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Pak-Turkiye bilateral trade volume target of \$5bn very much achievable: PM

PM meets world leaders in Turkiye, discuss bilateral ties, cooperation; concludes his 2-day official visit to Turkiye, leaves for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the target of increasing bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Turkiye to \$5 billion annually over the next three years was very much achievable.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister referred to his recent visit to Turkiye where he attended the inauguration of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who had been re-elected for the third term in office.

He said that in his meetings with heads of leading Turkish business groups yesterday, he highlighted the need for investment and trade in the fields of agriculture, energy, information technology and construction.

Exciting opportunities had emerged for collaboration especially after the historic Trade-in-Goods Agreement between Pakistan & Turkiye became operational on May 31 this year, he added.

"Was glad to find the discernible interest of the Turkish business commu-

nity in building on the existing partnerships & establishing new ventures," the prime minister further noted in his tweet.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during his recent visit to Turkiye also met with different world leaders and discussed the bilateral ties and cooperation between Pakistan and their respective countries.

The prime minister had travelled to Turkiye to join the world leaders in the inauguration ceremony of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.



ANKARA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs from Ankara after completing his two day official visit of Turkiye.

Talha returns Rs 4.5 bln to pilgrims, implements cost-cutting measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Sunday said the ministry, taking significant measures to ease the financial burden on pilgrims, had returned an impressive sum of Rs 4.5 billion, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring the well-being of those embarking on the holy journey.

He, in a talk with APP, highlighted the efforts made by the ministry to reduce costs associated with the Hajj pilgrimage.

He disclosed that this year's expenses for the Hajj had been lowered to \$3,900 from \$5,000, presenting a substantial decrease in comparison to the previous year. However, despite this decrease, he acknowledged that the current Hajj remained the most expensive

in history due to the depreciation of the Pakistani rupee and the increase in the value of the US dollar, he added.

Addressing concerns about accommodation for pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, Senator Talha emphasized that the ministry had taken steps to secure buildings at more affordable rates.

He revealed that the ministry had rented buildings between SR1,800 and SR2,300, compared to the higher rental fee of SR2,600 in 2019. Despite the significant difference in inflation rates between 2023 and 2019, the ministry managed to secure accommodations at lower prices, he maintained.

Furthermore, the minister emphasized the importance of efficient management of medicines for the pilgrims stating that more than fifty per cent of the

required medicines could be obtained through donations, while the remaining medications could be purchased from pharmaceutical companies at their actual cost of production. By effectively managing these resources, the ministry could have saved a substantial amount of money allocated for the pilgrims' medications, he observed. Regarding the pilgrims' food, Senator Talha informed that the contract was already awarded but it could be further improved with a good menu at discounted rates providing a satisfactory dining experience for the pilgrims, while also optimizing the allocated budget. He said in order to streamline the immigration process for the pilgrims, the Saudi government had introduced the "Road to Makkah" project at the Islamabad International Airport.

Roosvelt Hotel given to NY local govt for 3yrs for \$220m: Kh Saad

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said on Sunday that a contract had been signed with the New York City government to operate the renowned Roosevelt Hotel of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) situated in New York (USA) for three years.

In a press conference held at Allama Iqbal International Airport here, he said that a revenue of US\$220 million would come to the country as a result of the agreement.

Giving details of the agreement, he said that 1025 rooms of the hotel would be handed over to the City government for three years and the initial earnings from the hotel had started pouring in.

He said that under the agreement, one-year busi-

ness was guaranteed; however, he expressed his hope that the hotel business would continue for all three years. He said that there were several issues involved in the Roosevelt case, like the hotel was at risk of being declared a landmark after which the building would be unable to be altered. However, now the danger had subsided for at least three years, he added.

The minister said that earlier the hotel had been closed since the COVID-19 period, and an amount of \$25 million were being spent on the closed building and \$20 million were pending as the liability.

He said that 479 employees were working in the hotel, which was a big number and it was difficult for the hotel to terminate them from jobs.

Speaker NA says: Incidents of May 9 weakened, disgraced country in world

GHAZI (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly and former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Sunday said that we all should come together for the greater interest of the country, we have responsibilities if we have a country, prosperity and freedom thrive on peace, and peace can bring improvement to the economy.

He expressed these views while talking to the media at the residence of Peer Hamid in Tarbela Ghazi, senior journalist Mehtab Khan was also

present on this occasion.

The speaker said that elections should be held in October, the events of May 9 had weakened and disgraced the country in the world, the incidents should never have happened and the people of Pakistan had suffered a lot. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said that the military is our saviour who fights against terrorists and protects our borders, they are either warriors or martyrs and it is enmity with the country to stir up emotions, spread false information and conspire against our forces.



FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan addressing a public gathering during inauguration ceremony of NADRA Registration Center Aminpur Bangla and Passport Counter in Chak No.30-JB on Narwala-Aminpur Road.

Workers being illegally detained in abysmal living conditions: Imran Khan

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan has claimed that his party workers are being illegally detained in jails, while alleging that they are being kept in abysmal living conditions.

He made these remarks while addressing PTI supporters virtually.

Furthermore, he once again questioned what the future of the country would be like if he were to be put in jail and crackdown on PTI is completed.

He noted that the country was progressing economically with inflow of dollars during PTI's tenure.

The PTI chairman once again reiterated that the judiciary has been intimidated and claimed that judges are being blackmailed with audio and video tapes. He also criticised the media for not speaking up for its freedom, similar to how it used to do during PTI's tenure.

Imran Khan said that his party has been barred from carrying out political activities.

The ex-PM expressed his concern that Pakistan is regressing into what he described as the 'dark ages', where the principles of rule of law are overshadowed by the notion that might determines what is right.

Zardari announces big public rally in Lahore

LAHORE (Online): Pakistan People Party (PPP) co-chairman and former president has announced big public political gathering in Lahore.

According to source PPP have intentions to arrange huge political public gathering in the centre of Punjab politics city Lahore.

Party district president Aslam Gul is visiting various parts of city, PPP leader said political rally date will be announced soon. On the other side former President Asif Zardari's active politics is continue in Lahore and new leaders are joining party.

