chairman of the Civil Society Sindh (Hala), an organisation dedicated to improving tourist facilities at the famous picnic spot on the banks of the River Indus, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

PLMTC, owned by a Chinese electric power company, constructed Pakistan's first High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission line between Matiari and Lahore.

Kazim informed Gwadar Pro that PMLTC contributed Rs90,000 to the installation of the retired fighter jet, which was donated by the Pakistan Air Force. He also stated that

Chinese officials from PMLTC are expected to visit Mehran Paradise and announce further support for improving facilities at this popular recreational spot.

As a token of appreciation for their support, the Civil Society presented a Shikhar, a Pakistani official from PMLTC. The China-made F-7 fighter jet, a symbol of China-Pakistan defence cooperation, have long served in the Pakistan Air Force.



KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting before the groundbreaking ceremony of mega development projects for Torgarh and Buner districts, Torgarh.

Two robbers held by citizens handed over to police after sound thrash

KARACHI: Two robbers caught by citizens during a robbery on Thursday were handed over to police after sound thrash.

According to details the citizens caught two robbers near Nazimabad No 7 Karachi. Annoyed over street crimes, the citizens brutally tormented the robbers leaving them critically injured.

Later, police reached the scene, freed the injured robbers from custody of citizens and moved them to hospital for treatment INP.

CPEC inclusive platform for third parties to benefit from investment opportunities: FO

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday reiterated that being an important node in cross-regional connectivity, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was an inclusive and open platform for interested third parties to benefit from investment opportunities in its priority areas like industry, agriculture, IT, energy and technology, oil and gas sectors.

The Foreign Office spokesperson Muztab Zahra Baloch, in her weekly press briefing, said that both Pakistan and China remained committed to continued expansion and development of CPEC to create win-win connectivity, development and mutual prosperity.

We will continue to push forward all CPEC projects in a safe, smooth, and high-quality manner, promoting cooperation in areas such as economy and trade, investment, industry, agriculture, health, and science and technology," she remarked.

She said Pakistan and China were celebrating the 10th anniversary of CPEC which was an important pillar of the all-

weather strategic cooperative partnership with China.

The spokesperson recounted that the people of Pakistan had witnessed the remarkable achievements and fruits of high-quality development stimulated by CPEC since its inauguration in 2013.

Under the first phase of CPEC, China invested around US\$ 25.4 billion in Pakistan, primarily in energy and transport infrastructure. Sectors CPEC projects have added 8,000 MWs of energy to the national grid, 510 km of highways, 932 km of road networks, and 120 km of Optical Fiber Line. It has also created about 200,000 jobs in Pakistan, she highlighted.

Coming to the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson said the people were prevented from participating in the Eid festivities as the occupation authorities barred the Eid prayers at the historic Jamiya Mosque and the Central Eid Gah in Srinagar. The head cleric of the Jamiya Masjid and prominent Kashmir

PTI chief gets one-day exemption from appearance in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD: A session's court in Islamabad on Thursday accepted PTI Chairman Imran Khan's plea for personal exemption from the Toshakhana case hearing, ordering his appearance before the court tomorrow (Friday).

According to media reports, the court granted an exemption to the former premier after his counsel Gohar Ali Khan told Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilwar that his client was due to appear before the Lahore High Court and requested the court to fix any date for hearing after July 10.

Despite the request for extended exemption, the court granted PTI chief Imran Khan a

one-day exemption while instructing his counsel to ensure the former prime minister's presence in court on the following day. The sessions court took the case back to the trial court after the Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Ameer Farooq overturned the ruling of the local court against Imran's challenge to the maintainability of the Toshakhana case and remanded the case back to the trial court to re-examine the matter within seven days. The IHC chief justice also asked the sessions court to keep in view eight legal questions he framed to decide maintainability of the reference, based on an ECP complaint for concealing state gifts.

Electricity, gas outages: Protest at Maripur Road enters second day

KARACHI: The protests of Karachi citizens against prolonged electricity and gas outages entered the second day on Thursday and the protestors blocked Maripur Road again.

