

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Islamabad

Vol. XIII No. 199 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Monday June 26, 2023, Zil Hajj 07, 1444 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

NA passes Finance Bill 2023 with outlay of Rs14.48tr

Revised budget imposes additional taxes of Rs215 billion and cuts expenditures by Rs85 billion; No double-pension for government employees of grade 17-22: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Sunday passed the Finance Bill 2023-24 with certain amendments in the proposed budgetary measures and the total outlay of Rs 14.48 trillion to achieve macroeconomic stability and the set target of a 3.5 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate.

The Finance Bill, moved by Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, was passed with majority vote after clause-by-clause reading. The House echoed with desk thumping as the House passed the budget.

The passage of the Finance Bill has successfully brought to an end the budgetary process started on June, 9 with the budget

speech of the finance minister at the National Assembly. The bill now would go to the President for assent who will sign it into a law, and effective from July 1, 2023. Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf put all the amendments proposed by lawmakers Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali, Saira Bano, Nisar Cheema, Zahra Wadood Fatimi, Nawab Sher Waseer, Asiya Azeem, which were rejected with a majority vote; except Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali's amendment, which was included in the bill by the Assembly's approval.

Consequently, the amendment proposed by MQM member Salahuddin was also rejected by the House.

In the light of Senate recommendations, the National Assembly also approved the amendments proposed in the Finance Bill 2023-24 by the Finance Minister. The bill, presented in the House on June 9 by the Finance minister for consideration, got the approval of the National Assembly with certain changes in the figures related to revenue targets and other matters in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Accordingly, the revenue target of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had increased from Rs 9.2 trillion to Rs 9.415 trillion, provincial revenue from Rs 5.276 trillion to Rs5.39 trillion, federal government expenditures from Rs 14.46 trillion to Rs 14.48 trillion.

Load shedding duration increases to 8 to 10 hours

ISLAMABAD (Online): Load shedding duration across the country crossed eight to ten hours as electricity short fall reached to 6598 Mega Watt (MW). According to power division sources total electricity is 20402MW and the demand is 27000 MW.

Hydropower plant is producing 6200MW, Government thermal power plant producing 563MW electricity and production of private electricity production house is 9000MW whereas wind power plant production is 1245MW.

Electricity house of solar panel are producing 100MW and nuclear power plant is producing 3164MW electricity.



ISLAMABAD: Bikers take shelter under the flyover to protect from being wet during heavy rain fall in Federal Capital.

Life-time disqualification hanging sword went away from Nawaz Sharif

New election bill empowers ECP to unilaterally announce and delay polls

ISLAMABAD (Online): Hanging sword of life-time disqualification over Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Supremo Nawaz Sharif went away as National Assembly (NA) passed 'Election act amendment 2017' bill by consensus.

Election Commission of Pakistan will announce general election schedule and will also be able to change it. Finance minister Ishaq Dar presented more amendments in 'Election Act Amendment Bill'.

National Assembly session held under the chairmanship of speaker Ayaz Sadiq. Election Act 2017 amendment bill passed in session unanimously.

Section 57 of the bill was amended in NA session. Election Commission now will announce election schedule and date and can

amend schedule also. According to proposed bill, punishment duration is not decided in those crimes will have maximum of five years disqualification. Bill also said qualification and disqualification method and tenure under act 232 be given in same way as it was given in section 62 and 63. This act's section will be applicable on where method and period of disqualification is not given.

Convicted person will remain disqualified for five year from the day of verdict issued by Supreme Court, High Court or any other court. It is said in bill that punishment of disqualification under article 62 clause 1(F) will not be more than five years.

Related person will be able to contest election of parliament or provincial assembly.

Information minister criticises previous government for bulldozing IMF agreement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that it was strange that those who ruined the national economy were crying over signs of restoration of agreement signed by themselves with International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In a statement, the minister said that on May 9, they burned the country, attacked military and private properties, desecrated the memorials of martyrs and now they were preparing to damage the economic interests of the country again. "Arsonsits, conspirators and enemies of the country have started crying again as they heard the news that the agreement with the IMF is being restored", she maintained.

Marriyum said that the previous regime signed the IMF agreement on strict terms, violated it and then suspended the agreement, then hatched conspiracies against the country and the agreement.

The minister said that questions should be asked



to those who were crying over the agreement and why did they sign the agreement with the IMF. She said it was ironic that those who were shouting about the agreement, themselves had signed the agreement with the IMF. "Not only did they violate and suspend this agreement, but they conspired to make the country default", she added.

The minister said that former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his tenure had stabilized the country's economy, but "the foreign agent" shook the foundations of the economy and the country had to seek the IMF's support. "Nawaz Sharif is the only leader whose government completed the IMF

US not influencing Pakistan on ties with China: Donald Blome



KARACHI (INP): Ambassador Donald Blome has denied that the United States is pressuring Pakistan to choose between the US and China.

He was speaking at an interactive session on 'US-Pakistan Relations: Present and Future' organised by the Pakistan

Council on Foreign Relations (PCFR) here.

Ambassador Blome opined that trade among partners was key towards economic prosperity. The trade must also be equitable and our message to China is to go forward with fair trade terms and Pakistan should demand the same

from its economic relationships, he added.

He said that for the last four decades, many policy makers in Washington have viewed Pakistan with the lens of US engagement in Afghanistan.

More recently, some commentators try to frame the US relationship with Pakistan in perspective of China or India or Russia, he said and added that it should stand on its own.

The US engagement with Pakistan remained very strong, he continued.

The ambassador saw Pakistan's economic future bright as an engine of a larger regional economy, connecting South and Central Asia.

He hinted at potential of an improved economic relationship with India.

Eight killed, 39 other injured in road mishap

NAWABSHAH (APP): Eight people were killed and 39 others were injured in a road accident near Nawabshah in Shaheed Benazirabad district.

The horrific accident occurred when two buses collided near Balochpur stop in the town of Daur near Nawabshah on Sunday morning.

According to a police spokesman, the accident occurred due to overspeeding.

As a result, eight people were killed on the spot while dozens of others, including women and children suffered injuries.

The injured were shifted to the Taluka Hospital Daur and People's Medical University Hospital for medical assistance.

Police said a bus was travelling from Karachi to Jhang, whereas the other was going to Punjab from Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: General Secretary PML (N) Balochistan Jamal Shah Kakar meeting with Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah

Asad Mehmood calls for review of FATA merger

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communication, Asad Mehmood, on Sunday urged the government to thoroughly review the merger of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in light of the ongoing challenges faced by the region.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, the minister emphasized the need to ascertain the desires of the people of FATA through a referendum.

Minister Mehmood highlighted that although progress has been observed in the FATA areas, it is crucial to obtain firsthand information about the issues faced by the local population.

He urged government officials to personally visit the area and assess the

ground realities to gain a comprehensive understanding.