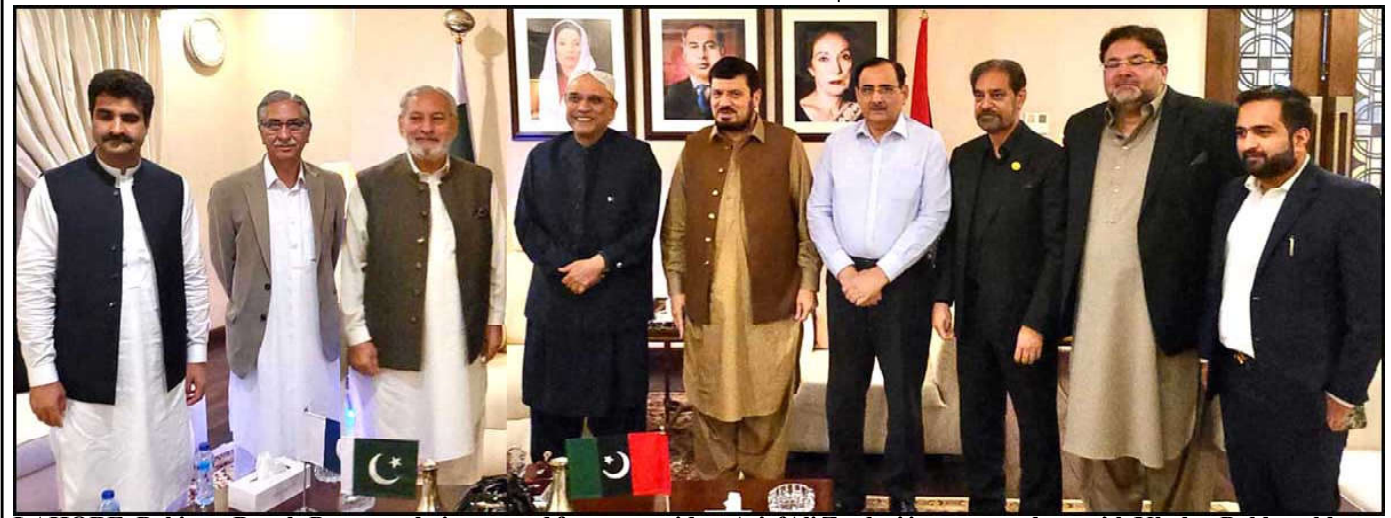
PTI defectors announce Democrats group

LAHORE (INP): Like-minded members who left Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have announced to form a new group called 'Democrats' instead of joining any other party.

A meeting of like-minded members who parted ways with PTI was held under the chairmanship of Dr Murad Raas and Hashim Dogar, who were part of the cabinet in the Punjab government of Tehreek-e-Insaf, in which the name of the group was finalised. It was decided in the meeting that the like-minded members will not make any contact or join Jahangir Khan Iqbal group for now. The members will keep their separate identity as Democrats. The identity of the members joining the group will not be revealed.

Travel restrictions US State Dept rejects PTI's propaganda

WASHINGTON (INP): Another propaganda of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to defame Pakistan at the international level to prove it a dangerous country has failed miserably. The activists of the political party were once again caught spreading false information to Pakistanis living abroad and American citizens living in Pakistan.



LAHORE: Pakistan People Party co-chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali alongwith Caretaker Provincial Ministers during meeting.

Promote inter-religious harmony, Masood Khan urges faith leaders

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, urged faith and community leaders to work together to promote inter-religious harmony when he met them at his residence on Saturday.

The faith leaders comprised Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Sikhs. "The strong bonds of humanity bind us all together. While we maintain our religious beliefs and identities, we have to work collectively, as one community, for the larger national interests and projecting the true image of Pakistan," the ambassador told them, according to a press release issued by the Pakistani

embassy. "Pakistan is committed to protecting the rights of minorities and providing them with an enabling environment to contribute towards socio-economic development and nation-building process."

Termining visits of American faith leaders to Pakistan as a means of promoting people-centric diplomacy, Masood Khan invited leaders of all faiths to explore the country and to build bridges among communities.

Many of the faith leaders who were at the Ambassador's reception had visited Pakistan and shared their pleasant experiences.

Over 40,000 Pakistani pilgrims safely arrive in S. Arabia via 158 flights

MAKKAH MUKARMA (APP): Over 40,000 Pakistani intending pilgrims have safely arrived in Saudi Arabia through 158 flights, joining millions of Muslims worldwide on a spiritual journey. Out of the total number, 13,095 Pakistani pilgrims have arrived in Makkah after completing an eight-day stay in Madinah, while the remaining pilgrims have been accommodated in Madinah Munawarah. Additionally, these figures encompass 1,000 hajj pilgrims who have

arrived in Saudi Arabia through 18 hajj group operators operating under the private hajj scheme. Muhammad Umar Butt, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Religious Affairs, stated that the ministry's monitoring team has successfully conducted assessments of 12 hajj group operators (HGOs). Umar Butt mentioned that preparations are underway to distribute coupon for sacrificial animal to the pilgrims at their accommodations.

Budget 2023-24: NEC to meet on Tuesday

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government summoned meeting of National Economic Council on Tuesday (Tomorrow) to approve economic targets and development projects of upcoming budget.

According to source finance ministry will get approval of upcoming fiscal year development plan and economic targets in NEC meeting which is summoned on June 06.

Prime minister will chair NEC meeting. Source told that federal ministers and chief ministers of four provinces will attend the meeting. Federal government and provincial governments' development plans will be reviewed in this meeting.

Appointment case Pervaiz sent on judicial remand

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President and former chief minister Pervaiz Elahi has been sent on 14-day judicial remand to jail in illegal appointment case.

As per details, the court rejected the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) appeal for physical remand and sent the PTI president Pervaiz Elahi on judicial remand.

Furthermore, secretary Punjab assembly Rai Muztaz Hussain Babar has been sent to jail on judicial remand.

Pak Navy celebrates WED to highlight significance of environment

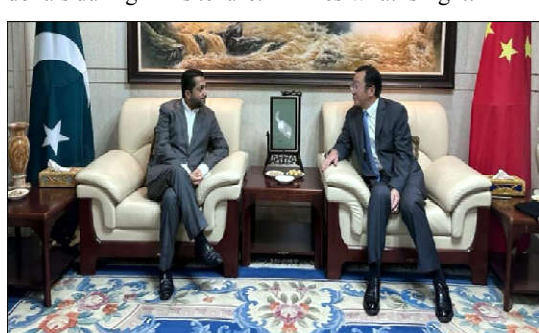
ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in his message on the occasion of World Environment Day (WED) 2023 said Pakistan Navy celebrates WED to highlight the significance of environment and to promote awareness amongst personnel for mobilizing actions to stem detrimental effects of environmental degradation. In a Pakistan Navy news release, the Admiral said 'World Environment Day' (WED) was observed on 5th of June each year and calls for protecting our natural surroundings. "The day, celebrated under the ambit of United Nations Environment Programme marks an occasion to raise awareness on the challenges facing our environment such as pollution, illegal wildlife trade, sustainable consumption, rising sea levels and food security."

Today, plastic clog our landfills, leaches into the ocean and is combusted into toxic smoke, making it one of the gravest threats to the planet. In addition, microplastics find their way into the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe. Many plastic products contain hazardous additives, which pose a serious threat to our health."

Pakistan Navy has embarked on numerous measures ranging from a collection of solid waste from the harbour, establishment of Reedbed plants in all areas under its jurisdiction and extensive tree plantation campaigns.

It also continues to sensitize concerned Government and non-Government organizations and departments to take effective measures against marine pollution.

While awareness is deemed a vital factor, Field Commands and PN Units inculcate a sense of responsibility with practical steps amongst all to save and preserve our environment. I expect all under Command to launch dedicated efforts to make these activities worthwhile and result-oriented.



KARACHI: Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango meeting with Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong.

NAB summons record of 22 politicians in £190m scandal probe

LAHORE (INP): In a major development, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has demanded record of 22 political leaders in illegal transfer of NCA's £190m scandal.

The NAB in a letter to excise secretaries demanded record of automobiles, properties and accounts of 22 politicians including former federal ministers and cabinet members.