A large number of protestors blocked Maripur Road for the second day which disrupted the flow of traffic on the arterial road. Heavy traffic coming from Miran Park, ICI to G-11 area, whereas, heavy traffic is being lined-up to Mochko, Truck Adda and Jackson Market INP.

The traffic police said on its Twitter handle that the traffic is being diverted to Mirza Adam, Miran Park, ICI to G-11 area, whereas, heavy traffic is being lined-up to Mochko, Truck Adda and Jackson Market INP.



QUETTA: July 06- Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs Mir Zia Lango participate in the protest outside press club against the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.

Rawalpindi implements 'no helmet, no fuel' policy

RAWALPINDI: The district administration Rawalpindi has implemented a zero-tolerance policy known as 'No Helmet, No Petrol', directing petrol pumps to not supply fuel to motorcyclists without helmets.

Now, motorcyclists without helmets cannot buy fuel as filling station owners across Rawalpindi have been instructed not to refuel motorcyclists whose riders are not wearing helmets. The initiative aims to instill a culture of responsible riding and safeguard the citizens of Rawalpindi from the damage and injuries resulting from road accidents.

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24,341 cases of illegal weapons registered, 23,367 accused arrested this year

LAHORE: On the instructions of IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, the Government has announced that those who possess illegal weapons.

As per details so far this year, 24,341 cases of illegal weapons have been registered and 23,367 accused have been arrested in various districts including Lahore. As many as 9434 Sten Guns, 622 Kalashnikoffs, 02 Anti-Aircraft Guns, 2611 Rifles, 1029 Guns while 376 Revolvers, 16596 Pistols, 18 Musers, 228 Carbines, 347 Remington Pistols, 7187 Bullets, 8087 Cartridges, 882 Magazines were recovered from the accused INP.

Still reeling from heavy showers, Lahore receives second spell of rains

LAHORE: Different areas of Lahore are experiencing a second spell of rainfall in as many days, and the Met office has forecast heavy rainfall in the city today.

Rehmanpura, Ichhra, Model Town and Wahdat Colony of the Punjab capital are receiving light rain, while light showers are being reported in Faisal Town, Barkat Market and Gulberg.

The areas of Kot Lakhtap, Township, Ghaziabad, Wahdat Colony and Chungi Amar Sidhu are also experiencing rainfall, as the city remains overcast on Thursday morning.

An incident of roof collapse has been reported in

of rainwater from Kalma Chowk underpass. All the underpasses and main roads will be cleared of rainwater immediately, the MD visited Rehmanpura, Ichhra, Model Town and Wahdat Colony of the Punjab capital are receiving light rain, while light showers are being reported in Faisal Town, Barkat Market and Gulberg.

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PARC, KOPIA working together in various research projects: Dr Ghulam Ali

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali has said that Pakistan and Republic of Korea are working together in different research projects (potato seed, chili and fodder crop production technologies) under PARC and Korea Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA).

The outcome of these projects will boost the production and quality of these crops and PARC highly acknowledged this cooperation from Government of Korea Chairing the 5th Meeting of Project Planning and Steering Committee of KOPIA-Pakistan Centre at National Agricultural Research Center, Islamabad on Thursday, the Chairman PARC emphasized that this cooperation may be extended to livestock sector and sex Semen technology also. He assured close cooperation to Korean counterparts from PARC and appreciated people of Korea for different INP.



ISLAMABAD: Canadian High Commissioner Leslie Scanlon called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Niaz Tarar.

China-Pakistan EV Forum to accelerate industry cooperation

SHANGHAI: China-Pakistan EV Forum has decided to accelerate industry cooperation, China Economic and Trade Representative Office reported on Thursday.

The New Energy Vehicle sector is one of the most promising areas of China-Pakistan cooperation. China's businesses are invited to invest in Pakistan's new energy vehicle industry to benefit from a large and growing market, as well as the incentives provided by the government, said Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai.