Regarding the ongoing discussions about appointments with in Pakistan Post, the minister clarified that the matter is currently under review by the committee. He assured the House that details of the findings will be shared once the committee concludes its deliberations.

He emphasized the need to avoid exploiting this issue for political gain and highlighted discrepancies in the appointment of division personnel.

He said that if it is proven that an individual from one division has been appointed to another division, as claimed by a Member of the National Assembly, he would resign from his position.

Legal committee to pave way for Nawaz's return

ISLAMABAD (INP): The legal committee was formed on Sunday in line to clear the path for Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif's return to the country.

According to sources, committee to be headed by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar. The committee also comprised SAPM Ata Tarar, Irfan Qadir, Amjad Pervaiz and other lawyers. The committee will make every effort to remove any legal barriers to Nawaz's return to the country.

On the other side, PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif will hold key meetings today. Sources divulged that Nawaz, who was visiting Dubai with his family, will meet the members of royal family.

Khawaja Asif opposes Chairman Senate Salaries, Allowance, Privileges Bill

Says no bar for ECP to hold next elections in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Sunday urged the House not to support the Chairman Senate Salaries, Allowance and Privileges Bill passed by the Senate recently as the country could not afford such incentives in the prevailing economic situation.

Speaking in the National Assembly after passage of federal budget for fiscal year 2023-24, the minister said, he has great respect for senators and the Senate as he had started his political career from the Senate. However, the people and business community are in immense difficulties due to the prevailing financial crisis, he said.

He said the salary of MNA stood at Rs 168,000 per month which was lower than a federal secretary.

He said such privilege

in the current financial circumstance could not be afforded. Lauding the Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and his entire finance teams, he said that a balanced budget was presented despite of critical situation.

He expressed the hope that a new era of economic stability would start soon.

The minister also clarified that neither the government was bearing expenditure nor giving any special facility for members of the National Assembly for performing Hajj. Even ordinary people were also part of the special flight to carry pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, he added. Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Sunday said that there is no restriction for Election Commission of Pakistan to hold next elections in October.

Saefer Abid wins gold medal in 10km cycling event

KARACHI (APP): Saefer Abid of Pakistan won the gold medal in the 10 km time-trial race of the cycling event of the 16th Special Olympic World Games.

Abid completed the 10km distance in 23 minutes and 02.02 seconds, according to a communique here on Sunday.

Pakistan has so far won 10 gold medals in the Special Olympic World Games. Saefer Abid from Karachi said that he has participated in the World Games for the first time, for which he had been preparing for the last two years.

"I have paid full attention, passion and wish to win more medals for Pakistan in the upcoming international events.

In the 500m time trial race, Madeeha Tahir of Pakistan won the silver medal by covering the distance in 1 minute and 14.15 sec-



onds, while Amina Arshad won the bronze medal by covering the distance in 1 minute and 16.82 seconds. In the final of the futsal event, Oman won the gold medal by defeating Pakistan by 6-3 goals. Pakistan finished second with the silver medal in the event. Pakistan stood fourth

Lightning kills eight in Narawal, Sheikhpura districts

NAROWAL/SHEIKHPURA (INP): At least eight people were killed and three others injured when lightning struck different areas of Narawal and Sheikhpura districts on Sunday.

According to details, during heavy rain followed by strong wind gusts, light struck Ratanpur, Changu wali, Qangoi, Panjpir and Ratikhurd areas of teshil Shakargarh and Zafarwal of Narawal.

Six people were killed and four others were critically injured in the incident.

Meanwhile, lightning struck Chak Shahpur and Mandiali Town killing two people and leaving another injured.

Other the other hand, lightning gutted various transformers of the Sheikhpura grid station due to which the city remained plunged into darkness for several hours.

Govt contacts Interpol to bring back Ex-Chairman NAB, 2 others

ISLAMABAD (Online): Expanding the scope of investigation in 'Broadcast Case' federal govt has contacted interpol to bring back three people including former chairman NAB Naveed Hassan. These people are alleged of \$28 million illegal payment.

Scope of investigation of broadsheet case was expanded after the approval of federal cabinet. Letter has been written to Interpol regard hand over former Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and two other people. Federal government will bring back these people via Interpol.

Largest Hajj pilgrimage in history' begins in Saudi Arabia

MAKKAH (Online): Vast crowds of robed Muslim pilgrims walked solemn circles around the Kaaba, the black cube at Makkah's Grand Mosque, on Sunday as the biggest Hajj pilgrimage in several years began in the heat of the Saudi summer.

Islam's holiest site is expected to host more than two million worshippers from 160 countries during the annual rites that could break attendance records, with 1.6 million foreigners already there by late Friday.

"This year, we will witness the largest Hajj pilgrimage in history," if things go according to plan, predicted an official with the Saudi Ministry of Haj and Umrah. "The numbers will exceed 2.5 million pilgrims," added the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorised to speak with the press.

The Haj began early on Sunday with the "tawaf" — the circumambulation of the Kaaba, the large cubic structure draped in black cloth with gold trimmings that millions

of Muslims pray towards every day.

"I am living the most beautiful days of my life," said Abdel-Azim, a 65-year-old Egyptian, as he performed the ritual.

"The dream has come true," added the retiree, who had saved up for 20 years to pay the \$6,000 fee to take part.

The Haj is one of the five pillars of Islam and must be undertaken at least once by all Muslims with the means.

A series of rites are completed over four days in Makkah and its surroundings in the west of oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

On Sunday night, pilgrims will start moving to Mina, about five kilometres (three miles) from the Grand Mosque, ahead of the Haj's climax at Mount Arafat, where the Prophet Mohammed (SAW) is believed to have delivered his final sermon. Mina, the world's largest tent city, reloaded to receive the influx of pilgrims on Sunday, with food supplies brought in and security forces deployed around the area.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Legal questions

When the Supreme Court decided to take up multiple petitions against the court martial of civilians, there had been much excitement over the inclusion of the senior puisne judge, Justice Qazi Faez Isa, in the nine-member bench originally formed to hear the matter.

It had been a long-running complaint of critics of the current chief justice that he had actively excluded Justice Isa from important benches. Therefore, after his 'surprise' nomination to the bench, many were looking forward to hearing Justice Isa's thoughts on the matter; more so as the honourable justice had, just a day earlier, been confirmed as the next chief justice of Pakistan. Instead, both Justice Isa and the next senior-most judge, Justice Tariq Masood, chose to abruptly disassociate themselves from the proceedings. Granted that they may have had their reasons not to sit on the bench, but it would seem that, in this case, they missed the forest for the trees.

The decision to court-martial civilians is no frivolous matter. It merits a detailed review under the laws of the land, preferably by as many of the best legal minds the country has in its service as possible. The incoming chief justice's differences with the incumbent on various administrative matters of the court are well documented. They need not have become a reason for two senior-most judges to sit this case out. The state has argued against any debate or discussion over the trials of civilians under military laws, even shutting down attempts to question the grave implications of this practice.

