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PM Shahbaz hopeful to reach agreement with IMF in June

Says despite economic difficulties, increased salaries by 35%

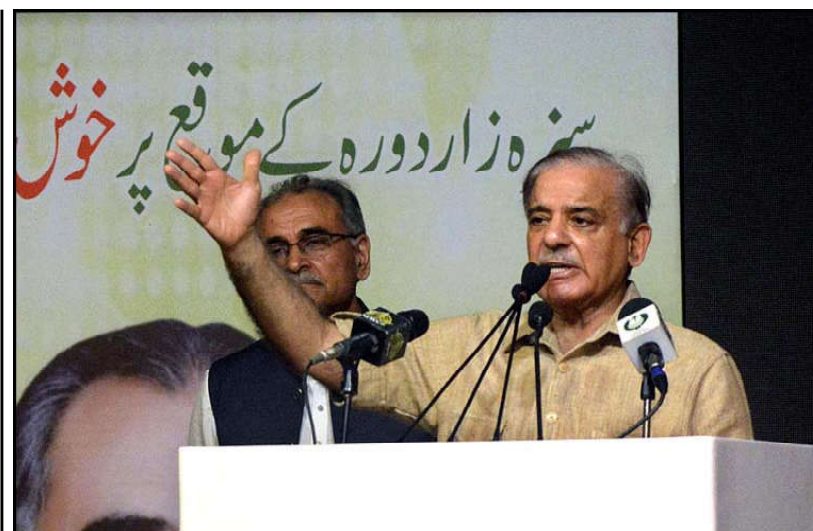
LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday expressed hope that Pakistan will reach agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) in June to get the remaining loan as his government had met all the conditions with sincerity. Speaking at a ceremony at Sabzazar Sports Complex here, he said he had a long conversation with chief of IMF recently and he assured that the government would meet conditions for the loan and provide the required information about budget. He said Pakistani nation was vibrant and was capable of meeting all the coming economic challenges in case of any further delay in the IMF programme. He said despite all the economic difficulties, the federal government raised the salaries of employees

by 30 to 35 percent, increased pension by 17 percent and increased minimum wage from Rs 25000 to Rs 32000. The government was aware of the economic difficulties of the poor people, he added. He said major funds were allocated for the sectors of agriculture and information technology in the federal budget presented by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, adding the budget would provide relief to the common man and create jobs. The prime minister said he assumed government in April 2022 amid very tough economic conditions. Last year, the government of Imran Niazi broke the agreement with International Monetary Fund and the coalition government had to face the challenge of rising commodity and oil prices in the international market. and then it spent huge funds for

the relief and rehabilitation of people affected by the devastating floods, he mentioned. The government had to seek help from friendly countries to overcome economic challenges, he continued. He said the government of Imran Niazi showed negligence and did not buy gas when its prices were very low in the international market during the COVID pandemic. Imran Niazi did nothing for the people but wasted all his time in waging vendetta against opposition leaders, he added. He said Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Hamza Shehbaz and other leaders of Pakistan Muslim League(N) were put in the jails and opposition was pushed against the wall. Shehbaz said economic stability was not possible without political stability

and vowed to put Pakistan on the path of greater progress and prosperity under the dynamic leadership of Nawaz Sharif. He said the incidents of May 9 were acts of hostility against the nation, adding the military installations were attacked and Jinnah House was burned down on the instigation of Imran Niazi. He asserted that law will take its course and all those responsible for the incident of May 9 would be punished so that these crimes could not be repeated again. However, he assured that innocent would be treated fairly and with justice. The PM said in 2017, as servant of Punjab province he started work on a plan for establishing 14 state of the art sports complexes but the fascist government of Imran Niazi stopped the

project after the stolen elections of 2018. The proposed sports complexes included facilities of swimming pools, gymnasiums, badminton and squash courts. He recalled that the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League(N) was put in jail for initiating huge public welfare projects including projects of clean drinking water and solid waste management in cities. In the four years of the previous government, work on the development projects including projects worth billions of rupees of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were stopped, he said adding the government led by Nawaz Sharif in its tenure eliminated power outages, constructed a network of roads across Pakistan and carried out monumental development projects.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Shareef is addressing during his visit at Sabzazar Sports Complex.

First Russian oil ship arrives at Karachi port

PM terms development 'beginning of a new relationship between Pakistan and Russian Federation'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the first cargo of discounted crude from Russia has arrived in the country, adding that the discharge of oil will commence today (June 12). "I have fulfilled another of my promises to the nation. Glad to announce that the first Russian discounted crude oil cargo has arrived in Karachi and will begin oil discharge tomorrow," the premier tweeted. "Today is a transformative day. We are moving one step at a time toward prosperity, economic growth, energy security, and affordability," PM Shehbaz said. He stated that the arrival of the first-ever Russian oil cargo in Pakistan

was the beginning of a "new relationship between Pakistan and the Russian Federation." "I commend all those who remained part of this national endeavor and contributed to translating the promise of Russian oil import into reality," the prime minister added. Last year, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar had announced that the country was considering buying discounted Russian oil, pointing out that neighbour India had been purchasing oil from Moscow and Islamabad also had a right to explore the possibility. Subsequently, State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik had flown to Moscow for talks on issues including oil and gas

supplies after which the government announced that it would purchase discounted crude oil, petrol, and diesel from Russia. In January 2023, a Russian delegation arrived in Islamabad for talks to finalise the deal. During the three-day meeting, the countries decided to address all technical issues — insurance, transportation and payment mechanism — to sign an agreement by late March this year. "After consensus on the technical specifications achieved, the oil and gas trade transaction will be structured in a way it has a mutual economic benefit for both countries," a joint statement issued by the two sides had then stated.



A Cargo ship carrying crude oil from Russia arrived at Karachi Port

Rana Sanaullah says PTI chief to face legal action in two to three weeks

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, who cited the May 9 events, said legal action could be initiated against the PTI chairman in two to three weeks. The violence on May 9 was preplanned and the planning had been made at Zaman Park [the PTI chief's residence in Lahore], the senior PML-N leader told a private TV channel during an interview. Rana Sanaullah said the PTI chief was the architect of hate in politics and the prevailing instability, as he criticised the former ruling party and its policies while explaining the actions being taken against the culprits who tried to trigger anarchy in Pakistan on May 9. Several persons arrested in connection with the attacks on the Lahore corps commander's house and the GHQ in Rawalpindi as well as other acts of arson have already revealed that the entire planning was finalised at the PTI chief's residence.

The statement comes just days after the military's top brass at the 81st Formation Commanders Conference vowed to tighten noose around masterminds and planners of May 9 incidents. "While the legal trials of perpetrators and instigators have commenced, it is time that noose of law is also tightened around the planners and masterminds who mounted the hate ripened and politically driven rebellion against the state and state institutions to achieve their nefarious design of creating chaos in the country," the ISPR said in a statement. The military said the unfounded and baseless allegations against the law enforcement agencies and security forces about custodial torture, human rights abuses and stifling of political activities were meant to mislead the people and malign the armed forces in order to achieve trivial vested political interests.

