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CM for opening portion of Malir expressway by Dec

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah during his visit to the under-construction Malir Expressway directed the local government department to speed up the work so that one portion of the project from Korangi or Quaidabad could be opened by December.

The Chief Minister along with provincial minister Sharjeel Memon, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Special Assistant Syed Qasim Naveed, and Deputy Mayor Salman Murad visited 39.4 km under-construction Malir Expressway from Korangi to Kathore. Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon, Secretary LG Najam Shah, PD Niaz Soomro and Special Secretary Finance Asad Zamin were present at the Site.

The Malir Expressway project facility was being developed on the left bank of the Malir River to

establish 'Access Controlled High-Speed Expressway'.

It would have a six-lane with three-meter side shoulders dual carriageway. The expressway way had been designed for 100kph speed on the expressway and 50kph on its interchanges.

The starting point of the project was Korangi Road, before Jam Sadiq Bridge, it would have an interchange for Jam Sadiq Bridge at KPT Flyover. It would cover Korangi, Shah Faisal Colony (Quaidabad), and would end at Kathore.

The Project Director of the Expressway Niaz Soomro while briefing the Chief Minister said that there were two parts/packages of the Expressway project- Jam Sadiq Quaidabad where the progress of the work had been recorded at around 38 percent.

On the other package

from Quaidabad to Kathore 15 percent progress had been achieved.

The CM was told that the project had six interchanges and six straight bridges on which work was in progress.

The Chief Minister said that with the completion of the project, the traffic congestion in the city would come down. The project would cut around 40 km distance for the traffic coming towards Karachi and going out to Jasmshoro and even to Thatta.

Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the completion of the project would usher in new vistas of development in Malir, particularly in the areas of Memon Goth and its adjoining areas.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah during his visit to Malir Expressway inspected the damaged Weir at Razak Goth, RD-1 of the Malir River.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah along with others being briefed by officials about construction work of Malir Expressway road under the supervision of local government department, during his inspection visit in Karachi.

PM Shehbaz orders inquiry, crackdown on human traffickers

Announces day of mourning over death of Pakistanis in Greece shipwreck incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday announced the observance of a day of mourning on June 19 over the death of Pakistani nationals who lost their lives after a ship carrying migrants sank off the coast of Greece on June 14.

"Tomorrow, the national flag will fly on half-mast and special prayers would be offered for the deceased," PM Office Media Wing said in a press statement issued in the Urdu language.

Moreover, according to another notification of the PM Office, the prime minister has constituted a high-level four-member committee to conduct an inquiry into the tragic incident.

"In an unfortunate incident on 14th June, 2023, a boat carrying migrants capsized off the coast of Greece resulting in the deaths of Pakistani/AJK nationals along with other nationals. The number of casualties are being still ascertained. The prime minister, while expressing his grief over the incident and also taking a serious note of it, has been pleased to constitute an inquiry committee," the notification said.

The committee will be headed by its chairman Director National Police Bureau Ehsan Sadiq and Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Africa) Javed Ahmad Umrani, DIG Azad Jammu and Kashmir Police Region Poonch Sardar Zaheer Ahmad and Joint Secretary Interior Division, FIA Faisal Nisar Ch. as its members.

The inquiry committee would submit its report within one week. According to the notification, the inquiry committee would ascertain facts of the Greece boat tragedy, identify loopholes and lapses in the legal/enforcement mechanism in Pakistan that exposed precious human lives to the vagaries of human trafficking in this particular case and similar incidents in the past.

Pakistan activating 'Plan-B' as stalemate with IMF talks persists

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Shehbaz government is reportedly moving ahead with the 'Plan B' (The arrangement referred to by both Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and his deputy Dr Aysa Ghaus pasha on several occasions) under which it is requesting the friendly nations to plug the up to \$4 billion financial gaps as the negotiations with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) aren't going nowhere. With the IMF programme set to expire on June 30, the government believes it can meet all the financial needs, sources say, if the countries like China, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia agree for additional deposits.

Earlier, Dar had said after presenting the 2023-24 budget that the government was working on a Plan B if the IMF did not release the pending loan.

He had, however, avoided explaining or sharing any details, saying, "Plan-B is always there." He stated that the features of the plan could not be talked about in public and again reiterated that Pakistan would not default.

Separately, the finance minister had also said that those behind the running of the "Reimagining Pakistan" movement should stop frightening the people with the notion that the country would soon default, just hours after Miftah Ismail claimed that the budget was not sustainable.

About geopolitics, Dar had told the Senate Standing Committee on Finance that external forces were attempting to undermine Pakistan's economic stability by forcing it into a situation similar to that of Sri Lanka and subsequently negotiating with the IMF.

He made it clear that Pakistan would not bow down to the IMF's demands of the IMF, which has raised objections to the country's budget proposals for the next financial year.