The petitioners were not wrong when they pleaded with Justice Isa to reconsider, arguing that they had already risked much to bring the matter to court. Considering that he has not recused himself, he should find a way to still weigh in on the matter.

Lastly, a word to some of our elected lawmakers, who lately seem inclined to see a conspiracy in everything the Supreme Court does. It was unbecoming of two cabinet ministers to launch into ugly tirades against the superior judiciary on the floor of the National Assembly simply for taking up the relevant petitions. Perhaps they needed a reminder that all citizens of Pakistan enjoy the right to seek legal recourse whenever they feel their fundamental rights are being threatened. It is up to the judiciary to decide, based on its merits, which petition is to be heard and which is to be set aside.

There is little point, therefore, of fomenting controversy over whether or not the Supreme Court should hear this case. Instead, it would be best if both critics and proponents of military courts decide to test the strength of their arguments before the court. This need not turn into another public dispute between the judiciary and legislature.



Muna Khan

While I don't tire of writing about journalism, recently, I have been wondering whether I will witness its demise and if there will be takers for my news media literacy classes — 10 years from now. The fear was exacerbated after reading this year's digital news report by the Reuters Institute: "Audiences say they pay more attention to celebrities, influencers, and social media personalities than journalists in networks like TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat." However, news organisations and journalists are still central to the conversation on Facebook and Twitter.

While Facebook remains a top used platform, it has shifted away from news and faces tough competition from TikTok, "which reaches 44 per cent of 18-24s across markets and 20pc for news". Trust in the media was down by 2pc from the year before. It's no surprise that consumption of traditional media is down "in most markets", but the number of people who say they avoid the news has risen to 36pc across markets.

The only positive takeaway was that public media organisations had the highest trust in the Global North — because they "likely see them as important personally and for society" — but younger viewers are not consuming it. "These findings suggest that maintaining the breadth of public service reach remains critical for future legitimacy and especially with younger groups," the report says.

For journalism to remain relevant, news

A pressing need

organisations need to find genuine, new ways to connect with younger audiences. And I don't mean copy/pasting their content on TikTok. It requires an understanding of the technological changes taking place in how audiences consume information and figuring out what issues younger audiences care about. Pro tip: it's climate change, not change of leadership in XYZ parties.

Organisations also have to figure out how to attract this generation into the fold. When I began working in the mid-1990s, journalism was considered a worthy pursuit. Today, the field offers low wages, uncertainty and too often people end up doing tasks on the job they did not sign up for. They're made to chase clicks over public service. Some try to challenge these goals in their small ways, while others give in, knowing this is the only way to keep their jobs. Others quit, and it's almost always folks who had innovative ideas to solve issues; be it audience engagement, or creating meaningful stories that matter to readers.

One way to make journalism a worthy pursuit is to teach people about the journalists who made it such. My work in audio — interviewing journalists about their experiences working under various forms of press censorship — is a small attempt at doing that. I believe it can help people unaware of the country's history of civil resistance, understand this moment better. Why, for example, is there no visible collective resistance to curbs to press freedom? There's much to learn from personal narratives like Ghazi Salahuddin's, who shared why he courted arrest to protest the trials of journalists during Gen Zia's rule. Why don't we see similar collective resistance?

I'm hoping I can convince like-minded journalists and/or donors to build a press museum similar to the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Nearly 10 million visited the museum in the 11 years it was open — and it charged a \$25 fee, unlike the free museums in the vicinity, which shows people were interested in learning about the news ecosystem. Some of the artifacts exhibited at Newseum included the front page of newspapers from history, starting from 1493 to the papers of the day. It also had a memorial for journalists who died on the job. Visitors could also practise journalism by re-creating the news through a teleprompter to better understand how the news works. Incidentally, the TDF Magnificence Centre in Karachi also has this opportunity; I've seen how children are excited to participate — it may inspire them to pursue journalism, or influencing, as the case may be now. While the Newseum was never able to break even, it does not mean such an idea is unfeasible in Pakistan. There are plenty of examples of successful public-private partnerships that can provide inspiration for a press museum. The people behind such a venture need to be press freedom advocates; they have to believe that the public must have an understanding of what that means, what it entails, what the challenges are. The besieged state of Pakistan's press requires interventions from all stakeholders, and while a press museum won't solve the crises, its creation will serve as a reminder of the battles fought by advocates to preserve press freedom. It may also reinvigorate a commitment from media owners to do the same — educate their audience about the threats a muzzled media poses to their civil liberties. — Courtesy Dawn



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Narendra Modi has come a long way from the time he was denied a US visa for his role in the Gujarat pogrom. Times have changed. He is now the prime minister of a country that the US wants to build as a counterweight to rising China. The US has honoured him, with his state visit and address to the US Congress. It believes India can serve as Washington's ally in its competition with China. But while India has welcomed its growing ties with the US, it appears that it is not looking for any alliance with it and wants to keep its options open.

The Indian leadership appreciates that the US is still the most eminent military and economic power, and that India has much to gain in terms of defence deals and technologies. Indian military capabilities have already been bolstered by bilateral agreements allowing the use of each other's military logistics (LEMOA), compatibility of encrypted communication equipment (COMCASA), and exchange of geospatial intelligence (BECA). During Modi's recent visit to Washington, the US agreed to sell armed drones and manufacture GE engines in India.

Yet, India is not prepared to sacrifice its long-time ties with Russia. India did not condemn Russia for its aggression against Ukraine, and also started buying Russian oil, which helped Russia redress the deleterious impact of Western sanctions. Likewise, India

Bonhomie?

wants to deal with China on its own terms and not on behalf of the US, despite serious India-China border issues. India has also maintained its trade and economic relations with China and cooperates closely with China on BRICS, SCO, AIIB and other forums.

For its part, the US recognises there are limits to what India can, or would, do to counter China or Russia. Yet, it is continuing to invest in India as the country is central to America's plans to situate an arc of containment against China, with due support from Australia, Japan and some other countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

So, are both countries misreading each other? Can the high-flying visit of an Indian prime minister to Washington address the mismatch of mutual expectations?

There are two broad foundations for the close partnership that India and the US are seeking to establish: geopolitical interests in the Indo-Pacific region, and shared democratic values. On both counts, there are issues that place limits on what can be achieved. While shared geopolitical objectives essentially revolve around China, India is not inclined to be categorised as a 'US ally'. Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar has often talked about 'strategic autonomy'. Indian journalist Barkha Dutt in her Washington Post article says, "Sorry, America, India will never be your ally". She argues: "In a multipolar world, India will look to be a pole, not an exclusive partner." As for shared democratic values, there are growing concerns in America on the weakening of democracy in India and violence against religious minorities. The State Department's 2022 report on international religious freedom has documented violence by law-enforcement authorities against

religious minorities in multiple states. American scholar Daniel Markey has argued in a recent essay in Foreign Affairs that India-US relations are not based on shared values of democracy but on convenience and interests. Dozens of US lawmakers have written a letter to President Joe Biden, drawing his attention to the "troubling signs" in India of shrinking political space and the rise of religious intolerance.