Three soldiers martyred, 3 terrorists killed in NW clash

PESHAWAR (APP): Three soldiers were martyred and three terrorists were killed during exchange of firing at general area Miranshah in North Waziristan district on the night between Friday and Saturday, ISPR told here Sunday. According to the details, the troops effectively engaged the terrorists at their location and during the exchange of firing, three terrorists were sent to hell, while four terrorists were injured. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists.

Electricity short fall reaches to 5588MW

ISLAMABAD (Online): Electricity short fall reached to 5588Mega Watt (MW) as total production is 18412MW and demand is 24000MW. 8hours load shedding is continue in various parts of country. According to sources of power division 4500MW is producing through hydra electric plants. Government thermal power plant is producing 1650MW and private power stations production is 11900MW. Solar panel is producing 80MW electricity and Wind power plant is producing 250MW.



FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan addressing to public gathering after inaugurating railway gate on Chack No. 79 JB Abbas Pur Road.

Imran has mind of Hitler, but body of chameleon changing colour: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb while criticising Imran Khan on Sunday said that the mind of the "political sphinx" was that of Hitler while his body was that of a chameleon, which not only changed its colour, but also expression within no time. In a tweet, mocking Imran she said that on May 9, military installations and memorials of martyrs were also attacked because "they"

did not agree with Imran Khan's mindset. Taking a jibe at Imran Khan, she said there was no room for the constitution in his mind, nor for the law, humanity or morality. She said he had only arrogance, ego, stubbornness and hypocrisy, who offered life extension in the closed rooms but shouted slogans of Mir Jafar outside. She said he accused the United States in the public rallies, but later apologized and hired lobbying firms there.

Era of temptation, mischief now over: Maryam Nawaz

MULTAN (APP): Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer Pakistan Muslim League (N) Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Sunday said that the era of temptation and mischief was over with burial and now a new era of development and prosperity kick-started. Addressing the youth Convention of PML (N) in Tehsil Shujaabad here, she said that her heart was broken with great shock on the desecration of martyrs. She said that the nation would follow the elements involved in the desecration of martyrs and burning of army installations till the end. She said that the mastermind of May 9 tragedy was hiding in Zaman Park and whenever the mastermind was questioned, he put the responsibility on the workers.

She said that the leaders never let their workers down adding that the leader is the one who holds his daughter's hand and goes to jail as Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif did. Mastermind of May 9 claimed that this country was unsafe for his children, she said. "Imran made the country unsafe by setting it on fire," she said. "Do the people who desecrate martyrs deserve mercy or forgiveness", she questioned? She said that the country's safeguards will break the hands of the people who are involved in country's burners. The one who created drama to make people's children arrested for nefarious political interest. has his own children safe in London, she added.

PML-N decides to start election campaign across country

LAHORE (Online): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) has decided to kick off his election campaign across the country. Nawaz Shareef issued instructions to form manifesto committee to design election manifesto. According to sources Prime Minister Shabaz Shareef met vice president Maryam Nawaz on Sunday. Maryam Nawaz gave Nawaz Shareef's message

to Prime minister: source. Former chief minister Hamza Shehbaz and Suleman Shehbaz were also present in this meeting. Sources told, in message Nawaz Shareef said party narrative must be designed in keeping in view the youth. Easy loan and plan to create jobs also made part of narrative. Nawaz Shareef said policies of political party who damaged country must be brought to the people.

'Not seeing elections in October', says Raja Riaz

LAHORE (INP): Opposition Leader in National Assembly Raja Riaz on Sunday hinted at the delay in the general elections. "Not seeing general elections in October," Raja Riaz told a private TV news channel. First, we have to make Pakistan economically strong and then go for elections, the opposition leader said and added that constitutionally the tenure of government can be extended up to 6 months. I will support the ex-

tension of the assembly and the government if the matter is moved to NA, he announced. Commenting on the release of PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Riaz said "You can say he is not leaving PTI." The one who goes home from jail shows the commitment he made, he added. The NA opposition leader said Jahangir Tareen is his friend but he is not going to join his Istikhame-Pakistan party. "I have decided where will I go."

Sherry says Pakistan not responsible for climate change still becomes 'Ground Zero'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Climate Change, Sherry Rehman has said that Pakistan is not responsible for the climate change but it has still become the 'Ground Zero' of the climate change. Taking to her twitter handle on Sunday, she tweeted: "Deeply grieved over the loss of 29 precious lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab rain related incidents. Equally shares the grief of the victim family. Pray for earlier recovery of the injured." Sherry Rehman lauded the Pakistan Army, PDMA and other related local organizations for their instant action, launched rescue and relief activities after the disaster. After Sindh, pre-monsoon showers, gusts and disaster caused by them in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was matter of grave concern, she added. The minister climate change said that windstorm, heavy rain and hailstorm adversely affected human being, cattle, standing crops, dilapidated buildings and wood-stone made houses. The PPP leader said that all provincial government and concerned organizations have been directed to remain vigilant for tackling the climate change related incidents.



MULTAN: Chief Organizer PML-N Maryam Nawaz addressing the Youth Convention at Shujaabad.

Pak-Turkiye bilateral cooperation in diverse fields to open vistas of economic prosperity: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the enhanced bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye through joint investment and ventures would prove 'a win win' situation for the both countries. In an interview with Haber Global, a Turkish Tv channel, the prime minister highlighted that a target of bilateral trade to the tune of \$5 billion, in the next three years, between the two countries was very much achievable. The prime minister said that the areas of solar and hydro power energy in Pakistan possessed huge potential and the Turkish investors could avail of this opportunity. "I want to assure as Prime Minister of Pakistan to do everything to facilitate Turkish investors.

There is great scope between the two countries to make this wonderful journey more successful," he added. The prime minister opined that respective sectors of Turkiye had potential in these areas of Pakistan and it could play its role. Our labour was more skilled and if they have Turkish investment, it would be a well combination, thus opening vistas of opportunities for joint ventures, he added. The prime minister, to another query, replied that the railroad network between Pakistan, Iran and Turkiye could play a very important role which required improvisation. It would definitely result in reduction of the cost of transportation and making their production of goods very compatible in the global markets, he said, adding that his aim was make this network more efficient.

'Cyclone Biparjoy' catches intensity; citizens advised to avoid visiting shorelines

KARACHI (INP): After catching more intensity, powerful cyclone "Biparjoy" is heading to the coastline of Pakistan, the authorities said cautioning people to stay away from shorelines. Officials in Sindh and Balochistan have issued red alert and banned fishing and swimming along the coastal areas after the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) "BIPARJOY" over east-central Arabian Sea is maintaining its intensity and is hardly 760 kilometers away from Karachi and

750km from Thatta. The administration of the southern port city of Karachi imposed a complete ban on going into open sea for sailing, fishing, swimming or bathing under Section 144. The ban was imposed after the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) issued an alert, advising fishermen not to venture in open sea from Monday, 12 June 2023 onwards till the system is over as the "Arabian Sea conditions may get very rough/high accompanied with high tides along

coast". The tides could rise up to 10 feet as soon as the cyclone that has gained strike the coastal belt. Fishermen are reportedly ignoring the warnings, while some families have also been spotted at beaches. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) alert issued around 9.45pm on Saturday, the system was located 840km south of Karachi, 830km south of Thatta and 930km southeast of Ormara.



