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PM seeks plan for transfer of Pak-PWD projects to provinces

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday chaired a meeting to review the legal aspects and final procedures regarding the closing down of the Public Works Department.

The prime minister directed that the financial package for employees who will be laid off due to the dissolution will not be applicable to those who have been proven guilty of serious corruption charges.

PM Shehbaz Sharif also instructed that the final plan for transferring ongoing projects under PWD to provinces and relevant departments should be presented soon.

He further directed that all final recommendations regarding the closure of PWD should be presented to the cabinet.

The prime minister also ordered the implementation of the age relaxation proposal to re-employ hardworking and honest individuals with short period of employment in PWD.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic

Affairs Division Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Housing and Works Riaz Hussain Pirzada and high officials of the relevant departments.



Lahore: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the closing down of the Public Works Department.

PM working day and night to reform national institutions: Ishaq Dar

APP

LAHORE: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Sunday that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was working day and night to bring reforms in national institutions while the economy would soon be restored under his leadership.

He expressed these views while talking to the media on the occasion of participating in the urs celebrations of Hazrat Data Ganj Baksh.

He said when the country's economy was taking off, obstacles were created. "May Almighty Allah not let this happen this time; let us make Pakistan an economically prestigious country in the world," he prayed. Provincial Food Minister Bilal Yasin and others were also present.

The deputy PM said he had already served the country as the finance minister, and this time he had been assigned many responsibilities.

He said there was no doubt that Pakistan had suffered a lot economically during the past years, adding that "it was being predicted that the country would take 15 years to come out of the severe crises."

But with the grace of Allah, it took only three-and-a-half years for Pakistan to come out of the crises."

In 2013, the country was experiencing up to 18 hours load-shedding, and dozens of terrorist incidents were taking place daily, affecting the economy badly. But, the PML-N government solved all those problems in just three-and-a-half years with the grace of Allah, and the load-shedding issues was also resolved.

It was admitted by major forums, and it was said that the way Pakistan was developing, it would soon join the G20.

But after that, in the next four years, Pakistan was ranked at the 47th position economically and it was not a small loss, the problems of the country today are due to that duration.

Ishaq Dar said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, "we are making all-out efforts to restore economy and create ease for Pakistanis again". He said a 14 rupees per unit relief in electricity bills had been given by the provincial government to the people of Punjab, and the prime minister allocated Rs. 50 billion subsidy to electricity users of up to 200 units, with the approval of the cabinet.

Govt to abolish all 'non-strategic' ministries: Federal Minister

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, said that the government planned to close or privatise state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and ministries classified as "non-strategic" as part of its austerity measures.

Speaking on Dawn News TV's programme 'Doosra Rukh with Nadir Guramani,' the federal minister emphasised that this move will not only relieve the government of a significant burden but also ensure a focus on "good governance."

Sheikh said that the government was looking at multiple SOEs and considering whether to privatise them or close them entirely.

"These institutions, for the most part, generate losses and perform poorly," he said.

"They bring no benefit and people aren't satisfied with their service."

He added that the government was holding discussions related to all federal institutions, aiming to privatise most of them.

"There are few that serve a strategic purpose... we need to downsize to ensure better governance."

Asked about which institutions and ministries would be shut down, Sheikh provided no names but emphasised that they would be either closed or merged with other ministries. "We are either going to merge one ministry with the other, or we'll reduce the amount of divisions within them."



QUETTA: Balochistan Inspector General Po-lice (IGP) Abdul Khaliq Sheikh inquiring about the health of injured Pishin blast.

Khawaja Asif warns of threat to national unity

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif expressed on Sunday his concerns about the risks facing the country's national unity, asserting that the country was under threat from external agendas.

Expressing his thoughts, Asif expressed optimism that the country will defend its unity at all costs. He took a jibe at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), saying, "If the PTI's rally had been successful, it would not have canceled it."

He noted increasing visible divisions and conflicts within PTI, accusing party members from the top to the bottom of being involved in "corruption."

"The internal discord is evident within the PTI as leaders like Ali Amin Gandapur accuse each other of theft, highlighting contradictions within the party."

The minister also addressed the recent political climate, commenting on remarks made by Bushra Bibi and others following the cancellation of the PTI rally. He questioned the sincerity of these comments and dismissed claims of any venomous discourse or superintendent involvement.

Asif was of the view that such statements cast serious doubt on the integrity of the political environment.

Furthermore, Asif reflected on the events that transpired on May 9, calling them an "act of rebellion."

He questioned the claims of the PTI members denying their involvement in these events, pointing out public incidents like Yasmin Rashid sitting on top of a vehicle.

Asif criticized the international media for allegedly publishing articles against Pakistan for monetary gain, accusing them of creating a narrative designed to incite further rebellion.

He warned that the aim of these narratives is to provoke another incident similar to May 9 by spreading false narratives.

Talking about the 2009 Parade Lane mosque attack, he said those kids were targeted whose fathers were commanding the operation in Swat at the time.

"It was a faulty decision when these people were brought and resettled now, one or two years ago. This was a continuation of a policy that proved to be disastrous. These people have not seen peace. If we want them to come and live in a peaceful society then this is our misunderstanding."

He said that worshippers weren't martyred during prayers even in India or Israel but it happened in Pakistan.

Asif questioned who would be held accountable for the blood that was spilled yesterday in Peshawar. "This is a moment where we need introspection, we need to see where we stand. Why were these people brought? And this [attack] is not being condemned the way it should be."

The minister said that the entire nation needed to be united against terrorism, only then could it be fought against. "This is not the war of a particular sect or segment, this is the Pakistani nation's war."

He said that Pakistan's history bore witness to the fact that there was differentiation in this war, adding that everything had fallen prey to "confusion".

"Terrorism doesn't differentiate between any religion or sect. Terrorism is used in the name of religion to take precious lives."

The minister said that this shouldn't remain a debate and called on the House to guide the government in how terrorism could be tackled.

He further said that terrorism had seeped into our way of life and the way we talked, pointing towards how the nation's temperament had changed over the past four to five years.

He said that if bases were being used in Afghanistan, it was a liability for Pakistan "directly or indirectly". "We wish good upon Afghanistan. It is our neighboring country. If they have peace that means we will also have peace. But the look at what we have done in the past." He said that 450,000 Afghans had come to Pakistan in the past 1.5 years on valid documents and had not gone back. "I am giving you an official figures. They crossed the border and came into Pakistan on valid documents and they have not gone back."

41 passengers die, over 35 injured in two fatal accidents in Lesbala and Rawalakot

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: At least 41 passengers died and over 35 were injured in two fatal accidents in the Lesbala and Rawalakot areas on Sunday.