An interesting perspective has been fielded by Indian journalist Raja Mohan, who describes the Modi visit as a "fundamental turning point" in India-US ties. His argument is that the convergence is not about containing China, but creating a new multipolar Asia. While there is no doubt that Asia, as indeed the rest of the world, is fast becoming multipolar, the Modi visit, from the US perspective, seems to be centred on US objectives in the Indo-Pacific, including "empowering the QUAD" and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. Markey argued in his interview with Karan Thapar that US cooperation with India should be limited to those technologies that can enable India to defend itself against China.

Intriguingly, the joint statement after Modi's visit does not explicitly mention China or Russia, but makes a negative reference to Pakistan in the context of cross-border terrorism even though Pakistan fought against terrorism and actually achieved results. The US knows well that fighting terrorism is a joint responsibility of the international community, and should not have signed on to this reference, which is a violation of the norms of bilateralism. India's continuing targeting of Pakistan is unfortunate and a bad omen for peace and stability in South Asia. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pak-China collaborate to promote Pakistan pharma development

BEIJING (APP): China has equalised or surpassed the developed nations' pharma standards over a period of time.

"With 30 years of experience in cooperation with China, our progress is accompanied by the dividend of the development of China's pharmaceutical industry," highlighted Waheed Ahmed, Chief Executive of Shaigan Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd at the CPHI & PMEC China.

"As Asia leading pharmaceutical show for trading, knowledge sharing and networking, CPHI & PMEC China spans all

industry sectors along the pharmaceutical supply chain including APIs, excipients, finished dosage, natural extracts, biopharma & CDMOs, animal health & feed, medical supplies, etc." China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Waheed, who has been attending the expo since 1995, noted, "CPHI China is becoming more and more informative due to the major R&D work being carried out in China. China, Pakistan's largest trading partner and the largest producer of API attaches importance to investing in chemical labs and training scientists."

"China's key technologies are developing rapidly, and the quality of pharmaceutical and mechanical products is reliable," he explained.

"This time I am exploring future technologies and newly developed products, especially in biosimilars and new drug delivery systems," Waheed mentioned.

"Meeting my over 15 collaborative partners who are all old friends at the expo and witnessing their growth is always a pleasure and an opportunity to tap new business ranges."

Government urged for encouraging furniture Industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday urged the government to encourage investments and create a favorable business environment for furniture manufacturers. He said the furniture industry in the country can be successfully promoted and positioned as a competitive player in

the global market with effective marketing with the right combination of factors, including export potential, design and innovation, technology adoption, and skill development. Chairing the PFC executive committee meeting, he said Pakistan has a skilled labor force and a rich heritage of craftsmanship in furniture making.

Cantt Boards advise taxpayers to pay taxes by June 28

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi and Chaklala Cantonment Boards have advised the taxpayers to pay their property taxes, conservancy taxes, and water charges for the current year by June 28 and receive a 10 percent discount. The property owners failing to pay the taxes and other charges by the deadline would be facing monetary penalties. According to an RCB spokesman, "The board have sent all the outstanding bills to its taxpayers."



LAHORE: Caretaker Minister of Livestock and Dairy Development Ibrahim Hassan Murad in a photo with a delegation of Chinese livestock experts under the leadership of Vice President Royal Group of China Mr. Teng Cuijin.

Murtaza Abbasi says: Establishment of HESCO to be game changer for development of Hazara

HAVELIAN (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi Sunday inaugurated the Sui gas provision project in the villages of Batolni, Mujahath, Termuchia, Slawala and Sirila of Tehsil Havelian with an estimated cost of 548.982 million.

While addressing a huge public gathering in the village of Batolni Murta, he said that this initiative was

aimed to provide affordable access to natural gas to the rural communities in the region, heralding a new era of progress and development.

Murtaza Javed Abbasi expressed his delight over the approval of the board of directors for Hazara Electric Supply Company (HESCO) and emphasized that the establishment of this company would

effectively eliminate the long-standing deprivation faced by the people of Hazara.

"Today, we have taken a significant step towards the advancement of Hazara", this multimillion project undertaken by the PML-N and Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif will prove to be a game-changer for the region, the minister declared.

Promotion of agro-based industry stressed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Rice Research and Development Board Punjab Shahzad Ali Malik Sunday stressed the urgent need for the promotion of an agro-based industry that's of immense importance to the country's economy.

He said the agro-based industry is crucial for ensuring food security in Pakistan. With a growing population, it is essential to have a robust agricultural sector that can produce an adequate quantity of food.

of progressive farmers led Dr Muhammad Arshad Javed, he said a strong and vibrant agro-based industry is crucial for sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and overall development, says a press release.

He said the agro-based industry is crucial for ensuring food security in Pakistan. With a growing population, it is essential to have a robust agricultural sector that can produce an adequate quantity of food.

Govt transfers Rs.3billion to railway account for Salaries of June

FAISALABAD (Online): Federal minister of Railway Saad Rafique personnel interest and timely action to pay the salaries of month of June on the demand of 'Pakistan Railway Prem Union' government transferred the amount of 3 billion Pkr to railway ministry account.

Salaries has also been transferred to salaries accounts of Railway employees.

Efforts afoot to expand tax network, growth rate: Kiyani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Economic and Energy Affairs Bilal Azhar Kayani on Saturday said the incumbent government under the leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif, has taken extensive measures to expand the tax network and growth rate.

An amount of 466 billion rupees has been allocated for BISP to help under privilege groups of people, he said while talking to a private television channel. The government in the current budget has also increased

the allocation for BISP to facilitate maximum beneficiaries, he informed.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-N, with the help of coalition partners, had protected the country from falling into the default line.

He blamed Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) government for the current economic situation, saying that it had created mistrust with IMF. He said the government was making all-out efforts to dispel the impression created by the PTI chief during his tenure.



QUETTA: A vendor arrange the fresh vegetables to attract customers.

ICCI for further strengthening trade ties with Japan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Sunday urged the need for further strengthening bilateral and economic relations between Pakistan and Japan to attain sustainable growth and development in the country.

Japan is the third largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$4,940.9 billion and bilateral relations between Pakistan and Japan has a history, he said this while talking to Economic Minister designated for Japan, Dr Irfan Abbas Shah during his visit to ICCI.

Ahsan Zafar said that there are many possibilities for further

improving trade relations between the two countries, adding that there are vast opportunities for Japanese investors to invest in different sectors of the national economy including dairy and automobile.