KARACHI: People are seen at Seaview beach despite alerts to remain away ahead of the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Biparjoy.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Economic woes of Balochistan: role of federal govt.

In the wake of strong stance adopted by the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo against what it has been termed the "non-cooperative" and "callous" mindset of the federal government, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif took righteous decision and action to resolve the otherwise burning financial issues of the province. A 13-member high-powered parliamentary committee has been formed on special directives of the Prime Minister to look into the financial and other related matters Balochistan province and obviously the incumbent government led by the Chief Minister Bizenjo has been facing for quite some time. The committee led by Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani consists of the Federal Finance Minister, Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal, Law and Parliamentary Minister, Azam Tarar, as well as the Ministers of Petroleum, Science and Technology, Agha Hasan Baloch (also from Balochistan) and few others besides the central leader of the JUI, Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Senator Manzoor Ahmed Khan Kakar and MNA Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magasi.

As per the official reports, the committee would take up the financial issues of the province besides the arrears against the federal government and Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and gas mining lease agreement, and so other related matters. The committee would also prepare recommendations to resolve the issues being faced by the province almost within two weeks.

The Premier has also directed the Ministry of Petroleum for release of the dues of Balochistan payable against the PPL. Till ours going to the press, a summary has already been prepared by the concerned Ministry for the clearance of PPL dues to the province, which have exceeded from Rs. 45 billion, as per the official reports in the province. And now when all these very positive developments have taken places, it is high time for the federal government to act favourably and instantly as committed by the Prime Minister and come to the rescue of Bizenjo-led government resolving the financial problems of the province with the award of its due constitutional share in the NFC Award; release of funds for the federal funded development projects included in its PSFP; payment of the arrears against PPL, inclusion of more public welfare and interest projects from Balochistan in the new federal PSDP, renewal of the lease agreements of mining with the concerned companies as per the policy (after 18th amendment) and release of special grant of Rs. 10 billion as announced by the PM for flood affected people and areas, on top of the list. Needless to mention here is that all these issues and demands of the province are based on reality and justified. One can hope that PM would keep strict vigil on compliance of his directives so as to remove the grievances of the Balochistan government and obviously of people of the province. Undoubtedly, it would also help the government to prepare a real public-friendly and development-oriented provincial budget for the next financial year. In addition to his, the federal government should also include additional development schemes of the province in new federal PSDP besides ensuring execution of the previous and current projects of the road sector, most importantly the dual carriage Chaman-Quetta-Karachi highway.

Winners and losers



Muna Khan

Do not read this piece if you plan to watch the TV series Succession which aired its final episode last month and has been the subject of much talk among arts critics and social media users. A lot of that talk on Twitter centres on what will TV be like without Succession because everything about it was so good — the writing and performances were truly outstanding.

The premise of the show seems simple: three children compete to inherit their father, Logan Roy's media company Waystar Co; meanwhile the father toys with each child, letting them think they will inherit the earth even though he thinks they're all incompetent. Pretty much everyone on the show is varying degrees of self-absorbed, entitled and/or ruthless.

Given my interest in the media, I felt the show proved a prescient warning to media companies trying to become the next big thing. Companies like Vice and BuzzFeed which launched big but weren't able to bring in the revenue and ultimately shut shop — as happened to a fictional company in Succession early on in the series. Even in fiction, digital outlets have it tough and come off as ill-thought-out be it business models, or content like the Roy children's idea for The Hundred which one Roy son described as "Substack meets Masterclass meets the Economist meets the New Yorker". Even the rich struggle to come up with original ideas but it doesn't stop them from trying to be the next big

thing. As I write this, two women in New York, who launched a physical newspaper for Gen Z in 2020 and shut it down in November last year, have launched a website called Byline. It's a strange hamster wheel on the media circuit.

World-over, the old guard struggles to keep up with the dizzying speed of advancements taking place in the communication industry. Coming out on top is all that matters. Succession gives us a small peek into what kind of lines media owners are willing to cross to stay relevant or to build and maintain relationships with business interests, politicians, to ensure they're setting agendas across the news industry. It also tells us how rich these media owners are. Audiences may know the partisanship of channels in Pakistan but there's little documented about their other business interests or the nature of their relationships with political parties or non-state actors. What, for example, are some non-legacy media companies thinking as elections approach. Who will deliver fair and balanced reporting at a time of severe restrictions? What is the cost of all this to democratic process?

I bring up elections because of that episode in Succession in which the Roy sons make a call during presidential elections which has dangerous consequences. That the brothers know that their call favouring a demagogue candidate will have devastating impact on civil liberties is a reminder of what people are willing to do for power. That it happens in the echelons of media business not interested in basic principles of journalism is depressing. And frightening.

I can only hope news companies in the US, at least, have learned from the Fox vs Dominion case — wherein Fox

aired claims about a 'stolen' election — and how Murdoch paid \$787m to settle. There are consequences to airing lies. Let that be a reminder to friends posing as journalists in Pakistan choosing profit over the public's right to information.

Succession is also about what the Roy children are willing to do to be chosen by their father to steer the company. They are not the usual dysfunctional siblings one comes across on TV; they are competitors vying for their father's affection. While there's no violence, the show is brutal. The father's treatment of his children, and subordinates, is simply ruthless. Succession as a concept seems to have little to do with competence or business foresight but how subservient a person is willing to be.

Many critics have called Succession a satire on the media. I think it's shown how broken the media is, how no one really wins. Ultimately the announcement of the successor is not a triumphant moment because the win is not earned, maybe not even deserved — if we value deserving from an ethical viewpoint. Did the victor prove competence or was their hard work about playing to the gallery? Did the children play fair in their dealings with each other? According to Jon Allsop in the Columbia Journalism Review, "fundamentally the characters are trying to use money and power to fill voids within themselves — consequences for the masses be damned".

Succession shows us how the powerful do not fear the impact of their decisions in the newsroom, and care only for their interests, their profit. This should worry us all, in the real world. -- Courtesy Dawn

Menace of tuitions



Neda Mulji

Fourteen-year-old Faiz leaves school at a quarter to two. There is just enough time for him to have lunch at home and be out again. His real day has just begun. Many children like him attend school, followed by a round of tuitions that sometimes takes them up to their bedtime. Students have accepted it. Parents are caught in the vicious cycle of fear that their child will not manage the desired grades unless they invest in tutoring. Teachers know that the responsibility for the students' results rests on someone else's shoulders. The teacher-student-parent team that should work together to support students has come apart at the seams, given the growing power of tutors who now function as a parallel school market.

The demand for the more popular tutors rises with the success of their students, be it in high-stakes exams or entry into a competitive private school. One wonders what it is about teaching at schools that makes external tutoring necessary. Are we not giving students enough individual attention in class? Are the teachers no longer skilled enough to support children of varying ability? Are teachers no longer held responsible for delivering results?