Pakistan was a sovereign country and would not accept everything the IMF demanded, but rather aim to achieve the country's economic targets and priorities, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Mariyum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting addressing the NASFF's high achievers who are leaving for Australia to participate in the National Amateur Film Festival Award.

Maryam grieved over Greece boat sinking incident

LAHORE (APP): Senior Vice President and Chief Organiser Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Maryam Nawaz has expressed grief over loss of lives of Pakistanis due to sinking of a boat in Greece.

Maryam Nawaz while extending sympathies to the bereaved families, has welcomed decision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to observe Monday (tomorrow) as day of mourning.

She called for strict action against human smugglers playing with the lives of the people. Maryam Nawaz also prayed for the departed souls of the sorrowful incident.

Budget approved with allies consensus: Ahsan Iqbal

PMLN decides to address PPP concerns on budget

ISLAMABAD (INP): Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal shooting down the concerns of ally party PPP about federal budget for fiscal year 2023-24, clarified that the budget was approved by the consensus of the allies.

Ahsan Iqbal said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif always included allies in his decisions.

Ahsan said when the PMLN government came into power along with its allies, there were two ways in front of the PMLN leadership, saving politics or the state, and the PMLN choose the latter option.

He alleged that 'change' of 2018 has become a nightmare for Pakistan. "Terrorism was eradicated from Pakistan under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif but the journey of progress from Pakistan was ended under conspiracy. PML-N gave CPEC as a gift to the country but a clumsy, inexperienced worker was given a certificate of trustworthiness," he said.

Murtaza Wahab set to take oath as Karachi mayor

KARACHI (INP): The oath-taking ceremony of newly-elected Karachi mayor and deputy mayor will be held on Monday at polo ground at 5pm.

Sindh Election Commissioner Aijaz Chohan will administer the oath to Murtaza Wahab and Salman Murad as Karachi mayor and deputy mayor.

On June 15, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Barrister Murtaza Wahab was elected Karachi mayor after securing 173 votes.

EidulAdha: Ruet body to meet today for Zil Hajj moon sighting

KARACHI (INP): A meeting of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee will be held on Monday for sighting the crescent of Islamic month of Zil Hajj in Pakistan.

Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad, the chairman of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, will preside over the meeting in Karachi.

Similarly, zonal committees will also hold meetings in various cities, including Islamabad, Lahore, and Peshawar on the same day.

It is worth mentioning here that the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee meets on the 29th of every Islamic month and makes the announcement after sighting the moon.

Pakistan, Iran agree to deepen cooperation in various sectors

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan and Iran have agreed to deepen cooperation in trade, energy, transport, connectivity, cultural exchanges and educational linkages.

The understanding was reached during wide-ranging discussions between Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani on the occasion of 12th bilateral consultations in Tehran.

According to Foreign Office, the two sides held fruitful talks on entire spectrum of relations.

Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan Sunday interacted with Iranian scholars and academia in Tehran.

They discussed Pakistan's vision for peace and development in the region by prioritizing regional partnerships and connectivity.

They underlined that Pakistan and Iran were partners in regional peace and stability.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing Post-Budget Conference.

Bilawal expresses grief over road mishap near Kallar Kalhar

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday expressed grief and sorrow over a bus accident on a motorway near Kallar Kalhar, which claimed many previous lives.

He said, "I am saddened to hear about the loss of precious lives." He said that his heart went out to the bereaved families.

Bilawal said that an immediate inquiry should be conducted to ascertain the cause of the accident.

He said that the relevant officials and the citizens had to play their role to avert such accidents in the future.

He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured persons in the tragic accident.

Info Minister terms screen tourism as best way to propagate Pak narrative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said that the revival and expansion of Pakistan's film industry were vital to project the national narrative through screen tourism.

"Screen tourism presents an opportunity to spread the narrative of Pakistan, as seen in the successful examples of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iran, where budding film industries have thrived," she said while addressing 25 high achievers of the National Amateur Film Festival Award bound to leave for Australia on Monday. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has sponsored these 25 students one-year training in New York Academy, Australia.

The government was to promote Pakistan's narrative, focusing on heritage, youth engagement, and tourism through screen tourism, she maintained.

The minister said it was high time to invest in Pakistan's entertainment industry, which currently enjoyed tax exemptions.

"Over the next decade, I foresee a revival of the industry that will allow it to compete with neighbouring countries and even international markets," she said adding that the high achievers had the potential to make a significant impact in this field.

The minister recalled that Pakistan's film industry faced a significant setback between 1970 and 2000, causing its growth to stagnate. However, since 2000, the industry has experienced a boost, although its progress has been hindered by the absence of cinemas and affordability issues, which limited access for the general public, she maintained.

The minister said that extensive research and consultations with relevant stakeholders and experts were conducted to develop this comprehensive policy. Lessons, she added, were learned from countries with flourishing film industries or successful revivals, providing valuable insights.

Mariyum Aurangzeb said that incentives for the film industry were included in the 2018 budget, and after coming into power again last year, the coalition government established a dedicated film division in the ministry.

