

Two die, 7 injured in Quetta firing

QUETTA: At least two persons died and seven others were reported injured in firing between two groups at Session Court area, here on Thursday. According to police sources, two sub-clans were moving to Session Court when they opened fire at each other. Media Coordinator of Health Department Dr Waseem Baig said that two dead bodies and seven injured had been brought to Civil Hospital for medical aid. He said that one of the deceased was identified as Muhammad Haroon, while the other deceased could not be identified so far. Among the injured are Sardar Naseem Tareen, Muhammad Lal. —APP

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PTI MNA Shakoor Shad meets NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf

ISLAMABAD: PTI Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Shakoor Shad met with the Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Thursday and informed that he had tendered resignation from the seat under his party pressure. He requested the speaker for not accepting his resignation. The Speaker listened to the MNA attentively and told him that he would inform him about the fate of his resignation only after reviewing his point of view from the constitutional and legal point of view. —APP

India can never suppress Kashmir freedom movement: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira here on Thursday said that India could not suppress the passion of freedom among the Kashmiris.

Addressing the participants of a walk held to mark the Kashmir Black Day, he said every political party and the government of Pakistan had supported the Kashmir movement and they would continue in future till the resolution of this longstanding dispute.

He said the United Nations had already accepted the stance of Kashmiri people about right of self determination but did not take any practical step yet. Kaira urged that international community should play its role for the resolution of Kashmir valley conflict for the regional peace, prosperity and development. Indian authority, following the Israeli patten in Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir, converted majority Kashmiri population into the minority through the issuance of illegal domicile, delimitation and demographic changes, he added.

The PM aide said all governments, irrespective of their political affiliations, had voiced the plight of Kashmiris at home and internationally and that they would continue do so. The Hindutva-driven regime had left behind all the extremes of barbarity and there was no denying the fact that the biggest role in keeping the struggle alive was that of the Kashmiris' blood and sweat, he said. Kaira called for keeping the youth aware of the government's efforts for Kashmir and of the importance of Kashmir as the unfinished agenda of partition to keep Kashmiris motivated and save them from hopelessness.

Team Humanity USA in Pakistan to help flood victims

ISLAMABAD: Founder of the Team Humanity USA, Ayat Abuznade has said that there was a dire need to rehabilitate Pakistan's flood-hit people as they were facing lot of problems due to displacement. Team Humanity USA is a humanitarian organization that was created in response to the desperate need that Ayat felt throughout her humanitarian journey. The organization is in Pakistan these days, providing aid to flood affected people.

"A lot of aid is needed for the complete restoration of the houses of flood victims. People here are facing a lot of problems", Ayat told APP on Thursday. She said that she had visited the flood-affected areas and witnessed the devastating impacts of the calamity. She said majority of the houses in flood-affected areas were made up of mud and collapsed. Ayat said their houses were still under water and partially damaged, their crops had been destroyed, while epidemics had broken out due to the standing water.

"The life of flood victims has become miserable. They are in dire need of quality food, medicines and other items", she added.

Ayat said she was there to play her role to lessen people's sufferings by providing life saving care. "We are trying our best for the flood affected people's full recovery and will keep on supporting them under the Emergency Food Relief Program which will continue till their complete rehabilitation," she added. She said it was her mission to make a difference in the lives of suffering humanity. "My mission is to help vulnerable communities not just to survive, but to progress in life," Ayat added. —APP

Punjab taking a lead in investment: Elahi

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day was a black chapter in the history as the Indian forces occupied the state forcibly without any legal justification on the same day 74 years ago. The people of the occupied valley had been subject to state terrorism for more than seven decades, but they were standing firmly for their just right to self-determination.

The Indian government had committed international human rights violation by changing the legal status of the occupied Kashmir, he said adding that the Narendra Modi government was committing genocide of innocent Kashmiri people in the valley.

The chief minister said that real face of so-called world's largest democracy had been exposed before the world. The people of Pakistan are standing shoulder to shoulder with their Kashmiri brethren in their struggle and Pakistan would continue its moral, political and diplomatic support to them.