The China-Pakistan Technology Service Cooperation Forum, hosted by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Pakistan in Shanghai, Nawab Ali Rohooj, moderated the session.

To mark the 10th anniversary of CPEC, the sessions for the industry cooperation platform will be held at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday, the sessions court took up the case on Thursday.

The court dismissed the requests for interim injunctions filed by the PTI chief in person for the case.

However, the judge rejected both the requests for interim injunctions filed by the PTI chief in person for the case on Thursday.

On May 5, Islamabad's Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilwar had announced that the PTI chairman had filed the case against the PTI chairman on May 10 in the Toshakhana case.

During the hearing, the former PM's lawyer had argued that on two pleas stat-

Court hears Toshakhana case against PTI chief shortly

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Thursday heard the Toshakhana case against former prime minister Imran Khan and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilwar would take up the case as he has summoned the PTI chief to attend the hearing.

The court has also issued notices to district election commissioner and legal teams of both sides in this regard.

The sessions court fixed the case for hearing

after the Islamabad High Court (IHC), earlier this week, nullified the decision of the trial court that had turned down the PTI chairman's plea challenging the admissibility of Toshakhana case.

Justice Ameer Farooq had announced the verdict reserved on June 23 after the IHC had nullified the trial court's decision.

The chief justice had sent the matter back to the trial court ordering it to again hear the arguments of the PTI. He had given the trial court seven

IHC extends Qureshi, Asad Umar's interim bail in Tarnol police station case till July 13

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders - Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Asad Umar in the case registered at Tarnol police station till July 13.

IHC Judge Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the case and Shah Mehmood Qureshi's counsel told the court that Shah Mehmood Qureshi had joined the investigation. The case of Asad Umar was heard by the sessions court and the sessions court should be referred to the same bench, the special prosecutor requested the court.

The court sent the file back to the chief justice. The decision to send both the cases to the same bench will be taken by the chief justice, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri said.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Asad Umar are nominated in the same case which is heard in separate courts, the prosecutor said.

The sessions court dismissed their bail pleas after which both had approached the IHC INP.

has summoned the PTI chief to attend the hearing.

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Justice Ameer Farooq had announced the verdict reserved on June INP.



KARACHI: Bikers line up at Petrol Pump to refill tanks of their bikes as for implementation of mandatory helmet. Administration order to Fuel station to make the helmet mandatory for refueling, in City.

Christian community condemns 'Islamophobic' Quran burning

QUETTA: The Christian community in Balochistan Thursday condemned the desecration of Quran termed it worst 'Islamophobic' act that displaced billions of Muslims worldwide.

"Desecration of Holy Quran is an unforgivable and heinous crime, Sweden must apologise to the Muslims for the incident," said Bishop Khalid Rehmat while addressing a press conference here.

Pastor Simon Bashir, Father Inayat Gill accompanied the bishop.

The bishop said that the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden was unacceptable and blasphemous act in the name of freedom of expression.

Playing with the sentiment of any religion and belief on the name of freedom of expression was a great offence, he added.

He said that the entire Christian community was saddened over the incident. Religion allowed the desecration of holy books of other religions, he added.

"Those who desecrate the Holy Quran do not deserve any leniency and must be taken to task," he said adding that the religious leader of the Christians, the Pope, had also openly condemned this incident.

The forces with a negative mentality were trying to spoil the peace of the world through such incidents, he added.

Incidents of insulting not only the Holy Quran but also other religions were happening in other secular countries, including Sweden, he pointed out.

He said that if Swedish people by allowing such anti-peace elements showed that they were uncivilized. In response to a question, Bishop Khalid Rehmat urged the United Nations, the European Union and the world to play their role in punishing the accused.

He demanded for enacting the international laws to prevent such incidents in the future. "Desecration of Holy Quran is an unforgivable and heinous crime. Sweden must apologise to the Muslims for the incident," said Bishop Khalid Rehmat while addressing a press conference here.

Pastor Simon Bashir, Father Inayat Gill accompanied the bishop.