According to the details, a bus carrying pilgrims from Iran to Punjab met an accident on the Makran Coastal Highway in Lesbala. The pilgrims' bus plunged into a gorge due to brake failure.

Lesbala Accident: The bus accident at Lesbala claimed the lives of 12 pilgrims and left over 35 others injured.

The bus, which was transporting pilgrims from Iran to Punjab, met with an accident at Buzzi Top in Lesbala.

The victims, who hail from Lahore and Gujranwala, have been transferred to the hospital for treatment.

Police, Levies, and other rescue teams are actively engaged in the rescue operation at the site.

The injured pilgrims were shifted to Karachi. All the injured have been shifted to civil trauma center, rescue officials said.

Punjab Chief Minister Marmyam Nawaz

Sharif expressed grief and sorrow over the tragic accident of the pilgrims' bus in Lesbala. She expressed condolences to the victims' families.

Rawalakot Accident: The second accident occurred at Rawalakot, where a coaster (bus) going from Rawalpindi to Naliyan Palandari met an accident on Sunday morning.

According to the initial reports, at least 29 passengers travelling from Rawalpindi to Palandari died on the spot, and several were injured.

The rescue teams rushed to the spot and started a rescue operation to shift injured people to the hospital.

The channel reported that the accident occurred near Garari Pul in Rawalakot.

President Asif Ali Zardari expressed grief over the loss of precious lives in the bus accident in Rawalakot and expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for Sabr Jameel. He stated, "The loss of lives on such a large scale is deeply distressing. We stand in solidarity with the bereaved families during this difficult time, and may Allah grant them the strength to endure this immense loss."

In yet another blow, embattled PTI scraps August 27 power show in Lahore

APP

LAHORE: In what could be considered successive blows, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), after shelving its Islamabad public gathering three days ago, has now called off its August 27 power show in Lahore.

The former ruling party's Secretary of Information for Punjab, Shaukat Mahmood Basra, has said that a new date would soon be announced for the Lahore rally after their public meeting in the federal capital on September 8.

He assured that the Imran Khan-founded party would pay full attention to its forthcoming major political event. The development is being dubbed another dent in the political reputation of the embattled party, which has suffered back-to-back setbacks in holding its political events. Earlier, the PTI had announced it would rally in Islamabad's Tarnol at any cost, despite the revocation of the no objection certificate (NOC) by the local administration, which also sealed roads leading to the federal capital.

Later, the party, in a last-minute move, rescheduled its public gathering for September 8.

One cop martyred, another injured as terrorists attack checkpoint in Central Kurram

ONLINE

KURRAM: At least one policeman has been killed and as many injured after terrorists attacked a police checkpoint in Central Kurram, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, police on Sunday.

According to District Police Officer Ahmed Khan, the terrorists set fire to the police checkpoint after the gun attack.

The martyred policeman was identified as Qoowat Khan, while Constable Shahzad has been injured in the attack. He has been shifted to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Sadda in Central Kurram

for treatment. Funeral prayer of the martyred policeman has been offered in the wake of the attack.

The region has witnessed multiple similar incidents for the last few months.

Earlier this month, security forces gunned down seven terrorists and wounded five others during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Kurram district with the determination to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

Pakistan has experienced a spike in terrorism since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021.

Pakistan invites Indian PM Narendra Modi for SCO Summit in Islamabad after eight years

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has sent a formal invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the meeting of heads of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) governments scheduled in the middle of October in Islamabad, official sources confirmed on Sunday.

They said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif invited Modi and other SCO leaders for the gathering of regional leaders on October 15 and 16 in Islamabad.

This is the first time Pakistan invited the Indian leader in 8 years. The last time Modi was invited to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit was in 2016. The summit never took place after India boycotted it

and since then the regional organisation has been all but dysfunctional. But skipping the SCO meeting in Islamabad will not be easy for Modi given the presence of other powerful countries.

If not in person, Modi may join virtually. Diplomatic sources are sceptical that Modi would travel to Islamabad given the current state of the relationship between the two neighbours.

But in the past, such regional groupings provided an opportunity for the two countries to reset their ties. That seems unlikely now keeping in view the divergences in the positions of Pakistan and India for initiating the normalization process. SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance, founded in 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

PM orders for making federal govt offices paperless

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has assigned the Ministry of Information Technology and relevant departments the task of making offices of the Federal Government paperless.

In a statement, he said no delay in the implementation of e-office in the Federal Government offices is acceptable.

Shehbaz Sharif instructed that the work on all office files should be done through the e-office within a month. He said he would not see any file other than the e-office.

The Prime Minister said enforcement of e-office is amongst the top priorities of the government to ensure transparency and improvement in the system. He said officers should send files to all government offices through e-office.

On the directions of Shehbaz Sharif, an e-office training of the Prime Minister's office staff was completed last week. Besides, the Prime Minister personally received files through the e-office last week.

Shehbaz Sharif said the e-office is a significant step for the promotion of digitization and improvement of governance in Pakistan.

He also sought a progress report on the implementation of the e-office in the next two weeks.

Rains expected in parts of Balochistan from Monday till end of month

INP

QUETTA: A low-pressure system is likely to approach eastern and southern parts of Balochistan on Monday evening that may cause widespread rain/thunderstorm in Naseerabad, Sibi, Kalat, Lasbela and Loralai divisions till the end of the month, said the Regional Meteorological Center Quetta on Sunday.

According to the met center, under the influence of this weather system, various parts of the province are expected to experience wind and thundershowers from August 26 to 31.

The downpour system can result in heavy rainfall, wind and thundershower in Naseerabad, Kalat, Lasbela and Loralai while there may be torrential rain at a few places in Harnai, Ziarat, Kachhi, Sibi, Jhal Magsi, Khuzdar, it added.

The regional Met Centre issued alert that torrential rains may generate flash flooding in local nullahs, streams and hill torrents of Awaran, Lasbela, Hub, Khuzdar, Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Loralai, Barkhan, Musakhail, Harnai, Kachhi, Ziarat, Jhal Magsi, Naseerabad.

The Centre forecasted that flood may occur in low lying areas of Sibi, Sohbatpur, Jaffarabad, Usta Muhammad region.

The departments concerned are advised to remain vigilant and take all precautionary measures to mitigate the potential impacts of flooding and heavy rains in the province.

Clashes between rival groups leave 2 dead, 9 wounded near Karachi's Golimar area

INP

KARACHI: Two people died while nine were injured after clashes broke out between two groups near the Golimar area in Karachi, officials said.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed confirmed that two of the deceased, Junaid (25) and Umair Sultan (18), were already dead upon arrival at the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto (SMBB) Trauma Centre at Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi and Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, respectively.