The film sector currently enjoyed zero taxation, with income tax exemptions for individuals and production houses. Import of equipment for film and drama production had also been tax exempted, she said.

The minister disclosed that the corporate entities providing funds for film production can claim CSR tax credits from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), making it a significant incentive.

Furthermore, she said, the government has approved a film finance fund with an initial allocation of Rs 2 billion.

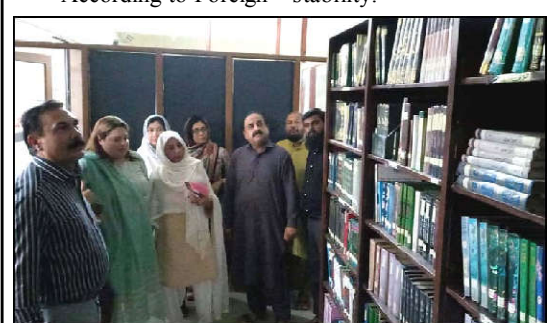
During the 10-day crackdown Customs Intelligence seizes smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 303 million

INDEPENDENT REPORT KARACHI: According to the instructions of Chairman FBR Asim Ahmad and on the orders of Director General Customs Intelligence Faiz Ahmad Chadhar, the crackdown against cigarette smugglers was intensified. Customs Intelligence has seized smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 303 million during nationwide operations in the last ten days.

The largest operation was carried out in Balochistan, where Customs Intelligence seized 4,280,000 cigarettes of foreign brands worth Rs 114.2 million. While in Sindh province, as a result of eight operations, 1,420,700 cigarettes of top brands worth Rs. 69.7 million were confiscated. Similarly, during intelligence-based operations in Punjab, the Customs Intelligence team recovered 1,294,000 smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 75.3 million.



THATTA: Fishermen are anchoring on shore as they are returning to their homes after fishing at Keti Bandar Beach after removed ban on fishing on subsided of Cyclone Biporjoy, in Thatta.



KARACHI: Administrator District Korangi Muhammad Sharif Khan along with Dr. Ghazal Khawaja Director Student Guidance Bureau of University of Karachi along with her team are visiting DMC Korangi CSS Corner during meeting held at DMC Korangi CSS Corner in Karachi.

Elections should be held as per constitution: Kaira

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Qamar Zaman Kaira Sunday said that the general elections in the country should be held according to the Constitution and not on the will and whims of a single party as PPP believes in democratic norms.

"Any political party achieved people's mandate in free and transparent election would have all the right to form government and address the country's problems", he said while talking to a Private news channel.

PPP has strong roots in masses that would win the general elections and complete the mission of former prime ministers Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, he added.

He said the PPP believes in services to people, not abusive politics, adding, PPP is not fighting against any political party but against poverty and inflation.

PPP government had always worked for poor people and downtrodden segments of the society, he added.

Replying a question, he said the blame of rigging is unacceptable as the party's success in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) by-election reflected the AJK's people's fully support for the party.

To another question, he replied party would win the upcoming general elections with thumping majority with the support of its committed workers and followers.

Measures taking to develop underprivileged, neglected districts in KP: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, on Sunday said that steps are being taken to bring underprivileged and neglected districts on par with developed areas of the province.

The Malakand Division, particularly the district Dir, is blessed with natural beauty, and promoting tourism in the region will create employment opportunities for the local population.

In this regard, it is crucial for local officials and youth to play their role in promoting tourist activities.

Governor Haji

Ghulam Ali expressed these views during a meeting here at Governor House with a 28-member delegation, consisting of elected chairpersons, councilors, and representatives from political parties, including the Peoples Party of Pakistan, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Awami National Party.

The delegation, led by Chairman Maulana Ashfaq Hanafi, apprised the Governor of various issues related to the Dir district and highlighted the challenges faced by local municipalities. Governor Haji Ghulam Ali assured the delegation of his full cooperation in finding solutions to their problems.

He said that the provincial government is committed to ensure equal development in all urban and rural areas of the province.

Furthermore, the federal government is also providing assistance to expedite the development process.

The Governor said that local representatives are closest to the people and, therefore, funds have been allocated in the budget for elected municipal representatives to initiate developmental projects at the grassroots level.

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali urged the elected representatives from all districts.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali talking to 28-member delegation, consisting of elected chairpersons, councilors, and representatives from political parties.

Baligh permits recruitment of homeopathic doctor for hospitals

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Baligh Ur Rehman has allowed the recruitment of 'homeopathic' doctors in government hospital to treat patients.

According to private TV channel a group of national council of homeopathy met with Punjab Baligh Ur Rehman and brought his attention towards empty seat of homeopathic doctors in government hospitals.