He said that the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden was unacceptable and blasphemous act in the name of freedom of expression. INP



ISLAMABAD: UAE prime-designate for COP28's Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber and Minister for Industries & Technology of UAE called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

24-hour death toll in rain related incidents across Punjab climbs to 17: PDMA

LAHORE: Death toll in 24 hours in rain related incidents across Punjab climbed to 17 as heavy rainfall continued in the city for a second day.

According to Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) report, four people were dead in Lahore in the last 24 hours.

The PDMA report stated that six people were killed in Gujranwala, three in Sheikhupura, three in Chakwal, and one was killed in Jhang and Faisalabad.

The torrential rain injured a total of 49 people in the last 24 hours across Punjab. The situation is being monitored from the provincial control room and PDMA is in contact with the administration from all over Punjab. DG PDMA Imran Qureshi added. INP

Sanjrani calls for global action to prevent desecration of Quran

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, has sent letters to all parliaments of the world and the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, urging collective efforts to prevent the desecration of the Holy Quran and promote interfaith harmony.

In the letters, Chairman Senate expressed deep concern over the recent incident of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden. He emphasized that in today's interconnected world, there should be no room for abuse and desecration of religious sentiments. While appreciating the swift denouncement of the act by the Swedish government, he highlighted the need for greater global cooperation to ensure world peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony.

Sadiq Sanjrani said, "Islam, as a comprehensive code of life, promotes values of tolerance, peace, prosperity, and love for humanity. The Holy Quran strictly discourages violence and emphasizes the importance of upholding peace. Islam also teaches respect for other religions, prophets, and holy books. However, Islamophobic incidents continue to occur, often masked as freedom of expression, leading to immeasurable pain for Muslims worldwide."

He called upon parliamentarians and world leaders to play a constructive role in dispelling misconceptions about Islam. He emphasized the importance of educating people about the true teachings of Islam, fostering an environment of tolerance, respect, and understanding among different faith communities. He also highlighted the role of dialogue, understanding, and mutual respect in bridging gaps and promoting harmony among nations.

Furthermore, the Chairman Senate proposed that the incident of desecration of the Holy INP

SSP pays surprise visit to Westridge police station

RAWALPINDI: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Investigation Rawalpindi Zaira Azfar here on Thursday paid a surprise visit to Westridge Police Station, where she instructed the Police officers to perform their duties diligently.

She also inspected the front desk, records, lockup, and building of the police station and ordered the officials to take effective measures to facilitate the public besides taking all possible steps to provide relief to the citizens.

Zaira Azfar said that negligence on part of the police officials in public service delivery would not be tolerated, adding that all-out efforts should be made to resolve complaints of the citizens at police station level.

The SSP directed the police officers to protect the life and property of the citizens and accelerate ongoing operations against proclaimed offenders and other wanted accused.

In order to ensure and improve the standard of service delivery, such surprise visits would also be conducted in future, she added. INP

NDMA holds meeting to address rain emergency

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) held a crucial meeting to address the possible threat of floods in rivers due to continuous rainfall across Punjab.

According to the details, the chairman of NDMA - Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik - headed the meeting which brought together representatives from various departments including the Meteorological Department, Flood Commission, PDMA Punjab, and Rescue 1122.

During the meeting, the attendees were briefed on the forecasted heavy rainfall expected in the Chenab River, Sutlej, and Ravi River areas from July 8 to July 10.

It was emphasized that such intense rains could result in an increase in water flow in the eastern rivers, potentially leading to the inundation of sloping areas. The experts also highlighted the risks of landslides in hilly regions and the possibility of floods in rivers due to the continuous rainfall.

The concerned institutions assured the participants that they are actively monitoring the water flow in rivers and reservoirs to closely track the situation. Recognizing the importance of preparedness, Chairman NDMA proposed conducting a national simulation exercise to effectively tackle potential flooding by the heavy rains, such an exercise would facilitate early preparations for the upcoming rainy season and enhance the response capacity of the authorities. Furthermore, the Chairman emphasized the significance of continuous monitoring of river flow and announced the responsibility to the Federal Flood Commission and Punjab Irrigation Department. Their role in tracking INP

Woman hospitalized after forced to drink acid

ISLAMABAD: A woman was hospitalized in critical condition after forced to drink acid by her husband and father-in-law in Malot area, Bari Galla police station jurisdiction.