Regardless of the reasons, there is much that schools can do to combat the menace of the 'tuition culture'. Schools can successfully create time to give extra help to students who need it. Often, this may mean overtime pay for teachers who stay

back after school and run a booster programme or use library hours to teach students. Most students can bounce back with a little help and don't need ongoing tutoring. Those that do, may have slipped through the cracks and developed learning gaps in concepts along the way. Learning gaps usually occur when a struggling student doesn't get timely help and attention. One reason for this may be the lack of teaching assistants; often a single teacher is expected to manage a large number of students. Classrooms are not designed to facilitate pair or group work, which is essential for collaborative learning. Digital learning is not incorporated in our teaching methods, which continue to rely on the expertise of a single teacher.

Historically, in our classrooms, students get very little opportunity to do any hands-on activities that allow learning through discovery. Most of their learning comprises listening to the teacher, note-taking, and answers copied from the board. In doing so, we skip the essential steps of involving students in a proactive learning experience, which is a gap that private tutors manage to fill. Not only do students get to sit in small groups and have their tutors' individual attention, but they also talk, question, practise and correct their work together with their peers, test their understanding and then complete the written work. They also tap into internet links with quick quizzes and interactive learning opportunities.

The entire experience reinforces their learning and improves their confidence in their ability to tackle the subject demands. The same students who are left frustrated in class spring into action with tutors. There is lots going on at tuitions that is working well enough to pay its

dividends. School managers may benefit from replicating some of those factors from the tuition model. Most students find themselves comfortable asking their tutors repetitive questions — no question is too silly to be answered. If schools could manage to provide a comfortable, non-judgemental environment where every student is consistently supported with follow-up, perhaps we would see different results.

In most classes, teachers follow a strict schedule that is quite like a moving tide that waits for no one. Those that learn to ride the tide are the lucky few. If we were to focus more on quality of content taught rather than the quantity, and if the students were involved in learning as an experience and not a chore, perhaps external tutoring would not be required at all.

In most jobs there are targets and key performance indicators; at universities students get to evaluate their teachers. Career progression, pay raises and bonuses are tied to these evaluations and research publications. Unfortunately, for most schoolteachers little training and few research targets exist. Not much is done to follow up on the quality of teaching and associated skills. Many schools are hesitant to invest in teacher training due to the high turnover. Not surprisingly, schools that have done well are those that manage to train, retain and reward teachers for their hard work.

Revisiting frameworks of reward and recognition, improving appraisal methods and raising performance expectations may be part of the solution. If teachers rise to the challenge, it may well reduce the unnecessary workload on students. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pak-American businessman to head US Small Business Admin.

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: President Joe Biden's administration has installed Dilwar Syed, a notable Pakistani-American businessman, in the office of deputy administrator for the US Small Business Administration (SBA), despite strong opposition from Republicans.

Syed was named for this position by President Biden in January and was confirmed by a 54-42 Senate vote on Thursday. Five Republicans also voted to confirm him.

Currently, he is the highest-ranking Muslim official in the US government.

The development was announced by the chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Ben

Cardin, according to the Senate's website.

Commenting on Syed's prowess for the position, Cardin issued the following statement: "Small businesses across the country will benefit from Mr Syed's confirmation. The vacancy caused harm to small business owners throughout our nation who depend on SBA to be fully staffed in order to access capital, contracting opportunities, and entrepreneurial development training."

He added that throughout the confirmation process, Syed displayed remarkable patience and perseverance despite unwarranted delays, baseless accusations, and unrelated controversies.

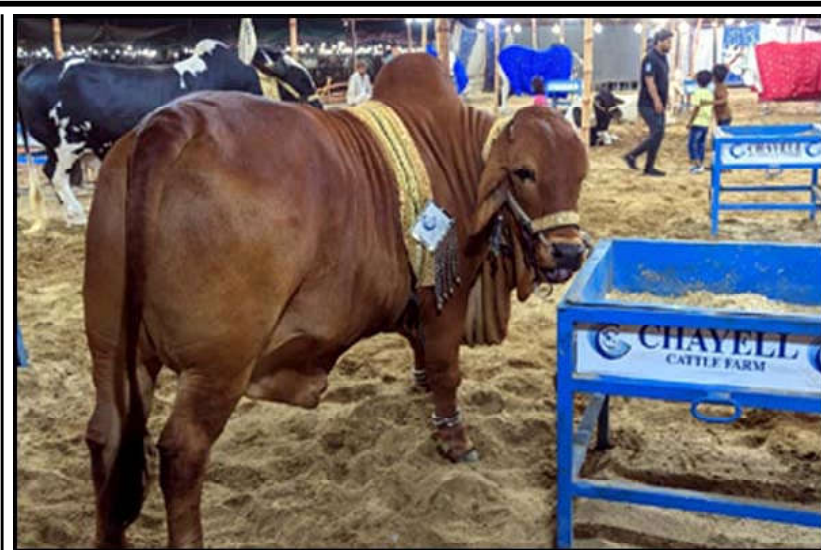
"I am confident that

America's small businesses and the communities they support will benefit from him in this role. We look forward to working with Deputy Administrator Syed to build on the small business boom seen under the Biden-Harris Administration," he added.

American Senator Chuck Schumer, taking to Twitter, also lauded Syed's appointment for the position.

"There's no better person to serve the interests of small business than someone who was a successful business owner himself," he tweeted, highlighting that Syed is the "highest-ranking Muslim-American official in the executive branch."

Syed, himself also thanked Biden for showing confidence in him.



KARACHI: Sacrificial animals wait for their buyers at a makeshift sacrificial animals market established for the upcoming festival Eid-ul-Azha, at Northern Bypass road in Karachi.

Chances of huge economic development in Punjab: Dy chief US embassy

FAISALABAD (Online): Deputy Chief of US embassy Andrew Schofer said huge chances of economic development are present in Punjab province.

He said program started with economic and technical support of US will ease Pakistani youth relation with international community. Expertise in English language will not only improves their entrepreneurial skills but also helpful to get international level job.

Deputy chief of US

mission in Pakistan expressed these views during his address to over 400 students' career expo who completed their English course in University of Education Faisalabad campus.

He along with US counselor general William K. Makeneole, Faisalabad chamber of commerce and industry president Dr. Khurram and vice chancellor of University of education Faisalabad cut the inauguration ribbon of the expo.

People from various segments of society welcomes budget
SARGODHA (APP): People from all segments of society including economists, professor, students, journalists and citizen have welcomed the federal government budget for fiscal year 2023-24, and termed it balanced and pro-people.

They expressed their hope that it would make a positive impact on living standards of masses. Assistant Professor at University of Sargodha Shahid Malik appreciated the government for allocating huge amount in developmental projects and energy sector.

Ishaq Dar says govt announces massive relief for salaried class

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Ishaq Dar Sunday said 35 per cent increase in the ad-hoc relief allowance for federal government employees in grades 1-16 was a massive relief given for the salaried class during budget 2023-24.

Similarly, employees in grades 17-22 will receive a 30 per cent raise in their ad-hoc relief allowance, said Dar while talking to a private news channel, adding the government has made extensive efforts to provide maximum relief to the masses. To a question he criticized the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for formulating weak policies. He stated that these policies had caused significant difficulties for

the masses in their daily lives, leading to financial constraints for the country.