The anti-graft watchdog has summoned record of the properties of Sheikh Rashid, Pervaiz Khattak, Umar Ayub, Hammad Azhar, Murad Saeed, Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry, Azam Swati, Ali Zaidi, Ali Ameen Gandapur, Shafiq Mehmood, Chaudhry Ghulam Sarwar, Shireen Mazari, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Farogh Naseem, Khuro Bakhtyar, Ijaz

Shah and others. The NAB has also demanded record of the vehicles in the names of 22 federal ministers and cabinet members, including details of how many cars they purchased and sold since year 2018.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has launched an investigation against PTI chief, Bushra Bibi and others for the alleged gain of hundreds of canals of land in the name of Al Qadir University Trust, which reportedly caused a loss of 190 million pounds to the national exchequer. As per the charges, the former prime minister and other accused allegedly adjusted Rs50 billion — 190 million pounds, at the time — sent by the Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA) to the government.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Advancing Balochistan's Development Through PPP

In a recent meeting led by Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili, the Executive Committee of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Authority made significant strides in bolstering Balochistan's development. The approval of a new project in line with the PPP mode signals a proactive approach towards addressing crucial areas of growth and progress. One of the key approved projects focuses on the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, with a specific emphasis on establishing a state-of-the-art Center of Excellence Hub in Hub, Balochistan. This initiative, operated by the esteemed private institution ZABTEC, aims to offer training in over 18 different trades to approximately 2,700 students over the next three years. By bridging the skills gap and equipping individuals with relevant expertise, this endeavor will contribute to empowering the local workforce and enhancing employability prospects.

Furthermore, the meeting directed the Lasbella Industrial and Economic Development Authority (LIEDA) to expedite efforts in launching HUB SEZ Phase-II. The PPP Authority has received proposals to promote various industries within this phase, underscoring the government's commitment to fostering economic growth and development. Additionally, the progress made on SEZ Phase-I under the federal and provincial Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) was acknowledged, reflecting the dedication to executing comprehensive plans for industrial expansion. Education emerged as a paramount concern during the meeting, with a briefing from the Taaleem Foundation on the work plan and progress of the Kharaan Technical Training Center. The government's assurance in removing obstacles hindering the foundation's activities highlights their commitment to creating an enabling environment for quality education. It was heartening to learn that full-scale academic activities at the center will commence from August, signaling the government's emphasis on providing educational opportunities that equip the youth with the skills needed to excel in their chosen fields.

The gathering also addressed the decision to entrust the operation of the Green Bus Service in Quetta to a private company, underscoring the government's focus on modern transportation facilities for the city's residents. The Chief Secretary's directive to expedite the implementation of this project highlights the administration's dedication to providing convenient and efficient public transportation services. The Secretary of Transport's comprehensive work plan, to be presented in the upcoming two weeks, further demonstrates their commitment to swift and effective execution.

It is crucial to recognize the significance of public-private partnerships in driving sustainable development. The successful implementation of these projects will not only create job opportunities but also strengthen the economy and improve the overall quality of life for the people of Balochistan. It is imperative for the government and relevant stakeholders to continue their collaborative efforts and ensure effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of these initiatives. By harnessing the potential of public-private partnerships, Balochistan can chart a path towards progress, prosperity, and inclusive growth. The commitment demonstrated during this meeting sets a positive precedent for future endeavors. It is through such concerted efforts that we can build a thriving Balochistan, where opportunities abound, and the aspirations of its people are realized.

Perils of punditry



Abbas Nasir

If the government decides to call for elections just a few days shy of the current parliament's term-end, the caretaker administration will have 90 days in which to complete the process, and if the term is completed, then in 60 days. This would translate into elections in the first half of either October or November.

My own bet would be November as that would give more time to the government coalition parties and their backers to get a tighter grasp on the process. Two important offices will change hands in September. The president's term ends on Sept 9 and the chief justice of Pakistan's seven days later, on the 16th.

Despite President Arif Alvi's quick assent earlier this week to legislation passed by parliament to expand the scope of reviews in the Supreme Court verdicts in suo motu cases, the government and its powerful allies would not have forgotten his foot-dragging on other pieces of legislation passed by parliament on multiple occasions.

While after the elections the new parliament will elect a new president, for now the powers that be may be far more comfortable with their own long-term protégé, the Senate chairman, who seems also to have been adopted by the PML-N-led coalition government.

The other change will be in the office of the chief justice of Pakistan as Justice Qazi Faez Isa takes over from the soon-to-retire incumbent chief justice. Government figures have been critical of

the latter as they perceive a softer approach on his part towards the PTI.

This criticism appears to partially stem from the Supreme Court judgement in the floor-crossing case in the election of Hamza Shehbaz as Punjab chief minister where even eminent lawyers said the Constitution was being rewritten rather than interpreted.

The court ruled that the legislators voting against the party whip would not only lose their assembly membership, as the Constitution mandated, but also that their vote would not count. Ergo, Chaudhry Perwaiz Elahi was reinstated as the provincial chief executive.

Many political commentators attribute the current crisis in the country to that judgement. Government ministers were outraged, claiming bias. This perception might have been reinforced by the forming of benches, as the Supreme Court rules empower the CJP to do, following seemingly inexplicable criteria that excluded some of the most senior and respected judges from hearing cases of political significance.

It is now clear that every impediment, legal or otherwise, will be placed in the path of the PTI and its leader going forward. The party and its leader, perhaps under the false impression of substantial support in key institutions, may have grossly overplayed their hand on May 9. Who knows what they'd been led to believe by utterly over-the-top YouTubers, over-egging the pudding for more followers, views and the consequent monetary windfall. Or had insiders misread the mood within and sold an utterly fictional scenario? Whatever the case, a strategy devised on a false premise failed and the payback has been severe.

It is assumed that any legal bar on the party, or more significantly, on its leader will end up in the superior judiciary and, therefore, it would be better when, in the view of the government and its backers, the formation of more neutral and balanced benches is likely.

However, those placing too much hope in the set-up beyond mid-September would do well to remember that all of the judges excluded from hearing cases in recent months, including the senior puisne judge, are fiercely independent and strong-minded. So, the cases before them would have to be watertight to get a favourable verdict.

All of the above factors must be among the variables going into the matrix as decision-makers prepare their plans for the next elections and, equally important, 'the before and after' scenarios. The PTI seems to be collapsing like a house of cards.

Its supporters argue with justification that their fanatical support base across the country can't be ignored or disenfranchised. But they should also consider that it is equally true that a party network and organisational structure is what delivers that support to the polling stations and translates into votes.

Candidates play an important role as well. A popular party may poll a certain percentage of votes in every constituency but every party looks for strong candidates who bring their own vote banks with them, particularly in rural and/or semi-urban constituencies. As we speak, the PTI is looking a bit vulnerable in this area. Let's see what sort of a line-up they are able to muster for the elections. -- Courtesy Dawn

Another court



Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

Are constitutional courts an idea whose time has come in Pakistan? The proposal to constitute one was seriously presented in the Charter of Democracy signed by Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif in 2006 after the Supreme Court legitimized the 1999 military coup. The PPP, which came to power in 2008, did not make a serious effort to implement this particular aspect of the CoD. Even when almost a third of the Constitution was modified through the 18th Amendment in 2010 on the PPP's initiative, the idea of a constitutional court could not be accommodated in the package of amendments.