Meanwhile, City police chief Javed Odho also confirmed to Dawn.com that two people were killed while several were injured in the firing.

"Law enforcement officials have since prevented the situation from escalating further," Odho said.

He added that Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Central Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqui had reached the location, whereas Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Irfan Ali Baloch was en route to the site of the incident.

"The tense situation has been brought under control," a spokesperson for the police later said quoting Odho.

They said that a large police presence was already at the scene, with a heavy contingent of Rangers also on the way.

"Strict legal action will be taken against the evil elements involved in the firing," Odho said.

Vocational education vital to combat unemployment, skills development: Kundi

INP

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the vocational education holds key importance to combat unemployment and skills development in the province.

This was stated by him while talking during a meeting with Chairperson of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) Gulmina Bilal Ahmad at Governor House Peshawar on Sunday.

Chairperson NAVTTTC briefed the Governor on initiatives taken for promoting vocational education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Expressing his satisfaction with the progress, Faisal Karim Kundi highlighted the importance of involving as many young people as possible in these activities. He said that economic difficulties are a major source of unrest among youth and emphasized that empowering youth and women is among his top priorities.

The Governor pointed out that while there is a global demand for skilled labour,

the lack of vocational training tailored to international standards often leaves Pakistani youth unable to secure jobs abroad. He welcomed the Prime Minister's decision to increase the budget for vocational education, stressing the need for training programs that meet modern requirements and international needs.

Kundi commended NAVTTTC's efforts in launching courses in agriculture, IT and other fields, and discussed various proposals for further enhancing vocational education. He assured the NAVTTTC Chairperson of full support from the Governor House to ensure a better future for the new generation. Meanwhile, the Governor KP praised overseas Pakistanis and discussed social projects in a meeting at the Governor House with prominent social activist Imran Agra, a leader in the overseas Pakistani community-based in the United States. Social figures Malik Kifayat and Zahid Saleem from Islamabad were also present on this occasion. Faisal Karim Kundi commended the overseas Pakistanis for their role as ambassadors of the country, acknowledging their significant contributions to enhancing Pakistan's global reputation.



QUETTA: Children filling their cans with clean water at Rehmat Colony Sakri road due to shortage of clean drinking water in the city.

CM Punjab orders to establish PHAs in every district

INP

LAHORE: The Punjab government has made a pivotal decision to establish Parks and Horticulture Authorities (PHAs) in every district across the province.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, during an administrative review meeting, directed officials to enhance their focus on the beautification of cities. The meeting was attended by Special Assistant Rashid Nasrullah, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Home Secretary Noor-ul-Amin Mengal, IG, Commissioners, RPOs, and other key officials. CM Maryam Nawaz emphasized the creation and maintenance of green belts along roadsides and medians, instructing the administration to plant more trees and ensure that streetlights in all cities are fully functional. During the meeting, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of cleanliness in every street and neighborhood, both in urban and rural areas, stating that the public should notice a significant improvement in cleanliness and other civic services.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner of Rahim Yar Khan briefed the Chief Minister on the implementation of KPIs, utilizing artificial intelligence software for monitoring and evaluation.

You did a lot of service to your father, may Allah give such children to everyone: Captain (R) Saqib Zafar

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: Senior journalist Khalid Farooq, Dawood Khalid and Maqsood Khalid's father's condolence continued yesterday. Principal Secretary to Governor Punjab Captain R. Saqib Zafar came to his house to offer condolences.

The Governor of Punjab said that the life of Bau Muhammad Farooq was an ideal life that his children can be proud of. The deceased was a true and honest person. He said that all of you brothers have served your father a lot during his illness. After giving to everyone, prayers for forgiveness were also offered for the deceased.



Principal Secretary to Governor Punjab Captain (Rtd) Saqib Zafar visited the house of Bureau Chief Masha'iq Daily Mirror Maqsood Khalid and condoled his late father and recited Fatiha.

Pakistan ensures equal rights for all minorities: Arora

INP

GUJRANWALA: Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora affirmed that all minorities in Pakistan, including Sikhs, Hindus, and Christians, enjoy equal rights and can freely practice their religious rituals. Speaking during a visit to the Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara in Mito Bhai, Arora denounced false propaganda against Pakistan, highlighting the country's commitment to minority rights. Arora noted that the Gurdwara shares premises with a mosque, yet both communities worship freely, demonstrating Pakistan's respect for religious freedoms. He emphasized that this coexistence is proof of the fundamental rights granted to all minorities in the country. During his visit, Tehsildar Khawar Hayat welcomed Arora to Nowsheera Wark, where the minister also extended condolences to the Naira brothers on the passing of their mother.

Agreements with IPPs hinderance to economic progress: Speakers

APP

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at an in-house session on Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and Capacity Payment Issues in the Power Sector on Sunday pointed out current agreements with IPPs as a hindrance to economic progress of the country.

The Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) recently hosted a Roundtable Conference on "Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and the Capacity Payment Issues in the Power Sector."

The speakers at the event included Ambassador (R) Inamul Haque; Former Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries, and

Production, Dr Gohar Ejaz; CEO of CPPA, Rihan Akhter; Former Chairman NDMA, Maj General Asghar Nawaz;

Former SAPM CPEC, Khalid Mansoor; Senior Partner RIAA Barker Gillette, Husnain Naqvi; Partner Orrdignam & Co., Shahid Raza; CEO Attock Oil, Adil Khattak and GM WAPDA Irfan Rizvi, a news release said.

The discussion highlighted the challenges posed by Pakistan's current energy policies, particularly the implications of the existing tariff structure is unsustainable and burdensome for the economy.

The need for a comprehensive review of these tariffs was empha-

sized, noting that the high cost of electricity is stifling economic growth and making Pakistan's exports less competitive on the global stage.

The conversation also addressed Pakistan's continued reliance on coal power plants, a practice that has been slowly reduced in various countries. Some speakers strongly advocated for the retirement of these plants, arguing that they are economically unviable in the long term. It was highlighted that natural gas should also not be sold in Pakistan, unless absolutely necessary. A significant portion of the discussion focused on the role of IPPs in Pakistan's energy sector.

Jameel Jatt, driver of Cantonment Board Gujranwala Cantt passed away

By Khawaja Farooq

GUJRANWALA: Akhtar Jatt's elder brother and Danijal Jatt's father Muhammad Jameel Jatt, driver of Cantonment Board Gujranwala Cantt passed away. He has been buried in the local cemetery, Kashmir Colony, Gujranwala Cantt. The deceased has left three daughters and one son. The late was like younger brother of Ex-Councillor of Cantonment Board Gujranwala Cantt Mumtaz Kashmiri and Journalist Leader Khawaja Muhammad Farooq New Yorker. The late had played an important role in solving the problems of the Kashmir colony

and these days and nights along with Khawaja Farooq have been playing their full role in addressing the problems being faced by the Kashmir colony.