He said that the role of the embassy is very important to promote and develop diplomatic, trade and economic relations between both countries. President ICCI urged the need to impart skill training to youth to fulfill the increasing labor demand of Japanese markets and urged the government to take SMEDA and other concerned institutions into confidence and form a comprehensive policy in this regard.



RAWALPINDI: All Pakistan Mobile Phones Association are shouting slogans during protest in the favor of their demands at Sadr area in City.

CM seeks plan to improve livestock, dairy development

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has sought a plan to bring improvements in livestock and dairy development across Punjab.

He was presiding over a meeting at the CM Office in which steps to increase livestock production along with increasing livestock exports were reviewed.

It was decided during the meeting to take steps on an emergency basis for the promotion of meat and poultry industry in Punjab. Caretaker CM while directing to formulate a comprehensive policy with regard to meat export stated that obstacles in the promotion of beef, mutton and poultry industry will be removed.

It was principally decided during the meeting to declare Bahawalpur division as "Meat

Division" of Punjab. The CM was informed that huge foreign exchange can be earned with the export of meat and poultry in Punjab. Latest modus operandis of semen protection, farm management and vaccinations are essential to adopt. Halal certification of livestock production and traceability is a mandatory step for exports. Punjab province has the capability to export livestock and dairy products to Saudi Arabia and China.

Poultry industry will have to be driven towards latest mechanisation.

Fawad Mukhtar, Naveed Iqbal and Professor Talat Naseer Pasha gave a briefing and put forth their recommendations. Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hassan Murad, Chief Secretary, Chairman Planning & Development, Secretary Local

Government, Secretary Finance and concerned officials attended the meeting. Renowned businessman Syed Yawar Ali participated in the meeting via video link.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of precious human lives due to falling down of a skylight in Narawal. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolence with the heirs of the deceased. Mohsin Naqvi prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the deceased persons in eternal peace and grant fortitude to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss with equanimity. Caretaker CM directed the administration to provide best treatment facilities to the injured persons.



PESHAWAR: A representative delegation of North Waziristan led by Chief of Waziristan Malik Nasrullah meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

PPP always strives for ensuring political stability: Tasneem

SARGODHA (APP): State Minister for Production and Industries Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi said on Sunday Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had always strived to ensure political stability and democracy in the country.

Addressing a gathering here, he said all political parties were sitting together despite ideological differences for the sake of country's economic and political stability and strengthening democracy. The coalition government came to power after removal of former prime minister Imran Khan

through a constitutional way to mitigate the sufferings of people amid inflation, unemployment and poverty, Tasneem said.

About sufferings of those affected by floods last year, Qureshi said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto effectively voiced the miseries of 33 million people of Pakistan at the international forums, who were affected due to devastating floods. As a result, Pakistan received financial assistance of \$9 billion for the flood affected people's rehabilitation, he added.

Development works halted by PTI in KP restarted by PML-N govt: Amir Muqam

SWAT (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister, Engr Amir Muqam here on Sunday said that Pakistan Muslim League (N) strongly believed in the country's uniform development process and had restarted work on projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Swat after it was halted by the PTI government.

Addressing a public gathering after the inauguration of the Passport Office at Khwazakhela in Upper Swat, Engr Amir Muqam said that the work on the gas projects was started by PMLN Govt in 2017 at

Swat which had been halted by the previous PTI government, thus making great injustice with people.

He said the PML-N has restarted work on all halted gas projects in Swat to provide the much-needed relief to the people.

During the government of former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, he said that passport offices were established in all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that establishing five new passport offices at Pathan Lower Kohistan, Chakdara Lower Dir, Sheringal

Upper Dir, Shergarh Mardan and Khawazkhela Swat was another gift of PML-N government for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Engr Amir Muqam said that political opponents could not mislead the people of Swat anymore as these elements were completely failed to address their problems during nine years long rule of PTI. He said that Khwazakhela road, gas projects at Charbagh, Manglawar and Nawaz Sharif Kidney Hospital Swat were completed by the PML-N govt benefiting millions of people.



KARACHI: A man washing the sacrificial animal in connection with the upcoming Eid ul Azha.

7 dead, 1235 injured in road accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least seven people were killed while 1235 injured in 1235 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Of whom, 638 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 597 victims with minor injuries were treated on the spot by Rescue medical teams.

Analysis showed that 599 drivers, 65 underage drivers, 153 pedestrians, and 490 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. Statistics show that 284 road accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 273 people placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 80 in Faisalabad with 81 victims and at third Multan with 70 road accidents and 72 victims. According to the data, 1028 motorbikes, 80 auto-rickshaws, 114 motorcars, 29 vans, 18 buses, 17 trucks.

Ombudsman office provides relief to 23 complainants

LAHORE (APP): The Ombudsman Punjab office provided relief of Rs 64.3 million to 23 complainants from various districts by issuing orders to provincial government departments.

In a press statement issued here on Sunday, a spokesman for the provincial ombudsman office said the office successfully resolved the longstanding matter of a family pension for a widow Ms Shaheena, residing in a secluded village within the Kohat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. After the decision, Ms Shaheena received her remaining pension dues of Rs 182,695 from district accounts office Sargodha.

Furthermore, Ms Najma Mazhar, the

plaintiff from Mandi Bahauddin, has been duly compensated for her deceased husband's employment dues through the intervention of the ombudsman's office.

Additionally, her daughter, Ms Mehreen Saba, has also been appointed as a junior clerk in a government department in grade-11, in adherence to Rule 17-A of the Punjab Civil Servants (Appointment & Conditions of Service) Rules, 1974, the spokesman said.

Moreover, the spokesman emphasized the commendable efforts undertaken by various district administrations in response to public complaints received by the ombudsman's office.

Dead body found along with motorway

WAH CANTT (APP): The dead body of a man under a bridge was found along with Islamabad-Peshawar motorway (M-1) near Passwall in the jurisdiction of Taxila Police Station on Sunday. The police spokesman said that some passerby spotted the body of a man lying under a bridge and informed the police who shifted the body to THQ Hospital Taxila for autopsy. During the preliminary medical examination, it was revealed that the man was strangled to death and later his body was thrown there to conceal the crime. The deceased were identified as Meer Gull-a native of Landikotil-KP.

Driving licence issuance process made easy: IGP

LAHORE (Online): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar Sunday said that driving licence issuance process in Punjab had been made simplified and made easy.

In a press release issued here, he said every Pakistani citizen, who owned a national identity card, could now easily get a licence from any licensing centre in Punjab, and get renewed his/her driving licence from any district of Punjab on its expiry in all districts of the

province. He said a citizen from any region of Pakistan, who had obtained a learner's permit, could appear for the driving test in the district of his job.

He said for the first time in the history of Pakistan, now driving licences had been issued to 62 transgenders.

"Transgenders are also being imparted training at driving schools of Punjab Police," he said and added that the number of driving schools had been increased from 32 to 64 across Punjab.