Shibli gets interim bail

ISLAMABAD: A local court on Thursday granted interim bail to PTI's leader Shibli Faraz in FIR pertaining violation of section-144 registered by Islamabad police.

Additional District and Session Judge Zafar Iqbal heard the case filed by PTI's leader.

The petitioner's lawyer said that all sections applied in the FIR were bailable. He said that the PTI had arranged procession in F-9 Park and it did not fall under section 144. The court accepted the bail against surety bonds worth Rs 5,000. —APP



ISLAMABAD: People attend the funeral prayer of slain senior journalist Arshad Sharif.

Agriculture vital to cope environmental changes: Arif Alvi

FAISALABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi said on Thursday that knowledge-based agriculture is lifeline of Pakistan, which needs to be promoted to overcome environmental challenges, and address food needs, in addition to transforming the country from net food importer to net food exporting country.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of "Natural Agri-Innovation Centre", near Sahianwala Interchange here. The president said that human intervention changed the natural balance between population and resources. "We must improve our demography by controlling population explosion," he stated.

He said that climatic changes played havoc with Pakistan, and in particular mentioned billion tree tsunami campaign, saying that it was need of the hour to address environmental challenges.

He said some countries introduced drip and sprinkle irrigation to save precious water and Pakistan could follow suit. Those countries used genetic engineering to develop high yielding, disease as well as heat-resistant species of different varieties to enhance their agriculture production. He cited that Netherlands was 19 per cent smaller than Pakistan, but it became second largest food exporter of the world.

"We channelize 158 million acres feet water through glaciers and rains, out of it hardly 4 million acres is required to be drained into the sea to save coastal belt from the backlash of saline sea water," he said adding that remaining water must be

stored or utilised for irrigation in addition to replenishing our underground water reservoirs. He said that hydroponic crops were successfully developed in some regions of the world. "We must utilise artificial intelligence to get maximum yield from different crops," he suggested.

President Alvi, while highlighting various aspects of agriculture, said that apart from major crops of wheat, cotton, rice and sugarcane, farmers must grow vegetables in addition to exploiting the potential of floriculture. He also stressed the need for solarization of indigenous agriculture farms and said that it could return the capital invested within a short period of two years. He said that tunnel farming over an area of one-kanal may cost only Rs 2.5 million, which could yield maximum dividends within two to three years.

The president said that the youth could also avail the financing facility under Kamyab Jawan programme. He directed Provincial Agriculture Minister Hussain Jahania Gardezi to set key performing indicators and establish at least 500-600 modern agriculture farms. In this connection, academia could also be engaged on partnership basis. He said that farming community must be invited to such modern farms to witness the maximum yields, achieved by progressive farmers through the latest means of agriculture.

Punjab Minister for Agriculture Husain Jahania Gardezi welcomed President Alvi on the occasion, saying that agriculture sector needed investment to switch from traditional farming to the hi-tech

agriculture. "We must promote high and low tunnels, particularly for vegetable farming, to meet our increasing needs and depleting cultivable land". The minister stressed the need for using artificial intelligence for agriculture sector as well in order to tackle the multiple challenges of climatic change and food shortage.

Malik Amin Aslam Khan, former minister for environmental changes, identified the perils of environmental changes and said that Pakistan was listed among top three countries which were vulnerable to big environmental changes. "We could overcome emerging challenges of climate change through reliance on smart agriculture." He also appreciated adoption and localization of the latest technology by Natural Farms.

Earlier, Waseem Afzal, chairman Naturals Farms, welcomed the guests and introduced the latest Dutch model technology used in this farm sprawling over 2.5 acres of land. The meeting was also attended by Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Ali Afzal Sahi, Divisional Commissioner Shahid Niaz, Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Dr Khuram Tariq, former parliamentarians Dr Nisar Jatt, Muhammad Afzal Sahi and Akram Sahi.

President Dr Arif Alvi formally inaugurated the Agri-Innovation Centre, and planted a sapling on the premises of Natural Farms. The President and the First Lady visited the farms and witnessed var-

IK offered extension to COAS against no confidence move: Asif

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Thursday said that at one time, Imran Khan was offering extension to the Army Chief but when he declined to take illegal and unconstitutional steps he (Imran) started to cast aspersions on his integrity.