The PPP tried to raise the question of a constitutional court in the Senate in 2015 during the PML-N's rule, but the matter didn't seem to get very far. Recently, the prime minister's special assistant on legal reforms and accountability, while criticising the Supreme Court's performance, once again mooted the idea of a constitutional court. The main reasons for establishing a parallel constitutional court — according to him, and as quoted in the media — are that there is 'a division' among the Supreme Court judges, and the process of forming benches is reportedly 'biased', leading to 'political engineering'.

The SAPM, therefore, thought that the solution for the 'division' and 'biased judgements' would be the establishment of a constitutional court. He also gave some features of the proposed

court. For example, he mentioned that the constitutional court would comprise former and 'non-controversial' chief justices, judges of the superior courts and parliamentarians who are knowledgeable about legal matters.

The idea of a constitutional court is not a novel one, and quick research shows that over 60 countries have dedicated constitutional courts functioning side by side with the apex courts which deal with regular criminal and civil cases. It makes sense especially in a country like Pakistan where the Supreme Court, like other courts in the country, is beset with a heavy pendency of cases. In fact, there is an increasing tendency to take urgent political-constitutional matters to the courts, which end up — in due time — in the Supreme Court, or the apex court opts to take suo motu notice of a matter which it considers to be of public interest. In both cases, the increasing workload of such urgent cases relegates regular criminal and civil cases to lower priority — much to the anguish and pain of the litigants. A dedicated constitutional court may help check the tendency of 'urgent' cases interfering with the sequence and pace of regular criminal and civil cases in the Supreme Court.

The idea of a constitutional court is, therefore, a worthwhile one but needs to be seriously debated not only in parliament but also in various other forums such as bar associations, civil society organisations, and the media before a decision is taken in principle. Details such as the composition, qualifications and procedure for appointing and removal of judges, etc, will also need careful consideration. Since a constitutional amendment will almost certainly be re-

quired to establish a constitutional court in the country and the current National Assembly doesn't have the required numbers to take a decision on a constitutional amendment, the matter will have to wait until the new National Assembly is elected five to six months from now. It is, therefore, difficult to understand the objective of mooted the proposal at this time when several other urgent matters require the attention of both the government and opposition for resolution.

Although there is no harm in initiating a debate on the subject in society, in the context of the present unenviable state of relations between the government and parliament on one hand and the Supreme Court on the other, the proposal may be considered a political ploy to exert pressure on the apex court, which may further vitiate the environment. Our long experience with the legislation and institutions in Pakistan indicates that unless there is a strong will and a proper mechanism for effective and faithful implementation of the law, mere legislation and the creation of new institutions will not serve any purpose. Instead, they end up further complicating the processes and burdening the public exchequer.

If the government is not satisfied with the performance of the judges who have gone through a rigorous process to rise through the ranks, have decades of experience to their credit, and whose elevation, at least in recent times, was made possible with the consent of government representatives in the judicial commission, how can they be sure that a new institution will not invite similar complaints from them? -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan a priority market for business: Naveed Qamar tells British companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Naveed Qamar has urged the UK business community in Manchester to prioritize Pakistan as a market for business expansion.

He was addressing the Manchester-based business community during his official visit to the UK to attend the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' meeting, said a press release issued here by the Commerce Ministry on Sunday.

The minister highlighted the favorable business environment and

abundant opportunities available in Pakistan during his speech at the event, which was attended by the business community, UK Parliamentarians, Mayors, Councillors and media representatives.

The minister acknowledged the 1.6 million-strong Pakistani diaspora in the UK as the cornerstone of the strong UK-Pakistan relationship. The UK has become Pakistan's third-largest export partner, second-largest investment partner and third-largest source of remittances, Naveed Qamar

said. He said despite pandemic restrictions, Pakistan's exports to the UK grew by 33 percent, surpassing the US\$2 billion milestone. Exports are expected to maintain momentum, with a 10 percent growth rate in the current financial year, said the Minister. Minister Qamar thanked the UK Government for its development assistance to Pakistan. Commending the UK government, Qamar highlighted the announcement of a £1.5 billion facility to support bilateral investment and export.

SM Tanveer says: Punjab govt committed to promoting industrial sector thru proactive policies

LAHORE (Online): Provincial Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Energy SM Tanveer has emphasized the seamless continuation of industrial production activities by addressing industry-related issues as a top priority.

The government is extending full cooperation to industrialists and traders, recognizing the collective responsibility of every individual in uplifting the

country from its challenging economic circumstances.

During his address at the Karachi New MJF Lions Club event and separate meetings with delegations from the All Pakistan Fruit & Vegetable Exporters, Importers & Merchants Association (PFVA) and Towel Manufacturers Association of Pakistan, Provincial Minister SM Tanveer expressed these views.

Agro Deptt. seals factory on manufacturing fake pesticides

BUREWALA (APP): The agricultural department's team on Sunday raided a factory, situated at Vehari-Burewala road, which involved in manufacturing fake pesticides, fertilizer and also managed to arrest two accused. The team also directed to seal the factory on the spot. In line with special directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Syed Asif Hussain Shah, a special team of the agriculture department conducted a raid at Pengold factory and checked the quality of pesticides.



JEHLAM: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy, Bilal Azhar Kayani meeting with people during an open katchery (court).

Energy transition partnerships key to phaseout coal, mobilise finances for renewable energy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts on Sunday termed just energy transition partnerships key to phaseout coal and mobilise investments towards renewable energy (RE) in Pakistan.

It was the crux of a symposium on "Just energy transition in Pakistan" organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Network for Clean Energy Transition in Pakistan: Research and Advocacy here, a news release said.

Joint Executive Director, SDPI, Dr. Vaqar Ahmed highlighted that the current challenges slugging rapid off-take of renewable energy in Pakistan arise from inadequacy of infrastructure and grid stability. He stressed innovative decentralized energy models, micro-grids, encouraging the development of local RE industry and building storage capacity to address these challenges.

Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social

Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Michael Waldron emphasized the need to increase energy sector investments by 3-4 folds to meet SDGs.

He highlighted that "Just Energy Transition Partnerships" (JETP) can play key role by providing low-cost finance to Renewable Energy (RE), promoting investment-grade domestic policies to phase out fossil fuels, and supporting just transition for affected workers.

Fiscal budget 2023-24 needed to provide relief to masses: Murtaza

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Sunday said that the federal government would provide sizable relief to the masses in the upcoming fiscal budget 2023-24.

He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering at Nawanshahr Abbottabad.

The minister further said, "We do not accept any agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that are against

the interests of the people, and we will strive to control inflation and provide relief to the masses, fiscal budget 2023-24 would be people-friendly."

While criticizing PTI he said that they had ruined the country. "In the last seventy-three years, the actions of the PTI leaders of Hazara are the real enemy of the region as the establishment of the Hazara Electric Supply Company (HESCO) faced the most."

China's transport investment up 13.4 pct in first 4 months

BEIJING (APP): China's fixed-asset investment in the transport sector reported robust growth from January to April, official data shows.

The total investment in transport came in at 1 trillion yuan (about 140.8 billion U.S. dollars) during the period, rising 13.4 percent from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Transport. Specifically, investment in waterway development surged 29.8 percent year on year to 56 billion yuan.

A joint delegation of PSX, MFA calls on Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (INP): A joint delegation of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) and Mutual Funds Association (MFA) of Pakistan called on the Federal Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The PSX was represented by its MD/CEO Farruk Hussain and Chief Financial Officer Ahmed Ali whereas Mir Adil and Arif Qadri represented Mutual Funds, said a press release issued here Sunday.