ANP condemns increased target killing incidents in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial President Awami National Party (ANP) has expressed concern over the increase of target killing and terrorist attacks incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and demanded immediate action against those involved in such crime.

The killing of Manmohan Singh in Peshawar is very alarming and condemnable, Provincial President ANP

Amil Wali Khan said in a statement issued here Sunday. Dayal Singh was killed in Ramadan, how long these unknown persons will remain unknown, Amil Wali Khan questioned.

The attacks on members of the minority community in a city like Peshawar gives an impression that Peshawar is not safe, Amil Wali Khan said and added.

International News

Russia says China backs its efforts to stabilize the country after mercenary rebellion

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Russia said on Sunday that China threw its support behind President Vladimir Putin's efforts to stabilize the country after an aborted rebellion against the Kremlin by an army of mercenaries.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said China declared support for the leadership in Moscow during a previously unannounced trip to Beijing by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko.

"The Chinese side expressed support for the efforts of the leadership of

the Russian Federation to stabilize the situation in the country in connection with the events of June 24, and reaffirmed its interest in strengthening the unity and further prosperity of Russia," the Russian statement said.

Rudenko met with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang to discuss "international and regional issues of common concern," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on its website.

Rudenko's visit came just a day after Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of private mercenary army Wagner

Group, ordered his troops to march on Moscow in the greatest challenge to Putin's more than two decades in power. Prigozhin later on Saturday reached a deal with the Kremlin to go into exile.

It was unclear whether Rudenko's visit to China was in response to the rebellion.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement late Sunday that the uprising was "Russia's internal affair."

"As a friendly neighbor and comprehensive strategic partner in the new

era, China supports Russia in maintaining national stability and achieving development and prosperity," it said, without explicitly referencing Russia's leadership.

China and Russia, while not formal allies, have maintained close ties throughout Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which China has refused to condemn.

The United States and other Western powers have urged Beijing not to supply Russia with arms that could be used in the Ukraine conflict.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets with US and Indian technology executives during a trip to the United States.



Police cordon off the Gröna Lund amusement park in Stockholm.

Afghan supreme leader claims women 'saved from oppression' by Taliban

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Afghanistan's supreme leader claimed on Sunday that the country's women were being saved from "traditional oppressions" by the adoption of Islamic governance and their status as "free and dignified human beings" restored. In a statement marking this week's Eidul Azha holiday, Hibatullah Akhundzada — who rarely appears in public and rules by decree from the

Taliban's birthplace in Kandahar — said steps had been taken to provide women with a "comfortable and prosperous life according to Islamic Shariah".

The United Nations expressed "deep concern" last week that women were being deprived of their rights under Afghanistan's Taliban government and warned of systematic gender apartheid. Since returning to power in August 2021.

Two people died and 12 were hurt in a shooting at a street party that was promoted on social media

Monitoring Desk
SAGINAW: A 51-year-old woman and a 19-year-old man were slain and a dozen others wounded during a shooting at a large street party in Michigan that was promoted on social media.

The shooting occurred around midnight Saturday in Saginaw, about 102 miles (164 kilometers) northwest of Detroit, state police said.

US firms pump money in India as Biden eyes geopolitical goals

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Amazon and Google are the latest companies to announce massive investment plans in India amid US President Joe Biden's efforts to "send a message to China" by cementing India's position as a close ally. Amazon said on Friday it will take its investments in India to \$26 billion by 2030, adding \$6.5bn in new planned investments in an announcement made after CEO Andy Jassy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the United States.

Though Jassy gave no

breakdown, the announcement follows Amazon's cloud computing unit Amazon Web Services saying last month it will invest INR1.06tr in the country by the end of 2030.

The e-commerce giant's announced investment during Modi's trip adds to other companies, including US semiconductor toolmaker Applied Materials and memory chip firm Micron Technology, which have made commitments during the Indian premier's state visit.

US Secretary of State Blinken says Russia turmoil could take months to play out

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The unprecedented challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin by Wagner fighters has exposed fresh "cracks" in the strength of his leadership that may take weeks or months to play out, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Sunday.

"I don't think we've seen the final act," Blinken said on ABC News, in one of a series of interviews after an aborted mutiny by forces led by Yevgeny

Prigozhin. Blinken said tensions that sparked the action had been rising for months and the turmoil could affect Moscow's military capabilities in Ukraine.

"We've seen more cracks emerge in the Russian facade. It is too soon to tell exactly where they go, and when they get there. But certainly, we have all sorts of new questions that Putin is going to have to address in the weeks and months ahead," Blinken told NBC's "Meet the Press" program.

Blinken described

the turmoil as an "internal matter" for Putin.

"Our focus is resolutely and relentlessly on Ukraine, making sure that it has what it needs to defend itself and to take back territory that Russia seized," Blinken said.

U.S. officials expect to learn more in coming days and weeks about the events that unfolded in Russia, including details of the deal with Prigozhin mediated by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko that led Wagner fighters to return to their bases.

N.Korea vice foreign minister supports Russian leadership over mutiny-KCNA

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea's vice foreign minister in a meeting with the Russian ambassador on Sunday said he supported any decision by the Russian leadership to deal with a recent mutiny, North Korean state media reported.

Im Chon Il, the vice foreign minister, "expressed

firm belief that the recent armed rebellion in Russia would be successfully put down in conformity with the aspiration and will of the Russian people," state KCNA news agency said.

Heavily armed Russian mercenaries who advanced most of the way to Moscow this weekend halted their approach.

Russian jets said to step up strikes on Syrian rebel enclave

Monitoring Desk
AMMAN: Russian jets bombed villages and towns near the northwestern Syrian city of Idlib on Sunday, killing at least nine civilians and wounding dozens in a major flare-up of violence in the country's last opposition stronghold, witnesses and rescuers said. War planes flying at high altitude, which tracking centres said were Russian Sukhoi jets.

At International African American Museum opening, a reclaiming of sacred ground for enslaved kin

Monitoring Desk
CHARLESTON: When the International African American Museum opens to the public Tuesday in South Carolina, it becomes a new site of homecoming and pilgrimage for descendants of enslaved Africans whose arrival in the Western Hemisphere begins on the docks of the Lowcountry coast. Overlooking the old wharf in Charleston at which nearly half

of the enslaved population first entered North America, the 150,000-square-foot (14,000-square-meter) museum houses exhibits and artifacts exploring how African Americans' labor, perseverance, resistance and cultures shaped the Carolinas, the nation and the world.

It also includes a genealogy research center to help families trace their ancestors' journey from the point of arrival on the land.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Shazia Marri, Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme in a group photo with the delegation of Yemen's Social Fund for Development.

Pakistani delegation visits Hunan for exchanges

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Pakistani business representatives visited Hunan, China for exchanges and connections with government institutions, business associations and relevant enterprises.