Group said seat of Homeopathic doctors are empty in district headquarter hospitals

(DHQs), Tehsil headquarter hospitals (THQs) and teaching hospitals. Seats are also empty in village health units, basic health units, said group. Population is deprived of alternate method of treatment. Majority of Punjab people rely on homeopathic treatment. Governor Punjab allowed recruitment of homeopathic hospital.

Official notification has been issued. It was said in notification that homeopathic doctors be recruited as per law and policy.

Electoral rolls to be frozen after July 13: DEC

MIRPURKHAS (APP): District Election Commissioner (DEC) Mirpurkhas Khalid Hussain has urged the people to get their votes registered before July 13 as the electoral rolls will be frozen after the date.

In a statement on Sunday, DEC asked the people of Mirpurkhas to register, transfer and validate their votes before July 13 and can contact the district Election Commission office Mirpurkhas. In this regard, especially women, transgender and persons with disability are requested to check their votes through SMS by sending their National Identity Card number to 8300, if any kind of correction is required.

KP CM finalizes proposals of expenditures for development

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on Sunday chaired a high-level meeting in which he finalised proposals regarding the proposed expenditures both of current and development sides during the first four months of the upcoming financial year.

The proposed expenditures would be presented to the caretaker provincial cabinet for authorisation. Besides caretaker cabinet members Hamid Shah and Himayatullah Khan, the meeting was also attended by Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Zubair Ashgar Qureshi, Secretary Finance, Muhammad Ayaz and other relevant high ups.

The meeting was given detailed briefing about various aspects of the current and development expenditures to be incurred during the first four months of the fiscal year 2023-24.

The meeting also finalised various proposals regarding austerity measures with the aim to create maximum fiscal space for development.



LAHORE: Chairperson Almarah Foundation Mrs. Sofia Warriach, Pakistani Singer Abrar ul Haq and Dy. Inspector General of police Mehboob Lilla cutting ribbon during the completion of 100 kids and inauguration of the 5th house of Almarah Foundation.

Youngster shot dead by unknown outlaws

KHANEWAL (APP): A youngster was shot dead by unknown outlaws at Village 42/10-R on Sunday.

According to police sources, Imran Khan s/o Musa Khan resident of Village 42/10-R in premises of Sadar police station was standing outside his house when unknown armed outlaws shot him dead.

The criminals also managed to escape from the scene.

Taking notice of the incident, the District Police Officer (DPO) Rana Omer Farooq directed officers concerned to arrest the criminals as early as possible.

The forensic team have collected the evidences from the crime scene and started search operation in the area after registration of the case, police sources added.

Forests preservation, growth mandatory to mitigate climate change impacts

PESHAWAR (APP): Where climate change issue is affecting the whole world, its impacts in Pakistan are also increasing by each passing year as according to a study Pakistan is among the list of countries vulnerable to climate change if timely measures are not taken.

As many other measures are necessary to mitigate the effects of climate change, the most important one is to grow more trees besides controlling deforestation.

No doubt, there are many other challenges being faced by the country but this issue requires special attention of the current governments, both central and provincial.

Keeping in view the gravity of the issue, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

government has taken numerous measures for sustainable growth and preservation of forest resources of the province by ensuring careful utilization and protection of forest lands.

"Considering forests a rich potential of the province, the government is giving due consideration to its protection and sustainable growth through different measures including setting up of enclosures, protection from fire, prohibition in cutting of trees and safety from livestock grazing," informed Ibrahim Khan, Senior Officer of the KP Forest Department.

Taking to APP, Ibrahim Khan said all the departments concerned had been taken on board for preempting fire incidents in

forests due to heatwave during summer season.

The department had constituted teams in all the forest areas for round the clock monitoring, while a new system of fire line technology had been introduced for developing distance among trees by removal of weeds and bushes which usually catch fire and spread the blaze instantly, he mentioned.

Ibrahim said awareness material in shape of printed pamphlets was also distributed among people living in forests and in its vicinity to educate them about response in case of fire. The same material was also shared with tourists visiting scenic sites with a request to avoid fire lit in forests.

The provincial

government, he added, also enacted Forest Amendment Bill 2022 for protection of forests, in which, penalties in shape of imprisonment and fines had been enhanced for those found involved in destruction of government controlled forests.

In the law, rules were introduced to increase sentence of two years imprisonment to three years and fine from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 500,000 for the violators. The law also enabled Divisional Forest Officers serving in newly merged districts to punish those found involved in degradation of forest.

According to the law, the government would also take necessary measures for protection of forest carbon rights, besides having the right to declare

any forest or nearby area as national park.

The ongoing Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Project was initiated in 2019 with a total cost of Rs125.184bn for four years to plant and regenerate 3.296bn trees in the country, Ibrahim said, adding under the project, 650.14 million trees were planted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while 146.2 million trees in merged districts.

During the plantation drive, focus was also given on growing Miyawaki forest by planting 207661 trees on 280 kanals of land.

He said majority of trees planted in Miyawaki forests were Chir, Eucalyptus, Amlook, Phulai, Anar dana, Bottle Brush, Shisham, Wild anar, Kachnar.