The Finance Minister was accompanied by Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Minister of State for Finance, Tariq Bajwa, Special Assistant to the

Prime Minister on Finance, Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Revenue, Ashfaq Tola Chairman Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission (RRMC), Asim Ahmad Chairman Federal Board of Revenue and other senior officers from the Finance Ministry and Revenue Division. Governor State Bank Jameel Ahmad also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, representatives of MFA highlighted the growth of Sharia compliant mutual funds and proposed that short term Sharia compliant sukuk should be launched.



RAWALPINDI: A man is busy in selecting and purchasing gemstone and rings from roadside vending in the city.

Kashif for taking painful decisions to counter extreme temperatures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis

Sunday said that painful decisions must be made as extreme heat threat grows and underdeveloped countries and poor nations would be even more vulnerable as they had lack of resources to mitigate against extreme temperatures.

Speaking at a seminar on "How to counter growing threat of climate change", held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said extreme heat is very much one of the major extreme

weather events that threaten to alter the planet permanently, said a press release.

He said the past eight years were collectively the hottest on record and Southeast Asia is currently setting heat records.

Scientists have reported that drought in the Horn of Africa has been made 100 times more likely by climate change. Extreme heat caused by climate change threatens the way of life of millions of people, he expressed.

He said that 419 million people in 57 countries were vulnerable to 1.5 C of global warming over the next few years.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Energy SM Tanveer address at the Karachi New MJF Lions Club ceremony.

Mohsin Naqvi says: Those occupying property, or assets of overseas Pakistanis will be dealt with iron hand

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has issued directions to the Inspector General of Police to promptly redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi has directed that the Inspector General of Police should personally monitor complaint redressal system of overseas Pakistanis. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi further directed that all Commissioners, RPOs,

Deputy Commissioners and DPOs should leave no stone unturned to redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis in their relevant cities. Mohsin Naqvi directed the administrative and police officers to personally redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis and they should submit a report to the CM Office every month. Mohsin Naqvi directed that relevant overseas Pakistanis should be kept posted regularly on the progress being made with regard to redressal of every complaint adding

that a time frame should be chalked out to resolve the problems of overseas Pakistanis residing abroad. Mohsin Naqvi asserted that every complaint should be disposed off in a minimum span of time adding that a slow paced traditional action on a complaint being sent by a portal, telephone or by mail will not be tolerated. Mohsin Naqvi stated that concerned officers will monitor steps being taken to redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis in the CM Office as well.

Foreign Experts declare PM's successful visit to Turkiya as new heights of bilateral relations

PESHAWAR (INP): International relations and political experts here Sunday termed the visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to the brotherly country Turkiya was highly successful that would lead bilateral relations including trade between the two brotherly countries to a new height. They said the Prime Minister's visit to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the Turkish President was the right decision that would further cement

trade, economic and bilateral relations between the two brotherly nations. Former Ambassador, Manzoorul Haq said that the presence of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during the oath-taking ceremony of Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his historic welcome, passed a strong message before the world that both countries have immense respect and warmth for each other besides highly valued its deep-rooted relations.



LAHORE: Members of Pakistan Nazriyati Party are holding protest demonstration against detention of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui by US authorities, at Lahore press club.

Three youths killed in various incidents

ATTOCK (APP): As many as three youths were killed in different incidents in various parts of Attock district on Sunday, police and hospital sources said.

In the first incident, a rickshaw driver was shot killed by assassinations in broad daylight on Rawalpindi road in the limits of Fatehjang Police Station.

Police sources said that Nasir Khan, a native of Hangu district of KP was shifted in the town due to some old enmity and driving a rickshaw to earn.

On Sunday, when he was coming on his rickshaw on Rawalpindi road, three masked men riding a motorcycle intercepted him and showered bullets over him, as a result, he died on the spot.

The assassins managed to escape from the scene successfully. In the second incident, a 17 years old man died while catching fish through a generator in the river Indus near Jalalia in the limits of Hazro Police station.



FAISALABAD: U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer along with U.S. Consul General Lahore William K. Makaneole visits the Center for Advanced Studies at University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

Apex Committee meeting CM KP to accelerate implementation of decisions

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday took notice of the delay in the implementation of the decisions of the Provincial APEX Committee Meeting held on May 24.

Now, it was decided to prepare a rapid response contingency plan to prevent untoward incidents as per the decisions made in the Apex Committee Meeting, under the Chairmanship of the Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan.

He while addressing

the meeting, said that the Rapid Response Contingency Plan could not be prepared till now which has no proper justification for delaying of the said plan.

Work on preparation of the contingency plan is going on, it will be ready soon, CCPO Syed Ashfaq Anwar informed the Chief Minister during the meeting.

CCPO said that work on the contingency plan under the leadership of the Home Department would be completed very soon. A

decision was also taken in the meeting of the APEX Committee to allocate a Police Force equipped with modern equipment for the security of red zones.

The concept paper for the preparation of the Police Force will be prepared and sent to the authorities soon and the red zone will be determined in Islamabad style, CCPO said. It was also decided to identify the important government buildings and facilities located outside the red zones.

Process of 8,500 new promotions in police starts

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar on Sunday said that in continuation of record promotions, 8,500 new promotions have been started in Punjab police from today.

In his message, he said that 2009 batch Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) were being cleared for promotions while promotions of 2010 batch ASIs was being commenced.

The IGP said that in a few weeks, thousands of

officers and personnel would be given promotions as per rules and regulations on all the remaining seats from constable to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) rank.

New recruitment was being started to make young people full of new blood and enthusiasm a part of the police force, he added. The advertisement for the above recruitments would come in next few days, so young candidates should start preparing for the exam, he informed.

CM seeks report over finding dead bodies of two brothers

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday expressed his deep sense of sorrow over finding dead bodies of two young brothers from a house at Millat Park.

Mohsin Naqvi sought a report about the sorrowful incident from CCPO Lahore and directed to probe the sorrowful incident from every aspect and facts should be brought to light.

Joint efforts needed to restore credibility of justice system: Bilal

JHELUM (INP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Sunday said that Pakistan was grappling with a "grave crisis of justice provision" and the legal fraternity should work together with the political leadership to ensure the delivery of justice to the people and restore the credibility, dignity and efficiency of the justice system.

He was talking to a delegation of Jhelum Bar Association led by its President Sheikh Ikram Advocate here.

Kayani said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made difficult but right decisions which proved to be in favour of the people with the passage of time. He acknowledged the pivotal role of the 1100 billion federal development programme in driving Pakistan's economic recovery and expressed the confidence that by tackling the economic crisis alongside political unrest and corruption, the country would be able to overcome these challenges successfully.



LAHORE: SAPM Rana Mubashir Iqbal listening problems of people in Khuli Kachehri at his Dera situated in Khayaban-i-Ameen.

Ombudsman Punjab provides over 17.2m in financial relief to plaintiffs

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Office of the Ombudsman Punjab has swiftly responded to public relief requests, effectively resolving the issues faced by 60 individuals across various districts. These proactive efforts have resulted in a cumulative financial relief worth Rs.1,72,38,187 being extended to those in need.