After exchange of hot words over child's milk, husband Wahab and father-in-law Abid Ali served acid to a woman besides torturing her.

The culprits fled the scene after condition of the woman deteriorated. She was shifted to hospital in critical condition.

The police after registering a case against the suspects started raids for their arrest. INP

Religious scholars announce to observe Friday as 'Quran Sanctity Day'

ISLAMABAD: While strongly condemning the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden, the prominent scholars, intellectuals, and leaders representing various schools of thought and religious denominations from across the country announced to observe Friday as 'Quran Sanctity Day'.

In a joint statement on Thursday, they expressed their outrage called for peaceful protests and condemnation of the incident in all mosques, emphasizing the need for swift action against the blasphemous act.

The Chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashraf, along with respected figures such as Maulana Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Maulana Muhammad Khan Laghari, Allama Anif Wahidi, Allama Abdul Haq Mujahid, Maulana Muhammad Rafique Jami, Maulana Asad Zakaria Qasmi, Maulana Nauman Hashmi, Maulana Muhammad Sharif Qasmi, Allama Zubair Abid, Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Faridi, Maulana Ishaq Awan, Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Maulana Muhammad Aslam Siddiqui, Maulana Abu Bakr Hamid Sabri, and others jointly issued a statement. They declared that the burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden was an utterly unacceptable act under any circumstances. While acknowledging the timely response from the organization of Islamic INP

FIA arrests 20 in crackdown against passport agent mafia

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Lahore Zone arrested 20 in crackdowns against passport agent mafia in different cities on Thursday.

In line with the directions of Director Lahore Zone, the FIA teams conducted operations outside passport offices in Gujranwala and Sialkot where culprits supported by some of passport office staff were engaged in looting the innocent citizens in the name of helping them to acquire passport.

The agent mafia was found involved in receiving huge sum of money from citizens for submission of passport fee and acquiring token.

The FIA teams arrested 20 agents including Muhammad Yaseen, Abdul Hafeez, Tauseef Ahmed, Iqbal Hassan, Khalid Ahmed, Zulfiqar Ali, Muhammad Imran. INP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik presiding Flood Management Conference.

Pak-UAE sign MOU in alternative energy, PM urges exploiting potential in sector

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday signed United Arab Emirates (UAE) compact to exploit Pakistan's potential in the alternative energy sector, citing his government's plan to generate 10,000 MW of solar energy.

This was stated by the Premier at a signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the UAE for development of renewable energy projects in Pakistan, said it was an opportunity for bilateral cooperation in the energy sector.

Secretary Power Division Rashid Mahmood Langrial and Undersecretary of Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure of UAE Sharif Al Olama signed the MOU as the prime minister and visiting President Designate COP28 and Minister for Industries and Technologies of UAE Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber witnessed the ceremony.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said his government was ready to give a detailed presentation to the UAE firms on Pakistan's potential and his government's policies on the alternative energy, including the 10,000 MW solar energy generation project.

He said Pakistan was rich with "wonderful sunrays" in Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh, and hyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He expressed the resolve that his government would make all-out efforts to convert the MOU into agreement and for its swift realisation.

The prime minister also thanked the UAE for inviting Pakistan to the COP28 to be held in the Emirates by the end of this year.

He particularly thanked UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the "valuable and timely" support to Pakistan, particularly in arriving a deal with the International Monetary Fund.

Conveying thanks on behalf of the people and the Government of Pakistan to the UAE leadership, the prime minister said the cooperation by China, UAE and Saudi Arabia had played a key role for Pakistan to reach the crucial deal with the IMF.

In his remarks, Minister for Industries and Technologies of UAE Sultan Al Jaber thanked the prime minister for the warm hospitality and conveyed the UAE president's "high respect and appreciation" to the prime minister and his government.