Minister Dar emphasized that the coalition government of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) was taking all necessary measures to renegotiate with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on more favorable terms and conditions. He expressed hope that the IMF would be satisfied with Pakistan's progress, as the country has fulfilled the necessary requirements. Furthermore, He expressed optimism that Pakistan would achieve the growth rate set by the government, indicating a positive outlook for the nation's economic development in the coming year.



RAWALPINDI: Workers busy producing khas from wood pieces with the help of machine to be used in making of room cooler at his workplace.

PBF lauds agriculture, IT initiatives in federal Budget 2023-24

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has appreciated the initiatives announced in the federal budget for promotion of agriculture and IT sectors. Sharing the Forum's viewpoint on federal budget with media here Sunday, PBF Secretary Information and Spokesperson Zainab Jatoi said the economy was already under pressure due to last year's floods and the war between Ukraine and Russia. However, the

government had taken a lot of measures in the budget which would help the IT, SME, and agriculture sectors grow. In this financial plan, she mentioned that farming sector had been allotted Rs 5 billion for arrangement of sponsored advances to the agri business, while Rs 6 billion earmarked for the concession on imported urea, adding that charges and obligations on import of value seeds had been annulled.

Uniform fare chart issued for non-AC transport services

FAISALABAD (APP): Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Abdul Jabbar has issued uniform fare chart for non-airconditioned transport services in Faisalabad.

Speaking in a meeting of transporters on Sunday, Assistant Administrator General Bus Stand (GBS) Rana Habibullah said the RTA secretary released uniform fare chart for non-AC Wage and Bus Services and the fare chart would be implemented in letter and spirit.

He said that overloading and overcharging was an offence and it would not be tolerated at any cost.

He said that a special team would start checking of fares in buses and wagons from Monday and whosoever was found involved in overcharging would be handed down heavy fine in addition to impounding of his vehicle.

BRI becomes an important engine of development in African continent

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Built and Road Initiative (BRI) has entered into its tenth year and has become an important engine of development and regional connectivity around the world especially in African continent.

More than 150 countries have joined the BRI which is good omen for immense socio-economic integration, infrastructure development and regional connectivity, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. It seems that two different forces are competing in today's African continent. China represents spirits of

cooperation, coordination and collaboration whereas, the West stands for conflict, contradiction and conspiracy.

According to Chinese official figures, China has been Africa's largest trading partner for 13 consecutive years since 2009, and the trade volume between China and Africa exceeded \$260 billion in 2022. It seems that the BRI has positive economic implications for developing countries of the African Continent.

Moreover, a total of 52 African countries and the African Union Commission have signed BRI cooperation documents with China.

Despite false, fake

and fictional western propaganda, BRI is now carrying out numerous mega projects of infrastructural development, railways, energy, industrialization and ICT in various countries of Africa.

Unfortunately, even today, colonialism is still deeply rooted in Western mentality regarding Africa, with their eyes fixated on the Continent's natural resources and raw material. The growth of African countries and the livelihood of African people have never been on the priority list of the hypocritical western powers. Now there is an all-around competition between

the Chinese concept of community with shared future, global development initiative, global security initiative and last but not least global civilizational initiative and the US and EU's perpetual colonialization, Chinese constant and continued economic generosity and the western chronic genocides and discrimination towards African Blacks.

China and African countries have been witnessing close trust cooperation, political consultation and economic coordination during last ten years. The end of last month, Special Envoy of Chinese President Xi

Jinping and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Peng Qinghua attended Nigerian President Bola Tinubu's inauguration ceremony which vividly reflected true spirits of trust, harmony and respect between two sides.

Even respective political leaders and foreign ministers from a number of African countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone visited Beijing which has successfully translated political cooperation into sustainable cooperation in the diverse economic sectors.



MULTAN: Women are busy sorting good quality onions at the vegetable Market.

CM Punjab reviews progress on Darbar Bibi Pak Daman project

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a meeting at his office in which progress on the construction and extension of Darbar Bibi Pak Daman, along with its renovation project, was reviewed.

He directed the authorities concerned that the colour of religious sanctity and esteem should be kept prominent in the new design of the building. He ordered for completing the construction, extension and renovation project before the month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

It was informed during the briefing that the steel structure of the central dome of the Darbar Bibi Pak Daman had been completed. A central dome and three small domes in the Darbar would bestow a religious and historical sanctity to the building. Wood and marble work was going on speedily.

Renowned architect Nayyar Ali Dada presented a model of the project to the caretaker chief minister.

Communication and Works secretary apprised the CM about progress on the project.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Punjab Agriculture, Food and Drug Authority project to review ongoing construction works.

He inspected construction work of auditorium, sample centres, labs, meeting room, other sections and expressed satisfaction over the pace of work. While directing the authorities concerned to continue construction work at the same speed, he said that the project of public importance should be made functional at the earliest.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed about Sabzazar Sports Complex.

Kundi expresses grief over loss of lives during rains in KP

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): State Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday expressed his grief and sorrow over the loss of lives and property during the rain-related incidents in different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement, the state minister said his heart was saddened by the loss of precious human lives due to rains in many areas of the province. He also condoled with the bereaved families and sympathized

with the affected people.

He prayed to the Almighty for the elevation of ranks of the deceased in paradise and for the early recovery of those who got injured in the rainstorms.

He said that the federal government and related institutions were in contact with the provincial government and the local administrations to help the victims.

He said that steps would be taken to compensate the farmers for the damages caused to their crops and orchards.

Caretaker CM seeks report on student molestation

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has taken notice of an alleged kidnapping and molestation incident involving a girl student in Hafizabad and sought a report from the Inspector General of Police (IGP).

According to the CM house sources, the caretaker CM directed that the affected girl should be provided justice and the absconding accused should be brought to book at the earliest. He said the culprit deserved strict punishment under the law.

Nawaz to return home before polls: Muqam

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political & Public Affairs, National Heritage and Provincial President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam on Sunday said that general elections would be held in October and the party supremo Nawaz Sharif will return home before it.

He was talking to journalists here at the headquarters of Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) on Sunday wherein he presided over a high-level meeting regarding the restoration of the power supply system on an emergency basis after the destruction of the power transmission system due to

heavy rains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He was given a detailed briefing by the management of both PESCO and Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO) regarding losses inflicted on the power transmission system in the province.

The PM's aide said that the people have now acknowledged that the panacea for all problems and Imran Khan lying with only Nawaz Sharif and PML-N. Amir Muqam said that rehabilitation work on the restoration of rain affected power supply system was in full swing and all staff from Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) to Lineman level of both power distribution companies is in the field.



LAHORE: Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif addressing a Press conference.

Info Minister says: Govt to reach every citizen affected by recent rain-storm

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial government will reach every citizen affected by the recent storm and rains, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Information, Auqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs Barister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel said, in a statement, issued here on Sunday.

Financial assistance is being given to the families of the deceased and the survey of damages caused by wind and rains has started, Caretaker Minister for Information and Auqaf added. Barister Feroze Jamal said that the caretaker

provincial government has taken immediate and pragmatic steps to help the citizens in the affected districts. On the direction of caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan, rescue and relief activities have been started immediately and funds have already been released. The provincial government will reach out to every citizen affected by the recent wind and rain. The caretaker provincial minister said that the provincial government has immediately released Rs. 40 million for the affected districts so that the rescue and relief activities would continue there as quickly as possible.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration against stolen of party mandate in mayoral elections in Karachi, in Hyderabad.