According to a statement issued by a spokesman on Sunday, the University of Mianwali, on the direction of the provincial ombudsman, has disbursed Rs.92,82,843 to 52 students, including plaintiff Muhammad

Hanzala Zubair, as outstanding amounts of their need-based scholarships. Additionally, the District Education Authority Chakwal has granted 2.2 million rupees as financial aid to complainant Haji Mehr Muhammad. In another case, the district administration Lodhran has provided employment dues worth Rs.1.9 million to Ayesha Mai, the widow of deceased Patwari Ghulam Murtaza, the spokesman added. In a separate instance, the administration of Ghazi University in Dera Ghazi Khan has refunded a security deposit amounting to Rs.17,70,824 to complainant Abdul Wahid.

International News

Biden signs debt ceiling bill into law, averting default

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Saturday signed into law a debt ceiling bill passed by Congress after weeks of wrangling, moving to avert a catastrophic, self-induced default in the world's biggest economy.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 authorises the government to extend the so-called debt ceiling to renew borrowing, keeping the bills paid.

The Treasury had warned that if the debt ceiling was blocked beyond Monday, the country would default on its \$31 trillion debt.

A default would have likely triggered market

panic, huge job losses and a recession, with global implications.

In a statement on Saturday, the White House thanked the Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress "for their partnership." In a rare Oval Office address, Biden said that the debt ceiling bill saved the country from "economic collapse".

Speaking from behind the historic Resolute Desk on live primetime television, Biden said the deal resolving the standoff between Democrats and Republicans was a compromise where "no one got everything they wanted." However, "we averted an economic crisis," he said.

Oval Office addresses have always been reserved by presidents for moments of unique national danger or importance.

Biden used the occasion to project a reassuring, calm tone. Sprinkling his speech with chuckles and smiles, he praised his opponents for negotiating in good faith and promised Americans that he had never felt more optimistic.

Biden said that Congress has now preserved "the full faith and credit of the United States." But even with the House and Senate putting aside differences to finally rush through the agreement over the last week, the US economy's reputation took a hit.



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks during a ceremony commemorating the death anniversary of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini at his mausoleum just outside Tehran, Iran.

China seeks dialogue, says clash with US would be 'unbearable disaster'

Monitoring Desk
SINGAPORE: Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu told Asia's top security summit on Sunday that conflict with the United States would be an "unbearable disaster" but that his country sought dialogue over confrontation.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Li said the world was big enough for China and the US to grow together — remarks made days after he refused to meet his US counterpart for direct talks.

"China and the US have different systems and are different in many other

ways," he said in a speech that marked his first significant international address since he was named China's Minister of National Defence in March.

"However, this should not keep the two sides from seeking common ground and common interests to grow bilateral ties and deepen cooperation," he said.

"It is undeniable that a severe conflict or confrontation between China and the US will be an unbearable disaster for the world." Wearing the general's uniform of the People's Liberation Army, Li made his

address on the 34th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. Ties between Washington and Beijing are badly strained over a range of issues, including democratically governed Taiwan, territorial disputes in the South China Sea and President Joe Biden's restrictions on semiconductor chip exports. As delegates at the summit debated the risks of accidents and miscalculations amid those tensions, the US Navy said a Chinese destroyer made "unsafe" manoeuvres near a US warship in the Taiwan Straits on Saturday, highlighting the dangers.

US, Saudi Arabia urge Sudan's warring parties to agree to a new cease-fire, fighting continues

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Saudi Arabia and the United States urged Sudan's warring parties Sunday to agree to and "effectively implement" a new cease-fire as fighting showed no signs of abating in the northeastern African nation. Sudan descended into chaos after fighting broke out in mid-April between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan

Dagalo. For weeks, Saudi Arabia and the United States have been mediating between the warring parties. On May 21, both countries successfully brokered a temporary cease-fire agreement to help with the delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid to the war-torn country. Their efforts, however, were dealt a blow when the military announced on Wednesday it would no longer participate in the cease-fire talks.



Police detain a person in downtown on the 34th anniversary of the 1989 Beijing's Tiananmen Square crackdown, near where the candlelight vigil is usually held, in Hong Kong, China.

Russian governor offers to meet group holding soldiers captive

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The governor of Russia's Belgorod region said on Sunday that he was willing to meet a pro-Ukraine group of Russian partisans holding two Russian soldiers captive, as he reported a renewed flare-up of fighting near the border. The Freedom of Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps have claimed responsibility for a spate of cross-border attacks inside Russian territory, including last week when Moscow said two civilians were killed during fighting.

In a video on the Freedom of Russia's Telegram channel, a man identifying himself as the commander of the Russian Volunteer Corps said he would hand over two soldiers they were holding captive in exchange for a meeting with the governor.

Landslide in China's Sichuan province kills 14, leaves 5 missing: state media

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: A landslide in China's southwestern Sichuan province has killed 14 people and left five missing, Chinese state media outlet CCTV reported on Sunday.

The landslide occurred at around 6am on Sunday morning in a mountainous area near the Leshan city in the south of the province. More than 180 rescue workers have been dispatched to the site,

with search and rescue operations still ongoing, CCTV said.

The Leshan city was hit by heavy rain over the two days before the incident, weather tracking data indicated.

Earlier this year, at least four people were killed in a collapse at a coal mine in northern China, while the progress in the search for dozens who were missing was hampered by a massive landslide.

Chinese warship passed in 'unsafe manner' near US destroyer in Taiwan Strait

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A Chinese warship passed in "unsafe manner," US military officials said, as China blamed the United States for "deliberately provoking risk" in the region. U.S. and Canadian navies were conducting a joint exercise in the strait, which separates the island of Taiwan and China when the Chinese ship cut in front of the U.S. guided-missile

Iran's top leader defends hard-line approach toward West

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader on Sunday defended his tough approach to the West, saying compromise would only invite further hostility from Iran's enemies and blaming recent anti-government protests on "thugs and villains."

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks come amid an intensifying standoff with Western countries over Iran's nuclear program, which has made major advances in the five years since then-President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from an international ac-

cord that restricted it. Trump restored crippling sanctions on Iran that have contributed to a severe economic crisis without forcing any concessions from its leaders. Iran has also lent support to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, supplying armed drones that have wreaked havoc on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. "Some people are mistaken to think if we back down from our stances in certain cases that will cause the enmity of the U.S., the global arrogance, or Israel toward us to diminish," said Khamenei, who has the final say on all major Iranian policies. "This is a mistake."



Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu speaks at the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

Indian authorities seek cause of deadly train crash in Odisha

Monitoring Desk
BALASORE: Desperate relatives searched Sunday for loved ones missing after India's worst train disaster in decades, and the death toll was expected to climb above 288 as authorities searched for clues to the cause.

Debris was piled high at the site of Friday night's crash near Balasore, in the eastern state of Odisha, with compartments smashed and the blood-stained wreckage of some carriages flung far from the tracks. "I saw bloodied scenes, mangled bodies and one man with a severed arm being desperately helped by his injured son," researcher Anubhav Das, 27, told AFP after surviving the crash.

There was confusion about the exact sequence of events, but reports cited railway officials as saying that a signalling error had sent the Coromandal Express running south from Kolkata to Chennai onto a side track.

It slammed into a freight train and the wreckage derailed an express running north from India's tech hub Bengaluru to Kolkata that was also passing the site. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the crash site and inquired passengers being treated in hospital and said "no one responsible" would be spared. "I pray that we get out of this sad moment as soon as possible," he told state broadcaster Doordarshan.