The funeral prayers of the deceased was offered at the local graveyard of Rahoali, Kashmir Colony. Hafiz

Ghulam Mustafa led the funeral prayer. Most of the officers and employees of the Cantonment Board and local people participated in the funeral prayer.



QUETTA: A vendor displaying mangoes to attract the customers.



Mushfiqur's epic knock hands Bangladesh advantage in first Pakistan Test

SPORTS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Veteran batter Mushfiqur Rahim smashed a marathon 191 on Saturday to help Bangladesh post a record total and give an outside chance to the visitors of a maiden Test win against Pakistan here at the Pindi Cricket Stadium.

The 37-year-old's marvellous show with the bat — that created a number of records — enabled Bangladesh to post a mammoth 565 all out in their first innings on the fourth day of the Test and take a crucial 117-run lead against the hosts who had posted 448-6 declared.

Bangladesh's previous best total against Pakistan in Tests was 555-6 which they amassed at Khulna in 2015.

At stumps, Pakistan in their second innings reached 23 for one, still trailing by 94 runs, with opener Abdullah Shafique (12) and captain Shan Masood (nine) at the crease. Opener Saim Ayub (one) was dismissed cheaply when the southpaw edged a good-length ball from fast bowler Shoriful Islam to wicket-keeper Litton Das in the third over of the innings.

Bangladesh, who have lost 12 of the 13 Tests against Pakistan while one ended as draw, will hope their spinners can get some turn from the pitch that has offered almost no assistance to bowlers so far.

Having come in to bat at number five on Friday, Mushfiqur was 55 overnight as Bangladesh started the day at 316 for five.

On a hot day, the diminutive Bogra-born batter showing controlled aggression and solid defence played outstanding shots during his epic knock during which he faced 341 balls.

The experienced Bangladesh batter with 88 Tests under his belt entertained an improved crowd on Saturday perhaps because of free entry and holiday, striking 22 fours and a six during a marathon stay of eight hours and 42 minutes.

He overtook the previous highest individual Test score by a Bangladesh batter in Pakistan — by Javed Omar who scored 119 in Peshawar in 2003.

Mushfiqur enjoyed some luck as well as he got a life on 150 when Babar Azam dropped him off spinner Salman at leg slip.

Pakistan players also reckoned that they had Mushfiqur leg-before by Ali on 59 but umpire Richard Kettleborough's original decision was overturned on review when the replay showed the ball was missing leg stump.

Mushfiqur then struck two boundaries off both Khurram Shahzad and Saim before reaching his 11th Test century.

Mushfiqur first added 114 runs for the sixth wicket with Litton (56) who could

add only four runs to his overnight score before being caught by wicket-keeper Mohammad Rizwan off pacer Naseem Shah. The wicket-keeper/batter then combined with Mehidy Hasan Miraz (77) to craft a record 196-run stand for the seventh wicket.

Mushfiqur and Mehidy in the process — besides helping the visitors surpass Pakistan's total — eclipsed the previous record of 186 set by New Zealand's Warren Lees and Richard Hadlee at Karachi in 1976.



Bangladesh's Shadman Islam (2L) and Zakir Hasan (2R) shake hands with Pakistan's players after their team's maiden Test win against Pakistan at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Bangladesh cruise to maiden Test victory over Pakistan

SPORTS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Spinners Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Shakib Al Hasan took seven wickets between them to secure Bangladesh's maiden win over Pakistan in five-day cricket, a stunning 10-wicket victory in the first Test in Rawalpindi on Sunday.

Mehidy grabbed 4-21 and Shakib 3-44 to trigger a Pakistan collapse on the fifth day, with the home side dismissed for 146 runs in 55.5 overs.

That left Bangladesh a target of just 30 runs, which openers Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam reached in 6.3 overs.

Zakir (15) hit the winning boundary, with Shadman at the other end unbeaten on nine, as their squad celebrated a memorable victory.

Mohammad Rizwan top-scored for Pakistan in the second innings with 51, including six boundaries, but the home team were starting at defeat on 108-6 at lunch.

A holiday crowd of nearly 5,000 expected Pakistan to fight out a draw but Mehidy bowled Rizwan and trapped last man Mohammad Ali for a duck in successive overs.

Bangladesh, criticised for their lack of Test wins, now have one win each over Australia, England and Pakistan. The win in Rawalpindi was only their sixth in 143 Tests.

Pakistan's batting crumbled on a pitch that had been unresponsive over the first four days until small cracks started to appear that were exploited by Bangladesh's spinners.

The hosts declared their first innings at 448-6 and Bangladesh responded with 565, their highest against Pakistan in Tests. Pakistan also paid for not including a frontline spinner as they fell to the fifth defeat in their past nine home matches, with four draws.

Their leading batsmen also failed, with Babar Azam making only 22 and skipper Shan Masood 14. First innings century-maker Saud Shakeel fell for a fourth-ball duck.

Pakistan trailed by 117 in the first innings and resumed at 23-1, only to lose Masood in the second over to pace bowler Hasan Mahmud. It could have been 28-3 had wicketkeeper Liton Das not dropped a regulation catch off fast bowler Shoriful Islam to give Azam a first-ball reprieve.

Azam hit three delightful boundaries to raise hopes of a Pakistan fightback but was bowled by an inside edge off Nahid Rana for the right-arm pacer's only wicket of the match.

Shakib, whose participation in the Test drew protests at home over his political ties to ousted premier Sheikh Hasina, had Shakeel stumped and Shafique caught off a miscued shot before lunch.

Agha Salman then fell to off-spinner Mehidy for a first-ball duck, leaving Pakistan in tatters at 105-6. Mehidy then dismissed

Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah cheaply in the space of seven runs.

Pakistan won 12 of the previous 13 Tests against Bangladesh, six by an innings, with one draw.

The second and final Test will also be played at Rawalpindi from Friday, with the series part of the World Test Championship (WTC).

Pakistan slumped to eighth in the nine-team WTC table after their defeat, with Bangladesh climbing to sixth.

"We have to do better"

In a post-match interview, Pakistan skipper Shan Masood said the match "didn't play the way we thought it would".

Brighton rock United as Haaland treble fires City

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Manchester United crashed to a last-gasp 2-1 defeat against Brighton & Hove Albion and an Erling Haaland's hat-trick fired Premier League champions Manchester City to a 4-1 win against Ipswich Town on Saturday.

Erik ten Hag's side were left shell-shocked by Joao Pedro's winner five minutes into stoppage-time at the Amex Stadium.