PML-N steers out country of difficulties: Muqam

PESHAWAR (APP): President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam on Sunday said that under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the country was steered out of difficulties; otherwise, the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had plunged the nation into chaos.

Addressing at Shakas district Khyber after Alhaj Shaji Gul joining PML-N,

Amir Muqam said that during Imran Khan's government, the prices of all commodities, including essential items were out of control but when PML-N came into power, the economic situation was stabilized. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif effectively managed the prices of essential items, resulting in a noticeable decrease, and during Ramadan, free flour was distributed among the poor and needy.

International News

Putin warns NATO over being drawn into Ukraine war, says Russia has more nuclear weapons

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned there is a "serious danger" of NATO being drawn further into the Ukraine war if members of the alliance continue to supply military weaponry to Kyiv. "NATO, of course, is being drawn into the war in Ukraine, what are we talking here," Putin said at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum on Friday.

"The supplies of heavy military weaponry to Ukraine are ongoing, they are now looking into giving Ukraine the jets."

The comment ap-

peared to be a reference to the F-16 fighter jets some members of the NATO alliance are making plans to supply Ukraine with.

NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, was formed in the aftermath of World War II to defend Western nations from the Soviet Union and the alliance contains a mutual defense clause where an attack on any one member is considered an attack on all. While Ukraine is not a member of NATO, some NATO members have been supplying Kyiv with tanks, armored vehicles and other weaponry - prompt-

ing threats of retaliation from Russia.

German Leopard 2 tanks, British Challenger 2 tanks and American Bradley and Stryker vehicles are among the Western equipment that has been sent to Ukraine.

In late April, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that NATO allies and partners had delivered more than 1,500 vehicles and 230 tanks to the country.

During his speech in St. Petersburg, Putin said Russia had destroyed tanks "including Leopards" at the front lines.



President Joe Biden speaks at the Philadelphia International Airport in Philadelphia after an aerial tour of the Interstate 95 highway collapse.

Biden strikes economic populist tone during campaign rally before exuberant union members

Monitoring Desk
PHILADELPHIA: President Joe Biden delivered an unapologetically economic populist message Saturday during the first rally of his reelection campaign, telling an exuberant crowd of union members that his policies had created jobs and lifted the middle class. Now, he said, is the time for the wealthy to "pay their fair share" in taxes.

Biden spotlighted the sweeping climate, tax and health care package signed

into law last year that cut the cost of prescription drugs and lowered insurance premiums — pocketbook issues that advisers say will be the centerpiece of his argument for a second term. "I'm looking forward to this campaign," Biden said to cries of "four more years!" before adding, "We've got a record to run on."

His choice of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania — and a friendly union audience — as his first official campaign stop reflected

their crucial role in his reelection effort. The city was the site of his 2020 campaign headquarters and the state was one of a handful that had voted for Republican Donald Trump in 2016 but flipped back to Democrats four years later. Until the rally, Biden's primary reelection campaign activity had been fundraising as the campaign tries to amass an impressive fundraising haul before the year's second quarter concludes at the end.

Uganda sends more troops to pursue attackers who killed 37 students

Monitoring Desk
KAMPALA: Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni on Sunday ordered more troops to western Uganda where attackers from a group with links to Islamic State killed at least 37 secondary school students. Members of the rebel Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) killed the students late on Friday at Lhubirira Secondary School in Mpondwa, near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Military and police said the attackers had also abducted six students and fled towards the Virunga National Park across the border. Their fate is unknown. Museveni said more soldiers had joined the pursuit in the area, which

includes Rwenzori Mountain, from where the ADF launched their insurgency against Museveni in the 1990s. "We are now sending more troops into the area south of Rwenzori Mountain," he said in a statement.

"Their action, the desperate, cowardly, terrorist action, therefore, will not save them. We are bringing new forces to the Uganda side as we continue the hunting on the Congo side."

On Saturday, privately owned NTV Uganda television said the death toll stood at 41, while the state-run New Vision newspaper said it was 42. New Vision said 39 of the dead were students, and some were killed when the attackers set off a bomb as they fled.

Evidence suggests Russia blew Kakhovka dam in Ukraine, reports NYT

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Evidence suggests this month's destruction of the huge Kakhovka dam in a Russian-controlled area of Ukraine resulted from an inside explosion set off by Russia. The New York Times said. Citing engineers and explosive experts, the newspaper said on Friday that its investigation found evidence suggesting an explosive charge in a passage-way running through the dam's concrete base detonated, destroying the structure on June 6.

"The evidence clearly suggests the dam was crippled by an explosion set off by the side that controls it: Russia," The Times said.

Separately, a team of international legal experts assisting Ukraine's prosecutors in their investigation said in preliminary findings on Friday it was "highly likely" the collapse in Ukraine's Kherson region was caused by explosives planted by Russians. The Kremlin accuses Kyiv of sabotaging the hydroelectric dam.