He said both the countries enjoyed great relations and partnership as the UAE always emphasised the importance of cooperation and identifying new ways to strengthen the ties. INP

Always worked wholeheartedly to ensure electoral transparency: ECP

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has said that as per its tradition and mandate, it always worked wholeheartedly to ensure the electoral transparency.

In a statement on Thursday, it said that the organisation has worked tirelessly to ensure a comprehensive code of conduct for international observers this year and will be looking forward to all observation missions for upcoming General Elections.

As per SOPs, the invitations for international observers will be commenced by mid of August 2023. ECP shall float information and invites through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) (US/208 of the Elections Act 2017) on the date of the General Elections is announced. All the stories regarding the disallowance of international observers are based on hearsay and assumption and should not be relied upon.

For any queries, contact the coordinator/local press officer of Election Commission of Pakistan, Ms. Qudsia Aini Fatima (Spokesperson ECP) at directmoecep@gmail.com or for information visit the ECP's website: ecp.gov.pk and follow @spokespersonECP&ECP_Pakistan on Twitter. INP

Pakistan desirous to expand economic ties with Qatar: President

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said that Pakistan is highly desirous to expand trade and investment relations with Qatar and renovate its brotherly relations into mutually beneficial economic ties.

Speaking during a meeting with that outgoing Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, here on the Awan-Esade, he said that Pakistan wanted a partnership with Qatar in the energy sector and for the investment of Qatari investments in various sectors of the economy. Appreciating the commitment of Qatar in helping the Pakistan diaspora which served as a strong bridge between the two brotherly countries, Dr Arif Alvi expressed the hope that Qatar would increase the number of skilled Pakistani workers and would open more visa facilities in Pakistan. He lauded the leadership of Qatar for making efforts against Islamophobia, adding that the Islamic world needed to make collective efforts against the rising tide of Islamophobia in the world. President Alvi also highlighted the gross human rights violations in the occupied territories of Jammu and Kashmir (JOK) as well as the persecution of minorities, especially Ahmadis, in Pakistan. He expressed his concern over the atrocities being committed by the Indian Security Forces in JOK and urged the international community to threaten regional peace and security. Regarding Afghanistan, he said that Pakistan would continue to work together. INP



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) called on Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani.

Over Rs 54b disbursed under Benazir Kafaalat so far

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far disbursed over Rs. 54 billion among more than 10 million beneficiaries, including women across the country under the Benazir Kafaalat initiative.

The disbursement of the fourth quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat for the Financial Year-2022-23 is continued successfully through banks' retailers.

Under Benazir Kafaalat, nine million registered beneficiary families are entitled to receive an installment of Rs 9,000 per household.

The BISP has already released over Rs. 81 billion to its partner banks, Bank Alfalah and Habib Bank Limited (HBL) for disbursement among the beneficiaries through their retail distribution network. Along with Benazir Kafaalat, Benazir educational scholarships are also being given out to the children of registered families, however, 70 percent attendance in the school is mandatory to receive educational scholarships.

In case of any complaint, the beneficiaries can visit the nearest BISP Teshil Offices or call on toll-free helpline number 080026477 of Benazir Income Support Program.

The BISP messages are only sent from 8171 while messages from any other number should not be trusted.

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Law Minister, Canadian HC discuss issues of mutual interests, bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar was called on by Canadian High Commissioner Leslie Scanlon here on Thursday and discussed with him issues of bilateral interests.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the long term benefits of partnership and cooperation between Canada and Pakistan in terms of mining projects in Balochistan, the spokesman of ministry said.

Canadian High Commissioner appreciated the Balochistan government for aiding, facilitating and cooperating in the mining projects with Barrick Gold Corporation. She said that steps towards the development of the region through renewable energy projects were also commended.

While discussing civilian trials under the Army Act, the law minister explained that the Act and rules made thereunder were guaranteeing the rights of the accused such as engaging a counsel of his choice to engage, the right to