United fell behind to a 32nd minute goal from Danny Welbeck, who poked in Kaoru Mitoma's cross for his sixth goal in 16 appearances against his former club.

Amad Diallo equalised for United after an hour, cutting inside for a shot that deflected in off Brighton defender Jan Paul van Hecke.

Joshua Zirkzee prevented Alejandro Garnacho from putting the visitors ahead in the closing stages when the United forward touched home his team-mate's finish on the line.

Zirkzee, a close-season signing from Bologna, was in an offside position and VAR ruled out the goal.

Left completely unmarked at the far post, Brazilian striker Pedro rubbed salt into United's wounds as he headed home from Simon Adingra's cross to ensure Brighton boss Fabian Hurler maintained his 100 per cent start following last weekend's win at Everton.

The 31-year-old German is the youngest permanent manager in Premier League history after arriving from St Pauli to replace Roberto De Zerbi in the close-season.

"My team deserved to win. These moments make memories and we have to enjoy it," Hurler said.

Ten Hag added: "Both goals are very soft. As a team, we should have done better. We have to be more clinical in both boxes."

At the Etihad Stadium, City scored three times in four minutes to survive an early scare against promoted Ipswich. Sammie Szmodics, signed from Blackburn in the close-season, gave Ipswich a shock lead in the seventh minute, running on to Omari Hutchinson's pass and squeezing his shot through Ederson's legs.



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's Yves Bissouma (second R) scores past Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford during the English Premier League match at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

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Katcha ambush

THE riverine katcha region straddling Punjab and Sindh is back in the news after reports emerged of criminals attacking two police vehicles in the Machka area on Thursday. At the time of writing, at least 12 policemen were confirmed to have been martyred. Whenever such disturbing incidents occur, the country's attention is shifted to the katcha belt. Yet soon after, as other events start dominating the news cycle, these backwaters are forgotten until the next atrocity.

As per reports one of the police vehicles was ambushed near a field and the law enforcers were attacked by dacoits armed with rockets. Sources told this paper that criminal gangs had warned of revenge after the police killed one of their accomplices a few weeks ago.

On Friday, Punjab Police claimed the main culprit involved in the attack had been neutralised, while several suspects had been injured. The Punjab police chief had announced a 'historic' operation in the aftermath of the tragedy.

The dacoit problem in Sindh and Punjab's riverine areas goes back decades, and several 'grand' operations have been launched, with some — in the early 1990s, as well as 2016 — involving the military. Yet the criminals seem to bounce back every time, indicating that the state's approach is flawed.

Moreover, the katcha dacoits have made a business out of kidnapping-for-ransom, as well as 'honeytraps', luring victims from across the country. It must be questioned how criminal gangs are able to procure military-grade weapons. As per reports, the dacoits have been known to possess RPGs and even anti-aircraft guns. How is this heavy weaponry making its way to remote areas that lack even basic facilities? Besides, why does every anti-dacoit operation fail to bear results? Where the outlaws of the katcha belt go, we seem to be moving in circles. Whether it is religiously inspired militants, separatist militias or the heavily armed bandits of the katcha region, the state must go after all violent elements instead of crushing 'digital terrorists' and other straw men. Interprovincial coordination between the Sindh and Punjab administrations is essential to end the bandit raj, with intelligence input from the security agencies. Moreover, it needs to be ascertained whether the outlaws have sympathisers within the ranks of LEAs or powerful local patrons. If such links are established, these elements also need to face the law. The fact is that bandits living in 19th-century conditions are able to take on the state with 21st-century weapons, and the administration only fumbles for responses when there is a high-profile incident such as the Machka tragedy. Also, the state should bring education, healthcare and jobs to the katcha belt, as poverty and lack of opportunities push locals to join the ranks of the dacoits.

By Tariq Khosa

Quest for justice

THERE comes a time in the life of nations when citizens start to feel that the social contract between them and the state is on the verge of collapse. What holds them together is the national purpose, postulated through constitutional frameworks and based on the rule of law, justice and equity.

I feel very despondent and disappointed after a recent visit to Balochistan where the state seems to have lost its narrative of national cohesion due to the follies of those who wield actual power in the province. The sense of despair is so palpable that one starts to lose hope in a peaceful and prosperous future for this land of great promise.

As a police officer, I served in Balochistan for almost five years as superintendent/ senior superintendent in the early 1980s, and as inspector general in 2007. Both tenures were under the military eras of Gen Ziaul Haq and Gen Pervez Musharraf. In fact, Balochistan has mostly been under direct or indirect, but overt, military rule. The early 1980s witnessed the post-1970s Bhutto-era counter-insurgency development phase as well as the post-1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The gun culture prevailed. The state was fully involved in promoting jihad as an instrument of proxy war between the US and Soviet Union.

Every other day in Quetta, there were bomb blasts and acts of sabotage against state institutions. The police bore the brunt as the front-line law-enforcement agency. My nights were spent on city roads trying to enhance police vigilance against saboteurs and some criminal elements amongst the Afghan refugees. New colonies like Pashtunabad were established by refugees who could not be confined to camps on the Afghan border areas of Pishin and Quetta districts. Additionally, the theocratic revolution in Iran in 1979 added another law-and-order dimension to the Shia-Sunni sectarian violence — another proxy war at our doorstep.

Such multidimensional challenges were faced by the then-military government through

good governance and the infusion of massive development funds through the state machinery in the shape of the bureaucracy and security services, including the police, FC and army. Gen Rahimuddin was a tough governor and hard taskmaster. He ensured that civil service and police officers were posted on merit.

The lesson was this: respect the Baloch and trust the Pathan; they'll never stab you in the back.

We served under three outstanding chief secretaries Sheikh Jamil Ahmed, Saleem Abbas Jilani and Savak Rustom Poonegar, and three outstanding IGs Dilshad Najmuddin, Syed Saadat Ali Shah and Kamer Alam. They ensured that the best officers were posted as deputy commissioners/ commissioners and district SPs/ DIGs. The cream of the DMG and PSP were called in from Punjab, Sindh and NWFP (KP) and posted to field assignments for top-class service delivery and effective law enforcement.

I spent four years from 1982 to 1985 in Balochistan as additional SP Quetta, SP Sibi (including Kachhi, Dera Bugti, Kohlu and Kahan) and SSP Quetta. We served with a sense of pride in a province that was recovering after a military operation and political turmoil. The people and tribal elders gave us respect and we cherished our time spent in remote regions. We were far away from home but never felt unwelcome in the lands of the proud Baloch and Pakhtuns. The lesson we learnt and propagated to those in the corridors of power in Islamabad and Rawalpindi was this: give respect to the Baloch and trust the Pathan; they will never stab you in the back. Balochistan in the first decade of the 21st century was in the even more severe grip of our military establishment under Musharraf. The West's ill-conceived war on terror resulted in militancy, violence and mayhem, particularly near the Pak-Afghan border, and generally across Pakistan, with Karachi becoming a haven for militant groups.