CS KP inquires after health of injured in rain related incidents

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry along with Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Durrani Sunday visited District Headquarter Hospital Bannu and inquired after health of injured due to overnight heavy rain, wind and storm that killed 15 persons and more than 100 injured in the district.

In district Lakki Marwat, five persons were killed including children and women while 42

others reported as injured, in district Karak four persons were killed while a child was killed in Dera Ismail Khan and two women were injured as result of strong wind, heavy rain and storm.

Chief Secretary KP Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry directed District Headquarters Hospital officials to take good care of the injured and ensured them all facilities. Both CS KP and Deputy Speaker Zahid Durrani met with the injured persons admitted in the hospital.

Woman, small girl among five perished in rain related incidents

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): A woman and a small girl among five people were perished in Dera Ismail Khan district due to rain, thunder storms, said Rescue 1122 spokesman here on Sunday.

Rescue 1122 Media Coordinator Aizaz Mahmood said the thunder storms, rains caused loss of lives and damages of infrastructure in the district and its suburbs on Saturday evening. He said a six-year-old boy son of Saif Ullah resident of Kacha Mallikhel was died after a palm tree fell on him in Kirri Khaisur area due to heavy rain and gusty winds. The child was immediately shifted to Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Hospital, Chashma, Mianwali where he pronounced dead. In another incident three women namely Khadija Bibi daughter of Sarmad,

IGP KP inaugurates newly constructed modern CTD Regional HQ Dera

PESHAWAR (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur Sunday inaugurated the newly constructed modern Regional Headquarters CTD Dera Ismail Khan building. During the inauguration ceremony Additional IGC TD Shaukat Abbas, Regional Police Officer Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi, District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, SPCITD Region-I Fazal Wahid,

SPCID-II Izhar Shah and CTD officers and district police officials were also present. Regional Police Officer Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi gave a detailed briefing to Inspector General of Police KP Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur about the CTD building. During this, IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur reviewed the internal and external security of the police station CTD and while visiting different parts of the Police Station building.

Rs 11.4m given for treatment of 22 cops

LAHORE (APP): The police welfare branch has released more than Rs 11.4 million for treatment of 22 police employees suffering from dangerous diseases.

A spokesperson said on Sunday a meeting of the Punjab Police Medical Financial Assistance was held on June 9, in which Constable Amir Shehzad was given Rs 1 million for liver treatment, driver Constable Mukhtar Ahmed was given Rs 1 million for kidney transplant of his son, traffic Warden Syed Munir Afzal was given Rs 1 million for his wife's cancer treatment.

International News

European leaders offer more aid to Tunisia amid efforts to curb migration

Monitoring Desk
TUNIS: European leaders visiting Tunisia held out the promise of more than 1 billion euros in financial aid as well as investments in under-sea data cables and renewable energy Sunday in an effort to restore stability to the North African country — and to stem migration from its shores to Europe.

Tunisia's increasingly autocratic president hosted the leaders of Italy, the Netherlands and the European Commission for talks aimed at smoothing the way for an international financial bailout of the increasingly troubled country. Support from Tunisian President Kais Saied is crucial to any European Union deal to curb migration.

On the eve of the talks, Saied made an unannounced visit to a migrant camp in the coastal city of Sfax, a central jumping-off point for boat journeys crossing the Mediterranean to Italy. Saied spoke with families living in the camp, and pleaded for international aid for Africans who converge on Tunisia as a transit point to reach Europe.

His caring words, and sympathetic images posted on the president's Facebook page, contrasted sharply with Saied's stance earlier this year, when he stoked racist abuse of Black African migrants in

Tunisia with a speech railing against a perceived plot to erase his country's Arab identity. The president and Tunisian Prime Minister Najla Bouden met Sunday with Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

After the talks, von der Leyen announced a five-point program to support Tunisia, including up to 1.05 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) in aid for Tunisia's indebted budget. The plan will be discussed with all 27 EU countries at their next summit in late June, she said.

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Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Tunisian President Kais Saied, and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni meet in Tunis.

Iran's Khamenei urges cooperation with UN nuclear watchdog

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader on Sunday urged continued cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, while warning against succumbing to "bullying" based on "unfounded claims."

"Cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) within the framework of safeguards regulations should be maintained," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said during a meeting with Iranian nuclear scientists, experts and officials.

In his Sunday speech, the supreme leader said agreements could be reached in certain fields, but stressed that "the existing infrastructure of the nuclear industry should not be touched". Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation "need not succumb to the pressure of unfounded claims and demands based on bullying", Khamenei said, without specifying the demands or claims. Iran's nuclear programme has long been the subject of scrutiny from Western powers, resulting in sanctions that

have crippled the country's economy. A 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and world powers gave the Islamic republic relief from international sanctions in return for curbs on its atomic programme.

But in 2018 the United States unilaterally withdrew from the deal and reimposed sanctions, prompting Tehran to walk back its own commitments to restrict nuclear activity including uranium enrichment. Efforts to revive the deal have so far failed to yield results.

Saudi Arabia seeks cooperation with China, 'ignores' Western worries

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia wants to collaborate, not compete, with China, the kingdom's energy minister declared on Sunday, saying he "ignored" Western suspicions over their growing ties.

As the world's top oil exporter, Saudi Arabia's bilateral relationship with the world's biggest energy consumer is anchored by hydrocarbon ties. But cooperation between Riyadh and Beijing has also deepened in security and sensitive tech amid a warming of political ties — to the concern of the US.

Asked about criticism of the bilateral relationship during an Arab-China business conference, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said: "I actually ignore it because

... as a business person ... now you will go where opportunity comes your way."

"We don't have to be facing any choice which has to do with (saying) either with us or with the others."

Chinese entrepreneurs and investors have flocked to Riyadh for the conference, which came days after a visit by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. In March, state oil giant Saudi Aramco (2222.SE) announced two major deals to raise its multi-billion dollar investment in China and bolster its rank as China's top provider of crude.

They were the biggest announced since Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Saudi Arabia in December where he called for oil trade in yuan.

Honduras opens embassy in China after cutting ties to Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Honduras opened an embassy in China on Sunday, Chinese state media reported, after the Central American nation cut diplomatic relations with Taiwan earlier this year.

The embassy in Beijing was opened by foreign ministers from the two countries, state broadcaster

CCTV reported. Honduran President Xiomara Castro is in China for a state visit, during which she is to meet with her Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, state media have reported.

Tegucigalpa in March ended its decades-long relationship with Taipei and established diplomatic ties with Beijing.

Four Colombian children found alive after 40 days

Monitoring Desk
BOGOTA: Four Indigenous children who had been missing for more than a month in the Colombian Amazon rainforest were found alive and flown to the capital Bogota early on Saturday. The children, who survived a small plane crash in the jungle, were transported by army medical plane to a military airport. They were taken off the plane on stretchers.



Colombian military soldiers attend to child survivors from a Cessna 206 plane that crashed on May 1 in the jungle in this handout photo released.

China operating spy base in Cuba for years, says US official

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: China has been operating a spy base in Cuba since 2019 to enhance its intelligence-gathering capabilities worldwide, according to a US official from the Biden administration.