Heavy rains lash east Nepal; one dead, 25 missing

Monitoring Desk
KATHMANDU: One person was killed and at least 25 others were missing in flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains that battered east Nepal, officials said on Sunday, the first known fatality since the annual rains began last week. Heavy rains washed away a hydroelectric project under construction on the Hewa River in Sankhuwasabha district in eastern Nepal where 16 workers have gone missing, said Bimal Paudel, a government official.

Blinken starts rare China trip with hopes low for any breakthrough

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken began meetings in Beijing on Sunday, the first top American diplomat to visit China in five years, amid frosty bilateral ties and dim prospects for any breakthrough on the long list of disputes between the world's two largest economies.

Having postponed a February trip after a suspected Chinese spy balloon flew over US airspace, Blinken is the highest-ranking US government official

to visit China since President Joe Biden took office in January 2021.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang greeted Blinken and his group at the door to a villa in the grounds of Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guest House, as the two made small talk in English before shaking hands in front a Chinese and an American flag.

After heading into a meeting room, neither Blinken nor Qin made comments in front of reporters who were briefly allowed in.

Philippine coast guard rescues 120 people as ferry catches fire

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: All 120 people onboard a ferry that caught fire at sea in central Philippines on Sunday have been rescued, the coast guard said. The M/V Esperanza Star, which was carrying 65 passengers and 55 officers and crew members, caught fire while sailing from Siquijor island in the south to nearby Bohol island, the coast guard said. Coast guard firefighters onboard another vessel used a water cannon and declared the fire out by around 0200 GMT, a spokesperson said.

Europeans scramble on air defence after decades of complacency

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: The intensity of the drone and missile war in Ukraine has laid bare gaps in European states' air defences that experts say will be difficult, time-consuming and costly to plug.

Anti-air systems will likely have a starring role at the Paris Air Show starting on Monday, predicts Richard Aboulafia, managing director of AeroDynamic Advisory.

"You're going to see a lot of talk about production capacity for missiles. The market for missiles is easily the fastest growing segment of the industry and yet the manufacturers simply can't keep up," Aboulafia told AFP.

Western countries had enjoyed total mastery of the skies since the end of the Cold War and largely dropped the powerful defences once designed to protect NATO forces from Soviet aircraft.

France got rid of eight of its nine anti-aircraft artillery regiments, MPs flagged up in a recent report.

But NATO countries have been turning to air defence again in recent years as more states have acquired cruise missiles, short-range ballistic missiles and drones, said Mark Cancian, a retired US marine colonel who is a senior adviser at the US-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

"They started it, but basically didn't get too far," Cancian told AFP.

"In another five years, I think there'll be a lot more out there, but that doesn't help Ukraine right now," he added.

With anti-air systems and the missiles they fire lacking, the West is struggling to respond to Ukraine's pleas for supply — whether for short- or long-range defences.

Berlin plans to spend five billion euros on anti-air from a 100-billion-euro (\$110 billion) fund for rebuilding its armed forces in the coming years, with the same amount budgeted in Paris for the period to 2030.



Plane leaves Yemen capital for Saudi, first since 2016.

PDM resumes journey of development, stopped after 2018 rigged elections: Asad

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mahmood on Sunday said the journey of development has been resumed which was stopped after 2018 rigged elections.

He stated this while addressing a public gathering after inauguration of multi mega development projects worth Rs 5.65 billion by Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman here in a private marriage hall.

The federal minister said the mega projects were being initiated for the region under the National Highways Authority (NHA) and it was a message to the people of area that the development journey has been started, adding, the Dera Ismail Khan would be made a developed and prosperous city.

He said "a foreign agent was imposed in 2018 election to stop development process of Pakistan." He said the founder of

Motorways Muhammad Nawaz Sharif along with JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman had initiated Hakla-Dera section of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government did not believe in the politics of victimization rather it was pursuing the agenda of development.

He said those who went missing after losing the government were trying to mislead the people and trying to get credit of

development projects of Dera Ismail Khan. "You could not mislead this nation," he added.

The project of Agriculture University of Dera was also on credit of PDM government which was announced by Nawaz Sharif.

When the foreign agent was imposed on this country, the projects including Hakla-Dera Motorway, Yarik Grid station were in the completion phases but the PTI tried to get credit of these projects.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori hosted a reception in honour of Consul General of Saudi Arabia Bandar Fahad AAI Dayel in Karachi. Senior leaders of MQM Dr. Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal and Consul Generals of different countries are also present



LAHORE: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony Maulana Tahir Ashrafi addressing a press conference at Begumpura GT Road.

Rana Tanveer says: Imran played with country's interests

SHEIKHUPURA (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain has said that Pakistan did not need any enemy in the presence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, as he had been playing with the country's interests continuously.