Balochistan faced another phase of insurgency that intensified with the killing of

Nawab Akbar Bugti near Kohlu on Aug 26, 2006. Prior to that, the issue of enforced disappearances had created discontent. Dr Allah Nazar, a Baloch student leader from Turbat and a gold medallist from Bolan Medical College Quetta, was picked up from Karachi in 2005. His brother was killed in illegal custody. He became a dissident and formed the Baloch Liberation Front, launching attacks against state institutions from near Turbat on the Pak-Iran border. This is when the leadership of Baloch dissidents passed on from sardars like the Marris, Mengals and Bugtis to the lower-middle- and middle-class youth.

The policy of persecution has led another young doctor Mahrang Baloch of Kalat to capture the imagination of the Baloch youth. Her struggle started when her father was found murdered two years after his enforced disappearance. The active participation of women is a unique feature of the movement. It is a radical departure from the Baloch culture and has pitted women (symbols of honour and the custodians of homes and hearths) directly against the state.

The matter is no longer in the hands of the Baloch nationalist political parties that have become irrelevant. This is the direct result of the massive rigging carried out by the deep state in the Feb 8 national elections. The people of Balochistan are angry at the blatant misuse of authority and corruption by those who conducted the polls. We are witnessing the erosion of the state's writ. As a patriot, I beseech the power brokers to pay heed to the alarming situation in Balochistan. They must distinguish between the bullet and ballot. They must abandon their barrel-of-the-gun tunnel vision and open all channels of communication with Balochistan's disgruntled youth. To avoid a total meltdown, immediate course correction is needed. The results of the fraudulent Feb 8 polls must be scrapped, and new fair and free elections held under an impartial ECP. Let power be transferred to the genuine representatives. A caretaker government comprising persons of known integrity and credibility must be set up to ensure.

By Khwaja Ahmad Hosain

The final umpire

WHEN Imran Khan was the prime minister he tried to stop the vote of no confidence against him through a ruling by the deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. The Supreme Court took suo motu notice. The PML-N and PPP-P also petitioned the Supreme Court.

The court set aside a ruling of the deputy Speaker and also declared unlawful Imran Khan's attempt to dissolve the National Assembly. All of this was done through a short order.

The short order of the court gave detailed directions to the Speaker regarding the holding of the vote of no-confidence. It was criticised at the time by supporters of the PTI as being a case of judicial overreach. How could the court direct an independent constitutional organ like the legislature regarding the manner in which it was to undertake its internal affairs? Ultimately, the short order was implemented. The detailed reasons came much later. Mr Imran Khan was removed. We went back to Purana Pakistan.

The five-member bench of the court that gave this decision was headed by chief justice Umar Ata Bandial. It also comprised justices Ijazul Ahsan and Munib Akhtar. The decision by a bench which included these three judges paved the way for the removal of the PTI government and for the PDM to take charge. They were hailed by supporters of the PDM and by others as heroes for upholding the Constitution.

For these same supporters, the judicial heroes later became villains. This reflects an unfortunate tendency amongst litigants in our legal landscape. When a judge or court endorses their perspective, they are hailed as brilliant independent jurists. When a decision comes against them, the decision is characterised as unconstitutional or unlawful and aspersions are cast on the character or motives of the judge. What is conspicuously lacking both on the part of the government and litigants generally is a trait which underpins any functioning system: a graceful acceptance of defeat.

For the same supporters, the judicial

heroes later became villains. This reflects an unfortunate tendency.

Where humans interact, disputes are inevitable. Mechanisms have been evolved for resolution of disputes. In a cricket match, the decision of the umpire is final. If either party refuses to accept the umpire's final call, chaos ensues and there can be no match. Two critical elements of a fair dispute resolution process are that, first, the rules must be clear prior to the start of the game.

Second, the umpire who is to apply these rules should be independent and trusted by both sides. In cricket, it was Imran Khan who was at the forefront of the demand for neutral umpires. In his subsequent political life, he appeared through some of his rhetoric to have developed an antipathy to neutrality in situations where it was essential.

The Constitution sets out the rules that are to apply in the case of the government of our country. Under Article 5, every citizen has a duty to obey the Constitution and the law. Generals, judges and legislators each assume an additional obligation. They swear an oath as prescribed by the Constitution. This oath of office requires them to uphold the Constitution. Swearing an oath is a solemn act, invoking a divine witness, regarding one's future conduct.

The Constitution establishes courts for the resolution of disputes. The Supreme Court is the apex court. It has the final say. For the constitutional system to function, its orders must be implemented. Litigants do not have the option of refusing to implement court orders on the basis that they view them as unconstitutional or wrong.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, although a constitutional office with immunity for certain actions, did not have the option in the vote of no confidence case to refuse to implement a court order. Neither did the then prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani when he was required to write to the Swiss authorities in connection with certain bank accounts. In the case of reserved seats, the Election Commission is similarly placed. It must implement the court order. Any other view results in

the collapse of the constitutional system.

Two arguments are presented to counter this perspective. First, it is submitted that parliament is sovereign and the supreme lawmaking body. Therefore, judicial interpretation or review which undermines parliament undermines the will of the people. This view is wrong. The Constitution embodies the will of the people as a historic community and was adopted by the Constituent Assembly which was an assembly elected for this purpose. The Constitution expressly contemplates judicial review of legislation. To this extent, parliament is not sovereign.

As justice Jawwad Khawaja explains in his book, we must rid ourselves of alien concepts like "parliamentary sovereignty" which are not part of our constitutional framework. By enforcing the Constitution and striking down legislation or other unlawful actions on the part of constitutional bodies, the courts are in fact giving effect to the will of the people as embodied in the Constitution.

Second, a contextual argument is presented based on past Supreme Court decisions which have haunted us as a nation. It is submitted that since the Supreme Court made such terrible mistakes in the past, it cannot insist on compliance of its orders. This is an argument for judicial humility rather than non-compliance of court orders. We cannot be a hostage to our past. The Supreme Court has corrected some of its past errors. This is to be welcomed. Other institutions and departments must also introspect. We must not let our troubled past define and ruin our future.

Where there are disputes and a prescribed process is followed for their resolution, the losing party must learn to gracefully accept defeat and move on. When the defeated start undermining the status as opposed to the reasoning of majority Supreme Court decisions, we all suffer. You can disagree with passion.