The official revealed that the US intelligence community has long been aware of China's spying activities in Cuba and its broader efforts to establish similar operations globally. The Biden administration has been actively working to counter

China's expansion of espionage operations, making progress through diplomatic channels and unspecified actions.

The existence of the Chinese spy base was confirmed after a report by The Wall Street Journal stated that China and Cuba had reached a preliminary agreement to build an electronic eavesdropping station on the island.

However, both the White House and Cuban officials disputed the accuracy of the report.

IS militants kill 2 Iraqi soldiers, wound 3 others in northern Iraq, officials say

Monitoring Desk
BAGHDAD: Islamic State group militants attacked an Iraqi army position in the northern governorate of Kirkuk, killing two military officers and wounding three soldiers, Iraq's security media office said in a statement Sunday. The Iraqi Security Media Cell said militants belonging to the extremist group late Saturday targeted the military position in the district of Dibis with light and medium weapons but did not provide further details.

Fighting resumes in Sudan's capital after 24-hour truce expires

Monitoring Desk
KHARTOUM: Clashes and artillery fire were reported in parts of Sudan's capital early on Sunday soon after the end of a 24-hour ceasefire that had brought a brief lull in eight weeks of fighting between rival military factions.

Witnesses said fighting had resumed soon after the ceasefire expired at 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) in the north of Omdurman, one of three adjoining cities, along with Khartoum and Bahri, which make up the capital around the confluence of the River Nile.

Residents said there had been artillery fire in the Sharq el-Nil area on the eastern outskirts of the capital, while blasts and clashes were reported in Khartoum.

War between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) broke out on April 15 over tensions linked to an internationally backed plan for a transition towards civilian rule.

The conflict has displaced more than 1.9 mil-

lion people, triggering a major humanitarian crisis that threatens to spill across a volatile region.

Fighting has been concentrated in the capital, much of which has become a war zone plagued by looting and clashes.

Unrest has also flared elsewhere including the western region of Darfur, already suffering from a conflict that peaked in the early 2000s.

Residents and activists have reported a further deterioration in recent days in El Geneina, near the border with Chad, and new waves of attacks by Arab nomadic tribes with ties to the RSF. The city has been largely cut off from telephone networks for several weeks.

Another affected city is El Obeid, capital of North Kordofan State southwest of Khartoum and on a major route to Darfur. Residents say it is effectively under a state of siege due to the conflict, with supplies of food and medicine cut off.

Call for accountability: Ulema moot urges expose of perpetrators behind May 9 attacks

LAHORE (APP): In a joint declaration, Pakistan Stability Ulema-Mashaykh Conference, held here at Al-Hamra Hall on Sunday urged for the exposure of all those involved in the May 9 attacks on the Pakistan Army and security agencies. Led by Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, the conference brought together religious, political, and minority leaders from across the country expressing their strong opposition to campaigns against Pakistan and its security forces in the name of human rights.

They urged the government to take legal action against those spreading propaganda targeting state institutions.

Highlighting the gravity of the May 9 events, the declaration announced the PUC's decision to convene an all-party conference

immediately after the Hajj pilgrimage to address the current situation in the country. Besides Ashrafi who is also the president of International Interfaith Harmony Council, the prominent religious scholars, including Allama Abdul Haq Mujahid, Maulana Muhammad Rafiq Jami, and Maulana Nouman Hashir addressed the conference, which saw the participation of over 1,000 representatives from different religious schools of thought, religions and various segments of society.

The joint declaration strongly condemned the May 9 events and expressed solidarity with the families of the martyrs. The conference demanded the arrest and punishment of all individuals involved in the attacks, emphasizing that no one should be spared, and innocent people should not be wrongfully detained.

The Ulema-Mashaykh conference called for adherence to the rule of law and transparency in legal proceedings. It rejected unjustified opposition to cases conducted under the Army Act, emphasizing the importance of upholding the Constitution and ensuring individual rights are respected.

Addressing concerns about the misuse of blasphemy laws, the conference clarified that these laws should not be exploited for personal or political gains. It emphasized that the law is not being misused against any political party and called for international organizations and countries to understand the true context.

To address the prevailing challenges, the PUC announced the formation of a 15-member committee tasked with gathering comprehensive details regarding the May 9 events.



LAHORE: Prime Minister's Special Representative Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi addressing during Istehkam Pakistan Ulema Mashaikh conference.

May-9 perpetrators should be brought to book: Javed Latif

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif stressed on Sunday that perpetrators of the May-9 sorrowful incidents should be brought to book so that people could differentiate between a political party and a terrorist group.

Addressing a press conference at Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) secretariat at Model Town, he said the unfortunate incidents taking place in the guise of protests on May 9 by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf were an attempt to weaken the state. He said there was ample evidence of foreign conspiracy behind the attacks on that fateful day.

He demanded that perpetrators of the May-9 incident should be exposed before the nation to avoid such an incident in future. State properties including military installations were

damaged by the protesters under a planning, he added.

The federal minister said that facts about the conspiracy under which elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was ousted in 2017 should also be made public so that people could be made aware of facts. The fact had already been related by many retired people of state institutions, he said and demanded that people of the country should also be told the facts about the conspiracy, which resulted in halting process of speedy development in the country under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

He said that various development projects were launched by the then PML-N government, whereas huge foreign investment under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was pouring in constantly to change the fate of the people.

PM grieved over loss of lives in KP, Punjab rains

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday expressed grief and sorrow over the recent loss of precious human lives in rainstorms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

In a statement issued on Twitter, he said rescue departments and relief teams were working to help the affected people.

Without any doubt, these were effects of climate change resulting in damage caused by unusual hailstorms, untimely rains and melting of glaciers, he added. These weather events were not only causing loss of lives and property but were also badly affecting agriculture and economy, he said adding Pakistan was one of the countries which were worst affected by climate change.

Bilawal asks PPP activists to participate in relief activities in rain hit areas

KARACHI (INP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives and property damages due to rain followed by strong wind, thunderstorm in various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has directed the authorities concerned for facilitating the affected. A statement issued by media cell of Bilawal House on Sunday, the Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) said that his sympathies were with the families of the victims of the miserable incidents.

Bilawal asked the office bearers and activists of party to coordinate with

administration and actively participate in the rescue and relief activities in rain hit areas of the two province especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that due to climate change, monsoon in Pakistan was proving to be tragic as the country had to face worst situation. The foreign minister said that though hundreds of thousands people were rescued during tragic incidents relating monsoon but the affected were still waiting for the pledged financial assistance. Putting the burden of the climate change on developing country like Pakistan would be injustice, Bilawal Bhutto said urging the global community.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif playing carrom board during his visit to various sports facilities at Sabzazar Sports Complex.

A man to cry 'alone at home' after election to Mayor of Karachi: Murad

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while alluding to JI Karachi Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Sunday said that a man shall be crying 'alone at home' after June 15, the day when the elections to Mayor of Karachi will take place.

He said the man claimed that they had mandate but on the other hand he denied the holding of the elections.