The visit was organized and coordinated by the International Environmental Special Fund of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF), China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

The Pakistani business delegation, consisting of eight members, was led by Senator and General Abdul Qayyum, along with Sheikh Ejaz Asghar, Vice Chairman of the Pakistan

China Business Forum, Khalid Mahmood, CEO of Pakistan Green Energy Company, and Ms. Wang Lihua, General Manager of Pakistan Woda Limited.

The business areas for connections covered new energy, automobiles, steel, household appliances, building materials, electronic products, food processing, and agricultural products.

On June 18, the delegation held forums with more than 60 Hunan enterprises. Representatives from the Hunan Provincial Department of Commerce introduced the overall situation of Hunan's industries and the current status of trade with Pakistan.

They highlighted the prospects and opportunities that Hunan's industrial capabilities, particularly in engineering machinery, new energy, IT technology, and e-commerce, can bring to the upgrading and competitiveness of Pakistan's industries.

The representatives of the Pakistani business delegation stated that Pakistan has a population of over 200 million and is currently at the initial stage of rapid development with a relatively low overall economic level. Due to the longstanding friendly relations, the government attaches great importance to trade connections and cooperation with China.

Only Imran responsible for all May 9 tragic incidents: Kh Asif

SIALKOT (APP): Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the mastermind, planner and inventor of the May-9 incident was only Imran Khan.

Addressing a dinner reception, given in his honour by members of the Cantt Board Sialkot, he regretted that it was former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman who challenged the state writ and the state institutions. He said the state is like a mother to its citizens, but this person ended that relationship in lust for power.

He said the lesson he (Imran Khan) imparted to

his party activists, and the planning he done, resulted in attacks on memorials of martyrs and military installations and the defense assets, saying that political workers were incited by their leader to attack the state and its institutions.

Kh Asif said what happened on May 9, no one should doubt that its mastermind, planner and its creator was the PTI chairman alone. He said that during the last 14 months, this person (Imran Khan) did not even once ask to meet or sit down with politicians to solve the national problems. He only expressed his desire to talk to the military leadership.

Intl Day against Drug Abuse to be marked today

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking will be marked on Monday (June 26) to raise awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society.

This day is supported by individuals, communities and various organizations all over the world.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has, over the years, been actively involved in launching campaigns to mobilize support for drug control. The UNODC often teams up with other organizations and encourages people in society to actively take part in these campaigns. Governments, organizations and individuals in many countries, including Vietnam, Borneo and Thailand, have actively participated in promotional events and larger scale activities, such as public rallies and mass media involvement, to promote the awareness of dangers associated with illicit drugs.

According to the UNODC, nearly 200 million people are using illicit drugs such as cocaine, cannabis, hallucinogens, opiates.

IRSA releases 314,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 314,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 478,300 cusecs.

According to data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1475.13 feet and was 77.13 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 250,000 cusecs and 149,900 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1164.05 feet, which was 114.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 73,500 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 189,600, 146,600, 82,500 and 32,000 cusecs respectively.

ICT Police decided to take stern action against PSV's for overcharging on Eid

ISLAMABAD capital police have decided to accelerate action against those public service and passenger vehicles involved in overloading and overcharging from passengers on Eid-ul-Adha.

Following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer

and take action against passenger vehicles involved in overloading and overcharging. All Zonal DSPs have also been directed to keep observing the situation and ensure action against driving and conductors of such vehicles.

Heavy fines would be imposed on the vehicles guilty of overloading.



(ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, special squads have been constituted by Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer who would be deputized at bus and wagon stands. These squads will take action against those involved in overloading and overcharging fare or misbehaving with passengers.

Special points have also been erected at various roads of the city to check

Moreover, in case of overcharging, the extra fare collected would be also returned to the passengers.

Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad said that all possible steps were being taken to ensure uninterrupted flow of traffic in Islamabad and the passengers could call the helpline Pucar 15 in case of any complaint. He said that the convenience of citizens is our top priority and it would be ensured at all costs.

PAC disposes of audit objections on 360 technologies

ISLAMABAD (Online): Sub Committee of Public Accounts disposed of audit objections on two year extension of providing services of 360 technologies to Pakistan post and declared it as per rules and regulations.

Committee also directed FIA (Federal Investigation Agency) authority to present report soon on unsatisfied performance and violation of regulations of Messer Telcho Net.

According to document issued by Auditor General Office communication minis-

try sub institute Pakistan Post and 360 technologies has made three year agreement of various services including up gradation, complaint cell, IPS, and Mobile delivery and on the provision of best services Pakistan Post extended the agreement for two years more.

Later on Auditor General of Pakistan Office declared extension in agreement between 360 technologies and Pakistan Post against rule and regulations and directed communication ministry to inquire the issue.

BISP becomes an agent of change in Pakistan: Shazia Marri

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Ms. Shazia Marri has said that BISP has become an agent of change in Pakistan.

She was talking to a delegation of Yemen's Social Fund for Development Sunday.

A 23-member delegation of Yemen's Social Fund for Development was on a 5-day visit to Pakistan to gain insights into the suc-

cessful Social Protection Model of the BISP.

This visit was planned and organized with the co-operation of the World Bank. The WB representatives also accompanied the delegation. Ms. Marri said that BISP was an effective vehicle of social safety for low-income segments of society that is supporting women's family heads by providing directed cash assistance to them. This is the best and most practical method of women's empowerment and their financial autonomy, she continued.

Our survey and registration process has encouraged women with low-income households and living in remote areas to register themselves and their families with the NADRA, the Minister said and highlighted that Benazir Taleemi Wazaif is a reason for the increased school enrollment at primary and secondary levels, as stipend under Benazir Taleemi Wazaif are given to girls and boys only if they are attending school with over 70 percent atten-

dance. The Chairperson also informed the Yemeni delegation that BISP is moving towards initiatives, such as Adaptive Social Protection and Digital and Financial Literacy for Beneficiaries and a program for adolescent girls. She welcomed the delegation of Yemen in Pakistan and appreciated the WB for organizing this visit hoping that in the future more such visits will be planned so that maximum benefit can be reaped by exchange of ideas and learning from the experiences.

Pre-monsoon rains likely to reduce current extreme heatwave: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday said the pre-monsoon rains were likely to reduce the current extreme heatwave.

In a series of tweets, the federal minister said according to the advisory of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, pre-monsoon rains were predicted across the country from June 25 to June 30.

Senator Rehman said between June 25 and 30, strong winds, thunderstorms, and heavy rain were expected in various cities of Punjab, including Islamabad and Rawalpindi, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Under the influence of

this system, wind, thunder and heavy rains were likely to occur in various cities of Balochistan, South Punjab and Sindh between June 26 and June 29, she added.

In case of heavy rains, she said there was a risk of urban flooding in urban areas while floods and landslides were feared in hilly areas.

All concerned and local bodies have been instructed to be alert and tourists to be cautious, she added.