For the constitutional order to function, you must comply. Today's victors may be tomorrow's losers. If we are to prosper, it is the constitutional scheme that must be protected.

DAILY MIRROR

Federal Minister Salik Hussain highlights transformative role of Women in building awareness

ONLINE

Cairo: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain has emphasized the transformative role of women in building awareness across religious, cultural, societal, and familial domains.

The federal minister was addressing the 35th International Conference on the role of women in building awareness in Cairo, Egypt on Saturday.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain highlighted women's significant role in addressing contemporary issues such as religious intolerance and promoting global peace. "As we continue to advocate for gender equality and empower women, we must recognize their achievements, ensuring their voices and efforts are valued" he added.

He asserted to empower women for leadership roles and added: we not only honour their contributions but also enhance the inclusivity and depth of religious discourse, the federal minister added.

He stated that as we gather at this forum, our exploration of conference theme will delve into four critical areas where women have been and continue

to be pivotal including religious awareness, cultural awareness, societal services, and the nurturing of family and child development.

He said each of these domains highlights not only the invaluable contributions of women but also the potential for further growth and impact as we continue to champion gender equity.

The minister said the role of women in building awareness, particularly in spreading knowledge, promoting good, and upholding justice, is well-recognized in Islam.

"Religious awareness is fundamental in fostering mutual respect and understanding among diverse communities. Women have played a transformative role in this arena, acting as custodians and communicators of faith", he added.

He noted historically and across cultures, women have been at the heart of religious education, guiding families and communities in spiritual matters.

He said today, women continue to lead and innovate in religious spaces. They are breaking barriers to become prominent voices in the theological scholarship, interfaith dialogues, and grassroots religious movements.

He said women through their role as creators, preservers, and educators,

have been pivotal in shaping and expanding cultural awareness.

He said in literature, art, and media, women have made indelible marks. Moreover, women play a crucial role in cultural preservation and education.

He was of the view that in modern times, women are also leading efforts to celebrate and educate others about diverse cultural heritages through museums, cultural festivals, and educational programs.

"Encouraging women to continue their work in these areas ensures a richer, more inclusive cultural narrative. Their insights and creativity not only preserve cultural heritage but also promote intercultural understanding and respect", the minister added.

He said women's involvement in societal services like healthcare, education, social work, and advocacy, is essential for the well-being and development of communities. The minister asserted to enhance and protect the future of our societies by investing in women's well-being and providing them with resources and support. He acknowledged the profound contributions of Egypt, particularly Al-Azhar University, in nurturing Islamic scholarship and fostering a deep understanding of the faith.



Egypt: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain addressing to an International conference on role of women in building awareness in Cairo.

Naqvi strongly condemns terrorist attack on police checkpost in Kurram

INP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a police checkpost in Kurram.

In a condemnation statement on Sunday, he paid tribute to the martyred police personnel and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

Mohsin Naqvi also prayed for the swift recovery of the injured police personnel.

He acknowledged the invaluable sacrifices rendered by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police in the fight against terrorism.

The Interior Minister underscored that the police officers and personnel have foiled the nefarious designs of terrorists by sacrificing their lives.

He further stated, "We salute the unforgettable and invaluable sacrifices of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police in the fight against terrorism."

PTI reportedly forms committee under Arif Alvi to tackle escalating internal tensions

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has formed a committee to resolve internal conflicts within the party, with former President Arif Alvi appointed as its head. According to sources, Arif Alvi will lead the committee and is expected to present recommendations within a week to address the ongoing disputes. He will meet with dissenting leaders to hear their concerns and work towards reconciliation.

The party has been facing increasing tensions at both the central and provincial levels.

PTI recently revoked the basic membership of former Senior Vice President and National Assembly member Sher Afzal Marwat. Additionally, former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Communication and Works Shakeel Khan was pressured into resigning. Reports also indicate strained relations between Aleema Khan and Bushra Bibi. On August 15, PTI leader Hammad Azhar announced his resignation as PTI's Punjab region president, citing internal lobbying as a key reason.

Pakistan HC to UK terms investing in youth vital for country's prosperous future

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: High Commission of Pakistan to United Kingdom (UK), Dr Mohammad Faisal has said that investing Pakistani youth holds key importance for ensuring a prosperous future of Pakistan.

This was stated by him in keynote address during a seminar titled "Promoting trade, investment & tourism in Pakistan" organized by the High Commission of Pakistan in London in cooperation with the British-Pakistani Mayors' Association (BPMA).

The seminar was attended by many former mayors & councilors, British-Pakistani businessmen, officials of the Pakistan High Commission and community members. High Commissioner Dr. Mohammad Faisal was the Chief Guest, a press release received here on Sunday said.

Prominent speakers included Alderman Mushtaq Lasharie CBE, Chairman BPMA; Mr. Asif Rangoonwala CBE, Chairman British Pakistan Foundation; Mr. Fiazullah Khan, Secretary General BPMA and Ms. Sana Jalri, Mayor of Wandsworth, Pakistan's High Commissioner to UK,

Dr. Mohammad Faisal stated that Pakistanis in UK have made remarkable achievements due to their hard work and are acting as a bridge between #Pakistan and the #UK.

He said that the youth can play key role in development and prosperity of Pakistan, therefore it was important to make maximum investment for providing them facilities and opportunities.

Dr. Mohammad Faisal stated that our strength lies in unity and to compete in the comity of nations we require collective effort, strategic planning, and a commitment to excellence. He stressed upon the need to work together to unlock the potential of Pakistan, to show the world that we are a nation of opportunity, resilience, and boundless beauty.

The High Commissioner said that officers of Pakistan High Commission and consulates are working with full dedication to facilitate Pakistani diaspora in UK. He informed that the High Commission is reaching out to around 400 British - Pakistani mayors & councilors to bring them together and discuss ways and means to further strengthen the mutually beneficial relationship between Pakistan and the UK.

JI urges PML-N, PPP to tackle IPPs or face consequences

INP

LAHORE: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami's Hafiz Naem ur Rehman, has issued a stern warning to the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and its ally, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), declaring that they have 28 days to address issues with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) or face serious repercussions. Speaking at a press conference in Mansura, Hafiz Naem criticized political parties for engaging in self-serving and interest-based politics, while neglecting critical issues like electricity and gas bills. He accused the parties of focusing on personal and political gain rather than addressing public concerns.

Naem highlighted the financial burden imposed on the public, revealing that the government had allocated 2 trillion rupees to IPPs without generating electricity. He called for a nationwide strike on August 28, supported by the business community, and criticized the government's tax relief to IPPs

while ordinary citizens face escalating taxes.