Federal Minister for Law & Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar attended the closing ceremony of first ever 3 day teacher training workshop for law faculty members "Designing and Teaching Effective Law Courses for Legal Academics" as a Chief Guest.

Pakistan must begin journey of reducing plastic waste: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD (INP): On the occasion of World Environment Day 2023, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday said that the consequences of plastic pollution are intense and long term, as it irreversibly damages our environment and threatens the very fabric of life on earth, from the highest mountains to the deepest ocean trenches. Under this year's theme 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution', centered around addressing the grave concern of plastic under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution, Minister Rehman urged a call for action as plastic production is set to triple by 2060 if 'business-as-usual' continues, according to a statement issued here.

The Minister shared the 7R's Action Agenda which marks the country's commitment to combat plastic pollution and initiate its journey towards reducing plastic waste. The Agenda includes encouraging conscious choices to minimize plastic consumption ("Reduce"), promoting the redesign of plastic products and manufacturing processes to minimize environmental impact ("Redesign"), emphasizing the extension of product lifespans and reducing reliance on single-use plastics through reusing ("Re-use"), advocating for effective recycling practices to transform plastic waste into new materials and alleviate pressure on landfills and oceans ("Recycle"), and highlighting the shared responsibility of individuals, busi-

nesses, and communities in managing plastic waste and promoting sustainable practices ("Responsibility"). The Minister also acknowledges the significance of scientific research and innovation ("Research") in developing cost-effective and sustainable solutions to combat plastic pollution. Furthermore, the Minister stresses the importance of providing support and resources, particularly to developing nations, in their fight against the global challenge of plastic pollution ("Resource").

Saudi Arabia announces comprehensive Hajj operational plan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Saudi authorities have unveiled their plans for the largest organizational operation in the history of the Hajj season. The meticulously crafted operational plan, which took a year to develop, aligns with the government agency's strategic goals for 2024, aligning with Vision 2030. With the COVID-19 pandemic coming to an end, the authorities are expecting a significant number of pilgrims. Volunteering opportunities will be abundant, and 300,000 copies of the Qur'an will be distributed between the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. The plan also includes more than 35,000 hours of Qur'an recitation and memorization teaching workshops, as well as round-the-clock scientific and orientation broadcasts in 10 languages.

Dr. Al-Sudais emphasized that this year's Hajj season would focus on achieving the government agency's strategic goals for 2024, aligning with Vision 2030. With the COVID-19 pandemic coming to an end, the authorities are expecting a significant number of pilgrims. Volunteering opportunities will be abundant, and 300,000 copies of the Qur'an will be distributed between the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. The plan also includes more than 35,000 hours of Qur'an recitation and memorization teaching workshops, as well as round-the-clock scientific and orientation broadcasts in 10 languages.

Law Minister emphasises need for professional education of lawyers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar on Sunday emphasized the need for life-long education among members of the legal profession through the provision of continued professional education. The minister expressed these views while attending the closing ceremony of the first-ever 3-day teacher training workshop for law faculty members "Designing and Teaching Effective Law Courses for Legal Academics" as a Chief Guest. The workshop was the outcome of a collaboration between the Directorate of Legal Education (DLE), the Pakistan Bar Council, the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law and the LUMS Learning Institute.

workshop comprised active learning sessions focused on course structure, methods of instruction and assessment, along with substantive sessions on both private and public law. Usama Malik, Director, Directorate of Legal Education, PBC and Dr Sadaf Aziz, Dean Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law was present at the occasion. Senior Judges from the Lahore High Court attended the event including Justice Ali Baqir Najafi, Justice Jawad Hassan and Justice Asim Hafeez. Senior members of the Pakistan Bar Council including Ahsan Bhoon and Hassan Raza Pasha also graced the occasion. The law minister appreciated the intent and design of the workshop and the collective experience and expertise of the participants. He spoke about the renewed efforts of the Pakistan Bar Council and the Directorate of Legal Educa-

tion headed by Usama Malik to ensure conformity with Legal Education Rules 2015 and the standards established by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in Pakistan Bar Council v. Federation of Pakistan reported as 2019 SCMR, 389 where it was emphasized that the "Provision of good quality legal education is inextricably linked with the dispensation of justice that the Bar is responsible for ensuring". Recent directives to ensure a non-practising allowance for law instructors and the crackdown on sub-standard law colleges are some of the mechanisms for ensuring such standard setting. Moreover, former President Supreme Court Bar Association Ahsan Bhoon and Chairman Executive Committee of the Pakistan Bar Council Hassan Raza Pasha also praised the initiative taken by Usama Malik and Dr Sadaf Aziz to uplift the standard of law faculty members.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change Senator Seemee Ezdi in a group photograph with participants during a cleanliness drive at the Shadara Margalla Hills National Park to commemorate World Environment Day on June 5th.



ISLAMABAD: Spectators watching final of Junior Polo Exhibition Match played between Islamabad Club Junior and Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club Junior teams at Islamabad Club Polo Ground.

PMDC decides to hold MDCAT exam on Aug 27

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has decided to hold the Medical Dental Admission Examination (MDCAT) on August 27, 2023. The decision was made in the council meeting chaired by President PM&DC Dr Rizwan Taj. The council decided that the syllabus of the MDCAT will remain the same as last year's exam. The council directed all provincial secretaries to start preparing for the said exam. The decision was made keeping in view the larger interest of students. Last year, almost 204,259 students appeared in exams while this year 210,000 students are likely to appear in the exams. Medical universities from all four provinces and the federal capital will again conduct the exams as per the provincial curriculum. The council emphasized that prior to exams all stakeholders will be taken on board like public medical universities' examination departments to ensure the secrecy of exams. The MDCAT paper difficult index will also be taken into consideration for ease of students without compromising merit to ensure that all provinces conduct exams without any trouble to students. It was decided that the NUNS will be the admitting university responsible for admissions in all armed forces-administered medical and dental colleges and institutes. The NUNS admission test will be considered at par with the national MDCAT to be applicable only for admission in all armed forces-administered medical and dental colleges.

AIOU stands tall in global ranking

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) ranked 1st among 66 Pakistani universities in recent Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023 (THE's Rankings) in SGD-4 (quality education). According to the details, SGD-4 measures universities' contribution to early years and lifelong learning, their pedagogy research, and their commitment to inclusive education. Globally, AIOU ranked 25th among 1304 international universities in this category being the only university from Pakistan to make it into the top 25 global universities. Keeping in view last year's rankings, AIOU jumped to 1 from 20th in Pakistan and 25th from 400-600 in this year's rankings.

Facilities to deliver Zamzam to Hajj pilgrims unveiled

ISLAMABAD (APP): Facilities have been unveiled to make Zamzam water accessible to Muslim pilgrims in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) where thousands of people are arriving ahead of the Hajj pilgrimage due later this month. The KSA Al Zamzama Company has mobilised its human resources and set up nine field centres operating around the clock to deliver Zamzam right to residences of pilgrims in the holy city of Makkah. "The field service centres are working around the clock in Makkah and the holy places manned by over 950 employees overseen by a group of supervisors and centre managers," said Rayan Zamzami, the deputy supervisor of the season works.