When Imran Khan was in power, he crossed all limits to praise the military leadership to remain in power but after no confidence motion, he started maligning the institution.

Addressing a press conference, he said, for Imran Khan his personal character was important over Pakistan's sovereignty and country's institutions.

"He uses one language in front of media against the institution while behind the closed doors, he uses apologetic language in secret meetings" said the defense minister. He said earlier the opposition was exposing his real face to the nation but now it has been disclosed directly from the institution.

Imran had been offering deal of extension in service for the indefinite period to the Army Chief against no confidence motion and to protect his government, said the defense minister adding this information has come straight from the horse's mouth.

The institute, after this, decided to remain neutral but Imran Khan instead of appreciating, made the word 'neutral' an abuse, he added. We respect the decision of the institution and will protect it, said the minister adding that the other institutions should also follow the same and remain within their Constitutional role.

Khawaja Asif said Imran Khan was stopped from making the cipher public in his rally but he created an issue of national security for the country for his personal vested interest.

He blamed Imran Khan for destroying the credibility of Pakistan and its relations with the international community.

They made fun of our martyred 3 star general on social media" said the minister and warned that the blood of martyrs is red-line for the state and nation so don't try to cross the red-line.

He said Imran Khan violated the red-line of Pakistan and made deliberate attempts to create division within an institution.

He asked PTI chief Imran Khan whether he will appear before the commission constituted to probe the murder of veteran journalist Arshad Sharif because he admitted to advise him to go out of the country. The minister said the government of KP did not share threat alert to Arshad Sharif with the federal government and this will be probed in the commission.

Khawaja Asif said the institute showed extreme restraint for the protection of their new assumed role but when Imran Khan crossed all limits, they were left with no choice but to go public in their defense. —Online

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday directed the capital police to continue its actions as per law in line of the long march call given by the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI). The law would take its own course if anyone do illegal act, the court said and, however, instructed the police not to harass petitioner ex-advocate general Niazullah Niazi without any reason. Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case filed by Niazullah Niazi alleging the federal police for harassing him in connection of PTI's long march.

The petitioner's lawyer adopted the stance that the police had prepared the lists of people with regard to maintenance of law and order. The matter of affidavit and surety bonds demanded by the police was heard by the court in last hearing, he said. The court questioned that whether the police had involved in law and order. DSP Legal Islamabad police informed the court that no action was taken as per the said lists. The court remarked that whatever the matter was, the police should proceed and take

armed forces was widely condemned by all schools of thought and declared equal to transcending the red line, whereas Gill on August 9 was arrested." After this controversial special episode, the ISPR DG mentioned that when the authorities interrogated the senior Executive Vice President ARY Ammad Yusuf on this, it was revealed that ARY CEO Salman Iqbal directed Ammad Yusuf to make Arshad Sharif flee abroad as soon as possible.

"In response, Yusuf told that Arshad flew from Peshawar to Dubai and in this regard a persistent narrative was made that he would be killed. On Aug 9 at 4:40pm an air ticket was booked from Karachi to Dubai for Arshad's by the Assistant Manager Planning and Administration ARY Imran by a travel agent Fazl-e-Rabi after receiving Rs0.55m." As per this travel plan, Sharif had to return to the country on September 9, 2022 whereas on August 10 he left from Baacha Khan Intl Airport. —Agencies

You meet COAS at night and call him traitor in day

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Similarly, the alleged US regime change conspiracies against countries from over the world were linked to the change of government in Pakistan, he added. The state institutions particularly Army leadership were targeted and everything was linked to sedition and regime change operation, he added.

He noted that this was the time "when Arshad Sharif, other journalists and social media activists were fed with a particular narrative whose veracity had been exposed to a greater level." Moreover, through opinion-making (spin doctor) a nefarious attempt was made to create hate among the masses towards the army and its leadership." "All-out attempts were made to defame Pakistan and its institutions all across the world. In this media trial, ARY channel played the role of a spin doctor to promote fake and conspiring narratives especially against the Pakistan Army and its leadership and

through agenda setting a special narrative was promoted against the Army," he added.