He also condemned the contracts with IPPs, alleging that agreements were made under false pretenses and that those responsible should be held accountable. Naem argued that the elimination of IPPs favored by the Sharif family could significantly reduce electricity costs.

Further, he addressed the issue of corruption, citing a Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) report that exposed 1.2 trillion rupees in annual corruption, with tax evasion and bribery undermining the tax system. Naem drew a parallel with the situation in Bangladesh, mentioning the historical persecution faced by Jamaat-e-Islami there, and emphasized the party's enduring role in Pakistan's political landscape since its pre-independence days. He concluded by asserting that Jamaat-e-Islami's contributions to national defense, legal reforms, and public service are well-documented, reinforcing its significant role in Pakistan's political history.

Powerful monsoon system to enter Pakistan tonight, PDMA issues alert for Punjab, Sindh

INP

ISLAMABAD: A powerful monsoon system is expected to enter Pakistan today, with heavy rains forecasted across Sindh from August 26 to 29, Meteorological Department said.

The Meteorological Department has issued warnings for widespread and intense rainfall from August 25 to 28, posing a significant flood risk to low-lying areas in Sindh and Balochistan.

The monsoon winds, originating from Bengal, are anticipated to bring heavy showers to the southern regions of Pakistan.

In response, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued a monsoon alert for Punjab, warning of potential flooding in cities including Murree, Islamabad, Lahore, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, and Multan. The heavy rains may lead to flooding in Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Bahawalpur, and other southern Punjab divisions.

In Karachi, an emergency has been declared, with all municipal staff leaves cancelled. Mayor Murtaza Wahab has directed municipal services to remain on high alert. Heavy rains are also predicted in other areas of Sindh, including Thatta, Badin, Umakot, and Mirpurkhas.

From August 26 to 29, severe rainfall is expected across the southern regions, with Balochistan forecast to experience downpours in Kalat, Lasbela, Barkhan, Jaffarabad, Zhob, and Quetta. Flood warnings have been issued for low-lying areas, with a risk of flash floods in the mountainous regions of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Minister accuses PTI of working 'against national interests'

NEWS DESK

ABBOTTABAD: Federal Minister Amir Muqam accused on Sunday the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of working "against the national interests". Expressing his thoughts in Abbottabad, Muqam accused PTI of having an anti-national agenda and claimed that some individuals are deliberately corrupting the minds of the youth. Muqam also underlined ongoing "internal conflicts" within the PTI, asserting, "The true face of disruptive elements within the PTI has been revealed to the public, with these elements seeking to incite chaos and disorder in the country".

PML-N and PPP joint negotiation body agrees to implement power sharing formula in Punjab in phases

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: PML-N and PPP joint negotiation committee met at Governor House Lahore on Sunday to discuss power sharing formula in the province, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and PPP Punjab president Raja Pervez Ashraf jointly chaired the meeting.

PML-N leaders Rana Sanaullah, Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb,

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and Malik Ahmed Khan participated on the behalf of PML-N while Governor Punjab Salim Haider Khan, Nadeem Afzal Chan and Hasan Murtaza participated in the meeting on behalf of PPP. PPP MPA Ali Haider Gilani attended the meeting through video link.

Both sides agreed that in order to implement the agreement, government will implement some points immediately while on some points government has sought time frame. It was agreed that government will implement various points of the power sharing formula in phases.

It was agreed that PML-N Punjab government will take PPP MPAs into confidence on key government policies, legalization and budget affairs.

Moreover, both parties agreed to work together for political stability in the country.

PML-N consented that PPP MPAs will appoint administrative officers of their choice in the constituencies from where they have obtained victories. During the meeting it was also agreed that PML-N will give equal development funds to the People's Party MPAs in Punjab.

At the end of the meeting, the leaders of both the parties agreed that they will present the report on the agreed points of the meeting to the party leadership who will finally give nod to the power sharing formula.

After the meeting, PPP leader Hassan Murtaza told media that PPP and PML-N leaders' coordination committee meeting remained positive.

The coordination committee have constituted a sub committee which will present its report within a week. Hassan Murtaza rejected the notion that PPP was seeking power sharing deal with PML-N.

He said both parties wanted to enhance their cooperation and coalition. He also said that inflation and law and order situation was also discussed during the meeting.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi offering Fateha at the shrine of Hazrat Ali bin Usman Data Ganj Bakhsh Hijveri (RA).

Power struggle underway for control of party: Azma Bokhari

ONLINE

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Sunday that after the takeover of the Zaman Park house, a power struggle is underway between Aleema Khan and Bushra Bibi for control of the party.

In a statement, she said the conflict between the sister-in-law and the wife has been ongoing since the marriage. "Barrister Saif is irrelevant; no one in the party knows him."

Neither Bushra Begum nor Aleema Khan is familiar with Saif." She expressed these thoughts in response to Barrister Saif's statement.

She added, "Barrister Saif, you might remember that a trickster who tried to split the Muslim League has already completed a 40-day Chilla."

You should inform the people about the performance of your fake 'Maula

Jatt' Chief Minister. You people claimed you came to change the fate of the province. But Ali Amin Gandapur and his associates are looting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's resources with both hands. Gandapur beats his chest on TV screens but begs behind closed doors." The Information Minister further said,

"To understand the politics of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif, you people would need to be reborn. Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif are governing Pakistan today and serving the people of Pakistan."

In Punjab, people are being provided with solar panels; houses are being built for them, and students are receiving bikes and laptops.

On the other hand, people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are deprived of basic facilities like quality healthcare and education, while the "Prince of Destruction" sits in jail enjoying pistachios."

Trump vows to release JFK assassination files 'if elected to White House'

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump took to the stage at a campaign rally in Glendale, Arizona after Robert F Kennedy stepped back from the presidential election race and endorsed the former president.

Trump promised during his speech that he would release several of the documents linked to the assassination of former president John F Kennedy who was the uncle of RFK.

JFK served as the president of the US from 1961 until his assassination on November 22, 1963. Since then, his assassination has been a mystery unsolved and shrouded by conspiracy theories.

The Guardian reports that Trump vowed to release the documents once elected president as part of a newly proposed commission on probing into assassination attempts on presidents, including the one that targeted him in



July in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The report also stated that Trump invited RFK, a long-time anti-vaccine advocate, to the stage and he briefly addressed the rally in Arizona and asked the people: "Don't you want a president that's going to make America healthy again?"

The ousting of the Kennedy family also remarked that Trump is the one "who is going to protect us against totalitarianism."

The Republican candidate pledged at the rally that if elected, he would build a panel of top experts to work with RFK to investigate childhood health problems.



QUETTA: President All Pakistan Trade Union, Ajmal Blooch addressing a press conference.