He was talking to the media after inaugurating Sui gas supply to Manjh Road Noorpura here on Sunday. He said Pakistan was on the verge of bankruptcy when the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition government took over the country through a no-confidence move against

Imran Khan.

The minister claimed that Imran Khan looted the national kitty ruthlessly and caused irreparable damage to the country, adding that the PTI chief broke all records of obtaining the foreign loans. Rana Tanveer said Imran Khan dubbed others as 'dacoits and thieves', but his crony Farah Gogi looted the national wealth with great impunity and shifted it abroad. The minister said that Pakistanis posed confidence in the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in 2013 when the country was facing terrorism and long durations of load-shedding.

PM orders action against unfit vehicles

ISLAMABAD (INP): Expressing condolences to the bereaved families of passengers who lost their lives in the ill-fated Kallar Kahar bus accident, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed his deep anguish over the occurrence of repeated traffic accidents near the Salt Range on motorway.

"My sympathies and prayers are for those families who have lost their dear ones in this painful accident," he said in a tweet.

Motorway authorities should ensure that vehicles plying on Motorways have the required fitness and compatibility, besides, the drivers meet all the driving requirements, he stressed.

The prime minister observed that with strict implementation of rules and regulations, traveling could be made safer. At least a dozen passengers including women and children died on Saturday when a passenger bus lost control and overturned on the Lahore-Islamabad motorway some 130km from the federal capital.

Child dies, 3 injured in Cylinder blast

HYDERABAD (APP): A cylinder explosion at a house in village Bachal Shoro here on Sunday claimed the life of 5 years old Asif and injured 3 other family members including 2 children.

According to the Seri Police Station, 30 years old Ahmed Nawaz, 4 years old Faiz Gul and 3 years old Fatima were injured in the incident.

The injured were shifted to Liaquat University Hospital. The police said the cause of the explosion could not be immediately ascertained.

Main suspect involved in Karachi cash van heist arrested

KARACHI (INP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has arrested a security guard who was involved in looting the cash van of a private bank in Karachi.

According to details, Karachi has arrested the main accused involved in looting cash van in a successful raid in Karachi's Dhoraji area.

In charge, CTD Chaudhry Safdar said Ayaz Ali, who was working as security in charge at a private cash van company and during the investigations the accused made revelations.

According to the CTD, the accused looted the cash van of the bank in Juriya Market in 2021 and fled with Rs5 million to Rawalpindi? The CTD in charge further said Ayaz Ali was hiding at his relative's house and after coming back to Karachi, he was traced on a technical basis and arrested?

According to the CTD, the arrested accused is being handed over to the police for further legal action.

Ashrafi urges political dialogue for stability in country

LAHORE (APP): Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East and Central Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi called upon political parties on Sunday to hold dialogue for restoring stability and peace in the country.

Addressing a press conference at Baatul Aman here, he said investors were ready to come to Pakistan, but they wanted peace in the country. He said it was good that Pakistan's relations with Russia and other countries were improving. He said the su-

premacry of the law required everyone to avoid playing with the Constitution. The ulama of the country did not approve of political fights, he added.

Expressing his grief over the loss of human lives in a boat, which capsized near Greece, he said peace would have to be restored in Pakistan if the youth were to be stopped from leaving the country for some job opportunities in other countries. He demanded the prime minister and the interior minister should take action against those involved in sending Pakistani citizens abroad illegally.

1,300 pilgrims from more than 90 countries to perform Hajj this year

RIYADH (APP): Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has given instructions that 1,300 pilgrims from more than 90 countries are allowed to perform Hajj this year (1444-AH), at their expense, as part of the Custodian of the two holy mosques Hajj Guests Program, which is supervised and implemented annually by the Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA),

the Minister of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance, General Supervisor of the custodian of the two holy mosques and HRH the Crown Prince for their generosity and keenness to see Muslims perform the rituals of Islam, and for assisting those who wish to perform Hajj and can only do that at the expense of the Custodian of the two holy mosques.



LARKANA: Divisional Superintendent (DS) Pakistan Railways Sukkur Division, Mahmood Rehman Lakho talks with media persons during press conference after reached at Railway Station, DS Railway along with their team travel from Sukkur to Larkana on the special train, in Larkana.

Oath-taking ceremony of newly elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor of Larkana Municipal Corporation to be held on Monday

LARKANA (APP): The District Election Commissioner Larkana Attaullah Brohi, announced on Sunday that the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Mayor and deputy mayor of Larkana Municipal Corporation (LMC) Anwar Ali Nawaz Lohar and Deputy Mayor LMC Muhammad Ameen Shaikh. The ceremony will be held at Begum Nusrat Bhutto Auditorium Hall Jinnah Bagh Larkana, on Monday at 12.00 P.M. While, Deputy Commissioner Larkana Ms. Rabiya Siyal will take the oath of winning candidates for Chairman District Council Larkana Aijaz Ali Leghari and Vice Chairman of District Council Larkana Asadullah Bhutto, at Sachal Banquet, PTS Road Larkana, at 11 a.m.