He underlined that the NSC meeting and press release were misinterpreted whereas concocted news was circulated pertaining to [Former] Ambassador Asad Majeed during the second NSC meeting by the previous regime. The ISPR DG informed that it was hoped by the then ruling elite to have a political intervention from Pakistan Army which was against the constitution.

"The words neutral and apolitical were made as an abusive words. It was also blamed that the cipher was hidden then the question was who hid the cipher, was it the Foreign Office who was processing it? Was there any action taken against them and if not then why their names were not taken publicly?" Arshad Sharif was criticising the state institutions since November 11, 2021 and many others were also following his suit but they did not leave the country, he said, adding that they [Armed Forces]

"approached other journalists and requested them to avoid criticising the armed forces without evidence." General Babar Iftikhar told the media that the KP government issued a threat alert on August 5, 2022 related to Arshad Sharif, adding, "according to our information, this threat alert was issued on the special directions of CMC KP that highlighted the doubt that TTP in Spinboldak held a meeting to target Arshad Sharif in Rawalpindi and its adjoining areas.

In this regard, no further information was shared with the federal government and other departments that who gave this information to the KP government."

He said it highlighted that it was issued under a specific mindset to convince Arshad to leave the country whereas there was an update that he did not want to leave the country. "But he was repeatedly convinced to leave the country as he was on high risk. On August 8, Shahbaz Gill's statement on ARY aimed at provoking rebellion in the

Collective efforts vital to stable democratic system: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira said on Thursday collective efforts were needed for the strengthening of democratic system in the country.

Addressing a press conference, he said it was the need of time that all stakeholders should come forward on same page for the sake of country as already the state was facing serious challenges. Kaira said no single party could resolve the longstanding issue of the country, so the incumbent regime was taking various steps for the betterment of the state and expressed the hope that all problems would be addressed with unity among the ranks of political powers. He underlined that Bhutto family had sacrificed their lives for the sake of the nation and supremacy of the democratic system in the country.

Referring to the press talk of DG ISPR, he said that the armed forces had draw the line today that the parliament, judiciary, law enforcement agencies and media should work in their domain to strengthen the country and national economy. He blamed that some elements wanted to weaken the national economy as country's political environment was very tense. The institutions of the country were functioning within the domain of the Constitution. —APP

Govt hails apolitical role of establishment

ISLAMABAD: The government on Thursday hailed the apolitical role of the armed forces and for its commitment to perform their role as per the law and constitution of the country. Addressing a press conference, Minister for Interior Rana Sanaulah said that Imran Khan had been questioning the political role of the establishment during the last six months. However, the establishment through a presser had reaffirmed the commitment to play its role as per the constitution, he said.

The minister also appreciated the stance of Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa who rejected the offer for a lifetime extension from Imran Khan. Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah said PTI leader Imran Khan's detestable face was exposed before the nation even further after the apex intelligence agency chief stepped up to set the record straight regarding cipher and Arshad Sharif's murder in a rare presser. Rana Sanaulah said the press briefing by the DG ISPR and the DG ISI has further exposed PTI Chairman Imran Khan who staged the drama of cipher to defeat the no-confidence motion moved against him.

The minister said the politics of the PTI leader, whose heinous face was unmasked by the audio leaks, was aimed at mongering hate and dividing the nation. "Democracy cannot move ahead in the presence of Khan's negative agenda," the interior minister said adding that no political or non-political group would be allowed to damage the economy and stability of the country. The minister termed the death of journalist Arshad Sharif as a tragic incident and said that he was forced to leave the country after a threat alert issued by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa govt and propaganda against him. He said that this matter had been politicized like cipher issue and the detestable face was exposed before the nation even. —APP

IHC directs police to act as per law

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday directed the capital police to continue its actions as per law in line of the long march call given by the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI). The law would take its own course if anyone do illegal act, the court said and, however, instructed the police not to harass petitioner ex-advocate general Niazullah Niazi without any reason. Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case filed by Niazullah Niazi alleging the federal police for harassing him in connection of PTI's long march.

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