While addressing a Post-Budget press conference at Sindh Assembly auditorium, he said that it was the responsibility of the Sindh government to present the elected local bodies representatives, who were under arrest and facing criminal charges on the day of the election to Mayor of Karachi.

Syed Murad Ali Shah said this would be the first time in the history that their elected local bodies representatives would be serving the people across the province.

He said, 'It will be our

local government in Sindh for the first time.'

While speaking on the budget, he said that budgets were being presented since 1937 and this was the 59th budget.

He said that the cause of the development in Sindh was only due to the stability in the province.

He said that the Pakistan People's Party would bring stability in the country.

He said that the total outlay of the budget estimated for the next financial year 2023-24 was Rs2.25 trillion.

The Chief Minister said that the estimated development budget was over Rs700 billion.

He said that there were four major components of the budget, which included education, health, law and order and local bodies.

He also enumerated a number of schemes and projects for Karachi including K-IV and other projects.

Ch. Anwarul Haq says AJK govt endeavors to promote tourism

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that his government was keen to promote tourism in Azad Kashmir.

He said that necessary steps were being taken on a priority basis for the promotion of domestic and national-level tourism in Azad Jammu Kashmir.

"Millions of tourists visit the beautiful region annually", he said, adding that details of routes leading to the tourist destinations of Azad Kashmir would be put on Google so that tourists coming from outside

could be able to find locations easily and get accurate information about the routes. In an interview in the federal metropolis on Sunday, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq said that the government provided full support for holding Tourism Festival in Haveli. He said that Government Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has been active in this regard.

He said that tourism festivals should be organized all across Azad Kashmir so that people can get access and see the beauty of Kashmir.



GHOTKI: View of site after Green Line Express derailed near Ghotki.

11.8mln children enrolled under Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Program

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far enrolled 11.8 million children into schools through Benazir Taleemi Wazaif initiative.

According to an official source, a total of 3.0 million children had been enrolled under this scheme during July- March FY2023.

So far, Rs 63.3 billion have been disbursed since inception of the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif initiative out of which Rs 23.4 billion have been disbursed

during July to March, FY2023.

In pursuance of the commitment to provide Universal Primary Education as a part of SDGs, the government launched a Co-Responsibility Cash Transfer initiative for providing an additional cash per quarter to BISP beneficiary families in October, 2012 for Primary Education.

Since July 01, 2021, scope of the programme has been expanded from Primary to Secondary and Higher Secondary level and is currently operational all over the country.

The overall objective of this initiative is to encourage education through regular cash transfers to invest in human capital development. B-form/ CRC verification through NADRA database is mandatory for the enrollment of child in the programme.

A beneficiary child must attend school or college for at least 70 percent of the school or college effective days within a quarter to receive cash transfers from second quarter and onwards.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inspecting the under construction work during his visit to Punjab Agricultural, Food and Drug Authority Project.

Govt fixed realistic targets for economic stability: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said the government has fixed realistic targets besides formulating long term policies to bring economic stability in the country.

Talking to a private TV channel, he said the government has initiated measures to widen the tax net and stem leakages in tax collection instead of imposing new taxation in the budget.

He said the government has enhanced

Balochistan's share in Public Sector Development Programme.

The Minister said the PSDP has mainly been aligned with the development framework of five Es ie exports, equity, empowerment, environment, and energy as well as reconstruction and rehabilitation of flood-affected areas.

He said 60 percent share of the total PSDP in the new budget has been earmarked for ongoing schemes while 40 percent for the financing of new schemes.

Khurram lays foundation stone of new 132-KV grid station

GUJRANWALA (APP): Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan laid a foundation stone of the new 132-KV Grid Station named Ghulam Dastgir Khan Grid Station here on Sunday.

The grid station costing Rs 1.06 billion would be completed in a record period of three and a half months. Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) Board of Directors' Chairman Muhammad Shuaib Butt, Chief Executive Officer Engineer Muhammad Ayub, Project Director Faisal Nafees Yusuf were also present.

General Managers Mazhar Naveed, Rana Ishtiaq Ahmed, Chief Engineers Naveed Anjum Cheema, Muhammad Ashiq Jatt, Imtiaz Ahmed Cheema, Managers Sheikh Amanullah, Muhammad Buta Gurayah, Shahbaz Ahmed Sekhu, Ghulam Ghos and Regional Chairman Wapda Hydro Union Waliur Rehman Khan, and others were present on the occasion. Addressing the ceremony, the energy minister said that the construction work of 132-KV Ghulam Dastgir Khan grid station had been started.

250 bogus hospitals reveal in Balochistan

QUETTA (Online): It has been revealed that 250 hospitals of Balochistan province are only established in papers and files but not a single brick was placed anywhere in the land.

661 hospital, basic health centers and rural health centers are present in the official documents of health department of Balochistan. Surprisingly 250 health center were even not built and they are only limited to documents whereas 656 health centers have only namely facilities and patients are facing problems.

Awais Leghari calls for thwarting evil designs against armed forces

RAJANAPUR (APP): General Secretary Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari said that the baseless allegations of violent attacks on law enforcement agencies and security forces, human rights violations and suppression of political activities were being made to defame armed forces for gaining nefarious designs.

Talking to APP here on Sunday, Leghari said that the whole nation has rejected the rioting elements forever after shameful incidents of May 9.

He said that the state of Pakistan and armed forces respect the martyrs

of the country and their families.

He said that the eternal sacrifices of the armed forces were being acknowledged in the world and also appreciated by the nation.

He said that the people and the armed forces have a close relationship which was the actual power of the country and centre of national security.

He said that anti-national elements and their supporters were trying hard to create social division and chaos through fake and baseless news and propaganda.

"With full support and love of the nation, all evil intentions would be thwarted" Leghari added.



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq addresses to his supporters during protest demonstration against stolen of party mandate in mayoral elections, at Shahrah-e-Quaideen in Karachi.

CDA pursues upgradation of urban amenities, infrastructure

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is taking concrete steps for ensuring the provision of urban facilities to the city dwellers and maintenance of infrastructure including the installation of street lights, road carpeting and resolving water-related issues, neglected in the past.

"Special attention is being given to the completion of the remaining development works in the sectors I, G, H and D series, provision of civic facilities, and facilitating the home builders in these sectors in

pursuance of the directives of Chairman CDA Noor ul Amin Mengal," an official told APP.

"The work of installation of streetlights in the main roads and within the sectors to ensure proper lighting management in Sector I-11, I-10, I-14 and Sector I-16, D-12 and other sectors is in full swing," he added.

To a question, the official said, "After a few months of delay due to legal complications, the authority has started work to install street lights in Sector D-12."

ED PIMS decides to expand hospital's new emergency block project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Dr Imran Sikandar has decided to expand the new emergency block project of the hospital with the addition of one more floor to ensure the provision of the best emergency services to citizens.

According to ED PIMS spokesperson Dr Mubashir Mushtaq Daha,

the decision was made on the direction of the Planning Commission of Pakistan as with this new plan further 75 beds will be added to the project.

He said that after approval from the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, the documents of the projects have been sent to the Planning Commission for allocation of funds.



PESHAWAR: Pakistan Markazi Muslim League President, Khalid Masood along with others as they are holding their hands with each other to expressing solidarity during the Ittehad Conference held.