THATTA: Large number of people enjoying bathing in Keenjhar lake people come here for picnics during the summer school holidays to get relief from hot weather.

PML-N always preferred state over politics: Ahsan

NAROWAL (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has always preferred state over politics, and recently saved the country from bankruptcy after forming a coalition government in centre last year.

He was addressing the opening ceremony of Construction Division Narowal, along with Federal Minister for Energy Engr Khuram Dastgir Khan here on Sunday. He said the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government put the development gear in reverse and destroyed the country.

Ahsan Iqbal said that an incompetent person was

made the prime minister of a nuclear power Pakistan by giving him the certificate of 'Sadiq' and 'Ameen'. He said that in the past, instead of development projects, seeds of hatred were sown and only revenge actions were taken. He said that through the political of uncertainty, Imran Khan tried to destroy the national economy.

The federal minister said "we are responsible politicians; we have a national government, and we are serving people with national spirit, while Imran Niazi created a situation of anarchy". He said "we played our role, we saved Pakistan from bankruptcy in one-year rule and launched development programmes for the country".

The PML-N senior leader said "our allies are united, and they prepared a budget for the entire nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif". He said Shehbaz Sharif was taking all decisions through consensus among all coalition partners. He said the prime minister had always consulted the ruling coalition parties before making any crucial and national decision.

Ahsan Iqbal said the federal government distributed a huge amount among the flood victims through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). He said that the incumbent government was resuming all development projects which had been put on the back burner by the previous PTI government.

PPP to celebrate 70th birth anniversary of Benazir Bhutto on June 21

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Sindh Chapter's President Nisar Ahmed Khuroo on Sunday announced that the PPP's provincial chapter would celebrate the 70th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at district headquarters across the province on June 21.

He said that PPP workers would cut the cake for martyred Bhutto's birthday in all headquarters of the province and pay tremendous homage to her.

CTD arrests 'terrorist' in DG Khan

LAHORE (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab, during an operation in Dera Ghazi Khan, arrested an alleged terrorist, who's a member of a banned outfit.

According to the spokesman, the CTD DG Khan received information from a reliable source that an active member of proscribed organisation, Baloch Liberation Army, Muhammad Rashid Bashmani, was present in the area and was sharing controversial content against the government and the law-enforcement agencies through the social media. A team of CTD police station Sadar reached the spot and arrested the terrorist, the spokesman said and added that the police also registered a case against the terrorist and started investigation.

03 Policemen injured during terrorist attack

PESHAWAR (Online): Terrorist attacked police checkpoint of Bara Kemat police station and injured three policemen.

Police responded with full of power and bravery but terrorists succeeded in escape.

According to police injured officials has been shifted to Hayatabad Medical Complex Peshawar.



HYDERABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) newly elected Mayor, Kashif Shoro addresses to his supporters during celebration ceremony after victory in the local body elections, held at Hyder Chowk in Hyderabad.

MQM-P MNAs seek details of funds given to HESCO for cyclone-cause emergency response

HYDERABAD (APP): The MNAs of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) have sought the details of funds given by the federal government to Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) for the cyclone Biporjoy causing an emergency response.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, MNA Sabir Hussain Qaimkhani and MNA Salahuddin, both of

whom were elected from Hyderabad, expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of HESCO.

They said the power outages frequently struck parts of Hyderabad during light to moderate rain during the last few days.

The MNAs requested Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to direct the officers of HESCO to submit details of the expenditures incurred during the cyclone and rain-related operations.



KARACHI: People use a crane to lift a young bull from the roof of a building for the upcoming festival Eid-ul-Azha, at Nazimabad in Karachi.

Special Olympics kicks off, Pakistani athlete Sana among torch-bearers

KARACHI (APP): The opening of the 16th Special Olympic World Games in Olympia Stadium Berlin was held with a colourful ceremony. According to a communique here on Sunday, the players of all the countries involved in the games participated in the athlete parade.

When the national team arrived at the Olympia Stadium, thousands of fans in the stadium greeted the Pakistani team with warm applause and encouraged the players.

On this occasion, the Olympia Stadium echoed slogans of Pakistan Zindabad. The male athletes of Pakistan wore cultural clothing, shalwar-kameez and vest, while the female athletes and officials wore different culturally

coloured dresses, due to which they were the centre of attention in the ceremony. The athletes looked very excited about the opening ceremony and took pictures and selfies with each other.

At the World Games, Pakistani athlete Sana was honoured to be among the torchbearers of the opening ceremony. She walked around the ground with the torch. Sana called it a great honour for Pakistan and herself. On this occasion, the official opening of the World Games was announced by waiving the flag of the Special Olympics. President of Special Olympics, Timothy Shriver, President of Germany Frank Walters, and the Head of Delegation of the Pakistani contingent, Ronak Lakhani were present at the ceremony.