The Minister urged that citizens were requested to stay away from weak infrastructure, electric poles, and rivers during strong winds and rains to avoid any untoward incident.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presiding over a high-level meeting at which steps to increase livestock production along with increasing livestock exports were reviewed.

Dysfunction cooling system issue of I'abad hospitals get intense

ISLAMABAD (Online): Issue of dysfunctional cooling system of Islamabad Hospital got more intense as Prime Minister Inspection Commission's chairman notice did not work.

Sources said told that ED Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Dr. Rana Imran gave report after installation of air conditioner in new emergency. Regular ED could not be deployed in PIMS. Cooling system in old emergency and wards is still dysfunctional. Sources said that PIMS authorities also tried to hide the 4 deaths that occurred due to yesterday heat stroke.

Contradiction also emerged in PIMS spokesperson and spokesman executive director Dr. Mubashir Doha.

Economic stability plays vital role to face challenges: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister Faisal Karim Kundi Sunday said the economic stability of a country plays a vital role to face any challenge as the governments make efforts to make the economic condition more sound.

Talking to a private news channel, he said our Party's main motto is to

conduct elections at specific time and period after completion of the constitutional period of the government.

Commenting on the role of the coalition government, he said that the coalition government had to face many challenges due to a weak economy. We have to cooperate with each other to revive business activity, he added.

GB surpasses ICT, AJK in using technology for teaching: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Gilgit Baltistan (GB) has surpassed Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) in terms of teachers' potential to use technology for teaching, according to the findings of 'Baseline Report-Smart Classrooms' conducted by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

The report highlights the findings of an extensive survey and competency test in schools in Islamabad, AJK and GB.

It has also revealed that 100 percent teachers in GB have access to smartphones, indicating a high level of technological readiness among educators in the region.

The report further indicates that students in GB exhibit a higher level of competency in Mathematics compared to their counterparts in ICT and AJK.

The findings suggest that the educational system in GB has been successful in cultivating strong math-

ematical skills among students. However, in terms of English competency, GB students are slightly behind those in ICT, but perform better than students in AJK. While English proficiency may be an area for improvement, GB students still demonstrate a commendable level of competence in the subject.

The report presents a comprehensive analysis of Baseline School, focusing on the capacity of teachers and students, utilization of Information Technology (IT), availability of electricity, internet accessibility, and the potential for implementing smart classrooms.

This report aims to provide insights into the school's existing infrastructure, technological capabilities, and readiness for the integration of smart classroom solutions.

The survey conducted in GB, ICT, and AJK, collected data on various aspects of schools and displayed the results on Google Maps.

PTI chairman exposed badly in 'Tosha Khana' case: Tahira Aurenzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Member National Assembly (MNA) Tahira Aurenzeb said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan was exposed very badly in 'Tosha Khana' case.

Talking to a private news channel on Sunday, she said, our party members suffered jails in false cases due to which the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) declared that these cases had no authentic evi-

dence and all these were false cases.

Replying to a question, she said that PTI workers had never experienced jail time even a single day and they thought it like a five-star hotel where everything would be served according to the choice.

PTI workers need to understand the reality of the political system and leadership is not an easy task to deliver in an appropriate manner, she expressed.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of women in a queue to purchase subsidized flour at Utility store II-9 weekly bazaar in Federal Capital Territory.

27-men AJK Cabinet sworn in

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Newly-appointed 27-member Azad Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet sworn in on Thursday.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry administered oath to the newly inducted ministers at a special ceremony held in the State metropolis.

The oath taking ceremony, hosted at the New Prime Minister's House, was attended, among others, by Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Senior Minister Colonel Retired Waqar Ahmad Noor, Government Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, and several others.

On this occasion, Secretary Services and General Administration Raja Amjad Pervez read out the

notification of the new batch of ministers.

The ministers who took oath of the office included Sardar Muhammad Hussain Khan, Amir Abdul Ghaffar Lone, Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Dewan Ali Khan Chaghtai, Abdul Waheed, Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, Muhammad Ahmad Raza Qadri, Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, Abdul Majid Khan, Raja Muhammad Siddique, Chaudhry Muhammad Akbar Ibrahim, Javed Iqbal Badhanvi, Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi, Sardar Muhammad Javed Ayub, Sardar Amir Altaf, Azhar Sadiq, Nisar Ansar Abadali, Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq, Muhammad Akmal Sargala, Zafar Iqbal Malik, Faheem Akhtar Rabani, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Javed Butt, Muhammad Asim Sharif, Chaudhry Amir Yasin, Qasim Majeed, and Zia Qamar.

Talha personally pays 14,350 Saudi Riyals for Hajj expenses

MAKKAH MUKARMA (APP): Minister of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Talha Mahmood has personally covered the expenses for his visits to the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah.

"Talha Mahmood, personally paid an amount of 14,350 Saudi riyals to the Accounts Officer at Pakistan House from his own expenses," said the spokesman Ministry of Religious Affairs.



ISLAMABAD: Women busy in selecting & purchasing sandals during shopping in preparation of upcoming Eid-ul-Azha festival at shoes shop.

NA approves 15 excess demands for grants for FY 2021-22

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Sunday approved 15 excess demands for grants for the fiscal year 2021-22 after voice voting in the House.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar presented these supplementary demands for grants which were approved after voting. The demands were in respect of the Intelligence Bureau; Airports Security Force; Pakistan Post Office Department;

Federal Government Educational Institutions in Cantonments and Garrisons; Defence Services; Housing and Works division; other expenditure of Interior division; Combined Civil Armed Forces; Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan division; Law and Justice Division, National Accountability Bureau; Overseas Pakistanis.

If Europe can unite why can't Asia region as it's now or never: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) and Convener National SDGs taskforce Romina Khrushid Alam has said that If Europe can unite why can't Asia region. It's now or it's never as Asia is facing multifaceted challenges like climate change.

"We need to not only strengthen rather stand with each other," the SAPM underlined.

She was speaking as Chief Guest at an international dialogue jointly hosted by the Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization R & D, Schiller Institute USA/Germany and BRIX Institute, Sweden organised International Forum on Xinjiang Modernisation from Global Perspective held here.

SAPM, Romina Khrushid Alam in her remarks said the friendship

between China and Pakistan is very close to the heart of every Pakistani. "China believes in peace and practically demonstrated it as it has been visible in Saudi-Iran ties, Afghanistan and for Pakistan China always supported and stood beside in testing times," she added.

Romina said China always come up with sustainable solutions to every crisis in the world which was very important. "It's high time for each one of us to more talk about the capacity build-up and knowledge sharing that will help exchange best practices for resolving pressing issues."

The SAPM mentioned that economic development was the only solution to all Asian countries and it was the need for the region to come up with a consortium.



ISLAMABAD: Muneeba Ifkhar, Nadeem Iqbal Raja and others presenting shield to Managing Director Muhammad Asim from APP Employees Union