Pak envoy deeply saddened by tragic loss of lives in China's Sichuan province

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque on Sunday extended his deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the loss of lives in a landslide in Sichuan province of China. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families, he said in a statement. At least 14 people were killed and five others missing as a result of a landslide in China's southwest Sichuan province on Sunday morning. The landslide occurred at around 6am on Sunday morning in a mountainous area near Leshan city in the south of the province. More than 180 rescue workers have been dispatched to the site, with search and rescue operations still ongoing. The Leshan city was hit by heavy rain over the two days before the incident, weather tracking data indicated.



ISLAMABAD: A view of fire extinguisher install bed shop keeper outside his shop at H-9 Sunday Bazar as after fire in weekly Sunday Bazar shop-keepers are taking care by their own.

31000 Sikhs vote in Sydney Amid Hindutva threats, venue cancellations to stop Khalistan Referendum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Over 31,000 Sikhs voted for Khalistan Referendum in Sydney amid stiff resistance from the Indian government and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal campaign to stop Sikhs from holding the third phase of the referendum in Australia. The Sydney phase of Khalistan Referendum was organised to mark the anniversary of the 1984 Operation Blue Star Amritsar Genocide when Indian authorities killed thousands of Sikhs during a bloodied attack on Sri Harmandir Sahib (popularly known as the Golden Temple). Thousands of Sikh men and women queued outside Shaheed General Shabeg Singh Khalistan Referendum Voting Centre on Sterling Road, Michinbury, from 9am and cast their votes till 5pm under the supervision of independent Punjab Referendum Commission which is overseeing the worldwide referendum voting, commissioned by Pro-Khalistan separatist group, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ). Two weeks before

Khalistan Referendum voting in Sydney, PM Modi was in Australia where he met the Australian govt authorities and urged them to stop Sikhs from going ahead with voting but the Australian govt told Modi that whole Canberra respected India's position it was not in position to stop its own citizens from expressing their legal and democratic right. Pro-Khalistan Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) booked Khalistan Referendum voting at four different venues but all venues ended up cancelling the booking citing security and organisational issues as Hindutva groups, backed by the Indian govt, raised false alarms of potential violence between Sikh and Hindutva groups with the centres. Large sized banners and posters hung outside the venue with the following slogans: "Khalistan Referendum Australia, Shimla Capital secession of Punjab from India"; "1984 Sikh Genocide, 100+ Sikhs burnt alive in furnaces by India's Hindu mobs"; "Khalistan Rerendum".

Speaker NA to inaugurate 2-day seminar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) and the Federal Ministry of Law and Justice have collaborated to organize a momentous two-day event, titled "Reclaiming the Space: Reading the Constitution from Women's Perspective" scheduled to be commenced on Monday (5 June). The seminar is to mark the first-ever initiative in Pakistan's 75-year history to examine, analyze and deliberate upon the constitution from a woman's perspective. Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf would inaugurate this seminar as the chief guest. The Speaker will also deliver a keynote speech to inaugurate this seminar for empowering women through the Constitution. The inaugural session of the seminar would comprise a series of accentuated roundtables under the themes of Language of the Constitution, Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Women's Representation and Political/Electoral Participation. The roundtable Sessions will be chaired by Members of Parliament, including Ms. Mehnaz Akber Aziz, Dr. Nafisa Shah, Eng Rukhsana Zubart and Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik, respectively.

Call for youth to play role for religious tourism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Calling the youth for playing a role for the promotion and protection of religious tourism in Pakistan, Gandhara Chair at the University of Wah Dr Nadeem Omer Iqbal said that Pakistan had huge potential for religious tourism and attracted religious minorities both from home and abroad. "Pakistan is a predominantly Muslim country but we have footprints of major religions of the world and historical worship places of Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism making a vast historical canvas of this land." "Pakistan being a Muslim country is also the custodian of all of these religions," said Dr Tarar in an interview with APP. "When we talk about all the religious minorities in Pakistan, the less informed we have is about Buddhists." We had Hindus and Christians on the minister level but this constitutional minority of Buddhists could not get the proper representation compared to the other minorities, he added.

"It is very important for these minorities to visit and perform religious rituals in their sacred places. The teachings of Buddha make it mandatory for the followers to visit their places as they serve as a spiritual center for them," Dr Tarar said, who is also working for Gandhara Resource Center at Taxila. "Potential in religious tourism is like 'if there is a smoke there is a fire', so we have the smoke and it must be ignited into the fire. We have the sacred places and our Archaeology and Aukaf departments have well preserved them at some level." "All we need is to realize this potential to grow our economy." "There is a dire need to educate the masses to play a role in this sector of the economy which needs to be explored and maintained." "The awareness cannot be created merely through lectures, but the media should play its role in making films, writing stories, and short film festivals having stories and information about Buddhists who visit Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A view of dilapidated fountain on a green belt at Aabpara Chowk, as needs attention for concern authority, in Federal Capital.

Police gets approval of college for quality education to cops' children

ISLAMABAD (APP): The high-level monitoring team, responsible for overseeing the arrangements for Hajj conducted by hajj group organizers, has made a firm commitment to ensure the provision of facilities to private scheme hajj in accordance with the service provider agreement signed between the Hajj group organizers and the ministry. During an interview with APP, Arshad Farid, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, who is in charge of the monitoring cell, stated that the ministry's monitoring team has effectively conducted assessments of 12 hajj group organizers. In the upcoming 20 days, a total of 75,000 intending pilgrims from the private hajj scheme will arrive in Saudi Arabia. It is noteworthy that, up until now, no complaints have been received from any private pilgrims.

Independent Report police said. Minister for Interior Rana Sanaulah Khan and Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain have taken special interest for this initiative and termed it as a step to pay immense tribute to the sacrifices rendered by Martyrs. The admissions against the available slots shall have a priority for children of Shuhada followed by the children of Islamabad police personnel and others. The status of the college will be elevated to residential cadet college jointly managed by FDE and Islamabad police after a specified period of time having demonstrated quality repute and subject to the viability assessed by both FDE and Islamabad police.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters swimming to get some relief from hot weather at Rawal Lake spill way stream.

Experts advise public to monitor blood pressure regularly

ISLAMABAD (INP): Health experts on Sunday advised the public to monitor their blood pressure (hypertension) regularly which silently can be deadly and lead to a host of serious problems, including heart attack, heart failure and stroke. Talking to PTV news channel, Renowned Cardiologist Dr. Azhar Mahmood Kayani explained that stress plays a major role in developing the condition, either by temporarily increasing your blood pressure or by leading you toward unhealthy coping strategies, such as smoking. If a person's blood pressure is higher than 180/120 mm Hg and experiencing signs of possible

organ damage such as chest pain, shortness of breath, back pain, numbness/weakness, change in vision or difficulty speaking, do not wait to see the doctor, he added. Hypertension is a chronic disease characterized by high blood pressure, he said, adding it is one of the main risk factors for cardiovascular disease. He also underlined the need of creating awareness among the people about the use of healthy diet care, and prevention in order to control the spread of the disease. Screening is also a quick and painless process and you get the results immediately, he added.

IRSA releases 158,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 158,700 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 188,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1426.06 feet and was 28.06 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 59,200 cusecs and 60,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1131.70 feet, 81.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 60,600 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Workers working on 9th Avenue Flyover at IJP Road during development work in the city.